

REPORT

Finance for National Adaptation Plan Processes

What can we learn from countries' national adaptation plans?



NAP
Global
Network

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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. Additional support has been provided by ClimateWorks Foundation. The Secretariat is hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). For more information, visit www.napglobalnetwork.org.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

GCF	Green Climate Fund
LDC	least developed country
LIFE-AR	LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience
NAP	national adaptation plan
PPSA	Environmental Services Payment Program
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1

Introduction

The impacts of climate change are causing significant economic losses and affecting communities and ecosystems worldwide. According to the World Economic Forum (Charlton, 2023), extreme weather events and climate-related disasters have led to economic losses totaling nearly USD 1.5 trillion over the last decade. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2022) warns that these events are expected to increase in both frequency and intensity. Moreover, this figure does not account for the costs associated with slow-onset events such as sea level rise and glacial melt. As climate change impacts worsen, there is an urgent need for countries to plan for and implement climate change adaptation measures.

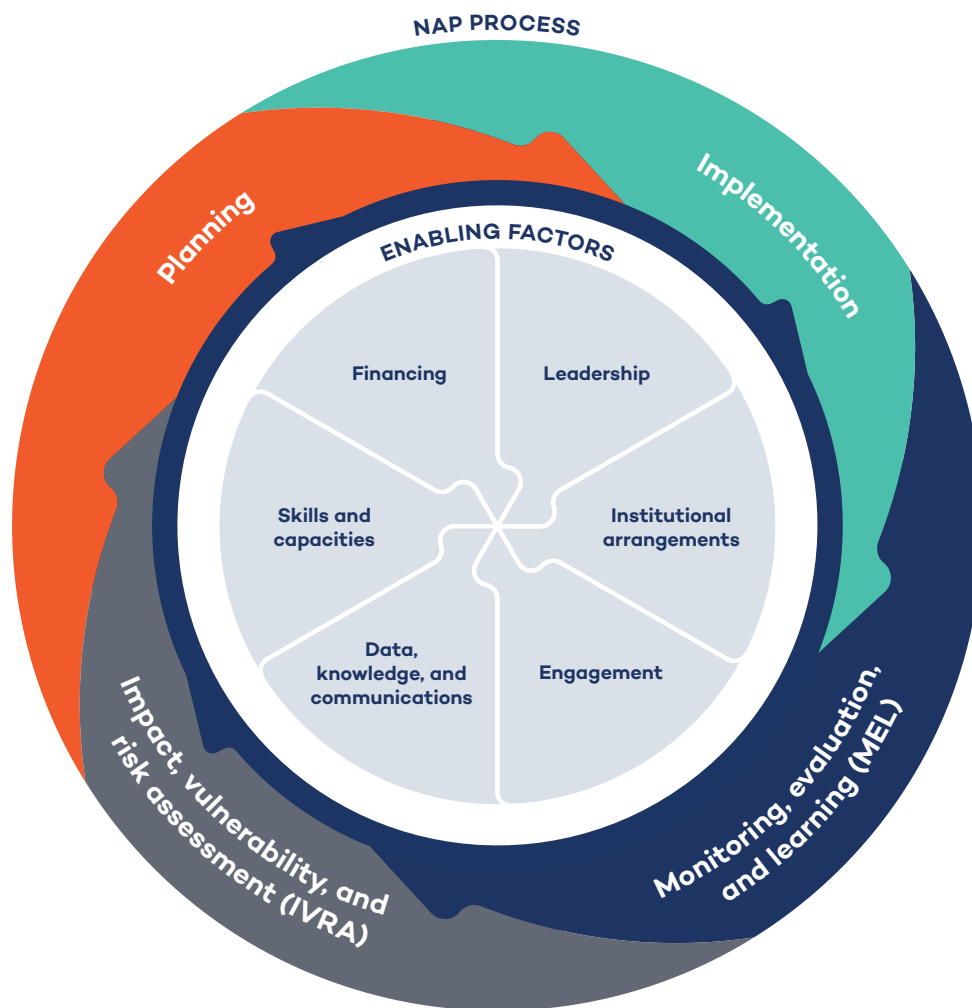
Almost all developing countries—143 of 154 countries¹—have launched or initiated a national adaptation plan (NAP) process that aims to set out national priorities for medium- to long-term adaptation in line with their national development planning and budgeting processes. As of the end of February 2025, 60 of these countries had submitted their NAP documents to NAP Central, the designated registry of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 2023b). These documents outline each country's risks and vulnerabilities to climate change, priorities for adaptation, and strategies for addressing these priorities. Almost all developing countries' NAP documents have been developed with financial and technical assistance provided by bilateral or multilateral funders.

Financing is an important enabling factor for effective, inclusive NAP processes, as articulated in Figure 1. Significant financial resources are needed throughout the entire NAP process, especially for the implementation of countries' adaptation priorities. It is anticipated that countries will need to strategically combine finance from a range of sources to meet the financing needs of their NAP processes (Parry et al., 2017).

The latest United Nations Environment Programme *Adaptation Gap Report* (2024) found that while the need for adaptation is increasing, progress in planning and implementing adaptation is plateauing. This trend is at odds with the UNFCCC's request that countries accelerate the implementation of their NAPs by 2030 (UNFCCC, 2023a). Insufficient funding continues to be a significant obstacle to the successful implementation of the adaptation priorities articulated in countries' NAP documents. As of 2024, the estimated annual financial flows from domestic, international, public, and private actors for climate change adaptation were around USD 63 billion (Global Center on Adaptation and Climate Policy Initiative, 2024). Although significant, these flows are insufficient compared to current and projected need, with the adaptation finance gap for developing countries projected to be between USD 194 billion and 366 billion per year this decade.

¹ In this report, “developing countries” refers to the 154 countries classified as such under the UNFCCC.

Figure 1. The NAP process



Source: NAP Global Network.

Developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States, are already mobilizing a diverse range of financial sources—including national and international public and private sources—to meet their adaptation financing needs. To build on initial progress, it will be crucial for developing country governments to use financial instruments tailored to their specific national circumstances, needs, and priorities—especially in LDCs, which often face significant challenges in creating conditions for the successful implementation of non-traditional financial instruments for climate change adaptation.

NAP documents offer important information on how countries are identifying their adaptation financing gaps, determining financing options (including potential sources and instruments), and developing operational steps for accessing and delivering adaptation finance. This report provides a thorough review of the NAP documents submitted to the [UNFCCC NAP Central registry](#) as of February 28, 2025, to understand how countries are addressing adaptation finance issues throughout the NAP process. It highlights emerging good practices through case studies that illustrate promising examples from different countries. The main outcomes and takeaways from the review are synthesized in the report's conclusions.

2 Methodology

Two main methods were used to conduct the analysis presented in this report. First, we systematically reviewed 59 multi-sector NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC by February 28, 2025.² We used the data analysis software MAXQDA to conduct keyword searches across these documents and their annexes. A questionnaire was developed to standardize the data collection process, and reviewers provided text evidence from the NAP document for each response. The results were exported into Excel for quantitative and qualitative analysis. The findings from this review are detailed in Section 3.

