Leveraging the National Adaptation Plan Process for Adaptation Communications

NAP Global Network

ABOUT THE NAP GLOBAL NETWORK

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

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Table of Contents

1
Introduction

Climate change is making it harder to plan for the future. Current priorities and strategies for building prosperous communities and healthy ecosystems may need to change as the climate crisis escalates. Decision making needs to consider the impacts of climate change.

Developing countries renewed calls at the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP 27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2022 for support to accelerate adaptation efforts to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change—which is already impacting lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems—and to help avert and minimize losses and damages (National Adaptation Plan [NAP] Global Network, 2022a). The 2022 Adaptation Gap Report recognized signs of progress being made on adaptation planning and implementation, finding 84% of countries that are parties to the UNFCCC have adopted at least one national-level adaptation plan, strategy, law, or policy (United Nations Environment Programme, 2022). But while this progress is welcome, as the effects of climate change worsen, the authors caution that the costs of adaptation are expected to increase rapidly and that the implementability of NAPs and policies will be put to the test. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report highlights that adaptation efforts have been observed to generate multiple benefits but that adaptation progress has been uneven across sectors and regions and is expected to slow with increasing warming (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2022).

Globally, information on adaptation needs, priorities, and progress is highly fragmented. In developing countries—whose adaptation financing needs are urgent and growing rapidly—having a clear articulation of national adaptation priorities and a clear pathway toward addressing those priorities will be essential for accelerated and strategic investments to reduce countries' vulnerability to climate impacts in the medium and long terms. To achieve this, most developing countries already have a NAP process underway.

Alongside NAP processes, adaptation communications (AdComs) present a means for communicating a clear and up-to-date overview of adaptation. As one of several reporting instruments under the UNFCCC, climate change decision-makers are carefully considering how an AdCom fits into their national approach to adaptation planning and implementation.

The purpose of this report is to highlight opportunities for countries to leverage the results of NAP processes for preparing AdComs, making strategic use of an AdCom for boosting the profile and visibility of adaptation progress and needs without creating undue additional reporting burden. It draws on experiences from the NAP Global Network's support to 22 countries[1] since 2020 to build on their NAP processes to prepare their first AdComs.

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[1] The NAP Global Network has provided technical and financial support to the following 22 partner countries for the preparation of an AdCom: Antigua and Barbuda, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Eswatini, Ghana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Saint Lucia, Somalia, Togo, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.

2
AdComs: An overview

Established under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement in 2015, AdComs present an important means for countries to boost the profile and visibility of their adaptation needs, priorities, and progress, among other purposes (see Box 1).

As a voluntary, flexible, and country-driven reporting instrument, AdComs can potentially serve as a means of communicating with domestic and international stakeholders. However, given countries' multiple reporting commitments under the UNFCCC and other sustainable development agendas, national decision-makers leading adaptation efforts (i.e., NAP teams) have highlighted in international negotiations the need to avoid creating additional burdens for developing countries.

The UNFCCC Adaptation Committee is preparing comprehensive supplementary guidance for countries on AdComs (Adaptation Committee, 2022).[2]

Box 1. AdComs at a Glance

Established: Article 7, paragraph 10, of the Paris Agreement (UNFCCC, 2015)

Purposes: There are four main purposes of AdComs identified in Decision 9/CMA.1, which provides the guidance for AdComs. These purposes are to

- Increase the visibility and profile of adaptation and its balance with mitigation
- Strengthen adaptation action and support for developing countries
- Provide input to the global stocktake (GST)
- Enhance learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions (UNFCCC, 2018).

Principles:

- Country-driven and flexible
- Do not pose any additional burden on developing countries
- Are not a basis for comparison between parties; i.e., countries' AdComs are not meant to be used to directly compare one country's adaptation efforts to another country's efforts (UNFCCC, 2018).

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[2] A corrigendum on the Adaptation Committee draft was issued in November 2022 and is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb2022_05a01c01.pdf

Flexible Options for Submitting an AdCom

If a country chooses to submit an AdCom to the UNFCCC, they have the flexibility to present it in any of the following ways:

1. As a stand-alone document.

2. As a component of another "vehicle" document, which may be the country's NAP, nationally determined contribution (NDC), national communication (NC), or biennial transparency report (BTR).

3. In conjunction with another document (i.e., the AdCom document highlights links and/or cross-references with other documents).

