

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

under the UNFCCC



UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES UNDER THE UNFCCC

The United Nations identifies 49 countries as belonging to the group of least developed countries (LDCs), based on three criteria: low income, weak human assets and high economic vulnerability. Thirty-three are in Africa, ten in Asia, one in the Caribbean and five in the Pacific.

At present, of the 49 LDCs, 48 are Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. An up-to-date list of the LDCs is maintained at <http://www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3641&lang=1>.

Article 4.9 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognizes special situations of the LDCs and states:

“The Parties shall take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the least developed countries in their actions with regard to funding and transfer of technology.”

A. THE LDC WORK PROGRAMME AND SCOPE FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING

Decision 5/CP.7 of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 7) acknowledged the specific needs and special situations of LDCs, in that they are least capable of dealing with the adverse effects of climate change, and established an LDC work programme, which includes:

- Supporting preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs);
- Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing, national climate change secretariats and/or focal points;
- Providing training in negotiation skills and language;
- Promotion of public awareness programmes;
- Development and transfer of technologies, particularly adaptation technologies.

Five major decisions were adopted at COP 7 as follows:

- Decision 2/CP.7: Capacity building in developing countries (non-Annex I Parties). The decision launched implementation of capacity-building framework for developing countries, which includes a specific scope for capacity-building in LDCs;
- Decision 7/CP.7: Funding under the Convention. The decision established the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) to support implementation of the LDC work programme, including preparation of NAPAs;
- Decision 27/CP.7: Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund;
- Decision 28/CP.7: Guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action;
- Decision 29/CP.7: Establishment of a least developed countries expert group. The least developed countries expert group (LEG) was established to provide guidance and advise on the preparation and implementation strategies for NAPAs.

The COP decided (decision 7/CP.7, paragraph 6) that a Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) shall be established, which shall be operated by an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism, under the guidance of the COP, to support a work programme for the least developed countries.

The specific scope for capacity-building in developing countries, as detailed in the annex to decision 2/CP.7, paragraph 17, states:

“The least developed countries, and small island developing States amongst them, are among the most vulnerable to extreme weather events and the adverse effects of climate change. They also have the least capacity to cope with and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The following is the initial assessment of needs and priority areas for capacity-building in these countries:

- (a) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national climate change secretariats or focal points to enable the effective implementation of the Convention and effective participation in the Kyoto Protocol process, including preparation of national communications;
- (b) Developing an integrated implementation programme which takes into account the role of research and training in capacity-building;
- (c) Developing and enhancing technical capacities and skills to carry out and effectively integrate vulnerability and adaptation assessment into sustainable development programmes and develop national adaptation programmes of action;
- (d) Strengthening existing and, where needed, establishing national research and training institutions in order to ensure the sustainability of the capacity-building programmes;
- (e) Strengthening the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support implementation of national adaptation programmes of action;
- (f) Enhancing public awareness (level of understanding and human capacity development).”

B. NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES OF ACTION

RATIONALE AND FOCUS FOR NAPAS

In order to address the urgent adaptation needs of least developed countries (LDCs), a new approach was needed that would focus on enhancing adaptive capacity to climate variability, which itself would help address the adverse effects of climate change. NAPAs take into account existing coping strategies at the grassroots level, and build upon that to identify priority activities, rather than focusing on scenario-based modeling to assess future vulnerability and long-term policy at state level. In the NAPA process, prominence is given to community-level input as an important source of information, recognizing that grassroots communities are the main stakeholders.

NAPAs provide a process for LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change. The rationale for NAPAs rests on the limited ability of LDCs to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.¹

NAPAs focus on urgent and immediate needs for which further delay could increase vulnerability or lead to increased costs at a later stage. NAPAs were conceived to be designed based on existing information, without the need for additional comprehensive assessments and research before the plans can be completed. They must be action-oriented, country-driven, flexible and based on national circumstances. Finally, NAPA documents should be presented in a simple format which could be easily understood by policy-level decision-makers and the public.

¹ Decision 28/CP.7: Guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action

THE NAPA PREPARATION PROCESS

Steps for the preparation of NAPAs include:

- Establishment of NAPA team and multidisciplinary teams;
- Synthesis of available information;
- Rapid participatory vulnerability assessment to current climate vulnerability and potential increase in climate hazards and associated risks;
- Stakeholder and public consultation aiming at identifying potential ideas for activities;
- Identification of criteria for prioritizing activities;
- Selection of a prioritized short list of activities;
- Development of short profiles of projects and/or activities intended to address urgent and immediate adaptation needs of LDC Parties.

Upon completion, the NAPA is submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat, where it is posted on the website. A copy of the NAPA is sent to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) which manages the LDC Fund for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs.

THE NAPA IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Once a NAPA has been submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat, the LDC Party can start the process of implementation under the LDC Fund. The LDC Party prepares a concept note and requests assistance from an agency of the GEF (of which there are currently 10)², to submit a proposal to the GEF under the LDC Fund. The GEF agency then works with the country to develop the concept into a full project that is ready for implementation under the GEF project cycle.

