



REPORT

# Reporting on Progress in National Adaptation Plan Processes

An analysis



September 2023

## Authors

Patrick Guerdat, Shafaq Masud, and Emilie Beauchamp

## Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank the following individuals for their helpful contributions to the development of this report: Deborah Murphy, Julie Dekens, Christian Ledwell, Paddy Pringle, Anne Hammill, Orville Grey, David Hoffmann, and Sotonye Belonwu.

## Correct citation

Guerdat, P., Masud, S., & Beauchamp, E. (2023). *Reporting on progress in National Adaptation Plan processes: An analysis* (NAP Global Network report). International Institute for Sustainable Development. <https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/reporting-on-progress-in-nap-process/>

## About the NAP Global Network

The NAP Global Network was created in 2014 to support developing countries in advancing their NAP processes, and help accelerate adaptation efforts around the world. To achieve this, the Network facilitates South-South peer learning and exchange, supports national-level action on NAP formulation and implementation, and generates, synthesizes, and shares knowledge. The Network's members include individual participants from more than 155 countries involved in developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans. Financial support for the Network has been provided by Austria, Canada, Germany, Ireland, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Secretariat is hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). For more information, visit [www.napglobalnetwork.org](http://www.napglobalnetwork.org).

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## Contact Information

### NAP Global Network Secretariat

c/o International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

111 Lombard Avenue, Suite 325

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3B 0T4

Phone: +1 (204) 958-7700

Email: [info@napglobalnetwork.org](mailto:info@napglobalnetwork.org)

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# Reporting on Progress in National Adaptation Plan Processes

An analysis

**September 2023**



# Executive Summary

As a medium- to long-term response to the climate crisis and to enhance adaptation action, many countries are developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and designing monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems to track progress under their NAP processes. However, despite the urgent need to see results and understand the progress made on adaptation, few countries currently track and report on their NAP implementation. This is largely due to limited resources, capacity constraints and a lack of clear guidance on how to report progress on adaptation.

The NAP Global Network prepared this analytical report to provide insights into and practical examples of progress reporting with the intent to encourage its adoption as an integral part of countries' NAP processes. Based on a review of NAP progress reports, this report analyzes various methods countries use to track their adaptation progress and highlights important lessons and good practices. The report seeks to assist NAP country teams and other stakeholders involved in developing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and learning from the NAP process, as well as development partners.

Progress reporting is a critical element of the NAP process that helps facilitate its regular tracking and continuous enhancement of adaptation planning and implementation. Progress reports can consolidate into one document the information gathered through various MEL activities undertaken as part of the NAP process. These activities support adaptive management and promote learning, contributing to improvement throughout the NAP process. Importantly, countries can adopt a flexible “learn-by-doing” approach to MEL through progress reporting, even if a fully developed MEL system is not yet in place.

Progress reporting is a dynamic tool that goes beyond just reporting on activities and indicators; it enables stakeholders to reflect strategically on a country's adaptation goals and how to achieve them. Through progress reports, governments can tell a coherent story of adaptation to the observed and anticipated impacts of climate change, enabling them to communicate it to a broad range of stakeholders, including citizens, the private sector, development partners, and the global community. While seemingly procedural, progress reporting can bolster the quality and efficacy of NAPs by supporting better adaptation decision making, transparency, accountability, and communication.

The analysis reveals that countries use progress reporting for various purposes, including providing updates on the status of NAP activities, assessing the effectiveness of the NAP process, and tracking how climate change adaptation is being integrated into development planning and budgeting. Moreover, progress reporting helps build capacity and the identification of successes and challenges in NAP implementation. Inputs from progress reports are also crucial to supporting the Paris Agreement implementation, addressing both national and international reporting requirements and advancing the Global Goal on Adaptation. As such, the authors

strongly advocate that governments recognize the value of NAP progress reporting and incorporate it as a standard practice.

Countries can conduct progress reporting at any time in the NAP process, with the most benefits seen when it is aligned with the adaptation planning and decision-making cycle. Adaptation progress reporting is context-dependent and requires each country to define what progress and success look like based on their specific needs and resources. The report concludes with solutions to common progress reporting challenges, like strengthening NAP process capacity and gradually enhancing reporting methods.

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# Abbreviations

<b>LDC</b>	least developed country
<b>M&amp;E</b>	monitoring and evaluation
<b>MEL</b>	monitoring, evaluation, and learning
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>NDC</b>	nationally determined contribution
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

# 1

## Introduction

### The Urgency of Making Progress on Climate Change Adaptation

In 2022, human-caused climate change exacerbated unprecedented heatwaves and devastating floods, affecting communities globally (Borenstein, 2023). The 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability again issued dire warnings on the climate crisis and of increasing extreme weather events in the coming years (2022). These ramifications will be felt more acutely by developing and least developed countries, despite their limited contribution to the problem. The efforts and needs of those nations to make progress in adaptation planning, financing, and implementation are immense.

#### Box 1. The NAP process

The UNFCCC established the NAP process in 2010 under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and reinforced it in the Paris Agreement. In simple terms, it is a strategic process that enables countries to identify and address their medium- and long-term priorities for adapting to climate change (Hammill et al., 2020).

Led by national governments, national adaptation planning should be a participatory and inclusive process that recognizes the needs of vulnerable populations, communities, and ecosystems and addresses gender considerations. This requires the active involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including national and local government entities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and other partners. The NAP process is an iterative and ongoing process that varies for each country, but generally involves three phases:

**Planning**, which includes activities such as vulnerability and risk assessments, the identification and prioritization of adaptation options, and the development of implementation strategies.

**Implementation**, during which financing is secured and the necessary resources are deployed to address the priority vulnerabilities and risks.

**Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL)**, which includes activities related to the tracking of progress, results, and lessons from implementation, and their reporting.

Six enabling factors support this: capacity development, leadership, stakeholder engagement, financing, institutional arrangements, and data, information, and communications (NAP Global Network, 2023).



As a medium- to long-term response to the climate crisis and to enhance adaptation action, many countries are developing and implementing National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) (See Box 1). The 2022 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) progress report on the formulation and implementation of NAPs indicated that “139 of the 154 developing countries that are Parties to the Convention had undertaken at least one activity related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs” (UNFCCC, 2021).

The NAP process is much more than a project or activity that culminates with the publication of a plan. It establishes the systems and capacity needed to integrate climate change adaptation into all existing and future development planning, decision making, and budgeting at national, sectoral, and sub-national levels. In so doing, it also enables increased coordination and investments in climate change adaptation with the ultimate goal of making people, places, ecosystems, and economies more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

## How Do We Know if NAP Processes Are Working?

As of June 2023, 44 developing nations, including 19 least developed countries (LDCs),<sup>1</sup> have completed multi-sector NAPs and submitted them to the UNFCCC’s NAP Central portal, the first ones having done so in 2015 (UNFCCC & NAP Central, n.d.). As part of developing NAP documents and implementing them, many countries are developing MEL<sup>2</sup> systems to track progress on adaptation. Local communities affected by climate change and national governments leading NAP processes have a growing need to see results and to understand and communicate to stakeholders what (and how) progress has been made.

Reporting on adaptation has been gaining more momentum over the past decade under the UNFCCC. Countries have been using their NAP documents, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national communications, and Adaptation Communications to communicate their adaptation progress, priorities, gaps, and needs. Much less has been done on reporting progress in implementing NAPs and their effectiveness, yet the need for taking stock and reporting in these areas will increase due to the forthcoming voluntary reporting of adaptation information through biennial transparency reports by the end of 2024 (UNFCCC, n.d.).

A 2021 study highlights that despite a 40% surge in the number of countries developing or using NAP M&E systems since 2017, over 60% of countries with adopted NAPs are not actively tracking their implementation (Leiter, 2021). However, it’s worth noting that over half of the NAPs on the UNFCCC’s NAP Central, which gathers NAPs from developing countries, were submitted after January 2021, indicating that many countries are in the early implementation stages, with the COVID-19 pandemic having caused considerable disruptions (NAP Global

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<sup>1</sup> Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Kiribati, Liberia, Madagascar, Nepal, Niger, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo, and Timor-Leste.

<sup>2</sup> This report predominantly uses the term MEL, unless citing sources that specifically use monitoring and evaluation (M&E), in which case the original terminology is maintained.

Network, 2020). Even so, progress reporting in countries that submitted their NAPs earlier remains limited.

This lack of tracking and reporting on NAP processes is often due to a lack of resources and capacity to undertake MEL, including progress reporting, which can lead to the deprioritization of reporting. The scarcity of clear guidelines and information on conducting progress reporting exacerbates this issue, despite the presence of few high-level resources related to the creation of biennial transparency reports (UNFCCC, 2023). According to the NAP Global Network Secretariat’s analysis of all NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC, 65% of developing countries have committed to reporting progress on their NAP (NAP Global Network, n.d.), showing there is a significant level of interest in and commitment to progress reporting even if relatively few NAP progress reports have been developed to date.

## What Is Progress Reporting on NAP Processes?

Progress reporting is a critical element of the NAP process that helps facilitate regular tracking and consistent improvement of adaptation planning and implementation. Progress reporting can take multiple forms, depending on the objectives and methods used by countries; there is no single definition or one-size-fits-all approach. The scope for progress reporting on adaptation is broad; it may encompass updates on the implementation status of NAP activities and assessments of the NAP process’s effectiveness or serve as a tool to track the incorporation of climate adaptation into development planning and budgeting. Moreover, it can be used to build capacity and identify successes and challenges in NAP implementation, fostering a learning environment for continual improvement.

Photo: Naima Oumoussa, from the Moroccan Ministry of Environment, at the NAP Global Network’s Peer Learning Summit in 2019. (NAP Global Network)



A consistent feature of progress reporting is that it consolidates into a report the information gathered through the different MEL activities undertaken as part of the NAP process (see Box 2). These MEL activities support adaptive management, enabling policy-makers to modify their strategies and actions based on achieved progress and new information, thereby driving improvement across all stages of the NAP process. Importantly, countries can adopt a “learn-by-doing” approach to MEL through progress reporting, even if a fully developed MEL system is not yet in place. This flexible approach promotes iterative learning and improvement in MEL practices, allowing countries to learn from their experiences and make adjustments as they go.

### **Box 2. Progress reporting is informed by MEL activities**

MEL systems for adaptation can assess the processes and outcomes of adaptation interventions. “Process” refers to the progression in implementing adaptive policies or interventions, while “outcomes” refers to the impacts resulting from their implementation. MEL for adaptation typically requires data and information from various sectors and interventions implemented at both national and sub-national levels (Price-Kelly et al., 2015).

**Monitoring** involves the systematic collection and tracking of data throughout policy or intervention implementation. It measures trends and performance against set goals. Data collection may be guided by agreed science, legislation, or specific indicators. Monitoring helps in tracking progress, providing early warning for issues, or confirming successes. However, without further analysis and application, monitoring data alone has limited value for learning.

**Evaluation** is a periodic and systematic process applied during the policy cycle to assess the value, performance, or impact of interventions according to specified criteria. Unlike the continuous process of monitoring, evaluations are performed at set intervals. Evaluations use monitoring data and additional information, such as interviews or surveys, to determine what results are being achieved, for whom, and why. Evaluations can be applied to finite interventions, like a project, or to an ongoing situation or institution. Depending on the context, evaluations can be conducted internally, externally, or using a mixed approach.

**Learning** refers to the change in knowledge, practices, and behaviors resulting from interacting with data and evidence produced by M&E activities. It can occur at individual, group, organizational, or societal levels, facilitating planning, enhancement, strategic and operational decision making and action. Individual learning is essential for behavioural change, while group and organizational learning involve the collective application of lessons, often requiring changes in rules and processes for systemic change.