The second approach was a qualitative analysis of country experiences drawn from the NAP Global Network Secretariat's ongoing engagement with partner countries. As of this publication, the Network has provided support to more than 90 countries via technical assistance and South-South peer learning since 2014.

These two approaches work together to provide complementary information on how countries are mobilizing finance for their NAP processes, with the qualitative case studies highlighting some aspects not yet captured in NAP documents.

² NAP documents submitted to the UNFCCC can be accessed via NAP Central at www.napcentral.org. The list of NAPs on NAP Central contains four single-sector NAPs from Uruguay, which are not included in the analysis as we focused on multi-sector NAP documents.

3

Finance for NAP Processes

This section presents the findings from the review of 59 multisector NAP documents, with a focus on several key areas:

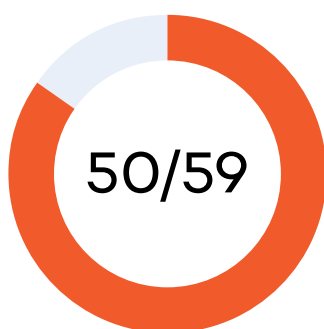
- how adaptation finance is addressed in NAP documents, including whether they feature dedicated sections on financing adaptation and references to separate financing strategies or investment plans;
- prioritization of adaptation options and cost estimates;
- national and international financing sources identified;
- climate-resilient fiscal planning approaches and the integration of adaptation considerations into national budgeting systems;
- private sector engagement and potential incentives for private sector investments in adaptation;
- financing instruments, including innovative financial instruments for adaptation and specific instruments for ecosystem-based adaptation; and
- potential barriers to unlocking adaptation finance and operational next steps.

3.1 How Adaptation Finance Is Addressed in NAP Documents

The majority of NAPs (50 of 59) include a chapter or section dedicated to financing adaptation. For example, Suriname's NAP (Government of Suriname, 2019) includes a dedicated section that discusses the different financing considerations for NAP implementation, including challenges with debt finance and declining aid, priorities for funding, international climate finance options, and opportunities to leverage innovative financing instruments. In an annex, it further elaborates on a variety of finance modalities that cater to different strategic objectives.

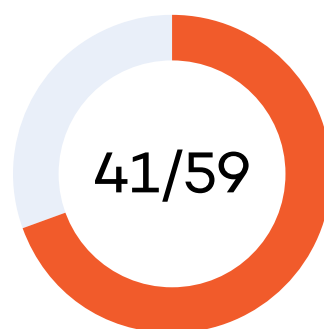
A significant number of NAPs (41 of 59) refer to a separate financing strategy or resource mobilization strategy, including both current strategies and strategies that will be developed in the future (see Box 1). For example, Pakistan's NAP (Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, 2023) highlighted the need for a comprehensive climate finance strategy to leverage different sources of finance, which will be complemented by sector-specific investment frameworks, translating priority adaptation options into “tangible and bankable projects.” In another example, Zambia committed in its NAP (Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, 2023) to developing a resource mobilization strategy. Published in 2024, the strategy provides cost estimates on each NAP measure and identifies a path forward to overcome resource mobilization constraints (Ministry of Water Development and Sanitation, 2024).

Figure 2. Number of NAP documents including a chapter or section dedicated to financing adaptation



Source: Authors.

Figure 3. Number of NAP documents referring to a separate financing strategy or resource mobilization strategy



Source: Authors.

Box 1. What is a NAP financing strategy?

What is a NAP financing strategy, and how does it differ from an adaptation investment plan?

NAP financing strategies, which may also be referred to as adaptation financing strategies or resource mobilization strategies depending on the context, focus on creating a comprehensive framework to secure the necessary funds for the entire NAP process.

A NAP financing strategy usually outlines—in broad terms—a country's requirements and strategy for obtaining funding to implement its adaptation priorities. It provides a structured approach to understanding a country's overall NAP financing needs and identifying potential sources of finance to bridge its adaptation finance gap. This well-structured approach can serve as a foundation for preparing for the transition from planning to implementation in the NAP process.

By contrast, an **adaptation investment plan** focuses on a detailed set of concrete, investment-ready adaptation priorities, which it matches to available financial sources and instruments. Adaptation investment plans typically focus on adaptation investments in specific sectors or sub-national geographic regions.

Sources: Hernández & Ceinos, 2025; Murphy, 2022; Parry et al., 2017.

3.2 Prioritization of Adaptation Measures

As developing countries face financial, technical, and human resource constraints, a robust approach to the prioritization of adaptation measures in NAP processes can help ensure that resources are allocated to the most urgent and impactful actions to maximize the benefits of adaptation efforts. Prioritization helps to provide a clear roadmap for implementation and to facilitate coordination in mobilizing adaptation funding (Least Developed Countries Expert Group, 2012).

All 59 NAPs identify adaptation priorities and options, but they categorize them in a wide variety of ways. Fifty-one NAPs organize the options by sectors, often complemented by cross-cutting priorities. For example, Saint Lucia's NAP (Department of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, 2018) identifies 271 adaptation measures for seven priority sectors and six cross-sectoral priorities.

3.3 Costing Adaptation

Climate change impacts essential systems and sectors, prompting many countries, regions, and communities to engage in adaptation activities. This growing demand for adaptation requires robust and transparent costing methods to help decision-makers allocate resources efficiently and to communicate adaptation-related financial needs to potential funders.

Costing adaptation is an important step in securing adaptation finance as it provides a clear understanding of the financial requirements to implement a country's adaptation priorities. It helps country governments allocate resources efficiently and ensure that climate change adaptation efforts are both feasible and sustainable (UNFCCC, 2011). A significant number of NAPs (37 of 59) include cost estimates, while 16 NAPs commit to future costing. More than half of the NAPs (33 of 59) provide cost estimates disaggregated by specific actions, sectors, or sub-national units:

- Twenty-six NAPs include cost estimations for some or all their specific adaptation measures.
- Nineteen NAPs include cost estimates by sectors.
- Six NAPs provide cost estimates at the sub-national level.

Costing adaptation measures poses many challenges. Adaptation measures often require additional scoping in order to be properly costed; there are often gaps in comprehensive and reliable data needed for costing; and assessing the intangible (non-economic) costs and benefits of adaptation measures can be an additional complication. But despite these challenges, exercises to estimate the costs of implementing adaptation priorities contribute valuable knowledge and understanding of adaptation measures.

Countries are employing various strategies to cost their adaptation priorities. For instance, Papua New Guinea has adopted a structured approach, detailed in Box 2. Additionally, some tools are being used, including the NAP Costing Tool developed by the Fijian government and the NAP Global Network, as described in Box 3.

Box 2. Papua New Guinea's step-by-step approach to costing adaptation options

In Papua New Guinea's NAP (Climate Change and Development Authority, 2023), the government proposes an approach for estimating the costs of adaptation options through a step-by-step process integrated into the project or activity design:

1. At the initial idea stage, preliminary cost estimates are made to provide rough figures for investment and recurrent costs. These estimates are refined through detailed costing and economic analysis at the concept and detailed design stages, tailored to specific funding instruments.
2. Government processes for costing, appraisal, and selection are strengthened to ensure climate risks are considered, low value-for-money proposals are excluded, and recurrent cost implications are included in decision-making.
3. National and sub-national agencies are equipped with the capacity to apply established costing, appraisal, and selection processes for both regular activities and adaptation measures.