The GEF project cycle comprises a sequence of steps that include submission of a project identification form (PIF), followed by a project preparation grant (PPG), then a full-sized project (FSP) proposal. Each of these stages is either approved by the GEF Chief Operating Officer and/or the GEF Council. This interactive process is supported by funds to assist the country fully develop the project and prepare the relevant project documents for submission. The GEF agency works very closely with the country at each successive step, and ultimately supports the country in implementing the project.

C. LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES EXPERT GROUP

The COP, at its seventh session, decided to establish the LEG, to be nominated by Parties, with the objective of supporting the preparation and implementation strategy of NAPAs.

The COP, at its thirteenth session, reviewed the progress of the work and terms of reference of the expert group and decided to extend the LEG for three more years (2008 – 2010) under its current mandate.

² United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Asia Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

FUNCTION OF THE LEG

As established under decisions 8/CP.13, 4/CP.11 and 29/CP.7, the LEG is mandated:

- (a) To provide technical guidance and advice on the preparation and implementation strategy of NAPAs, including the identification of possible sources of data and its subsequent application and interpretation, upon request by LDC Parties;
- (b) To develop a work programme that includes implementation of NAPAs;
- (c) To serve in an advisory capacity for the preparation and implementation strategy of NAPAs through, inter alia, workshops, upon request by LDC Parties;
- (d) To advise on capacity-building needs for the preparation and implementation of NAPAs and to provide recommendations, as appropriate, taking into account the Capacity Development Initiative of the Global Environment Facility (GEF)³ and other relevant capacity-building initiatives;
- (e) To facilitate the exchange of information and to promote regional synergies, and synergies with other multilateral environment conventions, in the preparation and implementation strategy of NAPAs;
- (f) To advise on the mainstreaming of NAPAs into regular development planning in the context of national strategies for sustainable development;
- (g) To develop a work programme that takes into account the Nairobi work programme.⁴

MEMBERSHIP OF THE LDC EXPERT GROUP

The LEG is constituted of 12 experts, as follows:

- (a) Five from African LDC Parties;
- (b) Two from Asian LDC Parties;
- (c) Two from small island LDC Parties;
- (d) Three from Annex II Parties.⁵

Current members are:

Mr. Mirza Shawkat Ali, Bangladesh

Mr. Ibila Djibril, Benin

Mr. Adérito Manuel Fernandes Santana, Sao Tome and Principe

Mr. Pa Ousman Jarju, Gambia

Mr. Benjamin Karmorh, Liberia

Mr. Erwin Künzi, Austria

Ms. Beth Lavender, Canada

Mr. Fred Machulu Onduri, Uganda (Chair)

Mr. Russell Nari, Vanuatu

Mr. Ali Lishan, Maldives

Mr. Batu Krishna Uprety, Nepal

Mr. Jan Verhagen, Netherlands

³ <http://www.gefweb.org/Site_Index/CDI/cdi.html>.

⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/3633.php>>.

⁵ Annex II Parties are industrialized countries that were members of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) in 1992, as defined under the Convention.

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE LEG

The LEG has prepared a work programme as part of its ongoing efforts to fulfil its mandate to support NAPA implementation. The [TABLE](#) below, as contained in document FCCC/SBI/2008/14, presents the key priority activities of the work programme of the LEG for the period 2008–2010; the complete work programme is available in document FCCC/SBI/2008/6.

Activities	Main deliverable and target dates
Enhance efforts to support least developed countries (LDCs) with special needs in preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs)	Ongoing
Further support NAPA preparation and implementation through preparation of a technical paper for NAPA preparation and development of implementation strategies	Distribute technical paper by December 2008
Prepare and disseminate a step-by-step guide on NAPA implementation	Finalize guide by the fifteenth meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) (March 2009) and distribute soon afterwards
Organize training in the design of NAPA implementation strategies and preparation of projects based on the step-by-step guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with relevant agencies to provide ongoing training • Conduct regional training sessions on using the guide from April 2009
Conduct a survey of LDC Parties, United Nations agencies and other relevant actors to collect information on the status of implementation of NAPAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing follow-up with LDC Parties • Conduct next complete survey at the thirtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)
Conduct capacity-building and outreach activities as requested by Parties at the 2007 stocktaking meeting through various means	Continue to provide training activities, workshops and other forms of technical support on an ongoing basis