## Why Should Countries Conduct Progress Reporting Under the NAP Process?

Progress reporting on the NAP process allows countries to not only report on activities and indicators but also to strategically reflect on the country's adaptation goals and the path to achieving them. It prompts important questions: Are we on track with our commitments? Are our investments effective? What needs adjustment? What are we learning?

Progress reporting provides a snapshot of a country's progress along its adaptation journey, according to its theory of change<sup>3</sup> (Pringle & Thomas, 2019). More broadly, it enables governments to tell a coherent story of adaptation to the observed and anticipated impacts of climate change and to communicate it to a wide range of stakeholders, including citizens, the private sector, development partners, and the international community. While seemingly procedural, it is a valuable tool that can bolster the quality and efficacy of NAPs by supporting better adaptation decision making, transparency, accountability, and communication. Furthermore, the inputs from progress reports are crucial to support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the voluntary adaptation communications and reporting requirements, such as for the Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation processes. Therefore, governments engaged in the NAP process should prioritize and adopt progress reporting as a standard practice.

The NAP Global Network prepared this analysis as a direct response to the demand from countries' NAP teams, and it can serve as a complement to the LDC Expert Group's *Technical Guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan process* (LDC Expert Group, 2012). This report provides information and practical examples of how countries can use progress reporting on adaptation and encourages its adoption as an inherent element of the NAP process. It reviews existing NAP progress reports, examining the diverse ways countries report adaptation progress, and extracts lessons and good practices. More specifically, this report aims to assist countries' NAP teams and other stakeholders—including development partners involved in developing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the NAP process.

This report presents nine good practices and six recommendations for countries to enhance their progress reporting on NAP processes. Section 2 details our analysis methodology and the reviewed reports. Section 3 presents the results, highlighting good practices. Section 4 illustrates country-specific reporting methods across the four objectives most often mentioned in the reviewed reports. Section 5 outlines prevalent reporting challenges and proposed solutions to address them.

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<sup>3</sup> This concept refers to the strategic plan outlining the steps to achieve long-term goals.

# 2

## Methodology

The analysis contained in this report is based on a review of 26 NAP progress reports from 20 countries released between 2015 and 2023 (see the list in Table 1). To broaden the scope of the study and increase the number of examples, we included NAP progress reports from high-income countries (some already on their second or even third iteration of a NAP document). Seven countries already had more than one progress report: unless specified in Table 1, only the latest one was included in the review. Other reports were also identified, but language barriers and time constraints prevented their inclusion in the analysis. Of the 20 countries included in the study, 13 were developing countries, including two LDCs.

The report uses the umbrella term “progress report” throughout to refer to the diverse types of reporting done by countries on their national climate change adaptation efforts. The term includes progress reports, monitoring reports, evaluation reports (including mid-term evaluations), and M&E reports. The titles of the reports are meant to indicate their contents, but this is not always the case. As described in Section 3 of this document, the reviewed progress reports incorporate different elements of MEL while focusing on one aspect depending on the objectives. Countries like Germany and Spain did separate reporting for M&E, while others combined both elements into one document without making the distinction.

**Table 1. List of progress reports reviewed for the analysis**

Country	Progress report reviewed	Year	# Pages
Albania	<i>National Adaptation Plan First Progress Report</i>	2023	58
Austria	<i>Progress Report on the Austrian Strategy for Adapting to Climate Change</i>	2015, 2022	241
Belgium	<i>Evaluation finale de la mise en œuvre du Plan National Adaptation</i>	2020	29
Brazil	<i>NAP Monitoring and Evaluation Report</i>	2017	221



Country	Progress report reviewed	Year	# Pages
Burkina Faso	<i>Evaluation de la mise en œuvre du Plan National d'Adaptation</i>	2021	44
Cameroon	<i>Evaluation de la mise en œuvre du PNACC en fin de phase</i>	2022	121
Chile	<i>NAP Progress Report</i>	2019	21
Fiji	<i>Fiji National Adaptation Plan (NAP): Progress Report 2022</i>	2023	55
Finland	<i>Implementation of Finland's National Climate Change Adaptation Plan – A Mid-Term Evaluation</i>	2022	182
France	<i>Evaluation du plan national d'adaptation au changement climatique</i>	2017	203
Grenada	<i>The National Adaptation Plan for Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique, Progress Report</i>	2022	73
Germany	<i>Progress Report on the German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (DAS)</i>	2020	125
	<i>DAS Monitoring Report</i>	2019	276
Kenya	<i>National Climate Change Action Plan; Implementation Status Report</i>	2019, 2020	55
Kiribati	<i>KJIP Implementation Progress Report</i>	2020	29
Philippines	<i>Mid-Term Monitoring and Evaluation Report</i>	2018	341
South Africa	<i>Annual Climate Change Report</i>	2016	180
Saint Lucia	<i>National Adaptation Plan Progress Report</i>	2022	49
Spain	<i>NAP Evaluation</i>	2021	371

Country	Progress report reviewed	Year	# Pages
Tonga	<i>Progress Report of the Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management</i>	2021	31
United Kingdom	<i>Progress in Adapting to Climate Change, Report to Parliament</i>	2015, 2017, 2019, 2021	272

*Note: # Pages includes annexes.*

The NAP Global Network conducted online research and consulted with in-country partners to gather the existing reports. The scanning of the documents was done using a standardized questionnaire to collect information on six categories related to progress reporting. These were as follows: 1) reporting format, 2) purpose and objectives, 3) approach, 4) coherence and linkages, 5) communications and impacts, and 6) resources. The data and information were organized in an Excel table, followed by an analysis aggregating the results and looking at the specificities of each country.

# 3

## Results

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This section reviews the findings of our analysis on progress reporting in NAP processes. The intention is to offer in-depth insights into various facets of progress reporting, including its timing, scope, objectives, leadership, stakeholder engagement, and links to national MEL processes for adaptation.

### Mandates Can Enable Effective Progress Reporting

A mandate for NAP progress reporting, either through a climate change law or policy, can help make the progress reporting process more effective as it grants authority to the responsible agencies to engage a wide range of stakeholders, implement plans, and periodically track their progress. Hence, mandates harness accountability for adaptation action and ensure that countries work toward continual improvement to address adaptation challenges. In doing so, mandated legislation can inform the development of progress reporting on the NAP by setting objectives, an allocated budget, and a designated time frame for countries to launch the process of measuring progress on adaptation.

The analysis showed that over half of the reviewed countries have mandates in place supporting the development of progress reporting on the NAP, with different timeframes for reporting, ranging from every 2 to 5 years. For instance, the reviewed European Union countries (Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, and Spain) are all bound to report on NAPs every 4 years according to Article 15 of the Monitoring Mechanism Regulation for the member states (European Parliament, 2013).

In Kenya, the Climate Change Act (2016) mandates a biennial review of the National Climate Change Action Plan requiring the Cabinet Secretary to report to the Parliament on its progress. In the United Kingdom, the Climate Change Act (2008) stipulates the completion of a climate risk assessment every 5 years, followed by a National Adaptation Programme outlining how the risks will be addressed and a progress report to be presented to the Parliament every 2 years. The Act also establishes the Adaptation Reporting Power, requiring entities responsible for public services, such as infrastructure operators, to report on interventions they are integrating to address climate impacts (Crown, 2018). As such, it empowers the government to hold public services accountable for actions that impact climate change.

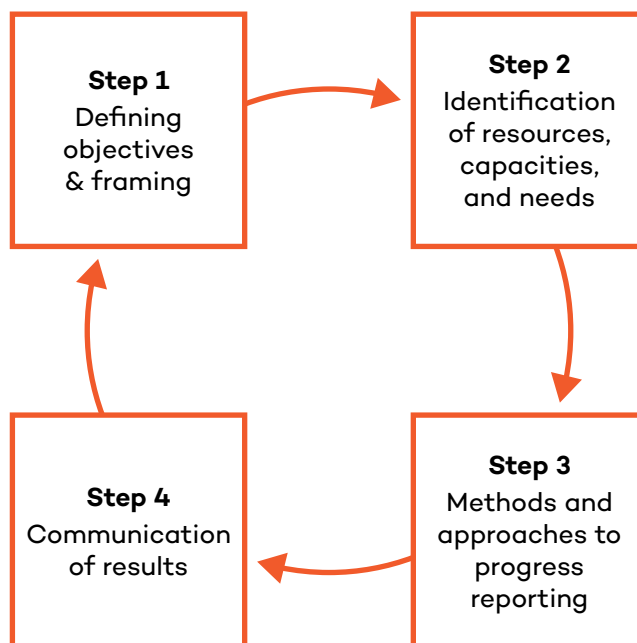
There is no international obligation for countries to report on national adaptation progress to the UNFCCC. Countries are, however, encouraged to submit Adaptation Communications to

provide updates on their efforts to adapt to climate change impacts (UNFCCC, n.d.). At least three countries—Burkina Faso, Grenada, and Saint Lucia—strategically linked the process of preparing NAP progress reports with the process of preparing their first Adaptation Communication, using the information and lessons collected for the progress report as the basis for the Adaptation Communication, and avoiding duplication of reporting efforts (Ledwell et al., 2023).

## A Standardized Yet Flexible Approach to Conduct Progress Reporting

While each country has its own approach tailored to its national context, our analysis of progress reports reveals that a four-step standardized approach to progress reporting can be effective across different contexts. These steps constitute an iterative cycle, as illustrated in Figure 1.

Figure 1. NAP progress reporting process



The **first step** is to outline the objectives and the framing of the progress report. Mandates for progress reporting can inform these at the beginning of the process. In addition, clarifying the framing will help determine who should be engaged, where to collect information, and how to coordinate the process.

The **second step** is the identification of existing resources, capacity, and needs before launching the process. Clarifying roles and responsibilities, particularly who will lead the process, is critical,

as they are responsible for consolidating information from key stakeholders. Clarifying the status of the MEL system is essential because it will inform progress reporting.

The **third step** is the identification and application of MEL tools for progress reporting aligned with the objectives and available resources identified in Steps 1 and 2.

The **fourth step** focuses on the communication of the results. Determining a clear plan of action to disseminate the results is key. This step seeks to answer questions such as what results to communicate, in which form, to whom, and how to increase accessibility and utilization of the information.

## Progress Reporting Can Be Done Throughout the NAP Process

Countries can conduct progress reporting any time, but aligning it with the adaptation planning and decision-making cycle is most beneficial. Progress reporting is crucial for NAP teams to assess whether national adaptation efforts are working or are inadvertently increasing climate change risks through maladaptation. As such, it is useful at any stage of the NAP process cycle, and different approaches for progress reporting exist depending on where a country is in the process. According to our analysis, the process can take from 2 months to a year, depending on its objectives and the resources available.

Although most countries typically conduct progress reporting in the middle or at the end of the NAP's implementation period, there is no fixed rule regarding its timing. Some countries even choose to do it within the first year of implementation. An early assessment has several benefits. It provides an opportunity to check on how things are going and identify issues early on to make adjustments, which can save time and resources over time. It can also help ensure that the implementation stays on track. However, one of the main drawbacks of an early progress report is the general lack of data available in the early stages of implementation. Nevertheless, countries have adopted simplified approaches to address this challenge, as described later in Section 4.

Overall, the timing of progress reporting will depend on different factors beyond just a matter of intent. While most countries with a NAP document stated that they would track and report progress within a specified amount of time, many do not or cannot due to a lack of funding or capacity or shifting priorities resulting from changes in government or disruptions, such as conflicts, natural disasters or pandemics.