This flexibility allows a government's NAP team a high level of freedom to select a nationally appropriate approach to preparing an AdCom. However, this flexibility may also lead to uncertainty on the best approach, especially for NAP teams preparing an AdCom for the first time.

As of April 31, 2023, 56 countries[3] have submitted AdComs to the UNFCCC, 39 of which have been developing countries.[4] Among the 39 developing countries that have submitted an AdCom, 90% have chosen to either prepare a stand-alone AdCom or to use their NDC as the vehicle document for the AdCom. This compares with 17 industrialized countries, with 82% having prepared an AdCom as a stand-alone document or as part of their NDC.

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[3] The following 56 countries (which includes both Annex I and non-Annex I countries under the UNFCCC) have used the following approaches for submitting their AdComs.
Standalone AdCom: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Eswatini, European Union, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liberia, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Zimbabwe
NAP as vehicle document: Nepal, Timor-Leste
NDC as vehicle document: Angola, Brazil, Burundi, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Kenya, Lebanon, Mauritania, Mauritius, Panama, Paraguay, Russian Federation, Somalia (jointly with the NC), South Africa, Sudan, Uruguay.
Note: Argentina's NDC indicates that it serves as the country's AdCom vehicle document and it had appeared in the Adaptation Communication Registry, but does not currently appear at the time of publication.
NC as vehicle document: New Zealand, Somalia (jointly with NDC), Singapore

[4] Under the UNFCCC, 154 countries are classified as "developing countries," also known as "Non-Annex I" countries. Industrialized countries or "developed countries" are classified as "Annex I." For more information, see: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/what-is-the-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change

Figure 1. Developing countries' AdComs by document type[5]