While ideally, detailed cost-benefit assessments would guide the selection, design, and prioritization of effective, value-for-money adaptation measures, practical challenges often limit economic analysis to the detailed design stage of a specific intervention. This analysis typically focuses on a single option rather than comparing multiple design alternatives, as available financing often determines the scope and specific design of interventions.

Cost is just one of the factors influencing decisions and design. Informal decision-making processes, such as the preferences of specific development partners, also play a role. Additionally, technical feasibility impacts the costs of an intervention, making these costs adjustable based on the intervention's approach, scope, and design features.

Source: Climate Change and Development Authority, 2023.

Box 3. Applying a NAP Costing Tool in Fiji

In 2020, the Fijian government developed a costing methodology to complement its 2018 NAP document. This methodology includes a costing tool, an Excel-based resource designed to help countries estimate the costs of their priority adaptation measures, which is intended to be used as part of a participatory approach to engage decision-makers and experts.

Fiji's tool has now been piloted and used by NAP teams in peer countries, including Albania and Pakistan, to conduct costing exercises for priorities from their respective NAPs as a step toward accessing adaptation finance to implement their respective priorities.

Source: Ministry of Economy's Climate Change and International Cooperation Division, 2020.

3.4 Sources of Funding

Countries will have to look across a diversity of domestic, international, public and private sources to secure financing for the implementation of their NAPs. Figure 4 provides a non-comprehensive set of examples of sources of financing, and Figure 5 shows the different types of adaptation finance sources mentioned in NAP documents.

Figure 4. Non-exhaustive potential sources of financing for the NAP process

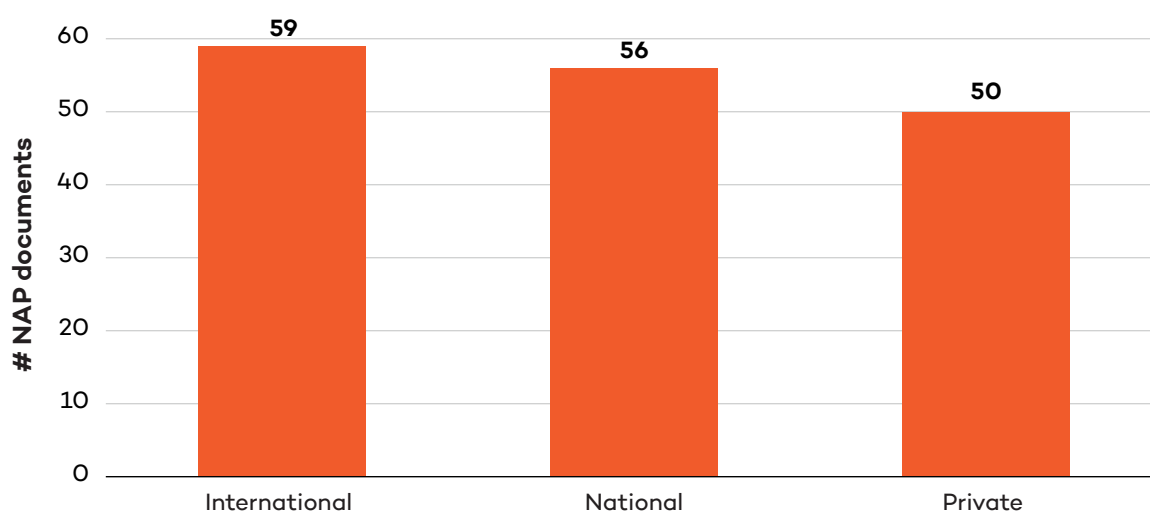
	Public	Private*
Domestic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and sectoral budgets • Sub-national budgets • National development banks • Domestic climate change funds** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private enterprises • Private financiers
International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral providers • Multilateral climate funds • Non-climate focused multilateral funds • Multilateral development banks 	

Notes:

* Some examples of international private-sector sources of funding for adaptation include Danone and Mars, later joined by Firmenich and Veolia, which created the Livelihoods Fund for Family Farming to support smallholder farmers in adopting sustainable agriculture practices. AXA Climate, part of the AXA Group, provides insurance solutions and financing for climate adaptation projects. Additionally, Kellogg, Olam International, and Opus Insights were involved in a project in Ghana to install weather stations and systems, providing 7,500 smallholder farmers and local community members with valuable localized weather information (Crawford & Church, 2019).

** National adaptation funds can be considered both a source of finance and an instrument. They provide financial resources for adaptation projects (source of finance) and also serve as mechanisms to channel funds from donors to beneficiaries, which facilitates financial arrangements and ensures the effective implementation of adaptation initiatives (instrument). Source: Adapted from Price-Kelly & Hammill, 2016; Climate Change Commission & Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2023.

Figure 5. Number of NAP documents that mention different sources of finance



Source: Authors.

Domestic Sources

Countries will need to mobilize domestic adaptation finance, as relying solely on public international funding is likely to be insufficient to ensure the implementation of their adaptation priorities (United Nations Environment Programme, 2024). The role of domestic budgets (funded through taxes and other revenues) in financing climate adaptation is also critical as it provides a sustainable and effective source of adaptation finance. Domestic budgets can leverage institutional structures, such as social protection systems, to deliver adaptation benefits more effectively than international aid can do (Allan et al., 2019). Additionally, domestic budgets demonstrate the countries' commitment to climate resilience, which can help to leverage other sources of adaptation finance.

National sources of funding are specified in more than half of the NAPs (31 of 59), while 25 NAPs mention but do not specify the domestic source they will use to finance the implementation of their NAPs. Only three NAPs do not reference national sources of funding for adaptation.

Some NAPs (18 of 59) mention the possibility of using fiscal instruments to increase the volume of domestic public finance available for adaptation. This includes the use of existing or new taxes (such as carbon taxes) and levies for climate change adaptation purposes. For example, Grenada indicates that the country was planning to explore the development of new economic and fiscal instruments to raise funds for climate change adaptation and resilience and plans to employ user fees to protect mangroves and reefs in Marine Protected Areas (Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information, 2017).

Twenty-eight countries mention in their NAPs the use of debt instruments, such as the issuance of sovereign debt (i.e., green and blue bonds and resiliency bonds), to increase their domestic resources for adaptation. For example, as part of their priority on financing, Argentina (Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Argentine

Republic, 2022) plans to develop a Sustainable Sovereign Bond Framework which sets out the principles to issue green, social, or sustainable thematic bonds.

Mainstreaming Adaptation in Budgets

Most of the reviewed NAPs (50 of 59) refer to the integration of adaptation considerations into national budgeting systems to ensure efficient resource allocation to address climate risks and build resilience (see Box 4 for an example). Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into national budgets ensures that adaptation efforts are aligned with broader development goals, which promotes sustainable and long-term solutions (UNFCCC, 2022). Integrating adaptation spending into routine development investments can enhance resilience and ensure that public expenditure is more climate-resilient (Allan et al., 2019).