## Adapting the Scope of Progress Reporting to Fit Reporting Needs

To elaborate a clear road map for developing the progress reporting and defining who should be engaged, countries need to define the scope of the progress report at the very beginning. This will help organize and manage resources for data collection and the engagement of stakeholders to contribute to progress reporting. In addition, the scope can be revised and expanded in subsequent progress reports to consider the latest information and stakeholders' needs.

The scope of the progress reports usually depends on the development and structure of the NAP document. For instance, Grenada focuses its reporting on programmatic or thematic priorities, including M&E, gender and social inclusion, or institutional arrangements and coordination. In Brazil, the NAP progress report focuses on the NAP's priority sectors, including the water, agriculture, wildlife, and forestry sectors.

While most countries report progress specifically on the NAP, others report progress on the NAP as part of their National Climate Change Action Plans, National Adaptation Strategy, Joint Implementation Plan on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, or National Climate Change Response Policy. Some countries such as Kenya, the Philippines and South Africa report on adaptation and mitigation. Others like Tonga and Kiribati include disaster risk management as part of their Joint Implementation Plans, aiming to increase resilience to climate change and risks to natural disasters.

## Setting Clear Objectives to Establish the Foundation for Progress Reporting

Progress reporting can strengthen the NAP process and its implementation by informing decision making, increasing accountability and transparency, and sharing and communicating information. Objectives for progress reporting will support these purposes.

Establishing clear objectives for the progress report lays the foundation for identifying and engaging relevant stakeholder groups. This leads to a shared understanding of the reporting requirements, including the methodology and data collection methods. The objectives will impact and be influenced by the amount of time and resources allocated for the process. Table 2 provides a list of the objectives for progress reporting stated in the reviewed reports.

**Table 2. List of stated objectives of progress reports reviewed**

<b>Examples of objectives for progress reporting</b>
Tracking the implementation status of climate change adaptation activities
Evaluating the NAP implementation and its enabling environment
Evaluating the integration of climate adaptation in development planning and budgeting
Building capacity and raising stakeholder awareness and engagement for climate action
Identifying opportunities, challenges, gaps, and lessons learned related to the NAP implementation
Making recommendations for NAP update and implementation

Progress reports can have multiple objectives and combine them as needed. While countries like Spain and Germany have developed separate reports for M&E, others combine elements of MEL into a single report. Defining the appropriate methods and tools for each objective and carrying out the progress reporting process in an inclusive and participatory way takes time. Having multiple reporting processes in place can add to the existing capacity and resource difficulties many countries face in prioritizing progress reporting. However, the analysis showed that progress reporting can start simply, with one or two objectives, and build over time.

The objective of “tracking the implementation status of climate change adaptation activities” was the one most commonly found in the reviewed reports. This highlights the need for countries to inform various stakeholders of the progress made on the implementation of their NAP. However, it also speaks to the complexity of conducting a proper evaluation of the NAP process, incorporating learning aspects as part of progress reporting, and ultimately understanding whether a country is making progress on climate adaptation. While monitoring activities tend to be more straightforward and focused on tracking progress against predetermined targets and indicators, evaluations, on the other hand, often require a deeper understanding of the NAP and its long-term outcomes and impacts. This can make them more challenging, and thus they may require more time to complete.

## Driving Successful Progress Reporting Through Effective Leadership

It is essential to clarify who will oversee the progress reporting if a mandate does not already specify this. The designation of a lead body is critical because this body will be held accountable for reporting regularly on adaptation progress to various stakeholders. Furthermore, the responsible authority will coordinate the reporting process. This includes setting up platforms for stakeholder engagement and mobilizing the necessary technical and human resources to implement data collection, analysis, and synthesis strategies. As such, it is also crucial for the lead body to work closely with the country's MEL process.

**Table 3. List of lead bodies for progress reporting in the different countries**

#	Country	Lead body
1	Albania	Ministry of Environment and Tourism – Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change
2	Austria	Austrian Federal Ministry of Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
3	Belgium	National Climate Commission
4	Brazil	Ministry of Environment – Secretariat for Climate Change and Forests
5	Burkina Faso	Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change – Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development
6	Cameroon	Ministry of the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development – Directorate of Conservation and Management of Natural Resources
7	Chile	Ministry of Environment
8	Fiji	Office of the Prime Minister – Climate Change Division
9	Finland	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
10	France	Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy – General Council for the Environment and Sustainable Development

#	Country	Lead body
11	Grenada	Ministry of Climate Resilience and Environment
12	Germany	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection – Interministerial Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change
13	Kenya	Ministry of Environment and Forestry – Climate Change Directorate
14	Kiribati	The Office of Te Beretitenti, the Kiribati National Expert Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
15	Philippines	Climate Change Commission
16	South Africa	Department of Environmental Affairs – Climate Change and Air Quality Branch, Republic of South Africa
17	Spain	Ministry for the Ecological Transition
18	Saint Lucia	Ministry of Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, and Vocational Training – Department of Sustainable Development
19	Tonga	Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications – Department of Climate Change
20	United Kingdom	The Committee on Climate Change Adaptation Sub-Committee

Institutional arrangements are often established to support the development, implementation, and MEL of the NAP and are typically led by the ministry responsible for the coordination of the NAP, as shown in Table 3. Progress reporting can take advantage of these already existing arrangements.

In the reviewed countries, progress reporting coordination sometimes falls on entities such as inter-ministerial working groups composed of government representatives from all sectors, as was the case in Albania, Germany, and Burkina Faso. Other arrangements include committees, such as in the United Kingdom, or independent commissions, such as in Belgium and the Philippines. These entities bring together representatives from national and local governments, as well as advisors and experts from academia, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations to support the coordination of the process.

At the beginning of the progress reporting process, it can become apparent that these entities may not be fully functional for several reasons, including a lack of leadership, coordination, or funding. In this sense, the development of a progress report can also help revive or re-establish these entities around a common purpose, as in countries like Fiji, Albania, and Burkina Faso. A common trend in the processes reviewed was outsourcing technical expertise to consultants coordinating with the relevant government entities. While high-income countries tend to be equipped with a dedicated budget for progress reporting within their government departments, developing countries often must cover the costs of hiring consultants through development aid.

The roles of these externally hired experts can range from overseeing the process to coordination or engagement in the document's compilation, analysis, and writing. In Grenada, for example, the Ministry of Climate Resilience and Environment led the progress report with support from both local and international consultants (Government of Grenada, 2022). For Saint Lucia, the Department of Sustainable Development took the lead in collating stakeholders' inputs and assessed progress at the sectoral and national levels, with support from consultants to compile the report (Government of Saint Lucia, 2022). In Kiribati, the Office of Te Beretitenti's Climate Change Unit led the consultation process with the Responsible Lead Agencies, which were government agencies. The Office of Te Beretitenti conducted the consolidation and analysis, while the consultants were responsible for drafting the report in collaboration with representatives from the Office of Te Beretitenti (Government of Kiribati, 2020).

## Fostering Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement for Effective Progress Reporting

The progress reporting process typically requires the lead body to conduct in-person or online consultations with several stakeholders. The number ranges from a dozen to a few hundred in the reviewed countries. Therefore, a mapping of stakeholders to involve in the process is helpful for developing and coordinating a participatory and inclusive engagement process.

Most stakeholders engaged will be national-level government actors and agencies responsible for implementing the priority actions articulated in the NAP. These usually include sectoral or thematic focal points nominated by the lead body to facilitate the coordination and to ensure an overview of what occurred within each sector and theme regarding NAP implementation. Therefore, mobilizing these focal points is necessary because they can provide the necessary inputs for the report.

However, a thorough consultation process will often involve more than one person from each sector or theme. Including the viewpoints of more staff members can offer a more accurate and transparent picture of the progress made. It can also be beneficial to seek input from non-state actors. For example, Brazil's report provides a list of collaborators, including national ministries, government entities working for Indigenous communities, civil society organizations, the private sector, and research institutes (Ministry of the Environment, 2017). From the list of around



48 institutions, more than 90% represented government entities (sector-specific ministries). Another example is Kiribati, where 16 of 17 entities contacted for progress updates represented government agencies.

Some countries, such as Tonga and Kenya, also involved local actors as part of the progress reporting process. Integrating data and information from sub-national levels ensures that their results, experiences, and learning are captured at the national level. In addition, vertical integration can be encouraged by establishing mechanisms to facilitate dialogue, continuous information sharing, and capacity development (Dazé et al., 2016).

Recognition of the role non-state actors can play will help to identify critical actors that can influence change and harness greater acceptance for adaptation. It is important to encourage private sector actors to contribute to the data collection by reporting on their adaptation and sustainability outcomes and disclosing climate-related risks in their supply chains (Crawford et al., 2019). Engaging media focal points also recognizes the media's role in disseminating critical information on NAP processes to keep citizens and private businesses informed. Finally, the inclusion of civil society can bring forth the voices of the most vulnerable, especially women and other marginalized groups most affected by climate change impacts. Their input can support the review of the progress made on gender equality and social inclusion through the NAP process (NAP Global Network & UNFCCC, 2019).

## Leveraging MEL Systems for Coordinated Progress Reporting

Being familiar with the current MEL system for adaptation helps inform the progress reporting process by providing guidance on available data sources, reporting templates, and formats. It can help lead agencies determine what, how, and when to measure. This familiarity can also help build the capacity of data collection entities, such as sectoral ministries or technical groups, to improve coordination across sectors through collaboration on generating information needed to measure progress. It can also help improve data collection processes through lessons learned and lead to better systems over time.

It is important to emphasize that having an operational MEL system is not a prerequisite for progress reporting. Most countries analyzed in this review did not have an operational MEL system. However, progress reporting is encouraged at any point in the MEL system's development. At the early stage of a MEL system, progress reporting can serve as a starting point for troubleshooting to inform the development and implementation of a country's MEL system for adaptation (Dekens, 2021).

In Saint Lucia, the M&E strategy informs progress reporting, which focuses on sectoral adaptation and NAP action plans and assesses cross-sectoral components. The system sets a 3-year timeline for measuring NAP progress (Government of Saint Lucia, 2018). In Tonga, the M&E system informs tracking of NAP implementation and measures the effectiveness of activities

geared toward resilience. It provides guidelines to measure progress toward Tonga’s Sustainable Development Goals and requires quarterly reporting aligned with the government’s development plans. Kenya’s Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV+)<sup>4</sup> system, serving as a central data hub, aims to simplify progress reporting. This system aggregates and scrutinizes data from multiple sources, such as the NDCs, to generate various reports (Kenya, 2021). It also includes self-assessment of the MRV+ system to ensure its continual refinement.

In many cases, an effort to link MEL systems with existing assessments, planning, and development cycles was well recognized. In Germany, for instance, an inter-ministerial working group synchronizes various reporting cycles, which include a monitoring report every 4 years, an impact and vulnerability analysis every 6 years, evaluation reports every 4 years, and a summary progress report followed by an action plan update every 5 years (Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, 2020). Although this model might require substantial resources, it proves effective, ensuring timely information for policy decision making in NAP processes and complementing other reporting requirements.

## Maximizing Impact Through Effective Communication of Results

Effectively communicating the results of progress reporting is crucial to promoting their accessibility and utilization. This can be achieved by tailoring the report to its purpose, objectives, and target audiences, which will guide the choice of information to include as well as the presentation. Progress reports typically include an executive summary, an introduction, a description of the methodology, the presentation of results with analysis, challenges and lessons learned, recommendations, a conclusion, and annexes.

Results are often organized first at an aggregate level, providing a broad overview of the NAP progress, and second at a sectoral, thematic, or programmatic level for more detailed analysis. Narratives, graphs, and charts help contextualize and visualize the information. Some countries produce shorter versions or translated reports to cater to different audiences or for global dissemination.