Activities	Main deliverable and target dates
<p>Summarize key aspects of NAPAs with a view to identifying key vulnerabilities, adaptation options by sector and opportunities for regional synergy, and to show evidence of alignment with, and integration of NAPA activities into, national development priorities and plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute a brochure on NAPAs by the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) • Analyse results at the fifteenth meeting of the LEG and include results in the LEG report at the thirtieth session of the SBI • Produce outreach materials as appropriate
<p>Conduct activities to promote synergy during implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to explore synergy in implementation of projects addressing multiple objectives on an ongoing basis • Schedule regional initiatives including workshops to exchange experiences
<p>Catalyse action by United Nations organizations and bilateral and multilateral agencies in support of the implementation of NAPAs and of the LEG work programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the Global Environment Facility and its agencies in producing a step-by-step guide to accessing the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) • Participate in joint training activities and knowledge exchange initiatives
<p>Raise awareness of the NAPA process with a view to advancing adaptation and encouraging effective implementation of NAPAs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the LDC website to include information on NAPA projects • Produce a publication on the NAPA approach by the sixteenth meeting of the LEG • Hold a side event at fourteenth session of the COP to highlight the launch of NAPAs • Produce outreach materials for NAPA teams • Participate in collaborative efforts and initiatives by partner organizations
<p>Develop an approach paper on the collection of information for assessing the effectiveness of the NAPA programme and NAPA projects at the national and global level</p>	<p>Finalize working paper in time for the sixteenth meeting of the LEG</p>

SBI REPORTS ON MEETINGS OF THE LEG

Meetings	Venue	Related Documents
Fifteenth meeting of the least developed countries expert group (LEG)	Cotonou, Benin	FCCC/SBI/2009/6
Fourteenth meeting of the LEG	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	FCCC/SBI/2008/14
Thirteenth meeting of the LEG	Sana'a, Yemen	FCCC/SBI/2008/6
Twelfth meeting of the LEG	Bangkok, Thailand	FCCC/SBI/2007/31
LEG stocktaking meeting on progress made by Parties in NAPA preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action	Bangkok, Thailand	FCCC/SBI/2007/32
Eleventh meeting of the LEG	Honiara, Solomon Islands	FCCC/SBI/2007/12
Tenth meeting of the LEG	Kampala, Uganda	FCCC/SBI/2006/20
Ninth meeting of the LEG	Dhaka, Bangladesh	FCCC/SBI/2006/9
Eighth meeting of the LEG	Tarawa, Kiribati	FCCC/SBI/2005/20
Seventh meeting of the LEG	Bonn, Germany	FCCC/SBI/2005/12
Sixth meeting of the LEG	Banjul, Gambia	FCCC/SBI/2004/17
Fifth meeting of the LEG	Maputo, Mozambique	FCCC/SBI/2004/3
Fourth meeting of the LEG	Thimphu, Bhutan	FCCC/SBI/2003/16
Third meeting of the LEG	Apia, Samoa	FCCC/SBI/2003/6
Second meeting of the LEG	Dhaka, Bangladesh	FCCC/SBI/2002/Inf.16
First meeting of the LEG	Arusha, Tanzania	FCCC/SBI/2002/5
Workshop to develop draft guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action	Kampala, Uganda	FCCC/SBI/2001/7

D. SELECTED LEG PRODUCTS

LEG DOCUMENTS ON PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NAPAS

- Annotated guidelines for the preparation of NAPAs.
- Selection of examples and exercises drawn from regional NAPA workshops
- The NAPA Primer
- Technical Paper-2005-2: Synthesis of available information for the preparation of NAPAs
- Technical Paper-2005-3: Synergy among multilateral environmental agreements in the context of NAPAs
- Technical Paper-2005-4: Regional synergy in the context of NAPAs
- Technical Paper-2005-5: Elements for implementation strategies for NAPAs

These documents are available on the least developed countries portal
<<http://unfccc.int/4751>>

Forthcoming documents:

- Information paper on the preparation of NAPAs and on updating priorities
- Step-by-step guide for NAPA implementation, jointly with the GEF and its agencies
- Introduction to the LDC work programme and NAPAs: frequently asked questions (FAQs)

DATABASES

Several databases have been prepared to assist LDCs and other stakeholders in designing and implementing adaptation activities, including:

- A searchable database on local coping strategies, showing examples of local projects implemented in response to various climatic impacts around the world, is available on the UNFCCC website at
<<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation>>

- Database on NAPAs received by the secretariat is available on the UNFCCC website at <http://www.unfccc.int/ldc>
- Database on NAPA projects and project profiles, showing NAPA projects by country and by sector, is available on the UNFCCC website at <http://www.unfccc.int/ldc>
- Database on the status of NAPA implementation, showing a summary of NAPA projects under implementation, is available on the UNFCCC website at <http://www.unfccc.int/ldc>

E. THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRY FUND

The LDCF was established according to decision 7/CP.7, to support a work programme of the LDC Parties to carry out, inter alia, preparation and implementation of NAPAs.

The GEF, as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention, has been entrusted to operate this fund under decision 27/CP.7. Under this decision, guidance was provided to the GEF on the operation of the fund with an initial focus on support for the preparation of NAPAs.

The GEF released “Operational Guidelines for Expedited Funding for the Preparation of National Adaptation Programs of Action by Least Developed Countries” in April, 2002, and GEF agencies were able to submit proposals on behalf of LDC Parties for the preparation of NAPAs. As of May 2009, all 48 LDCs have received funding for the preparation of NAPAs.