2
National communication

2
National Adaptation Plan

17
Nationally determined
contribution

18
Stand-alone adaptation
communication
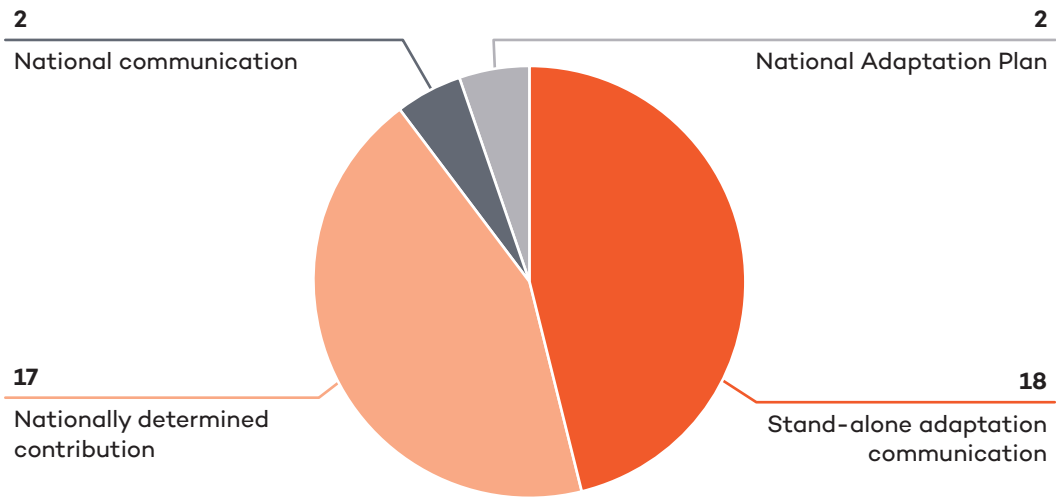
Source: Authors.

Figure 2. Industrialized countries' AdComs by document type

2
National communication

1
Nationally determined
contribution

14
Stand-alone adaptation
communication
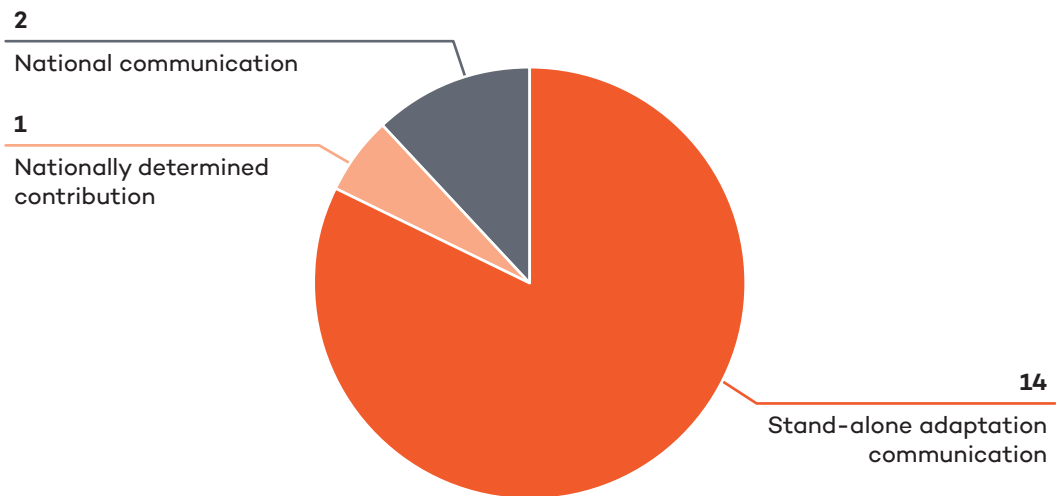
Source: Authors.

[5] Somalia submitted the NDC in conjunction with the NC.

Table 1. Possible AdCom elements put forward in <u>Decision 9/CMA.1</u>

Invited to provide this information	a) National circumstances, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks b) Impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities, as appropriate c) National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals, and actions d) Implementation and support needs of, and provision of support to, developing-country parties

Invited to provide this additional information, as appropriate	e) Implementation of adaptation actions and plans, including
	
	    i. Progress and results achieved
	
	    ii. Adaptation efforts of developing countries for recognition
	
	    iii. Cooperation on enhancing adaptation at the national, regional, and international levels, as appropriate
	
	    iv. Barriers, challenges, and gaps related to the implementation of adaptation
	
	    v. Good practices, lessons learned, and information sharing
	
	    vi. Monitoring and evaluation
	
	f) Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including those that result in mitigation co-benefits
	
	g) How adaptation actions contribute to other international frameworks and/or conventions
	
	h) Gender-responsive adaptation action and Traditional Knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems related to adaptation, where appropriate
	
	i) Any other information related to adaptation.

What Information Can Countries Include in Their AdComs?

To guide what types of information countries should include in their AdComs, elements were put forward under the UNFCCC Decision 9/CMA.1 (UNFCCC, 2018). Reflecting AdComs' voluntary and flexible nature, all these elements are optional—should a country decide to submit an AdCom, most prioritize elements a–d (see Table 1). Detailed advice on the preparation of information for each of these elements is available in the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee draft supplementary guidance (Adaptation Committee, 2022).

3
Leveraging the NAP Process for AdComs

The NAP process, established under the UNFCCC Cancun Adaptation Framework in 2010, drives adaptation efforts in many countries. The NAP process is about putting climate change adaptation at the heart of decision making toward the achievement of climate-resilient development. It is a strategic process through which countries are identifying and addressing their medium- and long-term priorities for adapting to climate change (Hammill et al., 2020; Least Developed Countries Expert Group, 2012). To date, 139 of 154 developing countries have reported having started a NAP process (UNFCCC Secretariat, 2022).

The NAP process involves "identifying current and future climate risks, designing and implementing strategies to manage them, and tracking progress to see if or how these strategies are working" (Hammill et al., 2020). Through NAP processes, countries are building up systems and capacities to make adaptation planning a core part of national decision making and budgeting rather than a niche or fragmented exercise.

NAPs are a foundation for adaptation at scale, and AdComs are an important instrument for capturing and sharing countries' priorities, progress, and needs for adaptation under the Paris Agreement, as well as for informing the GST.

Countries preparing their AdComs should leverage the progress and results of NAP processes. As AdComs are voluntary and are not meant to add to countries' reporting burden, they do not necessarily need to be comprehensive to be valuable—they can also provide a reasonable summary or "snapshot" of the state of play of adaptation in a country (Dale et al., 2020). The Adaptation Committee has noted that AdComs are an opportunity to "distill the essence of the NAP process" (Adaptation Committee, 2019).

Countries at different stages of the NAP process are making these links. To illustrate this, the following section looks at brief case studies from several countries that the NAP Global Network supported to develop AdComs.

Countries at the Early Stages of Their NAP Process

Several countries with their NAP process in the early stages used the AdCom to consolidate and strengthen information available on the national adaptation landscape.