In the reviewed progress reports, only half of the documents specified their target audiences. Identifying the target audiences early in the report development is crucial. The four primary audiences in reviewed reports were the international community, donors, national governments, and citizens. Understanding these audiences helps to align the report with their unique interests and needs.

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<sup>4</sup> The MRV+ system unifies the MRV of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation activities with the M&E of adaptation activities, represented by the “+”.

Most of the examined documents were accessible online, often alongside related resources. A few countries also used digital platforms linked to their MEL system, enabling regular updates on adaptation measures' implementation. Examples like the [Kiribati National Integrated Vulnerability Assessment Database](#) exemplify this. The development of these digital platforms is an emerging topic that deserves a more profound analysis that would, for example, include identifying the diverse types and uses of these platforms, how they are designed and implemented, and how they can contribute to a country's decision making, accountability, and information sharing for adaptation across sectors and levels of government.

Lastly, half of the reports were made more accessible through a shorter format or translations. Countries mainly translated their progress reports for two reasons: i) to accommodate multiple official languages within the country and ii) to reach a global audience, typically choosing English for this purpose.

# 4

## Country Examples

This section dives into practical illustrations of NAP progress reporting from around the globe. It focuses on the four objectives for progress reporting that were most often mentioned in the reviewed reports. In exploring these case studies, we highlight the diverse practices, successes, and challenges inherent to different national contexts, providing a rich source of shared learning and insight into climate adaptation reporting. Table 4 provides a summary of the different methods used by countries for progress reports for each of the four objectives.

**Table 4. List of objectives for progress reporting, along with a summary of methods used by countries**

#	Objectives	Examples of methods used by countries
1	Tracking the implementation status of climate adaptation activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes/No has work started</li> <li>• List of achievements and challenges</li> <li>• Qualitative completion criteria</li> <li>• Colour code</li> <li>• Percentages</li> <li>• Indicators</li> </ul>
2	Evaluating the NAP implementation and its enabling environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of evaluation criteria with associated questions</li> <li>• Thematic evaluation (e.g., gender)</li> <li>• Case studies, stories of change</li> <li>• Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis</li> <li>• Risk Assessment heatmaps</li> </ul>
3	Evaluating the integration of climate change adaptation in development planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scan of strategic documents</li> <li>• Key experts' evaluations</li> </ul>
4	Building capacity and raising stakeholder awareness and engagement for climate action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Consultation workshops</li> </ul>

## Objective 1: Tracking the implementation of the NAP

Tracking the implementation of the NAP can refer to “implementation of the NAP process” (e.g., process and governance activities) and “implementation of adaptation actions/measures prioritized through the NAP” (e.g., measures taken to reduce vulnerability and build resilience). Countries reporting progress on the implementation of their NAP will typically follow the NAP’s structure as a framework for their reporting. This structure is usually based on sectoral, thematic, or programmatic priorities. By tracking and reporting on the adaptation activities associated with these priorities, countries can assess their progress toward achieving their goals.

Tracking the implementation of the NAP can be approached with varying degrees of complexity. Options range from a simple checklist to track if activities have started to developing more nuanced completion criteria and indicators or categorizing activities based on the level of effort and funding required. Determining the best approach for progress reporting depends on several factors, such as the availability, quantity, and quality of information, and reporting capacity.

If countries are unsure where to begin, it is advisable to start with a simple approach and gradually build on it over time (Dekens, 2021). A timely, straightforward report can effectively communicate the progress made in implementing the NAP and set a baseline on top of which additional information can be added in future reports. This also provides an opportunity to develop reporting skills and capacity.

Although the focus of this monitoring objective is to track the implementation of the NAP process and associated adaptation activities, it’s notable that some countries have broadened their reporting scope. These countries also report on activities not initially listed in their NAP but which gained from the coordination of the NAP process, providing a more complete view of their adaptation achievements.

All the methods described below can be used individually or in combination by countries to monitor and report the progress of their NAP implementation, depending on the reporting needs.

### Yes/No Has Work Started?

Having a list of all the NAP’s priority measures planned in each sector and then, through consultation with the sectors, indicating whether they have started or completed the activity is a simple way to quickly check on the status of the implementation, which can then be done at repeated intervals. Adding a column for comments can also provide more details on each activity. This approach is handy when there are uncertainties around the amount of information available and if reporting coordination mechanisms still need to be established. It can also be done during the first year of implementation to take note of any issues or delays and to address them early on as was done in Saint Lucia (Table 5).

**Table 5. Saint Lucia**

Major outcome	Nature of the measure	Work initiated and/or completed (Y/N)	Highlights to date
Outcome 1	Enhancing national policy, legal, and regulatory frameworks	Y	Updated Water Policy for SLU, 2021.
Outcome 1	Building human capacity	Y	<p>Training in Isotope hydrology training: an International Atomic Energy Agency-sponsored initiative in 2021.</p> <p>Data Loggers and Communications equipment for the Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project, an activity under the rehabilitation of the national hydro-met system component (a World Bank project) in 2021.</p> <p>Project proposal finalised and funding secured for training through bilateral assistance from the Government of Mexico: the technical and scientific cooperation project on the “Availability of Water in Quantity and Quality in a Watershed” (to start in early 2022).</p>

*Source: Government of Saint Lucia, 2022.*

## List of Achievements and Challenges

An effective way to assess progress on the NAP is to use a narrative format that highlights achievements and challenges encountered as in Brazil (Figure 2). It can be done systematically for each sector using the same template, making it easy to communicate. However, this requires a dedicated reporting lead for each sector with knowledge of the implementation efforts conducted during the reporting period. Beyond indicating whether an activity has started (e.g., a capacity-building session for farmers), this approach also quantifies what was achieved (e.g., number of capacity-building sessions held or number of farmers trained) and the challenges faced and is very outputs based.

Figure 2. Brazil



Source: Ministry of the Environment, Secretariat for Climate Change and Forests, 2017.



This “bullet points” approach summarizes the implementation period by presenting highlights and low points. It is not meant to be comprehensive and report exhaustively on everything done. This is a more subjective but very accessible approach. It can be great for a yearly report and help focus on only the most essential and relevant elements while addressing the most urgent issues for each sector.

## Qualitative Completion Criteria

Describing the implementation in a binary way (implemented or not implemented) is sometimes enough. Still, a more nuanced method using qualitative criteria can help distinguish between the various implementation levels at the activity level as done in France (Table 6). For example, countries using this approach had a minimum of three completion criteria, using the terms “completed,” “ongoing,” and “not started” to describe the level of implementation of the various activities of the NAP. Other countries used up to six completion criteria by splitting the “ongoing” criteria with the qualifiers “on schedule,” “ahead of schedule,” and “behind schedule,” and adding an “unsure” option.

This approach requires a certain quantity and quality of information to make those distinctions. Also, the criteria used need to be decided and agreed on by everyone at the beginning of the reporting process, including how to interpret them using a legend. Out of all the reports reviewed, this was the most common approach to track the implementation of the NAP.

**Table 6. France**

		Number	Completed	Ongoing	Behind schedule	Abandoned
1	Cross-cutting actions	5	1		4	
2	Health	16	6	5	5	
3	Resources and water	19	9	6	3	1
4	Biodiversity	22	7	7	5	3
5	Natural risks	28*	10	13	2	1
6	Agriculture	15	9	5	1	
7	Forest	16	5	5	3	3
8	Fisheries and aquaculture	1		1		

		Number	Completed	Ongoing	Behind schedule	Abandoned
9	Energy and industry	5	3	1	1	
10	Infrastructure and transport system	12	5	3	3	1
11	Urban planning and built environment	10	5	3	1	1
12	Tourism	2	1	1		
13	Information - communication	12	11	1		
14	Education and training	5	3	1	1	
15	Research	16	7	4	2	3
16	Finance and insurance	15	3	2	1	9
17	Coastal	13	7	5	1	
18	Mountains	13	4	7	1	1
19	European and international action	12	6	3	2	1
20	Governance	5	5			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>242*</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>

Source: Caude et al., 2015.

















\* Information not provided for two measures.

## Colour Code/Traffic Light

Some reports used a traffic light colour code (green, amber, red) replacing or combined with the completion criteria. Generally, green indicated that the implementation was completed, and amber indicated that the implementation was ongoing. The colour red meant that the activity had

yet to start. The colour grey was added when there was not enough information to assign one of the primary three colours as in Belgium (Table 7). This approach can effectively visualize and communicate the implementation status, provided that it is accompanied by a legend to guide the interpretation.

**Table 7. Belgium**

Plan actions	Degree of implementation	Deadline met	Budget met	Objective achieved	Comments and recommendations
1. Development of detailed climate scenarios for Belgium					Cordex.be presented its results in 2017. These scenarios now serve as a reference.
2. Development of a roadmap for a Belgian Climate Excellence Centre					Despite a negative mid-term evaluation, there has been no change on this action.
3. Creation of a national online platform for climate change adaptation					The website went live in spring 2019. The platform's existence must continue to be publicized.
4. Strengthening sectoral coordination at the national level					Though there was a positive impetus with the launch of an initial kick-off event in 2017 (wide audience) and a round table in 2018 (targeted audience), subsequent events in 2019 were postponed to early 2020 and did not reach the expected audience. The COVID-19 crisis had a significant impact on the organization of events during the rest of 2020.

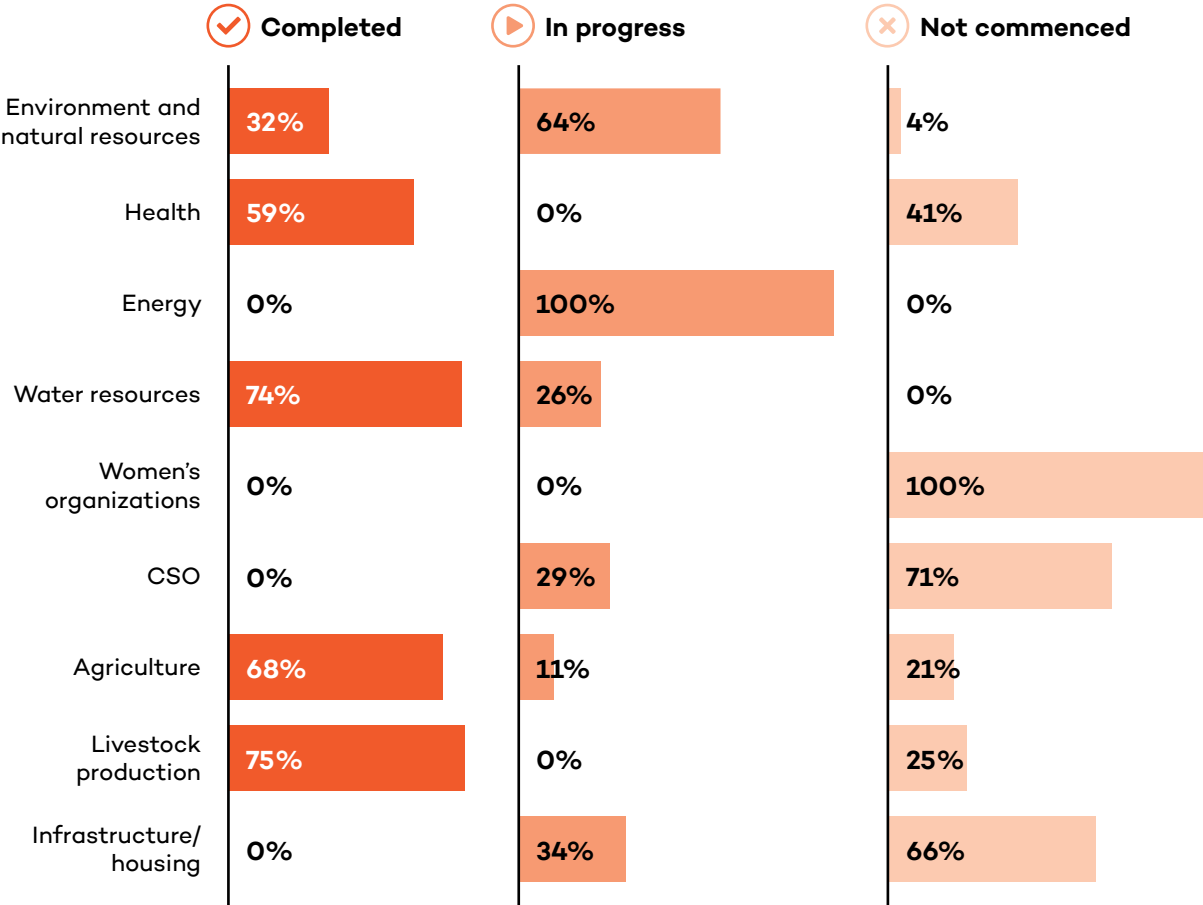
Source: National Climate Commission, 2020.