The COP, at its eleventh session (December 2005), agreed on provisions to operationalize the LDCF to support the implementation of NAPAs. The COP provided further guidance with regard to priority areas and provisions for full-cost funding and a co-financing (sliding) scale in decision 3/CP.11. Almost all LDC Parties that have completed a NAPA are in various stages of NAPA implementation, with a few countries having successfully completed the LDCF project cycle and now in full implementation.

The process of developing a project for implementation under the LDCF starts with the LDC Party requesting one of the ten GEF agencies to assist in submitting a project proposal to the GEF. The GEF agency then works with the country to formulate a project identification form (PIF), and submits it to the GEF, followed by subsequent steps to elaborate a full project document in a process that may take up to 22 months. See the GEF website at <http://www.thegef.org>, for an up-to-date status of projects under the LDCF.

As of 22 May 2009, there are five full project documents endorsed and approved by the LDCF. The GEF agencies assisting on those projects are the African Development Bank (AfdB), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Least Developed Countries Fund – Summary of funding approvals by Council and Trustee Committees and cash transfers to agencies as of 7 May 2009

Projects under executive agencies	GEF Council funding approvals (USD)
AfdB	274,475
IBRD	3,127,272
IFAD	6,244,800
UNDP	67,635,714
UNEP	10,144,555
Total	87,426,816

Source: Global Environment Facility (GEF) GEF/LDCF.SCCF.6/Inf.2 and GEF/LDCF/SCCF.6/Inf.3.

The COP, at its fourteenth session (December 2008), agreed on provisions to operationalize the LDCF to support the implementation of the remaining elements of the LDC work programme (see SECTION A).

An assessment of progress made in implementing decisions on the LDCF will be conducted in December 2010 (at COP 16).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LDC FUND

As of 26 May 2009, nineteen contributing participants had pledged contributions to the LDCF. The total amount pledged to date is USD 176.5 million. See TABLE below for further details:

	Participant	Pledges (USD)
1	Australia	6,600,750
2	Austria	580,400
3	Canada	6,518,366
4	Denmark	15,967,606
5	Finland	7,188,830
6	France	14,812,157
7	Germany	54,248,256
8	Ireland	9,749,794
9	Italy	1,000,000
10	Japan	250,000
11	Luxembourg	5,702,900
12	Netherlands	16,342,578
13	New Zealand	3,868,560
14	Norway	6,675,406
15	Portugal	64,065
16	Spain	1,232,521
17	Sweden	886,747
18	Switzerland	3,272,821
19	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Island	21,513,483
	Total	176,475,240

Source: Global Environment Facility (GEF), <<http://www.thegef.org>>.

KEY DECISIONS RELATING TO THE LDCF

- COP 14** • Decision 5/CP.14: Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 11** • Decision 3/CP.11: Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 9** • Decision 6/CP.9: Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 8** • Decision 8/CP.8: Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 7** • Decision 5/CP.7: Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention (decision 3/CP.3 and Article 2, paragraph 3, and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol) (see para.12)
 - Decision 7/CP.7: Funding under the Convention (see para.6)
 - Decision 27/CP.7: Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund

GEF AGENCIES

The first step in accessing NAPA implementation funding through the LDCF is to identify an implementing agency from the group of GEF agencies. These agencies are a channel between countries and the GEF for the project approval process, and participate in the GEF governance as well as in the development of GEF policies and programmes. Their function is to assist countries in formulating a coherent project idea based on the NAPA. The choice of GEF agency is based on its comparative advantage in relation to the specific issues addressed by the project being implemented. The following are current GEF Implementing Agencies:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
<<http://www.undp.org/climatechange/>>
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
<<http://www.unep.org/climatechange/>>
- World Bank <<http://go.worldbank.org/W13H8ZXSD1>>
- African Development Bank (AFDB) <<http://www.afdb.org>>
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
<<http://www.adb.org/Environment/default.asp>>
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
<<http://www.ebrd.com/enviro/partners/climate.htm>>
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
<<http://www.iadb.org/topics/climateChange/secci/climateChange.cfm>>
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
<<http://www.ifad.org/climate/index.htm>>
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
<<http://www.fao.org/climatechange/home/en/>>
- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
<<http://www.unido.org/index.php?id=o18258>>

LINKS TO FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE LDCF

- The GEF website at <http://thegef.org/interior_right.aspx?id=194>
- The UNFCCC LDC Portal at <www.unfccc.int/ldc>

