

## A Pacific Guideline for Adaptation Planning Process and Content of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

SPREP has developed the **Pacific National Adaptation Planning (NAP) Guidelines** to provide support on the specific adaptation needs of Pacific island countries.

The Pacific region is at the frontline of climate change and the risks are projected to increase this century. Effective climate change adaptation planning is crucial for reducing climate change vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity.

While there is existing NAP guidance, this is largely aimed at a global audience, is not always fit-for-purpose for the Pacific region, with its specific characteristics. The NAP Pacific Guideline, which has been developed in consultation with stakeholders, is the primary guidance document Pacific island countries should use for their national adaptation planning activities. The Pacific NAP Guideline is also a library of relevant guidelines and documents relating to adaptation planning processes, and includes good practices and lessons from countries across the region.



This provides a summary of the NAP guidance, and the requirements to achieve strengthened adaptation planning. If the reader requires more detailed guidance, the **Pacific NAP Guidelines** should be consulted and accessed.

### Summary of entry points in the NAP process

Regardless of where a country is in the NAP process, there are opportunities to strengthen adaptation planning. The Pacific NAP Guideline provides detailed guidance on the four entry points of the NAP process:

1. laying the groundwork and addressing gaps,
2. preparatory elements,
3. implementation strategies, and
4. monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Each element includes a number of steps that may be followed. A summary of these four entry points is provided below.

The **Pacific NAP Guidelines** do not cover all of the steps of the NAP process but does highlight the most strategic points that should be considered. Specific considerations and case studies relevant to Pacific countries are also highlighted in the guideline.

#### ENTRY POINTS IN THE NAP PROCESS

A1. Launching the  
NAP process

A2. Stocktaking

B1. Undertaking a  
climate change  
risk assessment

B2. Identifying, reviewing  
and appraising  
adaptation options

C1. Prioritisation  
approach

C2. Developing  
action plans

C3. Allocation of  
responsibility

D1. Initiating the  
MEL process

D2. Monitoring,  
Evaluation and  
Learning metrics

D3. Institutional  
considerations

## Laying the groundwork and addressing gaps

This element on laying the groundwork and addressing gaps aims to create a national strategy for the NAP process (referred to as the “NAP Roadmap”), which involves establishing clear responsibilities for government ministries and departments.

During this stage, the existing climate adaptation processes should be assessed. This includes an assessment of gender-responsive processes, vertical integration (or mainstreaming) activities, private sector engagement in adaptation activities, and existing institutional arrangements, such as coordinating and cooperating mechanisms to determine whether these are fit-for-purpose.

### Preparatory elements

During the execution of the second phase of the NAP process, countries should conduct an in-depth exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity assessment (known as a “climate change risk assessment”) and identify adaptation options to respond to the identified risks.

The objective of a climate risk assessment is to understand the nature and level of climate change risk, and provide an evidence base to inform adaptation planning. Assessments can help to prioritise climate risks, which can then drive targeted action and investments in adaptation.

The next step in this phase is the identification and appraisal of adaptation options to address the identified climate change risks.

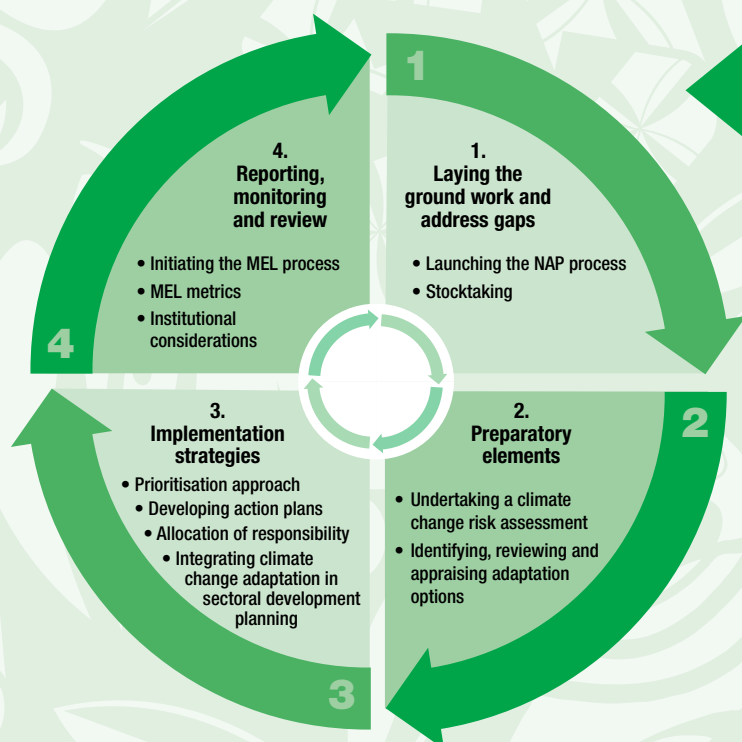
## Implementation strategies

The third phase of the NAP process is concerned with the design of NAP implementation strategies. Work during this part of the process would focus on prioritising adaptation actions within the national planning process, identifying synergies, and developing and enhancing the country’s long-term capacity for planning and implementing adaptation. Work on capacity-building, institutional arrangements, data-gathering, assessments, and communications initiated in earlier stages would continue. Implementation would build on existing activities, planning frameworks, and project pipelines, to the extent possible.