The **Federal Government of Somalia's** AdCom built on the early progress made under the country's NAP process. Somalia has a Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness program on adaptation planning underway with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a delivery partner, and the [NAP Framework](#) in 2022 to set out the country's vision and mandate for the NAP process (Federal Government of Somalia, in press). The AdCom also built on adaptation information available in the country's NC and NDC. Somalia's adaptation needs are significant as a conflict-affected least developed country (LDC) experiencing challenges that include "extreme and frequent droughts, floods, desert locusts and other extreme weather events" (Federal Government of Somalia, in press). Despite these challenges, the AdCom highlights that with the "establishment of political, social, environmental, and economic systems … [the country is] showing great signs of progress, however fragile" (Federal Government of Somalia, in press).

Namibia also developed the country's first AdCom based on early progress made under the NAP process, drawing on vulnerability and adaptation assessments captured in four NCs and four biennial update reports to the UNFCCC. Namibia also included initial adaptation priorities in its updated NDC in 2021. Namibia's AdCom development included regional stakeholder consultations, and the adaptation priorities articulated in the AdCom are now informing the Namibia government's draft proposal for the GCF Readiness program focused on NAP support and providing adaptation information to be included in the country's sixth national development plan (NAP Global Network, 2022b).

For countries early in the NAP process, an AdCom can have the double benefit of consolidating adaptation information as well as sharing the latest adaptation priorities and lessons as these are being articulated more comprehensively in the country's (future) NAP document.

Countries Finalizing and Launching Their NAPs

For countries in the process of finalizing and launching a NAP document, the AdCom served as an opportunity to advocate for their adaptation support needs as they looked to navigate the transition from planning to implementation.

Liberia was one of the first countries to access NAP support through the GCF Readiness program and, with the United Nations Development Programme as their delivery partner, launched the country's first NAP document in December 2021. As the Liberia Environmental Protection Agency finalized the NAP document, they identified the need to step up communication and outreach to national stakeholders to rally support for the transition from planning to implementation. The AdCom was developed to accompany the NAP document, and serves as a concise articulation of the country's priorities for the period 2020–2030, helping elevate the country's approach to adaptation for national and international audiences.

Haiti also developed an AdCom that was closely aligned with and published just ahead of the country's first NAP document. Like Liberia, the AdCom supports and complements the NAP

document by boosting the visibility and profile of the country's significant support needs to transition from planning to implementation and scale up adaptation.

Countries Implementing Their NAP and Undertaking NAP Progress Reporting

For countries with a NAP document already under implementation, the AdCom served to highlight information, lessons, and learning collected through their monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) approaches. In these cases, the AdCom shared an overview of progress achieved and future support needs.

Burkina Faso launched the country's first NAP in 2015 and conducted an evaluation of the first 5 years of NAP implementation (Government of Burkina Faso, 2021). The AdCom highlights lessons learned, good practices, and recommendations from the evaluation, such as the early wins on capacity building and efforts to align the NAP and NDC, as well as areas for improvement (e.g., the need to improve communication, better engage civil society and women's organizations in implementation, and refine the MEL approach).

Saint Lucia launched its first NAP in 2018 and developed the first NAP progress report and AdCom jointly. As Saint Lucia has a sector-led approach to adaptation, the documents present a detailed picture of different sectors' accomplishments on adaptation as well as progress on integrating cross-cutting considerations such as gender-responsive and youth-related adaptation projects. These documents provide a valuable state of play for adaptation in the country—though the AdCom highlights "learning" as an area to be strengthened in future NAP progress reporting, calling for international support for "facilitating enhanced learning about and understanding of adaptation needs and actions" (Government of Saint Lucia, 2022).

The tri-island state of **Grenada, Petite Martinique, and Carriacou** launched its first NAP in 2017 and has drafted a NAP progress report and AdCom documenting good practices and lessons from the first 5 years of implementation. This includes the finding that the NAP is effectively serving as the "flagship instrument for climate finance" that is "instrumental in strengthening the credibility of funding proposals, thus enhancing access to climate finance" (Government of Grenada, in press).

The above examples show that countries at different stages of the NAP process can strategically leverage the results of the NAP process to develop their AdCom and advance their adaptation goals. The following section will review trends in the AdComs submitted to the UNFCCC by developing countries so far.

5
Trends in Developing Countries' AdComs

Trends in Content

Most countries have chosen to include the four main elements from Decision 9/CMA.1 (elements a–d) that they are invited to provide, as well as including information toward at least one aspect of elements e–i (which countries are invited to provide "as appropriate"). This is generally consistent with industrialized (Annex I) countries' AdComs.