An analysis should accompany the use of criteria and colours for the activities to offer additional details and explanations. For example, saying that a particular activity is behind schedule or has not started is more valuable if it also includes the reason for the delay. Implementation challenges and gaps can only be bridged and addressed if they are reported. Adding a column for comments can allow the inclusion of such information.

### Percentage of Completion

Countries like Kiribati, Grenada, and Burkina Faso (Figure 3) used percentages of completion. Calculating the completion percentage of a particular sector, theme, or program within a broader NAP process can provide a clear and concise summary of the level of implementation for that specific aspect of the plan. This can be accomplished by aggregating the results of the individual activities in that particular sector, theme, or program and using those results to determine an overall completion percentage. Calculating the completion percentage helps quickly identify areas of the NAP that are progressing well and areas that require additional focus and attention moving forward. In addition, this information can be presented in a list or table format, making it easily accessible and understandable for many stakeholders.

Figure 3. Burkina Faso: Percentage achievement of objectives by sector

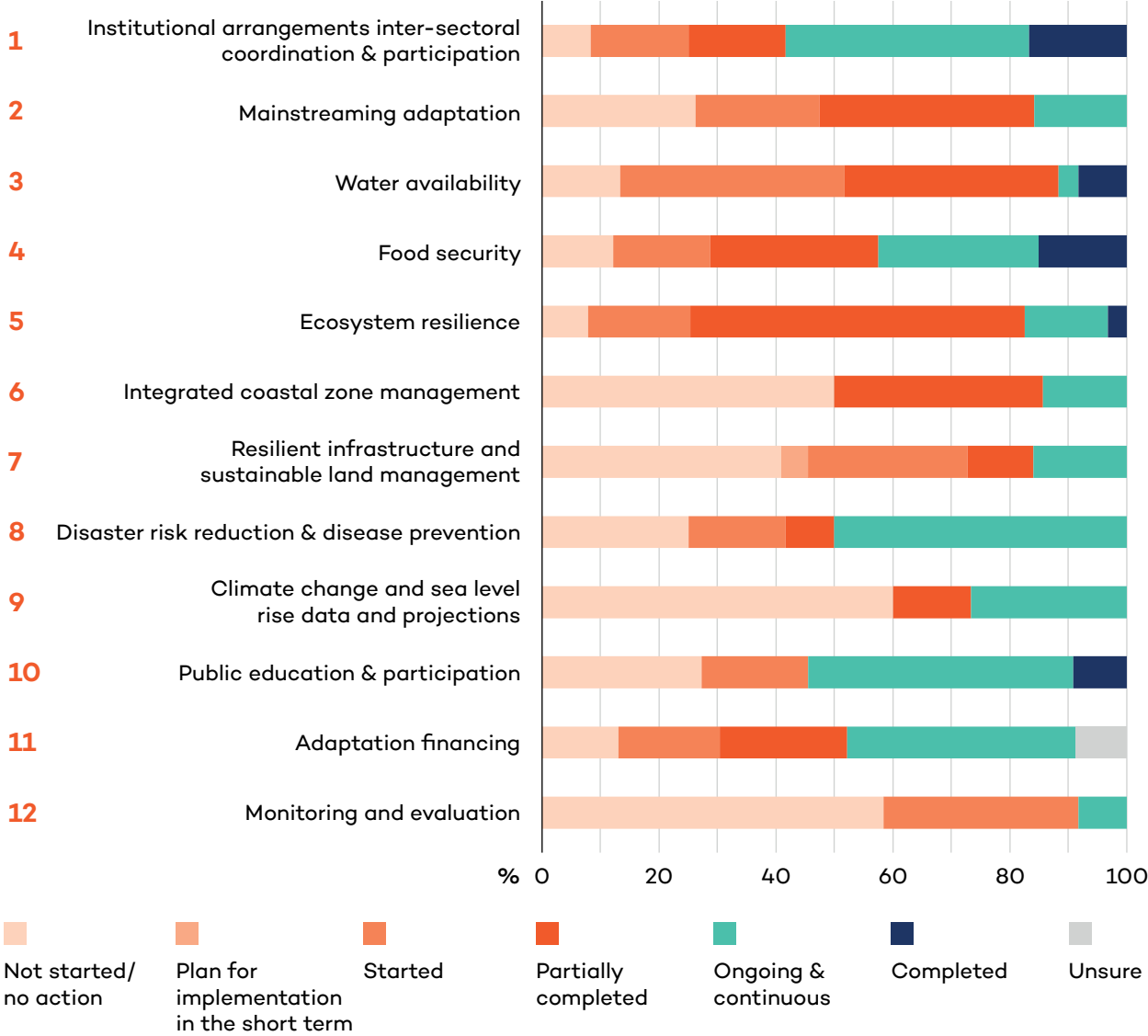


Source: Ministry for the Environment, the Green Economy and Climate Change, 2021.

## Categorization of NAP Measures

Recognizing that not all NAP measures are equal in terms of effort and cost, countries such as Albania and Grenada (Figure 4) used the progress report to categorize adaptation measures according to three criteria: the complexity of the measures outlined in the NAP, the financial resources required for their implementation, and their impacts or potential to reduce vulnerabilities and enhance adaptive capacity.

Figure 4. Grenada: Complexity weight-adjusted implementation status of measures



Source: Government of Grenada, 2023.

In this case, complexity refers to the intricacies involved in implementing a measure. To evaluate complexity, various factors are considered, such as the level of specialized knowledge required,

whether such expertise is available in the country, whether the measures involve new or existing practices, and the number of actors needed to coordinate the implementation.

Three levels were defined for each criterion and attributed to each measure: low/medium/high for complexity and financial resource required, and indirect/intermediate/direct for linkage to risk reduction.

## Monitoring Finance

Monitoring financial data for NAP implementation in progress reports, as in the case of Chile (Table 8), not only improves transparency and accountability but also provides valuable insights to potential development partners and funders considering supporting a project. For example, detailed information, such as the funding amount, source (domestic, international, public, private), and funding proportion (fully funded, partially funded), enables proactive planning. In addition, it helps anticipate potential funding-related challenges in project implementation. Close collaboration with the ministry of finance and a reliable reporting system, through either a digital platform or documentation, is essential to ensure the timely transfer of information when required.

**Table 8. Chile**

Measure	Description	Percentage implementation as at 2018	Amounts invested 2018	
			Value (CLP)	Type of financing
1	Strengthen water resource planning and management at the national level to optimize water use in agriculture	100%	\$ 3,441,868,072	NATIONAL
2	Establish a national program to promote efficient and sustainable water management in irrigation agriculture	100%	\$ 5,000,000,000	NATIONAL**
3	Strengthen the Rural Irrigation (Riego Campesino) program	100%	No information	
4	Optimize the National Agroclimatic Risk Management system (GRA)	81%	\$ 617,181,606	NATIONAL*

Measure	Description	Percentage implementation as at 2018	Amounts invested 2018	
			Value (CLP)	Type of financing
5	Adapt the Agricultural Insurance instrument for tackling climate change	No aplica	\$ 5,522,470,937	NATIONAL
6	Adopt integrated pest and disease alert and control systems	66%	\$ 6,262,171,833	NATIONAL*
7	Support productive investment to improve adaptation to the effects of climate change in the forestry and livestock sector	77%	No information	
8	Drive change in planting schedules to minimize climate risks	40%	No information	
9	Promote the use of cultivation systems for reducing heat stress	85%	\$ 88,500,000	NATIONAL
10	Support research and promote innovation in water resource management in the forestry and livestock sector	85%	\$ 446,883,766	NATIONAL*
11	Develop genetic improvement programs for agricultural crops vulnerable to climate change, using state-of-the-art conventional and molecular tools	50%	\$ 72,000,000	NATIONAL



Measure	Description	Percentage implementation as at 2018	Amounts invested 2018	
			Value (CLP)	Type of financing
12	Develop an <i>ex situ</i> forest resource genetic conservation program for climate change adaptation	100%	\$ 16,038,324	MIXED
13	Scale up the current mechanisms of the Programme of Incentive Systems for the Agro-environmental Sustainability of Agricultural Soils (e.g., SIRSD)	100%	\$ 4,073,217,816	NATIONAL

Source: Ministry for the Environment, 2019.

## Tracking of Information Sharing and Communication of the NAP

Spain tracked the number of knowledge products (research, publications, case studies) generated in the country during the reporting period. It also looked at the training that took place and provided analysis of website data from the government's website dedicated to climate change to identify trends and follow public debates (presentations, conferences, TV interviews, media mentions) on climate change adaptation. This approach can be used to monitor the increasing profile of the NAP and climate change adaptation at the national level.

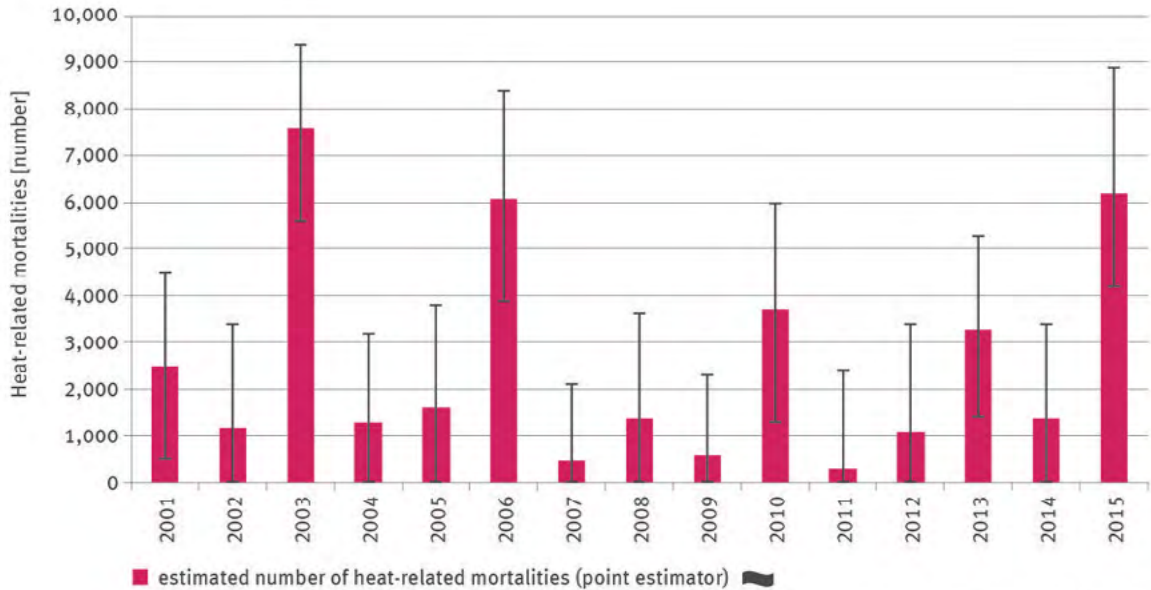
## Tracking Progress on Indicators

Countries like Germany (Figure 5), the Philippines, and Kenya have been monitoring the implementation of their adaptation activities by reporting against predefined specific indicators. These indicators serve as a means of measuring variables to determine changes over time, establishing the current situation, and analyzing trends. The use of indicators is a succinct way to track progress and communicate effectively with decision-makers. However, to ensure that the indicators are easily understood and accurately interpreted, a clear explanation, narrative, and accompanying fact sheet should be provided to contextualize them.