F. DECISIONS RELATING TO LDC MATTERS INCLUDING THE LDCF

- COP 14** • Decision 5/CP.14: Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 13** • Decision 8/CP.13: Extension of the mandate of the least developed countries expert group
- COP 11** • Decision 4/CP.11: Extension of the mandate of the least developed countries expert group
- Decision 3/CP.11: Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 10** • Decision 4/CP.10: Work of the least developed countries expert group
- COP 9** • Decision 8/CP.9: Review of the guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action
- Decision 7/CP.9: Extension of the mandate of the least developed countries expert group
- Decision 6/CP.9: Further guidance for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 8** • Decision 9/CP.8: Review of the guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action
- Decision 8/CP.8: Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the Least Developed Countries Fund
- COP 7** • Decision 29/CP.7: Establishment of a least developed countries expert group
- Decision 28/CP.7: Guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation programmes of action
- Decision 27/CP.7: Guidance to an entity entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism of the Convention, for the operation of the least developed countries fund
- Decision 7/CP.7: Funding under the Convention
- Decision 5/CP.7: Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention (decision 3/CP.3 and Article 2, paragraph 3, and Article 3, paragraph 14, of the Kyoto Protocol)
- Decision 2/CP.7: Capacity-building in developing countries

SBI CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO LDC MATTERS

In addition to the COP decisions, important mandates and progress on the work of the LEG and LDC matters in general, are contained in SBI reports for each session since 2002. Specifically, the following paragraphs contain relevant information:

- SBI 29 Report (FCCC/SBI/2008/19, paragraphs 38 – 61)
- SBI 28 Report (FCCC/SBI/2008/8, paragraphs 40 – 52)
- SBI 27 Report (FCCC/SBI/2007/34, paragraphs 64 – 73)
- SBI26 Report (FCCC/SBI/2007/15, paragraphs 71 – 83)
- SBI 25 Report (FCCC/SBI/2006/28, paragraphs 73 – 86)
- SBI 24 Report (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, paragraphs 67 – 79)
- SBI 22 Report (FCCC/SBI/2005/10 paragraphs 36 – 44)
- SBI 20 Report (FCCC/SBI/2004/10, paragraphs 66 – 73)
- SBI 19 Report (FCCC/SBI/2003/19, paragraphs 45 – 49)
- SBI 18 Report (FCCC/SBI/2003/8, paragraphs 27 – 31)
- SBI 16 Report (FCCC/SBI/2002/6, paragraphs 27 – 28).

G. LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES PORTAL: <[HTTP://WWW.UNFCCC.INT/LDC](http://www.unfccc.int/LDC)>

The least developed countries portal provides links to information that is of specific interest for LDCs, such as work on NAPA, the work of the LEG, the LDCF, relevant LDC decisions and conclusions and frequently asked questions on NAPAs.

A French version of the LDC Portal is available at <<http://www.unfccc.int/4796>>.

- *Least developed countries work programme and the NAPA*
The LDC work programme and the NAPA pages provide information on the situation of LDCs under the climate change convention, the NAPA rationale and focus as well as on the NAPA preparation and implementation. Additional information on the LDC work programme and capacity-building follows.

- *Submitted NAPAs*
This section presents information on the list of countries which have submitted their NAPAs and the date of submission. NAPAs are available for download in the language initially submitted.
- *NAPA project database*
The NAPA project database pages present the list of ranked priority adaptation activities and projects, as well as short profiles of each activity or project, designed to facilitate the development of proposals for implementation. Projects are also arranged by sector.
- *LDC expert group (LEG)*
The section on LDC expert group includes information on the function, members and work programme of the accompanying Body to the LDCs which have engaged in the NAPA processes. It also contains information on various LEG meetings and workshops.
- *Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)*
This section provides links to the Least Developed Countries Fund which was established to support a work programme for the least developed country Parties on the preparation and implementation of their NAPAs. Key documents and decisions about funding issues to LDCs can be found on this page.
- *Relevant COP decisions and SBI conclusions*
This page presents links to decisions and conclusions on LDC matters, including on the LEG and the LDCF.
- *Frequently asked questions*
The section on frequently asked questions refers to a list of questions and answers, frequently asked in the context of LDCs, NAPA and the LEG.

STATISTICAL OVERVIEW

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Figure 1.

Key sectors covered by the NAPA projects

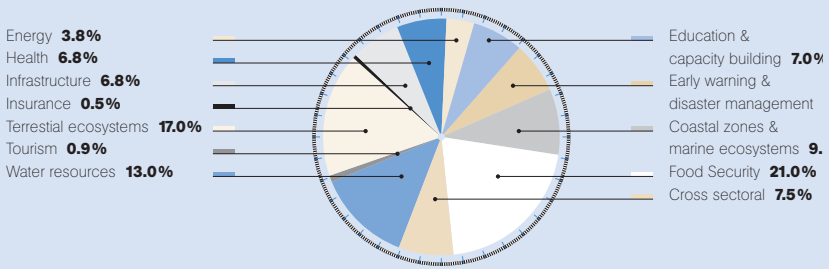


Figure 2.