Figure 3. Elements included in developing-country AdComs (39 total)

	Number of AdComs
a) National circumstance, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks	31
b) Impacts, risks, and vulnerabilities, as appropriate	28
c) National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals, and actions	37
d) Implementation and support needs of, and provision of support to, developing country parties	33
At least one of elements e-I ("invited to provide this additional information, as appropriate")	34

Source: Authors.

Trends by Region

Regionally, the majority of AdComs by developing countries have been from countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean regions. Few have been submitted from countries in the Asia Pacific region, and none have yet been submitted from the Eastern European region.
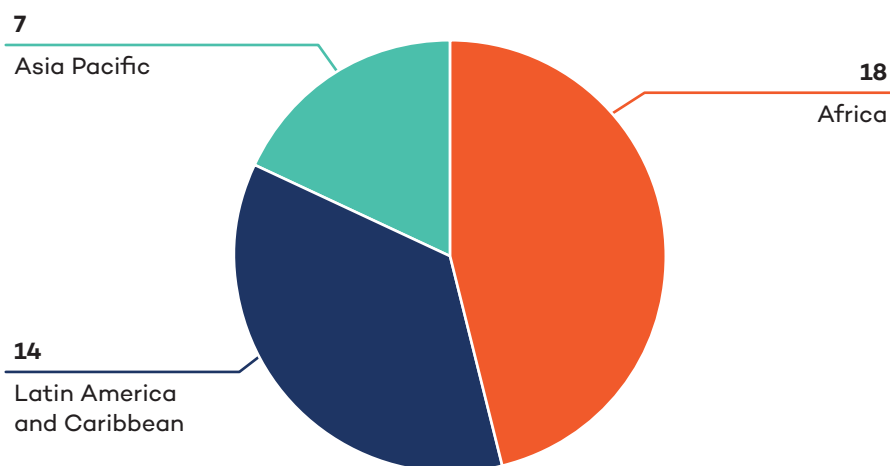
Figure 4. Developing-country AdComs by region

Source: Authors.

Trends in Submissions by Small Island Developing States and LDCs

The 39 developing countries that have submitted an AdCom include the following:

- 7 of the 37 Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- 12 of the 46 LDCs

Notably, many SIDS and LDCs have presented adaptation information in other documents—11 SIDS and 19 LDCs have submitted NAPs to the UNFCCC[6] (NAP Global Network, 2023), and almost all LDCs' and SIDS' NDCs include adaptation (Climate Watch, 2023). SIDS and LDCs have consistently highlighted the need to avoid the additional and undue reporting burdens under the UNFCCC negotiations (Barakat & Endalew, 2019; Kato & Ellis, 2016; Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, n.d.), making it especially important to leverage existing work and strategically integrate it into existing adaptation-planning efforts.

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[6] As of April 30, 2023.

Trends in Information on Adaptation Costs and Funding

AdComs can be an opportunity to define the adaptation funding needs and gaps. Many AdComs include some information on the costs of adaptation or financing received. The framing of these costs includes

- Providing an aggregate total cost estimate for adaptation for a selected period. For example, the Federal Government of Somalia estimates financial needs for adaptation to be USD 58.5 billion for the period 2021–2030 (Federal Government of Somalia, in press).

- Presenting aggregate cost estimates of adaptation between "unconditional" (funding a country expects to be able to achieve via domestic resources) and "conditional" (i.e., funding for adaptation that will require international support), which is a common framing of costs in NDCs (Greiner et al., 2021). For example, Angola's AdCom, which is part of its NDC, shares the estimate that the country will require USD 68 million in conditional finance and USD 76 million in unconditional finance for adaptation (Government of Angola, 2021). Namibia's AdCom estimates USD 170 million in unconditional funding and USD 1.55 billion in conditional funding from 2021 to 2030 (Government of Namibia, 2021).

- Providing a cost estimate for specific sectors. For example, Nigeria's AdCom provides indicative estimates in the agriculture, water resources, health, and transport sectors to address any projected losses—for example, adaptation costs for the transport sector are expected to rise from USD 5.33 billion per year in 2020 to USD 9.69 billion per year in 2050 (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2021).