Climate-Resilient Fiscal Planning

Climate-resilient fiscal planning refers to how countries' central finance agencies responsible for governments' financial decision making (e.g., finance ministries, planning ministries, central banks) can systematically consider climate change—both by managing fiscal exposure as well as by mobilizing funding for adaptation (Asian Development Bank, 2023). This is essential for the NAP process, as it enables countries to assess and manage the potential impacts of climate change on their fiscal base and to explore ways of increasing the fiscal space for adaptation purposes.

Very few NAPs (9 of 59) refer to climate-resilient fiscal planning. Despite this gap, there are some notable positive examples. Azerbaijan (Government of Azerbaijan, 2024), for instance, includes guidelines for appraising adaptation options for investments and also includes tools for assessing the fiscal impacts of climate change on public investments in agriculture, water resources management, and coastal zones. Similarly, Kiribati (Government of Kiribati, 2019), Papua New Guinea (Climate Change and Development Authority, 2023), and Pakistan (Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, 2023) emphasize the need to integrate climate change considerations into their fiscal planning processes to enable them to better manage the fiscal risks associated with climate change and ensure that public investments align with long-term adaptation goals. Bangladesh (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2022) conducted a climate public expenditure and institutional review in 2014 and subsequently created a climate fiscal framework to help manage public finance effectively and provide incentives for prioritized climate actions.

Box 4. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into Benin's budgeting cycle

The Government of Benin has taken several significant steps to mainstream climate change adaptation into its national budget. In 2014, they established the Commission for Economic Modelling of Climate Impacts and Integration of Climate Change into the General State Budget (in French, *Commission de Modélisation Économique des Impacts du Climat et de l'Intégration des Changements Climatiques dans le Budget Général de l'État*). In 2020, the government developed guidelines for integrating climate change adaptation considerations into national, sectoral, and communal budgets, in accordance with the Organic Law on Finance Laws passed in 2023.

The reference framework for integrating climate change adaptation into Benin's budgetary process recognizes four phases: preparation of the draft budget, adoption of the draft budget, budget execution and control, and budget evaluation. The proposed process for integrating climate change into Benin's budgetary process is as follows:

- **Phase 1. Preparation of the draft budget:** The process begins with the budget formulation. A multi-year budgetary and economic programming document is created, which includes a report on the impacts of climate change adaptation options implemented during the previous cycle. A multi-year expenditure planning document for climate change and a climate-sensitive annual performance plan are also produced. Finally, this phase also involves drawing up a climate-sensitive budget letter and updating the multi-year expenditure planning documents to incorporate climate change adaptation considerations.
- **Phase 2. Adoption of the draft budget:** During this phase, the draft budget is reviewed and adopted by Parliament. Members of Parliament raise questions and make recommendations to ensure that climate change considerations are integrated into the budget. Amendments addressing climate risks and adaptation measures are included in the Finance Bill.
- **Phase 3. Budget execution and control:** The performance review phase includes developing a half-yearly performance report for sectoral ministries, which describes the progress and impact of climate-related expenditures. The effectiveness of climate change spending is assessed through resource allocation and climate performance indicators.
- **Phase 4. Budget evaluation:** Involves the adoption of the Settlement Act, demonstrating how the climate commitments made during the budget planning phase have been fulfilled in practice. It culminates in the creation of a climate-sensitive annual performance report that showcases the outcomes and effectiveness of climate-related initiatives. This report will be used for the creation of the draft budget during the subsequent budgetary cycle.

Source: Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable Direction Générale de l'Environnement et du Climat, 2022.

National Adaptation Funds

More than half (34 of 59) of the NAPs mention national funds as sources of finance for their country's NAP process (see Box 5 for an example). These national funds have different areas of focus—some are focused specifically on climate change, while others focus on disaster risk management or general environmental goals, with a dedicated window of support for adaptation. These funds also help to mobilize, manage, and channel adaptation finance from different sources to support adaptation projects in the country. They can help direct climate finance toward high-priority adaptation activities and actions that benefit the most vulnerable populations. For example, Tonga (Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications, 2018) has established the Tonga Climate Change Trust Fund—the first national climate change fund in the Pacific region—and passed the Climate Change Fund Act in 2021 to formalize its operations. The Kenya National Climate Change Fund finances climate change adaptation and mitigation activities nationwide. Additionally, [County Climate Change Funds](#) in counties such as Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Makueni, and Wajir prioritize and fund local investments to reduce climate risk. These County Climate Change Funds align with national priorities in Kenya's NAP, helping to effectively address local adaptation needs.

Box 5. Antigua and Barbuda's Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund

The Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund is the primary channel for environmental, climate mitigation, and adaptation funding in Antigua and Barbuda. The Fund receives income from both domestic sources—such as Green Card park visitation fees, pollution charges, carbon credits, taxes, levies, and other fees—and international sources. The Fund acts as an implementing entity and as a sustainable financing mechanism for bilateral and multilateral funding sources.

The Fund includes “adaptation” among its funding categories, and is currently housed in the Department of Environment, which plays an important role in channelling climate finance in its capacity as a National Designated Authority to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the national focal point for the Global Environment Facility, and as a National Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund.

The Fund's Blended Finance Window for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, which can fund adaptation, includes:

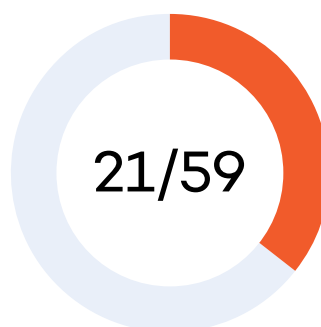
- a technical assistance grant package
- an in-kind micro-equity investment for the adoption and transfer of climate-smart or renewable technology
- a concessional financial loan at a 2% interest rate

Source: Government of Antigua and Barbuda, n.d.

International Sources of Funding

All countries (59 of 59) mention public international sources of finance, and the majority of them (51 of 59) specify international sources. These include funds and financial entities under the UNFCCC, such as the GCF, the Global Environment Facility, and the Adaptation Fund. Additionally, multilateral development banks such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, or the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Development Programme and various bilateral cooperation agencies, are frequently cited as sources of financing for the NAP process.

Figure 6. Number of NAP documents mentioning the national coordination entities that liaise with international funding mechanisms



Source: Authors.

However, only one third of NAPs (21 of 59) mention the national coordination entities that liaise with these international mechanisms. These entities are indeed essential for effectively channeling international climate funds, ensuring that climate finance aligns with national priorities, and helping to enhance local ownership. For example, the Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation is accredited as a national Direct Access Entity to the GCF, and as the National Implementing Entity to the Adaptation Fund (Department of Environment and Climate Change, Royal Government of Bhutan, 2023).

Private-Sector Sources of Funding

International and domestic public finance will not be sufficient to fill the adaptation finance gap. Private-sector businesses and investors will need to play a role as financiers and implementers of adaptation given their key role in economic growth (Crawford & Church, 2019). However, private-sector finance remains a largely untapped source of finance, estimated to make up only 2% of adaptation finance that is currently tracked globally (Buchner et al., 2023).