Key sectors covered by the NAPA projects

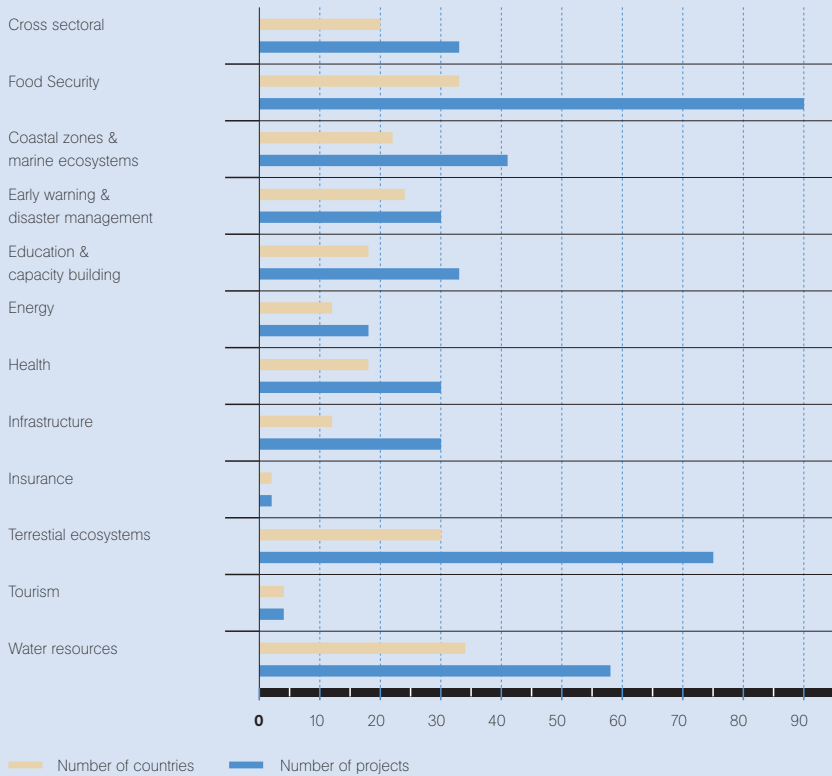


Figure 3.