- Providing information on adaptation financing secured for planning (including the formulation of NAPs) and implementation. For example, Antigua and Barbuda highlights international public finance accessed via the GCF Readiness program on adaptation planning, Global Environment Facility, and Adaptation Fund, as well as funding available for adaptation through a domestic climate change fund, the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund.

This information sheds light on the adaptation finance landscape. But to avoid an undue reporting burden in preparing an AdCom, governments should carefully consider the strategic benefit of adaptation-costing exercises. Murphy (2022, p. 21) cautions that "generating costing information can be expensive, time-consuming, and require extensive stakeholder input—and costing is often redone in a more detailed manner by the government and potential funders at the project design stage."

Trends in Integration of Gender in AdComs

In recent years, countries have made progress toward gender-responsive NAP processes, integrating gender considerations into adaptation planning, implementation, and MEL (Dazé & Hunter, 2022; NAP Global Network & UNFCCC, 2019).

Many developing countries are using the AdCom to highlight their efforts on integrating gender considerations in adaptation. Of the 39 developing-country AdComs submitted to date, over half (23) have included a dedicated section on gender. For example, Zimbabwe includes a description of gender issues that influence vulnerability to climate change, including disparities in land rights and access to markets. The AdCom also mentions other groups that may be disproportionately affected, including people with disabilities, older people, and youth (Government of Zimbabwe, 2022). Approximately a quarter (11) include a mention of gender in the AdCom, as in the case of Colombia's NDC, which includes gender equality and women's empowerment as a guiding principle and mentions these issues in different parts of the document (Government of Colombia, 2020). A few (4) mention gender in the vehicle document (e.g., NDC, NC) but not within the section of the vehicle document that serves as the AdCom. An example is South Africa, which used its NDC. Though gender is not mentioned in the adaptation section, it is mentioned in relation to support requirements, as well as in the description of the process used to update the NDC, which was described as gender responsive (Republic of South Africa, 2021).

Figure 5. How gender is included in developing countries' AdComs (39 total)

2
Not mentioned

4
Mentioned in vehicle document outside of section marked as adaptation communication (AdCom)

21
Dedicated section

12
Mentioned without a dedicated section
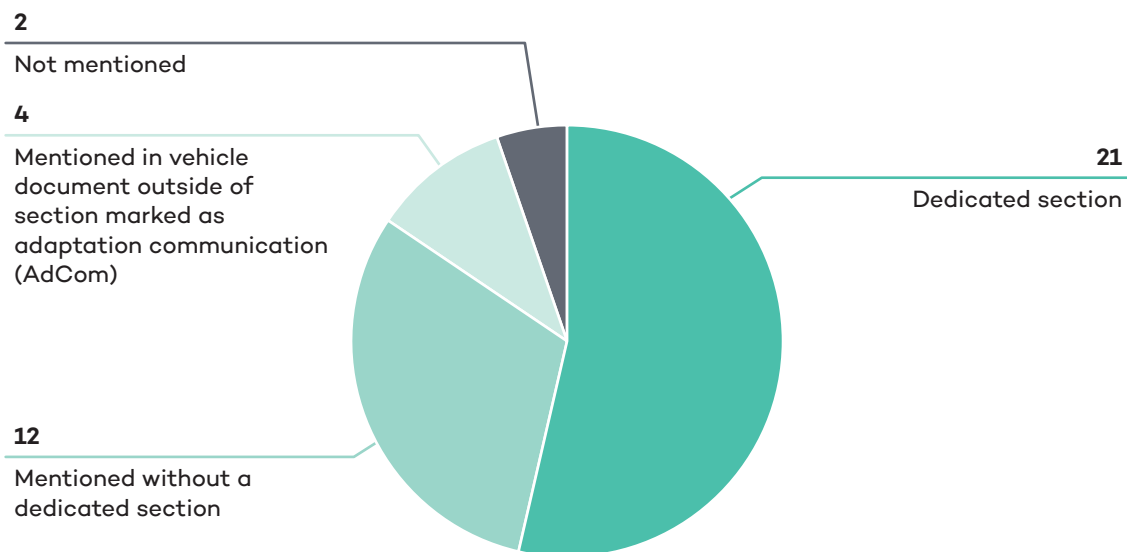
Source: Authors

Though women and girls are often framed as a vulnerable group, some AdComs—like those submitted by Ecuador, Nigeria, and Vietnam—highlight women's role as agents of change in climate change adaptation.