## Monitoring, evaluation and learning

The fourth entry point on monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) is focused on collecting information on the NAP process, assessing it through a national system, providing outputs for reporting on progress, and incorporating lessons learnt into the NAP process. Given the scale, scope, and complex nature of climate change adaptation, which cuts across sectors and timeframes, it is essential that MEL is used to better inform and improve programme strategies.

The activities should be implemented throughout the NAP process, starting with the design and launch of the MEL system during the launch of the NAP process. Developing an effective MEL framework is a core component of the NAP process, as it allows for integrating learnings and achieving continual improvements of adaptation planning processes.



### PREPARATORY ELEMENTS



# Guidance on enabling activities and approaches

There are enabling activities and approaches that can be undertaken throughout the NAP process, and these provide important opportunities for addressing systematic barriers and constraints to achieving climate change adaptation outcomes. The [Pacific NAP guidelines](#) provide recommendations on undertaking enabling activities in nine core areas, and this brochure provides a summary of three of these activity areas:

- i. establishing institutional arrangements,
- ii. transformational adaptation, and
- iii. securing climate finance for adaptation.

These three activity areas were highlighted as priority activity areas in the consultations with climate change departments/ministries and the two consultative workshops – for detailed guidance on the remaining activity areas, see the [Pacific NAP Guidelines](#).

## Establishing institutional arrangements

Institutional arrangements need to consider government institutions, sectors, and societal domains at all levels (e.g., national, regional) in an approach that manages challenging priorities and demand for resources. Institutions provide an enabling environment for implementing adaptation actions, as they provide guidance and incentives that shape the distribution of climate risk, promote adaptation, encourage the development of adaptive capacity, and define protocols for making and acting on decisions.

Pacific island countries have particular institutional barriers and challenges due to overlapping and competing priorities, small and under-resourced administrations (especially in less populated countries), high staff turnover in key agencies, and limited institutional memory. The NAP process should have a focus on addressing these challenges.

### ENABLING ACTIVITIES

1. Establishing institutional arrangements

2. Mainstreaming climate change risk and adaptation

3. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

4. Transformational adaptation

5. Loss and damage considerations

6. Capacity development

7. Stakeholder engagement

8. Securing climate finance for adaptation

9. Information sharing and data collection

## Transformational adaptation

Transformational adaptations occur at greater scales than incremental adjustments, and this is necessary for developing climate-resilient economies, communities and livelihoods in Pacific island countries. Transformational adaptations recognise and confront the root causes of vulnerability in human-environment systems, which allows for alternative and safer development pathways to emerge. Undertaking transformation adaptation in Pacific island countries is crucial, given the extreme climate risk faced by many communities, and as limits to incremental adaptation are being reached in locations, sectors, and systems across the region.

Examples of transformational adaptation could include introducing new technologies at scale, relocating human settlements and economic activities, major changes in environmental and ecosystem management, and systematic governance reforms.

It is important that the NAP process, therefore, incorporates transformational adaptation principles. This will differ between countries, provinces, islands and communities, and it is vital that the stakeholder engagement process involves consultations to determine what transformational adaptation means in these differing geographic areas and contexts.

## CASE STUDY: Transformational adaptation in Palau

The Palau National Marine Sanctuary is an example of transformational adaptation, as it is a fundamental change at scale to marine ecosystem protection in the country. Within the sanctuary, which covers 80 percent of Palau's exclusive economic zone (EEZ), all extractive activities such as fishing and mining are now prohibited. The marine sanctuary, while not resilient to all climate change impacts, provides areas of reduced stress, and is likely to improve the ability of marine organisms to adapt to climate change. This approach, moreover, could be scaled up across the Pacific region.



## Securing climate finance for adaptation

Significant financial resources are required to adapt to the adverse effects and reduce the impacts of climate change. The GCF has USD 3 million available per country for adaptation planning processes, and finance can also be accessed from other sources for NAP development and implementation.

Climate finance refers to the financial resources mobilised to fund actions that mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The short-term cost of transitioning to a climate-resilient development pathway in Pacific island countries is significant.

Pacific island countries can access finance from the national budget, regional entities, and international

public and private financiers and donors for adaptation planning. There is a range of guidelines that are focused on strengthening climate finance access and developing bankable projects – these are listed in the [Pacific NAP Guidelines](#).

Pacific island countries have a multitude of funding channels, which increases the options and therefore possibilities to access climate finance, but also results in complexity and potentially higher administrative costs. A well-developed NAP is a gateway to increased access to climate finance – including innovative financing instruments, such as debt-for-finance swaps.

For further details, see the [Pacific NAP Guidelines](#).

### CASE STUDY: Debt-for-finance swaps

Caribbean SIDS, as with many Pacific countries, have high levels of public debt, and the increasing frequency and severity of tropical cyclones and other natural hazards is increasing indebtedness. Servicing this debt requires ongoing payments, which can reduce the national budgets available for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, which thereby increases vulnerability to climate change.

Debt-for-finance swaps consist of bilateral or multilateral debt being forgiven by creditors in exchange for a commitment by the debtor to use outstanding debt service payments for national climate action programs. In the Caribbean, debt-for-climate swaps have been proposed by a range of regional bodies, and there have been a few small-scale bilateral swaps, mostly focusing on broader environmental issues such as conservation. In 2004, Jamaica engaged in a debt-for-nature swap with the United States government and The Nature Conservancy, which provided USD 16 million over a period of 20 years for forest conservation activities.



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*The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.*

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