The Least Developed Countries as of May 2009: regional distribution

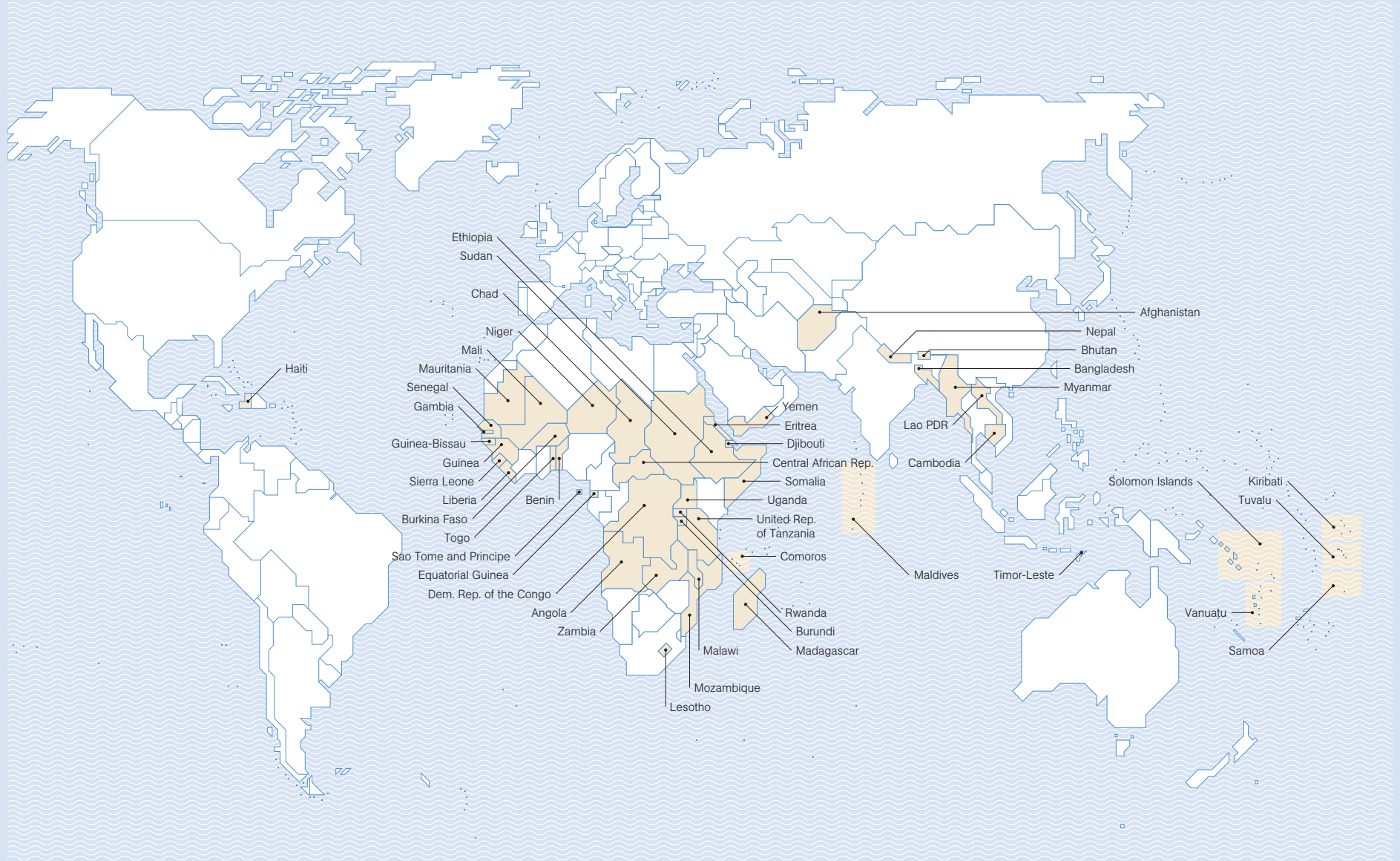


Table 1.

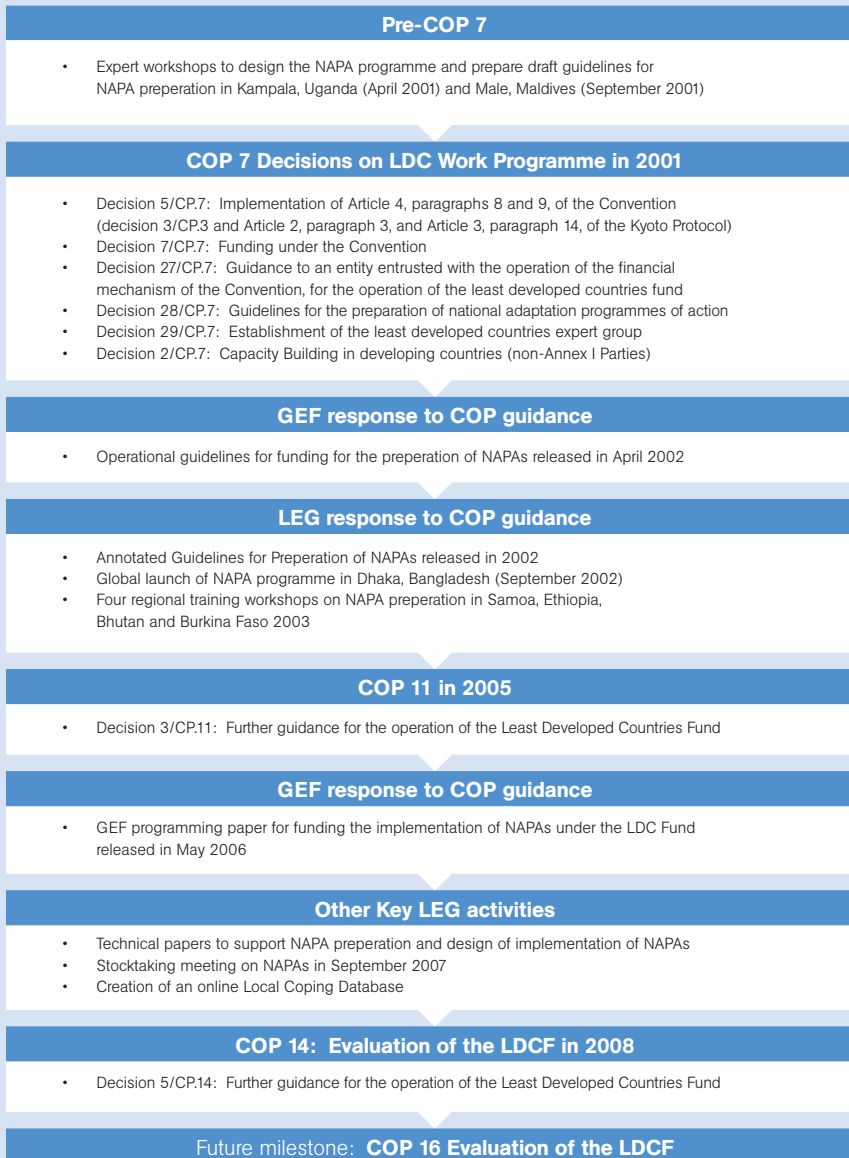
The Least Developed Countries: regional distribution

Africa (33)	
1	Angola
2	Benin
3	Burkina Faso ^a
4	Burundi ^a
5	Central African Republic ^a
6	Chad ^a
7	Comoros ^b
8	Democratic Republic of the Congo
9	Djibouti
10	Equatorial Guinea
11	Eritrea
12	Ethiopia ^a
13	Gambia
14	Guinea
15	Guinea-Bissau
16	Lesotho ^a
17	Liberia
18	Madagascar
19	Malawi ^a
20	Mali ^a
21	Mauritania
22	Mozambique
23	Niger ^a
24	Rwanda ^a
25	Sao Tome and Principe ^d
26	Senegal
27	Sierra Leone
28	Somalia ^c
29	Sudan
30	Togo
31	Uganda ^a
32	United Republic of Tanzania
33	Zambia
Asia (10)	
1	Afghanistan ^a
2	Bangladesh
3	Bhutan ^a
4	Cambodia
5	Lao People's Democratic Republic ^a
6	Maldives ^b
7	Myanmar
8	Nepal ^a
9	Timor-Leste ^b
10	Yemen
Caribbean (1)	
1	Haiti
Pacific (5)	
1	Kiribati ^b
2	Samoa ^b
3	Solomon Islands ^b
4	Tuvalu ^b
5	Vanuatu ^b

^a Land-locked developing country^b Small island developing State^c Not a Party under the Convention

Figure 4.

