

Submission from the International Institute for Sustainable Development Gender and Climate Change Mandate: Table 4, D6, Annex to 3/CP.25

This submission presents views from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on lessons learned among Parties that have integrated gender into national climate policies, plans, strategies and action and on the actions that Parties are taking to mainstream gender in any updates thereto.

This submission is based on research and analysis undertaken by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network Secretariat. It focuses on the lessons learned from integrating gender considerations in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

More details and specific country examples can be found in [the Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement NAPs](#), developed in collaboration with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Adaptation Committee. This [blog](#) outlines the ways in which the NAP process can support implementation of the enhanced UNFCCC Gender Action Plan.

Common challenges among countries in integrating gender considerations in NAP processes

Our first synthesis report, [Towards Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes: Progress and Recommendations for the Way Forward](#), was completed in 2018. Using a systematic analysis of NAP documents, combined with dialogue among countries at our Targeted Topics Forum in February 2018, we identified common challenges among countries in relation to integrating gender considerations in adaptation planning and implementation. These challenges were highlighted in our July 2019 submission to the Adaptation Committee on mainstreaming gender considerations into national adaptation planning and implementation, which can be found [here](#).

Lessons related to gender analysis to inform NAP processes

The NAP Global Network collaborated with six country governments in Africa (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Guinea-Conakry, Madagascar and Togo) to undertake targeted gender analyses to inform their NAP processes. These analyses provide an understanding of country-specific gender and adaptation issues and identify gaps and opportunities for integrating gender in NAP processes. Although the countries are at different stages in the formulation and implementation of their NAPs, each felt that they had reached a strategic moment to conduct these analyses to inform the coming steps in the process.

The specific methodology for the gender analyses varied from country to country; however, in general, it involved a review of available literature combined with stakeholder consultations through interviews

and workshops. Each analysis involved ongoing communication and collaboration with the government team leading the NAP process to ensure that it was as targeted as possible and linked to emerging entry points for its application.

Each gender analysis was comprised of four major components:

1. A policy and institutional analysis on gender and climate change adaptation
2. A technical analysis exploring the links between gender and climate change to identify practical considerations for prioritizing, implementing, and monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions
3. Analysis of the implications for the NAP process
4. Development of recommendations for the NAP process

A number of lessons were learned through the process of conducting NAP-focused gender analyses. These are documented in the briefing note, [Conducting Gender Analysis to Inform National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes: Reflections from six African countries](#). The key findings and lessons were also included in previous submissions, including our March 2019 submission on the Gender Action Plan Activity E.1 (available [here](#)) and the submission to the Adaptation Committee in July 2019 (available [here](#)).

The specific country gender analysis reports are also available:

- Bénin (French only): [Pour un Processus de Plan National d'Adaptation \(PNA\) qui Réponde aux Questions de Genre au Bénin](#)
- Côte d'Ivoire (French only): [Pour un Processus de Plan National d'Adaptation \(PNA\) qui Réponde aux Questions de Genre en Côte d'Ivoire](#)
- Ethiopia: [Integrating Gender Considerations in Ethiopia's National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Process](#)
- Guinea-Conakry (French only): [Pour un Processus de Plan National d'Adaptation \(PNA\) qui réponde aux questions de genre en Guinée](#)
- Madagascar (French only): [Pour un Processus de Plan National d'Adaptation \(PNA\) qui Réponde aux Questions de Genre à Madagascar](#)
- Togo (French only): [Orientations pour la prise en compte du genre dans le processus de Plan National d'Adaptation \(PNA\) du Togo](#)

In another example, the Government of Kiribati worked with the NAP Global Network to undertake a gender analysis during the process of updating its NAP document. The report, [Strengthening Gender Considerations in Kiribati's National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Process](#), provided recommendations which have been included in the updated [Kiribati Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management](#), which was recently submitted to the UNFCCC as its NAP document.