Of the AdCom elements, element "h" ("Gender-responsive adaptation action and Traditional Knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge systems related to adaptation, where appropriate") combines many important themes. Given the flexible nature of AdComs, countries may consider having separate sections for gender and for Indigenous, Traditional, and local knowledge in adaptation, respectively.

Trends in Highlighting Case Studies and Examples of Implementation

AdComs provide a means to highlight examples of how climate change adaptation is already being implemented and how the results achieved so far are building resilience and reducing vulnerability and to share lessons to inform future adaptation efforts.

- Several countries highlight flagship adaptation projects. For example, Antigua and Barbuda shares a list of implemented projects across sectors, such as a USD 10 million project to reduce a community's vulnerability to the impacts of extreme rainfall in the Northwest McKinnon's Watershed. The project restored waterways to prepare for flooding, and encouraged community members to access low-interest loans from a domestic environment fund for building the resilience of their homes. The AdCom shares the lesson that the project worked because it emphasized "improving the adaptive capacity of community groups" and incorporated social and gender considerations (Government of Antigua and Barbuda, 2021).

- Other countries present an overview synthesis of adaptation projects that have been implemented across the country. For example, Haiti's and Madagascar's AdComs provide project information in an overview table complemented by a set of cross-cutting lessons; Madagascar highlights the importance of community-based adaptation and ecosystem-based approaches.

- As a hybrid of the two approaches, Mexico's AdCom provides a detailed overview of pilot adaptation projects that have been implemented across the country in different types of ecosystems (e.g., coastal wetlands, forests, coastal watersheds, semi-arid zones) and, like Madagascar's, reflects that ecosystem-based adaptation is proving to be a promising and cost-effective approach for climate change adaptation in protected areas.

As countries look to scale up the implementation of their adaptation through the NAP process, documenting and sharing stories of progress on adaptation provides important inspiration for what can be built on and replicated.

6
Lessons on the Process for Preparing AdComs: Reflections from NAP Global Network support

Recognizing the growing interest in developing AdComs and their close link to NAP processes, the NAP Global Network opened a support window for AdCom preparation in 2020 through its short-term technical assistance mechanism, the Country Support Hub.

The NAP Global Network has to date accompanied 22 partner countries (see footnote 1) in the process to leverage their NAP processes to prepare their first AdComs. The following section presents lessons from NAP Global Network support about the process for developing an AdCom.

Consultation and Inclusion

All of the 22 countries that the NAP Global Network partnered with on AdCom development undertook some level of consultation and engagement with interested parties—this often included an inception workshop, a consultation workshop on an interim draft, and a validation workshop of the final draft.

Though AdComs should not add significantly to governments' reporting burden under the UNFCCC, many partner countries emphasized that consultation—linked to, or at a minimum coordinated with, ongoing consultations under the NAP process—was important in order to reflect the priorities and needs of different sectors and engaged groups and constituencies and to ensure that adaptation efforts are inclusive.

These experiences suggest that AdComs and related consultations could play a role in a country's approach to updating adaptation information under the NAP process; that is, future iterations of an AdCom could be timed to complement iterations of a NAP document, noting this approach and timing would be specific to a country's adaptation context.

Timelines, Process, and Level of Detail

Most AdComs supported by the NAP Global Network were developed within a 6-to-12-month timeframe, with several AdComs requiring additional time for internal clearance and official

approval (e.g., Cabinet approval). Final approvals, though essential, were often a source of delays in submission to the UNFCCC, highlighting the importance of embedding AdComs in adaptation planning processes across government administrations.

An independent consultant normally supported the country's NAP team and managed the AdCom development process. To avoid the "fly-in/fly-out" model of consultancy, the NAP Global Network prioritized the engagement of national or regional experts.

The length and level of detail of each AdCom varied greatly based on national needs and priorities. The average page length of a developing-country AdCom is 45 pages—AdComs integrated into vehicle documents such as NDCs and NCs tend to be much shorter (an average of 23 pages for countries that used a vehicle document).

AdComs' length and level of detail were also determined by the emphasis and importance that a country's NAP team placed on the different purposes of an AdCom (see Box 1)—for example, a longer and more detailed AdCom may provide more detailed lessons and learning on adaptation and a rich input to the GST, but a more concise AdCom may be strategic as a means for advocating for greater funding support or as a communications tool for interested parties.