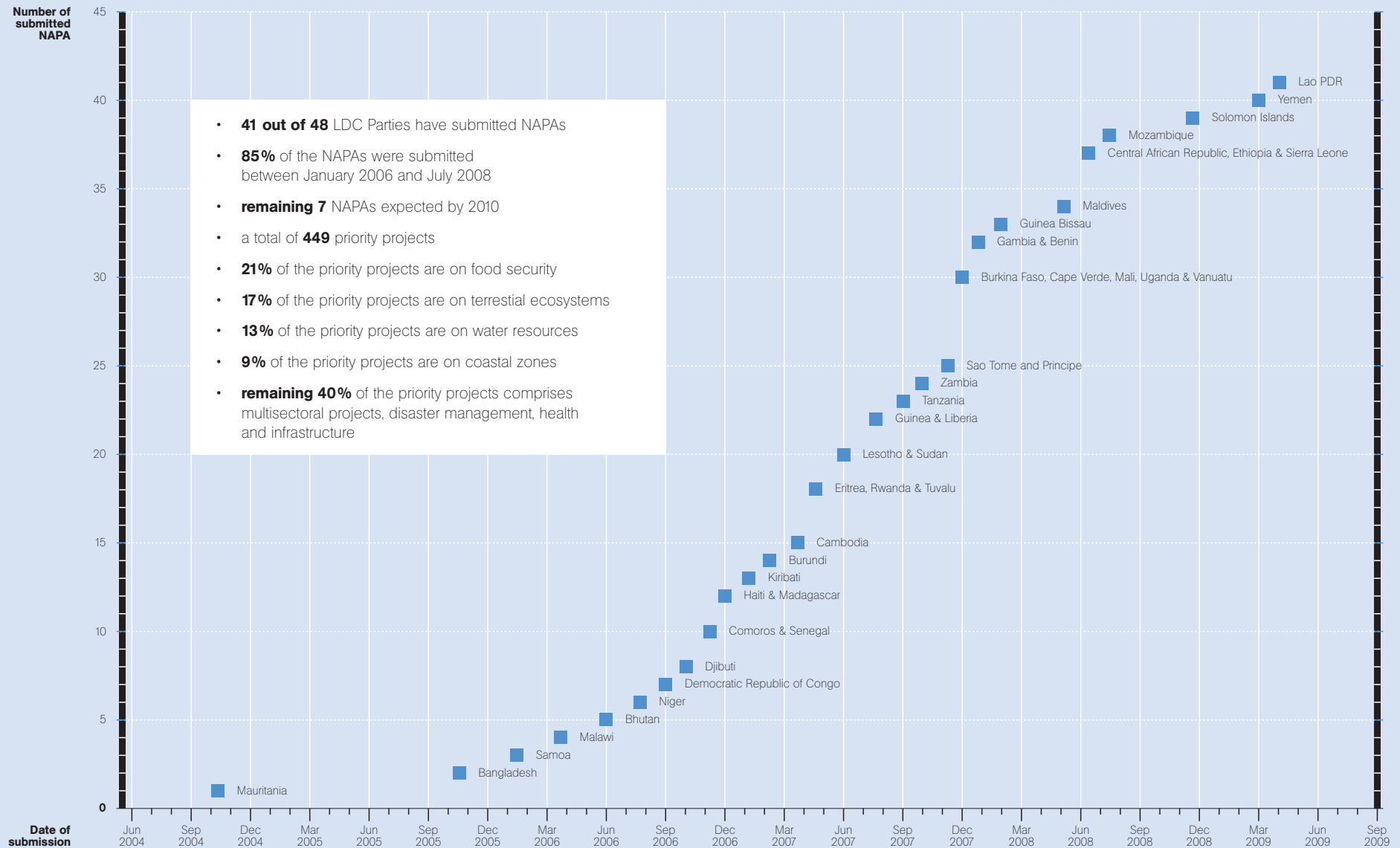
The LDC Work Programme and NAPAs: A timeline



Abbreviations: COP = Conference of the Parties, GEF = Global Environment Facility, LDC = least developed countries, LDCF = Least Developed Countries Fund, LEG = least developed countries expert group, NAPA = national adaptation programmes of action.

Figure 5.

Number of completed NAPAs submitted to the UNFCCC (June 2009)



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