For the private sector to invest in adaptation, certain conditions must be met, including economic stability (private investors seek stable environments to ensure the security of their investments), clear and supportive regulatory frameworks (weak or inconsistent regulations can deter investment), and political stability (countries experiencing political unrest or instability may face challenges in attracting private financiers). Capacity building is also essential, as private-sector actors may lack the technical skills needed to understand and use climate data, integrate climate risk management into business operations, and develop business models for adaptation products and services (Crawford & Church, 2019).

All NAPs reference private-sector engagement as an important aspect of the NAP process, and most NAPs (50 of 59) explicitly mention the private sector as a potential source of funding for the implementation of the NAP. Most of the NAPs (44 of 59) express the need for incentives for private-sector investment in adaptation, including through public-private partnerships,³ tax exonerations, and subsidies. For example, Bangladesh (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2022) lists many incentives to mobilize private-sector investments in climate finance, including de-risking capital, blended finance, tax and value-added tax exemptions, tax holidays, index-based insurance, the development of a green bond market, enhanced corporate social and environmental responsibilities for adaptation, and public-private partnerships. Meanwhile, South Africa (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, 2020) proposed to use incentives and tax rebates to encourage the private sector to relocate to areas less exposed to the impacts of climate change and to adopt more resilient materials in their business operations. In another example, Nepal (Ministry of Forests and Environment, 2021) is using a municipal tax incentive system to encourage the adoption of local climate-resilient materials and the improvement of traditional technologies in constructing buildings, such as bamboo houses.

3.5 Financial Instruments

As governments look to mobilize resources from the public and private sector sources previously described, financial instruments play an important role as tools for investment in adaptation.

As shown in Figure 7, NAPs mention a variety of financial instruments to support climate change adaptation efforts. Among these, grants are mentioned very frequently (30 of 59), followed closely by loans (28 of 59).

Developing countries consider grants as the primary instrument for public investments in adaptation because they provide essential financial resources without the burden of repayment, allowing countries to undertake critical adaptation projects that might otherwise be unaffordable. Some adaptation projects have significant public service components and may not generate sufficient revenue to repay debt, making grants a more suitable financing option. Furthermore, grants often come with technical assistance and capacity-building components, which help strengthen local institutions and enhance the effectiveness of adaptation measures. Grants can also be used to help de-risk investments and leverage further funding from other sources, including private financiers (Neunuebel et al., 2025). Box 6 describes the most common instruments used by LDCs.

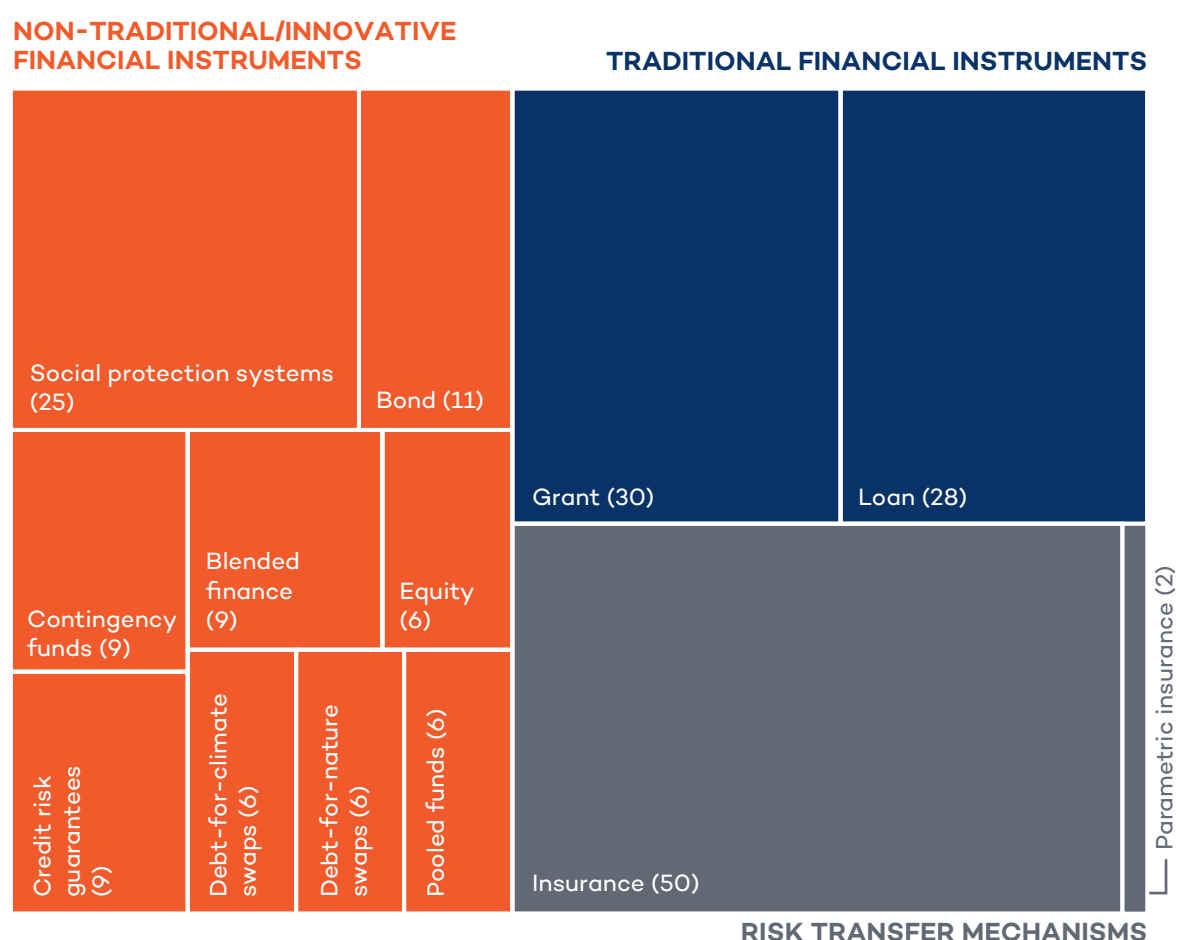
A limited number of NAPs mention equity-based financial instruments (6 of 59) and bonds (11 of 59), and innovative approaches such as debt-for-nature swaps and debt-for-climate swaps each appear in six NAPs.

³ The term “public-private partnership” is a generic term that encompasses several different types of contractual agreements between the State and the private sector for the purpose of public infrastructure development and service provision (Colverson and Perera, 2012).

Various NAPs also mention other instruments that can help to increase investors' confidence and leverage private-sector engagement. These include credit risk guarantees (9 of 59), blended finance (9 of 59), and pooled resources which aggregate resources from multiple sources (6 of 59).

Insurance is also a prominent instrument, cited in 50 NAPs, which proves its critical role in managing climate risks. Parametric insurance, which is paid out based on predefined climate-related triggers rather than actual losses, is mentioned in two NAPs, while contingency funds—which provide immediate financial resources in emergencies—are cited in nine NAPs. Finally, social protection systems helping to protect the most vulnerable populations from the potential impacts of climate change are referenced in 25 NAPs.