While indicators can offer insightful information on the advancements in climate change adaptation, it is equally important to acknowledge their limitations. Indicators are designed to focus on specific facets of climate change adaptation and provide a limited perspective. This is because they measure only a select group of variables and do not capture the full complexity

of the situation. For instance, an indicator measuring the number of farmers trained in climate adaptation does not consider elements such as the quality and efficacy of the training or the recipients' attitudes. Indicators can reinforce the progress report's overall narrative by providing factual data, but they are insufficient. To gain a deeper understanding of the situation, it is necessary to complement them with additional information from stakeholder engagement, qualitative assessments, and real-life case studies.

**Figure 5. Germany**



Source: German Environment Agency, 2019.

## Objective 2: Evaluation of the NAP

Evaluations in the reviewed reports generally looked at assessing the effectiveness of the NAP process and its implementation in reducing the country's vulnerability and building the resilience of communities and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change. Tracking progress through an evaluation can provide updates on the country's adaptation strategy and help determine organizational capacity while identifying priorities and gaps in knowledge that can facilitate or limit the achievement of desired outcomes.

Going beyond tracking the extent to which NAP processes have been implemented or not, evaluations in progress reporting help stakeholders understand if the implemented activities have achieved their objectives or if any unintended effects have occurred (i.e., "maladaptation"). Progress reports that either focused on or had an evaluation component emphasized progress achieved, highlighted stories of impact, described challenges, and proposed next steps. Some countries also assessed impacts through comparative analysis of planned and completed adaptation actions and quantifying impacts.

## List of Evaluation Criteria

Countries that evaluated their NAP, such as Finland (Table 9), Grenada, and Spain, developed a catalogue of evaluation criteria and associated key questions to assess the enabling environment for developing and implementing the NAP process. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development list of six evaluation criteria (see Table 10) was often used as a starting point and adapted depending on the needs. Other criteria can be added according to the evaluation values that countries want to assess, such as Finland adding “collaboration of actors” and “side effects,” among others.

**Table 9. Finland**

Adaptation Plan evaluation	
Criterion	Questions
<b>Evaluation criteria and questions relevant to the implementation process</b>	
<b>Institutional capacities</b>	<p>Do the sectors find that awareness of climate change and the risks associated with it is sufficiently high? Do they find the resources adequate for implementing adaptation actions?</p> <p>What capabilities do the sectors have for responding to climate change risks? Do the branches have key processes promoting preparedness in place, including plans, warning and monitoring systems etc., in which climate risks are addressed?</p>
<b>Barriers</b>	<p>What types of barriers to implementing the Adaptation Plan related to legislation, information, cooperation or authority and similar issues have the sectors come across?</p>
<b>Stakeholder participation</b>	<p>How has stakeholder participation been ensured in Adaptation Plan implementation? Which stakeholders have participated and how? How has stakeholder participation promoted the plan’s implementation?</p>
<b>Collaboration of actors</b>	<p>How has collaboration related to climate risk management and the promotion of adaptation work between different actors and sectors progressed?</p> <p>What types of questions/themes does the collaboration focus on and what methods are used?</p>
<b>Lessons learnt</b>	<p>Is information on the plan’s implementation, its success and its challenges collected systematically? Has the collected information been used to develop adaptation activities?</p>

## Adaptation Plan evaluation

Criterion	Questions
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### Evaluation criteria and questions relevant to Adaptation Plan effectiveness

<b>Effectiveness</b>	How and in what ways has Adaptation Plan implementation promoted Finnish society's capacity for managing climate risks and adapting to climate change?  How has the national plan influenced the preconditions for regional and local adaptation work?
<b>Efficiency</b>	To what extent have the sectors discussed or assessed the perspective of efficiency in the context of Adaptation Plan implementation?
<b>Relevance</b>	Are the objectives and actions of the Adaptation Plan correctly targeted considering up-to-date information on climate change risks and impacts?
<b>Coherence</b>	Are the Adaptation Plan actions compatible with other policy objectives and associated measures?
<b>Side effects</b>	What types of (unanticipated) positive or negative side effects (economic, social or environmental) have cropped up in the context of implementing the Adaptation Plan? Have the actions supported or undermined capabilities for climate change mitigation?

Source: Mäkinen et al., 2020.

Each evaluation criterion used was described (e.g., what is meant by relevance or effectiveness?) and defined through a list of country-specific key questions that were agreed upon by the evaluation team in consultation with the government.

**Table 10. List of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development evaluation criteria**

i	<b>Relevance</b> – Is the intervention doing the right things?
ii	<b>Coherence</b> – How well does the intervention fit?
iii	<b>Effectiveness</b> – Is the intervention achieving its objectives?
iv	<b>Efficiency</b> – How well are resources being used?
v	<b>Impact</b> – What difference does the intervention make?
vi	<b>Sustainability</b> – Will the benefits last?

*Source: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2021.*

## Evaluation of the Enabling Environment for NAP Implementation

Another variation of the evaluation criteria can be seen in the case of Fiji (see Table 11), which evaluated the enabling environment for NAP implementation as part of the country’s first progress report. Seven factors that can accelerate or delay progress on NAP implementation were considered for this evaluation.

**Table 11. List of enabling factors for NAP implementation in Fiji’s progress report**

Enabling factor	Definition
<b>Leadership</b>	The active involvement of high-level political leaders and recognized “champions” who are committed to addressing adaptation.
<b>Institutional arrangements</b>	The rules, regulations, and associated organizational structures that enable coordination on adaptation across actors at all levels, as well as the systematic integration of adaptation into development processes.
<b>Engagement</b>	Efforts that enable a diversity of actors at all levels, including civil society organizations, the private sector, communities, the media, and academia, to participate in and influence decision making in the NAP process.

Enabling factor	Definition
<b>Data, knowledge, and communications</b>	The generation and use of data and information, especially climate data; knowledge, including local knowledge and research; and key messages tailored to specific audiences to advance the NAP process.
<b>Skills and capacity</b>	Investments in individuals and organizations at all levels to ensure they have the skills and capacity to enable effective and efficient NAP processes.
<b>Financing</b>	The availability and accessibility of public and private financing for climate adaptation from domestic and international sources.
<b>Technologies</b>	Access to relevant technologies for implementing adaptation measures.

Source: Office of the Prime Minister’s Climate Change Division, 2023.

## Evaluation of Gender Integration

In addition to the list of criteria above, Cameroon (Table 12) also conducted a gender-specific evaluation of its NAP using a gender scale with five criteria across a spectrum from “gender blind” to “gender neutral,” “gender sensitive,” “gender responsive,” and “gender transformative.” The evaluation process using this gender scale aimed to assess the level of gender integration for different elements of the adaptation priorities and the NAP process,



including coordination, governance, and implementation. This helped evaluate the progress made and the remaining gaps so that the next version of the NAP not only aims to be gender transformative but also takes into account the specific needs and perspectives of both women and men in its design and implementation.

**Table 12. Cameroon**

	Level of gender mainstreaming	Observed limits
Vision and objectives	<p><b>The vision</b> is gender sensitive.</p> <p><b>Gender</b> specifically refers here to “women, children, and vulnerable groups.”</p> <p><b>The overall objective</b> is gender-neutral/blind: it talks about “Cameroonians.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confusion in the gender concept itself: gender refers to gender relations.</li> <li>• It is the gender and inclusion/diversity concept that includes vulnerable groups, young people, Indigenous People, children, etc.</li> <li>• Lack of a clear gender and vulnerability conceptual framework adapted to the socio-economic, political, and environmental context of the five agroecological zones of the NAPCC.</li> <li>• “Cameroonians” is generalist; a “men, women, children, vulnerable groups” identification would have been expected, in alignment with the vision.</li> <li>• Identification of the target social groups would help to refine the specific objectives and, therefore, the gender-sensitive indicators.</li> </ul>

*Source: Cameroon, 2022.*

## Case Studies and Stories of Change

In countries such as Kenya, Austria, and Fiji, progress reports included case studies highlighting particular results or success stories linked to implementing the identified adaptation priorities. This approach allowed these countries to gain knowledge and examine how these insights could be further applied in their NAP documents. In addition, case studies allow storytelling about adaptation by looking beyond just the numbers and focusing more on the human aspect and the impacts of the implemented activities by describing how local communities have benefited or not from them. These concrete examples and stories of impact help communicate adaptation to a broad audience.

The collection of case studies was generally done using a template describing the background information (location, dates, stakeholders involved), the climate risks or vulnerabilities addressed,



the adaptation measure, the results of the intervention and impacts on local communities, and the lessons learned.

## Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis

Cameroon also used a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis framework to assess their NAPs in terms of these four key elements. This analysis supports the planning and decision-making process and can be applied to specific areas such as coordination, capacity, financing, or MEL. In addition, this can allow for a more targeted and in-depth assessment of specific areas of the NAP.