As countries consider when to develop their first (or next) AdCom and consider how best to streamline and embed it into the national processes, one consideration will be to align the periodicity of AdComs with the GST,[7] which will take place every 5 years, or the submission of a BTR. However, providing input to the GST may be one of several considerations in establishing a timeline for the AdCom, alongside the national cycle of MEL and NAP progress reporting.

AdComs' Added Value at the National Level

AdComs were established as an international reporting instrument, but country partners have highlighted that they are useful for a range of purposes at the national level, such as

- Supporting information sharing and communication on adaptation—providing a national overview on adaptation for interested parties across government, civil society, and the private sector at a specific moment in time.
- Providing information needed for funding proposals, with several partner countries reporting that the AdCom has been a useful source for adaptation information to support GCF proposals.

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[7] Decision 9/CMA.1 (UNFCCC, 2018) says parties to the UNFCCC should "periodically" submit an AdCom and invites parties to do so in time to inform each GST. The first GST is underway with its final "Consideration of Outputs" phase scheduled to begin at COP 28. The second GST's information collection and preparation phase will begin in 2026 and end in 2028. For more information, see Qi, 2022.

- Articulating adaptation priorities that require funding in the near term after the AdCom's publication—especially for countries that don't yet have these priorities published in a NAP document. For example, the NAP Global Network provided short-term technical support to Ghana and Eswatini in response to priorities articulated in the two countries' AdComs (district-level vulnerability and risk assessments in Ghana and integration of Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge in the adaptation planning in Eswatini).

The process of developing an AdCom also provided an opportunity to engage and build the capacities of interested parties and actors on adaptation. Recommendations for doing so were developed in the COP 26 Catalyst Action Group (2021) report *Action Recommendations on Capacity Building for Adaptation Communications.*

Box 2. Experiences piloting the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Adaptation Communication Drafting Assistance Tool (AdComm-DAT)

To assist adaptation planners in developing countries with preparing AdComs, the GIZ developed the Adaptation Communication Drafting Assistance Tool (AdComm-DAT) to assist countries that had chosen to prepare and submit their AdCom as a stand-alone document. The tool offers non-prescriptive guidance and reduces the reporting burden to a minimum by providing a structure based on the proposed elements of an AdCom.

Country teams from Mexico and Vietnam used the tool in developing their respective AdComs, and other governments supported by the NAP Global Network referred to the tool to help structure consultations (e.g., using the tool's questions to structure consultation exercises).

The AdComm-DAT is available in Word and web-based formats at https://adcomm-dat. org/.

7
Conclusion and Key Lessons

The first generation of AdComs being submitted to the UNFCCC provides critical information on the state of play of adaptation across the world. They help address the fragmentation of climate change-adaptation information and are proving useful for a wide range of actors and processes.

> In preparing an AdCom, countries should leverage the outputs and results of the NAP process—and experience shows this can be equally true whether a country is in the early stages of the NAP process or several years into implementing its NAP.

The NAP Global Network's experiences partnering with countries to help prepare their AdComs yielded the following key lessons.

- **Though voluntary, AdComs can have significant strategic value—NAP teams should consider how to make use of them to best advance their goals on adaptation and their NAP processes.** AdComs' flexibility allows countries to determine an approach that best suits their circumstances. Even when faced with capacity constraints, concise AdComs can have strategic value to boost adaptation's profile and visibility, provide national input into the GST process, advocate for adaptation funding, and share learning on adaptation.

- **NAP teams should involve consultation as part of the process to develop the AdCom, even while avoiding undue reporting burdens.** The process of developing an AdCom is a chance to engage a government's interested parties and actors to build a common understanding and vision for adaptation. The reporting burden can be reduced by aligning these processes with consultations as part of the NAP process to build on its results.

- **If countries choose to include an adaptation chapter in their next enhanced or updated NDCs or BTRs, they can look to AdCom elements and guidance, as well as how peer countries have approached their AdComs.** Most developing countries have chosen to include adaptation in their NDC. As there is currently no guidance for preparing an NDC adaptation chapter, the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee has highlighted that countries can structure NDC adaptation chapters according to the AdCom elements (as countries that used their NDC as a vehicle document for the AdCom have already done). Countries will also have the option to include adaptation in BTRs to the UNFCCC from 2024 onwards—and though there is guidance available under Decision 18/CMA.1 for the preparation of adaptation in BTRs, there may be benefits for countries to align their approach to collecting data and information on adaptation under different processes (Dale et al., 2020).

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