Figure 7. Number of NAP documents that mention different financial instruments



Source: Authors.

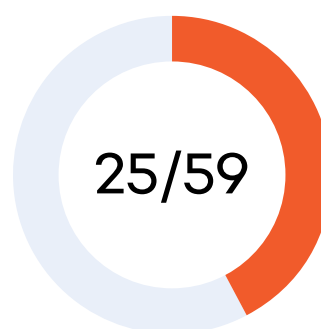
In addition, 39% of the NAPs (23 of 59) explicitly mention the possibility of leveraging innovative financial instruments for climate change adaptation. The NAP Global Network has published the Inventory of Innovative Financial Instruments for Climate Change Adaptation which provides information on various innovative financial instruments that have been or could be used to finance the implementation of climate change adaptation measures, including the national priorities outlined in NAPs (Gouett et al., 2024). The Philippines' NAP (Climate Change Commission & Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2023) includes an “innovative financing instruments action plan” that lists accessing innovative financing as one of the NAP's priority measures, citing the NAP Global Network inventory (p. 264).

Box 6. Financial instruments for adaptation in LDCs

Among LDCs' NAPs, the financial instruments mentioned are [mostly] traditional ones, including grants, loans, insurance schemes, and social protection systems, with fewer references to innovative financial instruments. Two exceptions among the NAPs prepared by LDCs are those of Bangladesh (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, 2022) and Zambia (Ministry of Green Economy and Environment, 2023), which do specify innovative financial instruments such as debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps. Financial instruments that help attract private sector finance, such as credit risk guarantees, blended finance, or pooled investment funds, are rarely mentioned in LDCs' NAPs.

Fewer than half of the NAPs (25 of 59) mention specific instruments to finance ecosystem-based adaptation or nature-based solutions. Among these instruments, payment for ecosystem services features prominently, being referenced by 16 NAPs, including as a priority adaptation measure in the NAPs of Paraguay (Ministerio del Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, 2022) and Ethiopia (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 2019). (Box 7 describes this instrument's use in Costa Rica.) Green and blue bonds are mentioned in eight NAPs, including as part of Zimbabwe's NAP's financing instrument inventory (Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife, 2024). The NAPs also mention other types of instruments to finance nature-related adaptation measures, such as debt-for-nature swaps and green loans.

Figure 8. Number of NAP documents that mention specific instruments to finance ecosystem-based adaptation or nature-based solutions



Source: Authors.

Box 7. Payments for ecosystem services in Costa Rica

The Environmental Services Payment Program (PPSA), managed by the Forestry Financing Fund in Costa Rica, is a financial mechanism that compensates landowners for the environmental services their lands provide. This program aims to “promote forest conservation and sustainable land management by offering financial recognition for services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection, water regulation, and scenic beauty” (Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal, n.d.). Landowners receive direct payments for the environmental services they provide. They enter into contracts (typically five or 10 years) for activities such as forest protection, reforestation, sustainable forest management, and agroforestry, which can reduce climate-related losses and damages. The PPSA strengthens public and private investment processes and institutional management financing.

The PPSA program is funded through various sources:

Taxes: Initially, the main source of funding was one-third of the resources generated by the country’s fuel consumption tax, as per article 69 of Law 7575. This was later modified by the Tax Simplification Law, which allocated 3.5% of the single fuel tax to the PPSA.

National budget: The program also receives direct contributions from the State.

Donors: International entities such as the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, and the German Government (through KfW Development Bank) provide both grants and loans to support the PPSA.

The private sector: The Forestry Financing Fund has developed agreements with local private companies to generate alternative financing sources for the PPSA, mobilizing approximately USD 7 million in private investment over recent years.

Costa Rica’s NAP (Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía, 2022) priorities are structured according to six axes. Its sixth axis, on “investment and financial security for climate action,” includes a priority to strengthen financial instruments for conservation and payments for ecosystem services and highlights promising results from the PPSA’s pilot with a view to scaling up the program.

Source: Fondo Nacional de Financiamiento Forestal, n.d.; Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía, 2022.

3.6 Potential Barriers to Unlocking Adaptation Finance

Half of the NAPs (30 of 59) mention potential barriers to unlocking adaptation finance. The first common challenge highlighted by multiple NAPs is the low awareness, among national and sub-national actors, of different sources of funding as well as the complexity of procedures for accessing the different international climate funds.

Some countries, such as Azerbaijan (Government of Azerbaijan, 2024) also mention the difficulty in obtaining more flexible, longer-term, and lower-interest loans that would be more suitable for some adaptation investments.

Developing countries, especially the LDCs and Small Island Developing States, face growing debt and constrained fiscal space. This hampers their ability to fully leverage a range of instruments to finance adaptation interventions, making it difficult for them to increase domestic resources for adaptation, issue sovereign debt, or secure loans. For example, Sri Lanka

(Climate Change Secretariat of Sri Lanka, 2016) highlights the need to identify innovative ways to mobilize resources and diversify from traditional channels of public finance. Ethiopia (Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, 2019) also noted the difficulties with mobilizing domestic resources.

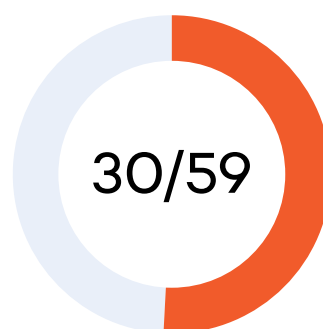
Some countries, such as Kenya (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 2016) and Morocco (Ministère de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable, 2022), identify the lack of a centralized system to track climate finance as an important challenge to mobilizing and managing financial resources for adaptation. Such systems help countries have a more accurate understanding of adaptation costs and funding needs, identify the remaining adaptation finance gap, and track the progress made in mobilizing adaptation finance.

Armenia (Government of the Republic of Armenia, 2021) mentions a lack of local financing mechanisms as posing a barrier to community ownership and the sustainability of local adaptation actions. Similarly, Chad notes in its NAP that this issue is further exacerbated by the limited capacity of local authorities to manage financial resources and implement adaptation activities (Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Pêche et du Développement Durable, 2022).

Finally, some countries—such as Mozambique (Ministry of Land and Environment, 2023), Suriname (Government of Suriname, 2019), and the Philippines (Climate Change Commission & Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 2023)—highlight the importance and difficulty of converting adaptation priorities into fundable and bankable projects, which is a key requirement for accessing international and private sources of finance.

Box 8 describes one initiative to better channel funds locally within LDCs.

Figure 9. Number of NAP documents that mention potential barriers to unlocking adaptation finance



Source: Authors.

Box 8. Channelling adaptation funds to the local level: The LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience delivery mechanisms

The LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) is an LDC-led and -owned initiative that seeks to move beyond traditional approaches for a more effective and ambitious climate response. LIFE-AR focuses on strengthening country institutions, systems, and capabilities to ensure sustained access to climate finance.