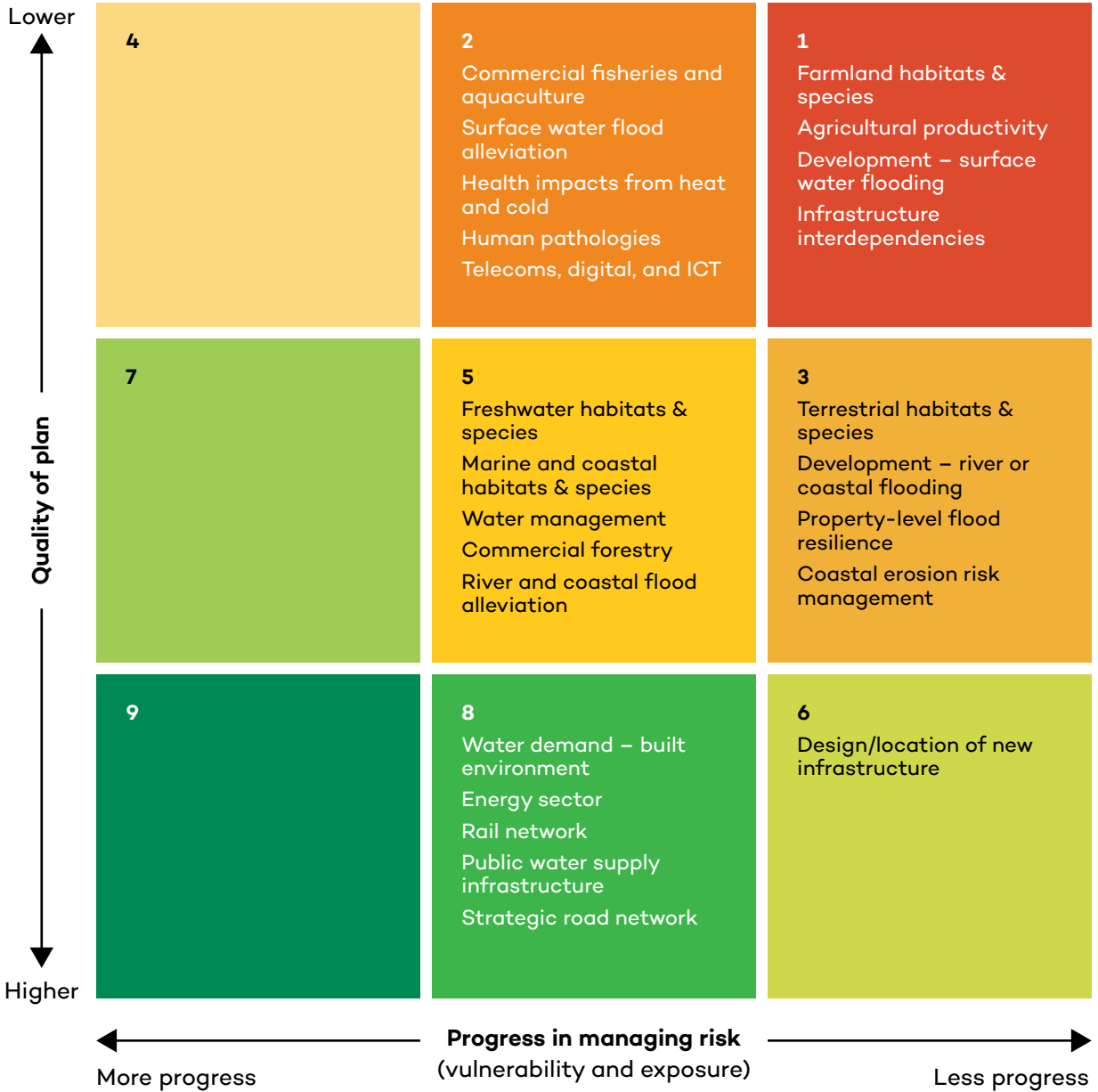
The strengths of the NAP refer to its favourable features, including clear goals and effective implementation processes, which can be leveraged to improve its effectiveness. The weaknesses are areas requiring improvement, such as insufficient resources and poor stakeholder engagement, which can be addressed to enhance the impact of the NAP's implementation. Opportunities for the NAP refer to external factors, such as technological advancements and policy changes, which can positively influence its outcome, and seizing these opportunities can further boost its success. The threats to the NAP are the external factors, such as political instability and natural disasters, which may negatively impact the NAP. However, anticipating and addressing these threats can minimize potential risks and secure the NAP's continued success.

## Risk Assessment Heat Map

The United Kingdom (Figure 6) used a risk management heat map to assess and rank adaptation priorities using a framework that helps examine the plan's quality vis-à-vis the progress toward managing risk for each adaptation priority. The quality of plans is assessed based on whether they are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. In contrast, risks are assessed based on indicators of vulnerability, exposure, adaptation action, and climate change impacts. Based on that initial evaluation of the plans and risks, each adaptation priority is given an assessment score of "high," "medium," or "low" and placed on the nine-box grid.

Heat maps are an effective way of illustrating risk levels through the traffic light colour spectrum. A green hue signifies a minimal risk, while red indicates the highest level of danger. This visual representation simplifies the ranking and comprehension of risk, providing a straightforward reference for anyone looking at the heat map. The intuitive use of the traffic light colour code is easily comprehended by individuals with varying technical knowledge, making the heat map a valuable tool for conveying risk levels to a diverse audience. Heat maps greatly enhance the decision-making process by presenting a clear visual representation of the risk landscape, allowing stakeholders to quickly pinpoint areas of deep concern and focus their efforts accordingly.

Figure 6. United Kingdom



Source: United Kingdom, 2021.

# Objective 3: Assessing the integration of the NAP in development planning and budgeting

The NAP process aims to integrate climate change adaptation into national, sectoral, or sub-national plans and budgets. Therefore, it was included as a target in some of the progress reports reviewed to gauge progress toward this objective. There were two methods used to assess progress toward this goal.

## Scan of Strategic Documents

Countries like Spain conducted a comprehensive literature review to establish a straightforward tracking table to assess the progress made on this objective. This table consisted of two columns. The first listed the title of the relevant policies, plans, and strategies at the national, sectoral, and sub-national levels. The second column provided an overview of how climate change adaptation had been integrated into those documents. Direct quotations from the documents themselves supported this information. This approach produces a clear and concise summary of the advancements being made toward the integration of climate change adaptation.

## Key Experts' Evaluation

In instances where additional information was needed, countries like Albania (Table 13) and Kiribati tracked the integration of climate change adaptation through a survey.

**Table 13. Albania**

What is the degree of integration of adaptation issues into the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2014–2020?

	<b>0=weak</b>	<b>1=rather weak</b>	<b>2=neither weak nor strong</b>	<b>3=rather strong</b>	<b>4=strong</b>	<b>n.a.</b>
<b>Current state</b>						
<b>Strategic aim</b>						
<b>Justification</b>						

*Source: Government of Albania, 2023.*

The survey was designed to solicit information from various stakeholders. The respondents were asked to provide self-reported data on whether climate change adaptation had been integrated

into their respective sectors, specific policies, plans, or strategies and in what manner. The respondents were then instructed to indicate the extent of the integration by using criteria such as “strong,” indicating that climate change adaptation had been fully integrated, “neither weak nor strong,” indicating partial integration, and “weak,” indicating that no integration had taken place.

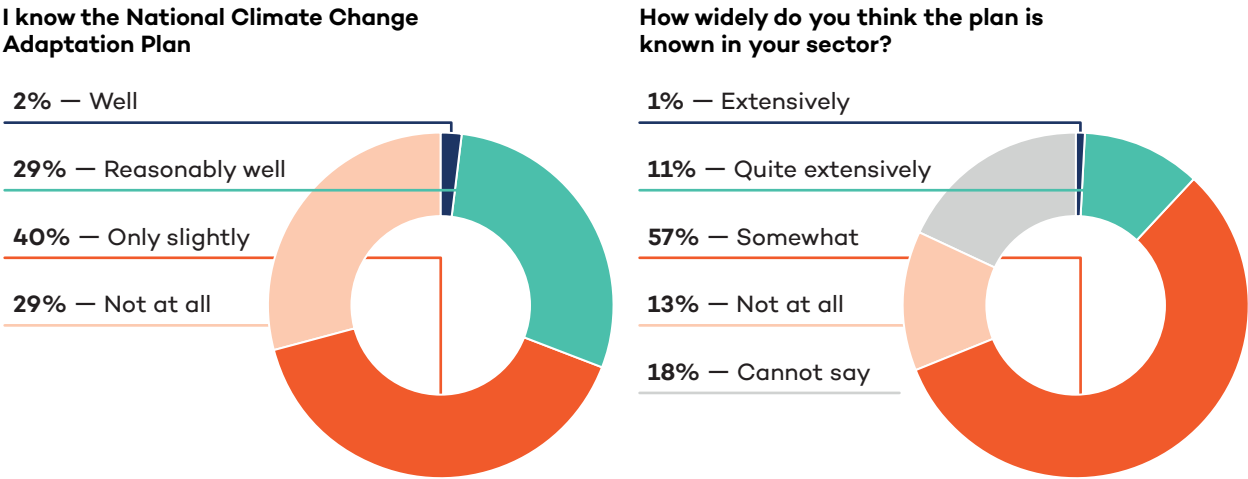
## Objective 4: Building capacity and raising stakeholder awareness and engagement for climate action

Countries used various tools to engage stakeholders and meet those learning objectives. Based on the trends examined in the analysis, the stakeholder engagement process generally occurred in a combination of different ways: i) through a survey to collect data on progress from sectors or thematic areas responsible for providing updates on NAP activities; ii) through one-on-one or focus group discussions on how to track progress and on the objective and purpose of progress reporting; iii) through consultative workshops to validate the findings and, in some examples, to establish information exchange forums to reflect on the progress made and determine next steps.

### Surveys

The reporting process, especially when it is a country’s first progress report, requires setting up coordination and engagement mechanisms to make the process participatory and inclusive. These should build on existing processes and institutional arrangements for the NAP process. For example, reports often described the progress reporting process as an opportunity to raise awareness about the NAP process and emphasized the need for ownership of the NAP across the different sectors and levels of government.

Figure 7. Finland



Source: Mäkinen et al., 2020.

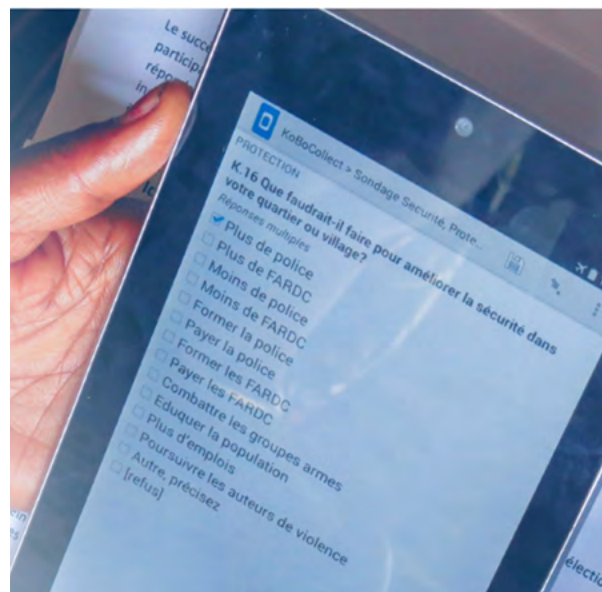
Understanding stakeholders' level of involvement in the NAP process and capacity for reporting will also help in having an effective and successful engagement process. While ideally, all stakeholders would already be aware of the NAP process and their role in its implementation and MEL, that is often not the case. This means there will be a need to sensitize actors throughout the progress reporting process.

Countries like Finland (Figure 7), Albania, Grenada, and Spain opted to conduct surveys as part of the progress reporting process to assess the level of awareness and capacity on climate change adaptation and the NAP across the different sectors and levels of government. Surveys can be administered online, by phone, or in person. This approach enables the leading agency to sensitize actors involved in the NAP implementation and its reporting requirements, and to identify challenges and gaps to overcome.

The free, open-source digital software KoboToolbox (Figure 8) can support this kind of data collection, as was the case in a handful of the progress reports reviewed. This software was designed to enhance stakeholder involvement and streamline the data collection and analysis process. It effectively helps overcome data collection obstacles such as weak connectivity and resource scarcity by creating data collection forms that can be shared and used offline on multiple devices, including computers, tablets, and mobile phones. Also, KoboToolbox promotes collaboration and facilitates the management and analysis of collected data through the implementation of data validation rules, which can ensure data quality.

Following initial tests and reviews by the Climate Change Directorate team in Kenya, stakeholders were introduced to KoboToolbox and trained on its use at workshops and sensitization sessions. Additional follow-up meetings and refresher training sessions were hosted, as necessary.

Figure 8. KoboToolbox



Source: KoboToolbox, 2023.

## Consultation Workshops

Countries used consultation workshops to bring together a wide range of stakeholders and to collect information on lessons learned, challenges, gaps, and opportunities.

In Grenada, for example, the progress reporting process involved the organization of a “NAP Experience Forum.” This consultative session brought together 50+ stakeholders representing government, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and community interests to

provide an opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on and validate the key findings of the draft progress report and to solicit recommendations for the following NAP update.