Areas of progress on integrating gender considerations in NAP processes

Our forthcoming second synthesis report assesses progress on integrating gender considerations in NAP processes. Two years on from the first synthesis, we see that significant progress has been made in certain areas, notably in terms of positioning of women as adaptation stakeholders and the use of gender analysis for adaptation planning. At the same time, however, there are a number of areas where

there is limited evidence of progress and we believe that more effort is needed. These include the establishment of inclusive and gender-equitable mechanisms for sustained stakeholder engagement, as well as consideration of gender in the institutional arrangements that are established for adaptation. The table below provides an overview of our assessment of progress in six key areas. These assessments are based on a systematic review of NAP documents, review of a selection of NAP readiness proposals to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and documentation and monitoring of NAP Global Network country engagement.

Area	Assessment of progress	Explanation
Positioning of women as adaptation stakeholders	Significant progress	More NAP documents are recognizing women as a stakeholder group in the adaptation planning process, and a number explicitly recognize women’s leadership in adaptation. Though only an initial step towards a truly inclusive approach, this represents a positive shift in the framing of adaptation and gender issues.
Use of gender analysis to inform adaptation planning	Significant progress	A number of countries have already conducted targeted gender analyses to inform different steps in their NAP processes. Further, more than half of GCF NAP readiness proposals include activities related to use of gender analysis and/or sex-disaggregated data to inform adaptation planning. These efforts will help to ensure more informed and gender-responsive adaptation action, while also contributing to the evidence base on the gender dimensions of climate change in different contexts.
Creation of an enabling legal and policy environment for gender-responsive NAP processes	Some progress	Some countries are making the linkages between climate change and gender equality at the national level, through the development of gender and climate change strategies and establishment of gender screening and social safeguard processes for adaptation policies, plans and programs. These efforts contribute to raising awareness of actors across the government and beyond, and can help to put in place the mandates, systems and capacities needed to integrate gender in NAP processes.
Integration of gender considerations in monitoring & evaluation (M&E) of adaptation	Some progress	The majority of NAP documents demonstrate that gender is expected to be integrated in the M&E systems established for adaptation, but in most cases, details are not provided. A number of the NAP readiness proposals also indicate that M&E related activities will address gender considerations. M&E is a challenging area for countries in general, but there are a number of ways to ensure that the systems established are gender-responsive.
Inclusive and gender-equitable stakeholder engagement in the NAP process	Limited progress	While some NAP documents indicate that women/women’s organizations participated in the formulation of the plan, there is less evidence that countries are establishing platforms for sustained stakeholder engagement, including through the GCF projects. As NAP processes advance, it will be essential that countries create inclusive mechanisms for ongoing stakeholder engagement, from national to local levels, and that these are communicated and facilitated in a gender-responsive manner.

Consideration of gender in institutional arrangements for adaptation	Limited progress	Few of the NAP documents present any evidence that gender has been considered in the institutional arrangements for adaptation, and only a third of the GCF proposals mention establishment of institutional arrangements with consideration of gender. Going forward, it will be important to establish sustainable mechanisms for collaboration between gender and climate change actors, as well as to track, report and improve on gender equity in institutional arrangements in the NAP process over time
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The way forward: Priorities for the coming years

Looking forward, the areas presented above will continue to be important: where progress has been made, ongoing efforts will be needed to promote replication in other countries and continuous improvement in practice towards gender-responsive NAP processes; where limited progress has been made, more attention and investment is required. Governments, development partners and support programs must commit resources, build capacities and allow time for further progress to be made.

There are a few other areas where additional investment will be needed in the coming years to build on the current momentum:

- **Capacity development**, focusing both on understanding context-specific gender and climate change linkages and on practical tools and approaches for gender-responsive adaptation.
- **Vertical integration in the NAP process**, to strengthen the linkages between national and sub-national adaptation decision making, towards an understanding of context-specific gender issues that must be considered at different levels.
- **Gender-responsive adaptation finance**, to ensure that investment decisions by governments, development partners and the private sector take gender into consideration (please see [this blog](#) for more details).

Documentation and sharing of experiences and lessons learned – including through peer learning and [self-assessment](#) processes – will continue to be important, to demonstrate progress under the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan, as well as to inspire action towards gender-responsive and inclusive approaches in all NAP processes.

The second synthesis report will be available in the coming weeks at: <http://napglobalnetwork.org/resources/>