To achieve its goals, LIFE-AR employs various delivery mechanisms designed to effectively channel climate funds to local communities, ensuring that actions are community-prioritized and aligned with national adaptation goals. These mechanisms include:

- social protection: enhances early warning systems and climate information services to protect vulnerable communities from climate-related hazards
- production systems: supports climate-resilient agriculture and livelihoods, ensuring food security and economic stability for those most affected by climate change
- landscape management: conserves and restores ecosystems, promoting sustainable land use and biodiversity to maintain environmental health

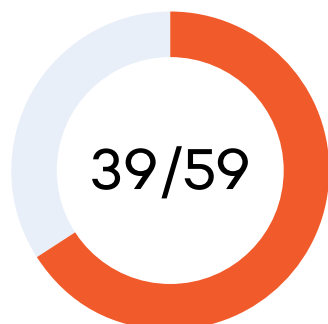
For example, Uganda has developed a mechanism inspired by successful experiences in Kenya, Tanzania, and Mali to enhance resilience in landscapes and ecosystems. The Devolved Climate Finance Mechanism channels funds to local government authorities through public financial management systems and employs participatory planning processes to invest in local resilience. This mechanism is aligned with Uganda's national climate change priorities as outlined in the National Climate Change Act (2021).

Source: LIFE-AR, n.d.

3.7 Operationalizing NAP Finance Commitments

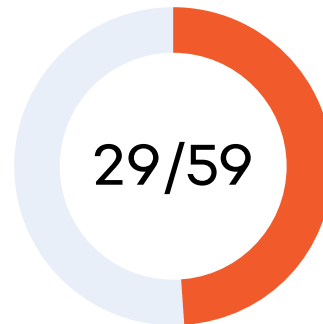
Approximately two-thirds of the countries (39 of 59) are establishing or strengthening institutional arrangements for coordinating adaptation finance mobilization. For example, the Ministry of Finance in Bhutan (Department of Environment and Climate Change, Royal Government of Bhutan, 2023) is mandated to mobilize resources, allocate budget, and provide financial instruments and fiscal incentives to the private sector to support the implementation of adaptation priorities. Bhutan's Ministry of Finance is also responsible for managing relationship with and funding from multilateral sources including the GCF and the Global Environment Facility. In Saint Lucia (Department of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development, 2018), the National Climate Change Committee—comprised of representatives from different sectoral agencies, the private sector, and civil society—acts as the NAP coordinating mechanism and has the direct responsibility of coordinating the resource mobilization efforts for the NAP process.

Figure 10. Number of countries that are establishing or strengthening institutional arrangements for coordinating adaptation finance mobilization



Source: Authors.

Figure 11. Number of NAP documents that mention processes to help identify and categorize budgetary allocations for adaptation and track adaptation finance



Source: Authors.

Finally, half of the NAPs (29 of 59) mention processes to help identify and categorize budgetary allocations for adaptation and track adaptation finance. For example, Moldova (Republic of Moldova, 2024) developed and applied a climate budget tagging system that integrates climate change adaptation considerations into the early phases of project development, combined with capacity-building measures for budget analysts and project managers. In Thailand (Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, 2023), work is underway to develop a national monitoring and evaluation system for climate finance, complemented with the integration of adaptation into sectoral agency budgets through the use of budget codes. Another example is Chile's monitoring of financial data for NAP implementation in NAP progress reports, which enhances transparency and accountability and provides valuable insights for potential development partners and funders. It details funding amounts, sources (domestic, international, public, private), and proportions (fully or partially funded). This enables proactive planning and helps anticipate funding-related challenges. Close collaboration between Chile's Ministry of Environment (which leads the NAP process) and Ministry of Finance, in combination with a reliable reporting system, helps ensure timely information transfer (Guerdat et al., 2023; Ministerio del Medio Ambiente, Chile, 2019).

4

Key Takeaways and Recommendations

The UNFCCC is urging countries to draft their NAP documents by 2025 and accelerate their implementation by 2030. To help developing countries accomplish this, it is crucial to ensure that they can access sufficient finance for adaptation planning and implementation from a diversity of sources and through mechanisms that do not exacerbate existing debt burdens.

NAP documents are one of the main outcomes of the NAP processes and should reflect the processes' core strengths. NAP processes, and the documents arising from them, should help:

- create the enabling conditions for designing and implementing structured approaches to mobilizing adaptation finance and accelerating the implementation of countries' adaptation priorities;
- provide a strategic framework for countries to identify and prioritize their adaptation needs, and mobilize public and private, domestic, and international funding; and
- facilitate coordination among actors, enhance access to international climate finance mechanisms, and improve the effectiveness of financial investments in adaptation.

This review of 59 multi-sector NAP documents sheds light on how countries are tackling adaptation financing needs and mobilization strategies. It highlights good practices and identifies areas for improvement to better support countries in identifying, prioritizing, and mobilizing adaptation finance. Based on these insights, we propose the following recommendations to help developing country governments and NAP teams secure adequate funding for effective adaptation planning and implementation:

1. Develop a tailored approach for mobilizing adaptation finance.

A tailored approach is needed to support developing countries in mobilizing adaptation finance for the implementation of their NAPs. As the needs and circumstances of countries vary significantly, options that are suitable for one country may not be appropriate for another. A tailored approach is especially important in relation to:

- **Diversifying funding sources for adaptation.** Relying solely on public international funding is likely to be insufficient for implementing countries' adaptation priorities, especially given the current trend in declining global development aid.⁴ *The Adaptation*

⁴ This includes the 2025 withdrawal of U.S. financial support for climate change initiatives, estimated to be 8% of all international climate finance in 2024 (Gabbatiss, 2025), and the shift in spending priorities of many Western governments toward defence and domestic issues, resulting in significant cuts to foreign aid budgets. For example, the United Kingdom has reduced its foreign aid budget by 40%, while other countries such as the Netherlands, Belgium, and France have also made substantial cuts (Sheldrick, 2025).

Gap Report (United Nations Environment Programme, 2024) highlights that even with increased international public adaptation finance flows, the gap will remain substantial. Therefore, developing countries should explore multiple funding sources, including public domestic resources and private-sector investments, to meet their adaptation priorities. Incentives and mechanisms to de-risk private-sector investments, such as developing public-private partnerships, blended finance, and credit risk guarantees, can help attract private-sector investments in adaptation.

- **Selecting appropriate financial instruments.** A careful selection of financial instruments and mechanisms for mobilizing adaptation finance is also key, especially in LDCs. Significant debt levels and institutional weaknesses can prevent some developing countries from issuing catastrophe bonds, green bonds, or sustainability-linked bonds. Additionally, the lack of appropriate regulatory frameworks and market infrastructure hampers the adoption of sustainability credits. Some instruments, such as debt-for-climate swaps, may be more attractive to LDCs. For example, the Climate Vulnerable Forum and Vulnerable Twenty Group, which includes 25 LDCs, has called for debt-for-nature swaps to address both debt and climate change issues.
- **Taking a phased approach.** Some developing countries currently may not be in a position to prioritize efforts to increase domestic resources for adaptation or attract private-sector investments. A phased approach may be needed, especially in LDCs (see Box 9).