Some countries, like Kenya, used various platforms to engage stakeholders and gather progress updates on the priority areas. For example, the private sector was mobilized through Kenya's Private Sector Alliance. Meanwhile, civil society organizations participated in the process through Kenya's Climate Change Working Group and Kenya's Platform for Climate Governance. As a result, the progress report had contributions from 90 institutions, although no list of participants was provided.

Tonga used a hybrid approach to assess progress on the Joint National Action Plan 2 on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (JNAP2) implementation. As leading agencies, the National Planning Department and the JNAP Secretariat consulted stakeholders across sectors and distributed questionnaires to ministry reporting focal points. The aim was to integrate JNAP activities into the respective ministry corporation plans. Additionally, the JNAP Taskforce and the JNAP Secretariat established participatory platforms for stakeholder engagement, including civil society organizations, government ministries, and the private sector (Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, 2021).

# 5

## Challenges and Recommendations

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The results of the analysis show that adaptation progress reporting is very dependent on context. Each country needs to define what progress and success in adaptation look like in their national circumstances and what works for them based on their priorities, resources, needs, capacity, and institutions. Looking at examples from other peer countries can help identify good practices and facilitate learning from shared challenges. Most reports documented difficulties, using these as learning points to improve future NAP implementation and reporting. This section presents recurrent challenges and recommendations for addressing them.

### **Challenge 1—Lack of understanding of the NAP process**

The data collection phase revealed that actors in specific sectors did not have a good understanding of the NAP process, the roles and responsibilities of those sectors in implementing the NAP, or their reporting requirements. This meant that the implementation of adaptation activities either did not take place in those sectors or that the team implementing actions relevant to NAP priorities was not aware that they were contributing to the progress toward the NAP goals, leading to weak reporting.

### **Recommendation 1—Build capacity and raise awareness in the process**

The analysis showed that capacity building could be one of the objectives. Doing so will help guide the development of a methodology that integrates it as part of the process. As such, the reporting exercise transforms into a multi-faceted activity, serving the purpose of reporting and facilitating stakeholders' comprehension of the NAP process. However, for the progress reporting process to be effective, it is important to enhance capacities and support throughout the hierarchy. It is, then, essential to identify the proper channels or methods to increase engagement from those sectoral and local actors to sensitize them to the NAP process and how the information they collect can contribute to its MEL system.

For example, a general survey not only serves to collect initial information relevant to the progress report; it can also raise awareness of the NAP process itself and clarify reporting requirements ahead of the one-on-one consultations. This will allow NAP teams to measure participants' progress in understanding the NAP over time by repeating this approach ahead of the next reporting period. The progress reporting process represents an opportunity to build capacity, raise awareness about the NAP process, and clarify reporting requirements through the consultation progress. This shows an inherent value in repeating these reporting processes.



## Challenge 2—Coordination gaps

Progress reporting on adaptation requires data and information from multiple sources. Although coordination mechanisms are often in place to support the process, they were not always functional or still active at the time of the progress reporting. This resulted in a gap in specific sectors or thematic priorities that needed focal points.

## Recommendation 2—Re-establish and revitalize the coordinating body

To ensure the success of the progress reporting process, it is essential to (re)nominate and mobilize key representatives from each sector and priority area. In addition, the ministry responsible for coordinating the NAP should establish a clear mandate for progress reporting to provide legitimacy and authority. Without this mandate, it may be challenging for the coordination body to engage all necessary stakeholders effectively. A mission letter outlining the objectives can be issued to activate the coordinating body and allow the NAP team to fulfill its responsibilities. By reengaging key stakeholders through progress reporting, the NAP process will become stronger and better equipped for successful implementation.

## Challenge 3—Data quality and availability issues

During the progress reporting process, countries often encountered challenges with specific data collection processes that were still in the initial stages. There was also a lack of reliable information in particular sectors and insufficient data disaggregation by region or gender. These issues were mainly due to a lack of institutional mechanisms for data collection, the absence of reporting targets, inadequate databases, and the delayed establishment of MEL systems. The analysis also recognized significant gaps, specifically in the standardization of reporting across sectors, which resulted in inconsistent information for progress reporting. Furthermore, specific sectors faced difficulties with transparency and political sensitivity, with concerns about disclosing the requested information due to fear of revealing the government's failures or lack of progress. Consequently, the presented results were at times incomplete and could not be thoroughly analyzed to draw more specific conclusions.

## Recommendation 3—Build progress reporting over time and learn from it

Progress reporting is a flexible MEL approach that can be used at any point across the NAP cycle because it is an iterative and ongoing process. It does not have to be perfect, nor does it need to include information about everything from the beginning. Starting with a list of achievements and challenges at the sectoral level can already help decision making by identifying potential implementation issues and needs and addressing them early on. For example, developing templates and digital tools to streamline data collection and analysis processes ahead of the following reporting period can address the lack of standardization of reporting across sectors. Building progress reporting over time can lay the groundwork for future reporting that is more comprehensive and provides more in-depth information.

Countries that are already on their second or more progress reports, such as the United Kingdom, Austria, and Kenya, have capitalized on their past experiences. They've used the learning

from previous reports to make comparisons, identify trends, and refine their process for future reporting. This learning can also then be used to emphasize the need for action and encourage ambition raising. By addressing some of the earlier challenges and adjusting their approaches, they've enhanced their ability to include more complete and relevant information.

While progress reporting is part of the country's MEL of adaptation, the process itself will foster learning about MEL and inform its development and operationalization. In this sense, progress reporting is an opportunity to learn from the successes and failures of adaptation and the NAP process by highlighting case studies and lessons learned. It can also help assess the progress reporting process itself and whether an organization is good at "learning," thus helping promote a MEL culture.

#### **Challenge 4—Insufficient reporting on gender and social inclusion**

Except for Cameroon, which focused its progress reporting on a gender evaluation of its NAP process, the other reports reviewed showed minimal reporting on the integration of gender and social inclusion in adaptation. If mentioned, it was usually to highlight the difficulties in reporting on it. The main reasons cited were a lack of disaggregated data and gender being a cross-cutting issue implemented across ministries.

#### **Recommendation 4—Increase participation, transparency, and inclusion to increase compliance**

To ensure the success of the progress reporting process, it is essential to proactively engage a diverse group of stakeholders. This includes women and marginalized communities, who should be mobilized at the beginning of the process and not only when the data is needed. This will allow for a more comprehensive report that reflects the views, perspectives, and experiences of those most impacted by climate change. Maximizing public engagement through various platforms is critical to enhancing outreach and reporting efforts at national and local levels, particularly regarding issues of equity and justice. Community meetings, online forums, and surveys can foster trust and transparency in the progress reporting process.

It is also critical to use various tools to encourage participation and feedback. One-on-one consultations with sectoral and thematic leads are necessary. Still, they should be supplemented with online surveys and workshops, allowing for input from a broader range of staff members and stakeholders. This integrated approach to engagement will lead to a more comprehensive and accurate depiction of progress made in adaptation efforts. It is also essential to address the need for more gender-disaggregated data in NAP processes to ensure the implementation of effective and sustainable adaptation measures.

#### **Challenge 5—Capacity and resource constraints**

Countries often face difficulties in securing adequate funding and resources at both national and subnational levels for progress reporting. Furthermore, challenges such as strict deadlines, stakeholder consultation fatigue, conflicting priorities, and insufficient time to establish proper

methodology or to conduct comprehensive consultations can also hinder the process. These often result in delayed responses from key stakeholders and a low rate of data submission.

### **Recommendation 5—Use what already exists and seek alignment**

Developing entirely new systems and processes requires time and resources that countries often do not have. Therefore, it is essential to harness the existing resources at the national, sectoral, and local levels to simplify and streamline the progress reporting process. Leveraging existing institutional arrangements, indicators, and data collection and reporting methods can contribute in making the process more efficient. Furthermore, seeking to include a designated budget line for adaptation progress reporting within the national budget can help elevate its priority and ensure sustainable funding for it.

Adaptation progress reports can fulfil multiple roles, such as informing various types of voluntary or required reporting under the Paris Agreement, such as the NDCs, Adaptation Communications, national communication, or biennial transparency reports. They can also contribute to the reporting needs of other international frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, or the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Synchronizing the NAP reporting cycle with other reporting processes can enhance coherence and reduce the reporting burden on responsible agencies, while also helping to better manage conflicting priorities. This strategic alignment not only helps making these reporting processes more efficient, but also promotes a unified approach to climate adaptation and sustainable development.

### **Challenge 6—Complexity in communication and learning**

The intricacies of climate change adaptation and the NAP process can be demanding, even for those deeply involved in these fields. Therefore, reporting progress and communicating results in an understandable and accessible way poses a significant challenge. It is important to distill complex information into understandable language without losing essential information, especially when engaging with stakeholders who may not have extensive background knowledge in these areas.

### **Recommendation 6—Crafting engaging and actionable progress reports**

Progress reports do not need to be long and dull. They offer valuable information to many stakeholders on a complex topic. It is, therefore, essential to consider the target audience and present the information in a way that appeals to them. Different formats and different languages can be used to reach specific groups. While the technical details may be necessary for the NAP team, a shorter, more straightforward version may be beneficial if the intent is to communicate to the citizens or a global audience. Using annexes as either a separate document or at the end of the report for detailed information can significantly improve its readability. This analysis also highlights examples of how countries have used visual aids such as infographics, tables, and charts to engage the reader. Finally, almost all of the reports were publicly accessible online on dedicated

web pages, which can further support outreach and education efforts about adaptation and the NAP process in general.

Progress reports can serve as educational and guiding tools, with a central focus on using results for meaningful action. The reviewed reports revealed four primary uses: i) to inform the development of the next version of the NAP, ii) to develop or update the country's MEL system, iii) to inform other reporting requirements such as an Adaptation Communication or a national communication, and iv) to raise awareness about the country's progress on adaptation to political leaders, civil society, and the international community. These reports also often scrutinize challenges, opportunities, gaps, and lessons from the NAP implementation and the progress reporting process. These insights, obtained by NAP teams through consultations, can lead to actionable solutions and targeted recommendations for updating the NAP, ensuring that the progress reporting results were practical and led to continuous improvement.

# 6

## Conclusion

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As the climate crisis escalates, the importance of tracking progress in NAPs becomes more crucial. Progress reporting can significantly enhance the effectiveness and transparency of these plans and planning processes, facilitating improved decision making, accountability, and communication. Progress reporting can be conducted flexibly at any stage of the NAP process, using various MEL methods.

A NAP progress report provides valuable information on a country's progress toward adaptation to a wide range of stakeholders from local to international levels. It increases the accountability of implementing agencies by describing how resources are used. It also provides valuable insights into what works or does not work during NAP implementation and the impact of adaptation actions on local communities and ecosystems. This information is critical to improving and reinforcing the NAP process, including its MEL system, and to supporting the implementation of international frameworks. Ultimately, progress reporting is essential in determining whether a country is effectively adapting to climate change and reducing its vulnerabilities to its impacts.

Examining the experiences of other countries can inform on shared challenges, such as a need for a better understanding of the NAP process, coordination difficulties, and problems with data quality and availability. To maximize the benefits of progress reporting, countries should proactively address those challenges early on. This includes enhancing the capacity of implementing agencies, revitalizing the coordinating body, and gradually improving progress reporting to inform the development and strengthening of the MEL system. By making progress reporting a priority, countries can support the effectiveness of their NAPs in reducing their vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

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[www.napglobalnetwork.org](http://www.napglobalnetwork.org)  
[info@napglobalnetwork.org](mailto:info@napglobalnetwork.org)  
🐦 @NAP\_Network  
📘 @NAPGlobalNetwork  
🌐 nap-global-network

This project is undertaken with the financial support of:  
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



Secretariat hosted by:  
Secrétariat hébergé par :



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs