



Women's Environment & Development Organization

Information on experiences with the application of the guidelines for the national adaptation plan process for least developed country Parties: lessons learned for enhanced integration of the gender dimension in adaptation planning processes.

The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) welcomes the invitation to relevant UNFCCC observers organizations to submit views and information on experiences on the application of guidelines for the formulation of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process for LDCs as per paragraph 7 of the decision 5/CP.17. In this submission WEDO shares information on experiences from recent years of Parties' efforts to mainstream gender in adaptation planning to encourage more LDCs and other developing countries to have a comprehensive approach for adaptation planning, which accounts for the gender dimension.

The Cancun Adaptation Framework enabled a process for Least Developed Countries to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) building upon their experiences in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). The Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) produced a report on the planning of activities related to adaptation in LDCs and noted the efforts of gender mainstreaming. Gender equality was one of the criteria used for ranking priority activities as part of a multi-criteria analysis for the adaptation program. In addition, throughout the NAPAs and other adaptation activities and processes, women's participation was a key component in all stages and at all levels. The LEG reflected on its past work in analyzing adaptation projects in the LDCs, in implementing NAPA projects, as well as other programs such as the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and the Africa Adaptation Program (AAP). In the LEG's outline it was noted that the deliberate integration of gender equality issues in the design and implementation of NAPA projects was a one of the top best practices. Below are examples from the experiences of the PPCR and the AAP of gender mainstreaming in adaptation programs and activities.

Experience from the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)

The Climate Investment Funds Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) is closely aligned with the UNFCCC's interpretation of National Adaptation Planning. The PPCRs are intended to build upon the experience of the NAPAs and be closely aligned with a country's development plans. Experience from the PPCR may input into how well the NAPs guidelines can be implemented, particularly as related to 'gender-sensitive tools and approaches'. So far, there are 20 country and regional programs, of which, most (about 18) at least mention the importance of gender equality concerns, particularly women's participation, in their terms of reference and/or strategic programs for climate resilience. The most comprehensive and thorough inclusion of gender considerations, using WEDO questions (Annex) as a guidance tool, came from Bangladesh, which consulted a gender specialist, developed a gender strategy and action plan, consulted ministries of social welfares and of health and family, held extensive consultations with NGOs/CSOs (during which time gender was a key theme discussed) and undertook gender-targeted evaluations and discussions. Not many of the other programs mention consulting with gender specialists and, if gender specialists were included, they were not a part of the core PPCR team or joint mission. Much of the work done on the inclusion of gender considerations was uneven at best. Therefore, a lesson learned from the PPCR experience for the implementation of NAPs guideline may include that there needs to be systematic interpretation of 'gender sensitive tools and approaches' so that countries have clearer and more concrete guidance on how they can meaningfully address gender equality issues in their national adaptation planning

processes. This will enhance their social safeguards, increase climate resilience and help to improve the lives and livelihoods of men, women and children.

Experience from the Africa Adaptation Program (AAP)

In order to cope with the multiple effects of climate change, African LDCs have, with the support of various partners, implemented an adaptation program developed for them. It is the Africa Adaptation Program (AAP), which was launched in 2008 and is being implemented by UNDP. It aims to assist 20 African countries to incorporate climate change risks and opportunities into their national development processes. A wealth of information and experience has generated since the implementation of this program. The information and experiences have greatly contributed to a better understanding of how to address climate change adaptation in Africa, particularly in LDCs. The African least developed countries whose experiences are presented by the LEG are: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania and Sao Tome and Principe. Some of these countries have made gender mainstreaming in adaptation planning a priority. Rwanda, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Malawi and Niger have all identified women as most at risk or more vulnerable to climate change impacts and have taken various measures to ensure their NAPAs address women's particular vulnerabilities to climate change. This has mainly been done through women's participation in the adaptation programmes and activities, particularly in economic empowerment/diversification activities. The experiences and practices of gender mainstreaming adaptation activities by these countries are not exclusive to the NAPAs and can be applied to the medium- and long-term adaptation process to be implemented by the NAPAs.

WEDO requests this information, and other information shared by Parties, the Least Developed Countries Expert group, and other relevant organizations to contribute to the update of information and tools regarding gender equality in adaptation planning. It is expected that these documents will be made available to Parties when taking stock of progress made , and, if necessary, assist in revising the guidelines as mentioned in paragraph 6 of decision 5/CP.17 at its nineteenth session of the conference of Parties.



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The Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) reminds Parties to share information regarding their efforts to mainstream gender in adaptation planning processes when preparing for the February 13, 2013 submission of information on their experiences with the application of guidelines for the national adaptation plan process for least developed countries (Decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 7).

In preparation of this submission, Parties may consider answering the following questions¹:

1. Were the women's and/or gender ministries/departments consulted when identifying and assessing institutional arrangements, programmes, policies and capacities for overall coordination and leadership on adaptation?
2. When assessing available information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, measures to address climate change, and gaps and needs were issues such as sex-disaggregated data and indices or measures of gender-differentiated impacts and needs included?
3. In the comprehensive, iterative assessment of development needs and climate vulnerabilities were women and men's differential needs and vulnerabilities integrated?
4. In developing NAPs did country identify specific needs, options and priorities that would effectively continue to promote participatory and gender-sensitive approaches? If so, are there examples of how the country did this? If not, what are the capacity needs that should be addressed so the country is enabled to effectively promote gender-sensitive approaches to national adaptation planning?
5. In national adaptation planning trainings and activities did you ensure the equitable participation of women and men, involve key stakeholders, especially from communities rendered vulnerable or marginalized, and include women's organizations and/or gender experts?

¹ Contact WEDO Advocacy Coordinator, Rachel Harris, rachel@wedo.org, for more information.