2. Make NAP documents more investment-oriented.

This goal could be achieved by clearly defining adaptation investment opportunities that align with countries' adaptation and development goals, strengthening cost estimates, defining funding requirements, and identifying diverse potential sources and instruments to mobilize sufficient and adequate financial resources for the implementation of the NAP. The NAP document should also provide the framework for the integration of adaptation considerations into the budgeting and public investment management systems, and for tagging and tracking adaptation finance. More specifically, we recommend that countries:

- **Prioritize, appraise, and sequence adaptation investments.** Prioritization is key to ensuring that the most urgent and impactful adaptation measures are implemented first. Assessing these measures' financial and economic viability is crucial for demonstrating the benefits of investing in adaptation and expanding potential funding sources for their implementation. Investments with good returns are more likely to attract private investors and secure funding beyond grants. However, some important adaptation projects may require a strong focus on public-sector sources due to their public service nature. It is therefore essential to use high-quality data to inform evidence-based decision making for prioritizing and assessing adaptation investments.

Sequencing the implementation of priority adaptation investments is also required as part of a systematic and efficient approach. For instance, developing adaptation investment pathways helps establish the sequence and timing in which these investments will be implemented, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and projects are executed logically and have the desired impact.

- **Strengthen costing of adaptation options.** Costing priority adaptation options is a crucial step in mobilizing adaptation finance, as it enables efficient resource allocation, informed decision making, and strategic financial planning. Accurate cost estimates help in the appraisal of adaptation options, ensure transparency, and build trust among key actors. However, only 26 NAPs currently contain any kind of cost estimation for individual adaptation options.
- **Explore a variety of funding sources and financing instruments.** This involves mapping diverse potential sources, investigating various financing mechanisms—including innovative instruments where relevant—and developing detailed strategies to leverage public, private, domestic, and international funds. This approach ensures that sufficient finance is mobilized through the most appropriate mechanisms.
- **Establish monitoring mechanisms for adaptation finance.** These systems are essential for ensuring transparency and accountability within NAP processes. They enable countries to effectively monitor and evaluate the allocation and impact of financial resources, which enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of adaptation efforts. This aspect needs further improvement, as only one third of the NAPs mention these types of mechanisms.

3. Reinforce governance and coordination for enhanced adaptation action.

The NAP Global Network's experience supporting NAP processes in developing countries shows that adaptation often lacks visibility or is misunderstood across government sectors, leading to siloed approaches and a disconnect from broader development finance discussions. To achieve the scale of NAP implementation needed, we recommend to:

- **Mainstream adaptation.** Adaptation must be integrated across government and recognized as key to securing development and prosperity. Strong leadership, established coordination mechanisms, and clear institutional arrangements are pivotal for efficiently mobilizing sufficient adaptation finance to implement the NAPs. As part of these efforts, the review points to the need to strengthen the integration of financing within central ministries. It also highlights the opportunity to enhance the vertical integration of financing.
- **Implement climate-resilient fiscal planning.** Central finance agencies, such as finance ministries, planning ministries, and central banks, should systematically consider climate change impacts in their decision-making processes to help manage fiscal exposure to climate risks and help mobilize more funding for climate change adaptation. Despite its importance, climate-resilient fiscal planning is scarcely mentioned in current NAPs, and it is essential to prioritize and enhance its application in future iterations of the adaptation planning process.
- **Strengthen local financing for sustainable adaptation.** This involves creating mechanisms that allow communities to directly access and manage funds for climate adaptation projects. Typically, this includes decentralizing financial management, empowering local authorities with the skills and resources they need to effectively implement adaptation activities, and even establishing local climate funds. However, the feasibility of this approach varies across countries. In some, local governance structures

and financial systems are not robust enough to support decentralized adaptation financing. Challenges such as weak institutional capacity, lack of infrastructure, and political instability may also hinder the establishment of effective local financing mechanisms (LIFE-AR, n.d.).

While they can play a critical role in mobilizing financing for adaptation, NAP documents should not be viewed as climate change adaptation investment plans. Instead, the mobilization of adaptation finance should be conducted through an iterative investment planning process to identify detailed, investment-ready priority adaptation activities linked to available financial sources and instruments for their implementation. Box 10 provides recommended resources.

The NAP process creates the enabling conditions for designing and implementing structured approaches to mobilizing adaptation finance and accelerating the implementation of countries' adaptation priorities. It provides a strategic framework for countries to identify and prioritize their adaptation needs, and mobilize public and private, domestic and international funding. Additionally, it facilitates coordination among actors, enhances access to international climate finance mechanisms, and improves the effectiveness of financial investments in adaptation. These elements should be reflected in the NAP documents, which are one of the main outcomes documenting the NAP process.

Box 9. A tailored approach for mobilizing adaptation finance in LDCs

LDCs face unique challenges which need a tailored approach to adaptation finance. These countries typically have narrow fiscal bases and limited capacity to generate domestic revenue for climate change adaptation due to high poverty rates, large informal economies, and weak tax administrations and tax collection. Additionally, LDCs are often unattractive to private-sector investors who perceive high risks due to weak regulatory frameworks, political instability, and underdeveloped financial markets. As a result, LDCs are heavily dependent on official development assistance and other forms of external aid to finance their adaptation needs, making them vulnerable to fluctuations in international aid and changes in donor priorities.

Given these characteristics, grants and flexible, longer-term, lower-rate concessional loans are more suitable for funding adaptation in LDCs, as they provide financial support for adaptation without adding to the debt burden. Instruments such as debt-for-climate swaps can also help LDCs manage their debt while financing adaptation projects.

Additionally, a phased approach should be promoted to progressively increase domestic resources for adaptation and attract more private-sector investments. This approach should start with building foundational elements for adaptation finance, such as strengthening institutional capacity and improving fiscal, legal, and regulatory systems, governance structures, and reporting frameworks. These improvements will contribute to creating an enabling environment for increasing domestic resource mobilization for adaptation and attracting private-sector investment.

Box 10. Recommended resources on financing NAP processes

[Financing National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes: Contributing to the achievement of nationally determined contribution \(NDC\) adaptation goals](#) – guidance note

[Guiding Principles for Preparing Financing Strategies for Adaptation](#) – report

[Climate Change Adaptation Investment Plans: Frequently asked questions](#) – briefing note

[Understanding Green Climate Fund Support for Adaptation Planning An analysis of GCF readiness proposals on adaptation planning](#) - report

[Inventory of Innovative Financial Instruments for Climate Change Adaptation](#) – web page

[Toolkit for Engaging the Private Sector in National Adaptation Plans \(NAPs\)](#) – supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines for the NAP Process

[Engaging the Private Sector in National Adaptation Planning Processes](#) - report

[Alignment: A key element of successful financing strategies for climate change adaptation](#) – briefing note

[Costing Methodology for Fiji's National Adaptation Plan](#) – report

[Unpacking Gender-Responsive Adaptation Finance: Key issues and the way forward](#) – article

[Opportunities for Strengthening Resilience by Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance \(CDRFI\) in National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes](#) - report

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