



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment
Climate Change Management Division

National Adaptation Plan Formulation Process



Launching Workshop Proceeding

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1. Background

Climate change presents one of the global challenges of our time. The most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change are the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including Nepal. Globally, the atmospheric temperature is on the rise due to the anthropogenic emissions of the greenhouse gases resulting in uncertain, extreme and unpredictable weather events. This has added challenges to development process of the LDCs, especially for those communities who are already poor and are bearing the brunt of climate stresses and shocks.

Recognizing the need for support to address the adverse impacts of climate change, the Seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2001 adopted the LDC work program. Under the work program, the COP decided that LDCs should be assisted in preparing and implementing National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs) that address the most urgent and immediate adaptation needs and concerns to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Despite global consensus on the need to reduce GHGs emission, failure to act accordingly has accelerated climate change induced extreme events. Realizing this, and that longer and medium term adaptation measures are needed, the sixteen session of the COP held in Cancun, Mexico in 2010 decided to support National Adaptation Planning Processes in LDCs. This includes assisting developing countries to prioritize adaptation actions and calls upon parties to integrate adaptation to climate change as a routine and necessary component of planning at all levels.

Based on this decision, the LDC expert group under the UNFCCC prepared technical guidelines for countries to follow the process, identify priority adaptation program and provide mechanisms by which policies can gradually be modified to become more resilient. The activities under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process are to identify specific needs related to capacity and vulnerability, to direct the process with respect to the needs of the country and priority, to adopt an interactive and participatory process of identification and prioritization of mid-term and long term adaptation actions and integrate them in national and regional plans and to organize stakeholder consultation, communications, awareness raising activities and capacity building activities. The agreed objectives as per the technical guidelines of the national adaptation plan process are to:

- reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by building adaptive capacity and resilience; and
- facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning

processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.

Nepal being the party to UNFCCC recognises that climate induced impacts are not limited to individual sectors and areas, it affects all development sectors, natural resources, infrastructure and livelihood particularly in specific location and context specific settings. It is therefore, necessary for Nepal to identify and prioritize mid to long term adaptation action to fully consider climate change concerns in the national planning and decision making process. For this reason, the Government of Nepal and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE) organized the launch of National Adaptation Plan (NAP) formulation process on September 18, 2015 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The event was supported by the Climate Proofing Growth and Development programme financed by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) through Practical Action.

2. Objectives of the NAP formulation process launching

The prime objectives of NAP formulation process launching workshop was to (a) announce the launching of the NAP process in Nepal; (b) introduce and communicate the NAP process to wider stakeholders; (c) receive feedback and suggestions on proposed NAP process and (d) invite institutions in Nepal to provide technical support and commitments for the NAP formulation process.

3. Programme Detail

Formal Programme:

The programme commenced with Ms. Sushila Pandit welcoming the participants and requesting the Chair and Chief guests to be seated onstage.

3.1 Participants

In total 140 participants representing government, non-government, civil society, federation, association, network, academia, UN agencies, donor and media representatives participated in the launching workshop.

3.2 Chairing

The event was chaired by Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel, Secretary, Ministry of Science Technology and Environment, and the Chief Guests were Dr. Bharatendu Mishra (Member, National Planning Commission Secretariat), Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal (Joint Secretary, Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, and Mr. Gehendra Gurung, Head of Programme - Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Practical Action.

3.3 Welcome Remarks

**Mr. Ram Prasad Lamsal,
Joint Secretary, Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Science,
Technology and Environment (MoSTE)**

Mr. Lamsal welcomed and expressed sincere gratitude to all the participants present during launching workshop. He opened his remarks stating, “Nepal as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world and is at a higher risk from the impact of climate change”. For this reason, it was important to initiate a national process to coordinate



adaptation planning at all relevant scales and with view of a medium to long term. He noted that due to various reasons within the MoSTE, there were some delays in initiating the NAP formulation process. However with this launching event, MoSTE is committed to taking the NAP process forward with support from organizations and institutions working on climate change in Nepal. He emphasized that the NAP process is a country driven participatory process involving all relevant stakeholders, and focusses on a multidisciplinary and complementary approach that builds upon relevant existing plans and programmes. Therefore, the launching event aimed to facilitate coordination with the concerned organizations in order to take forward the national NAP campaign, provide a platform for discussion on technical subject matters, and advance the tasks for the upcoming days. He stressed the importance of active participations and support from all actors. He thanked the World Wildlife Fund who provided initial contribution to the NAP process and thanked Practical Action for supporting the NAP launching event in Nepal.

3.4 Inauguration of NAP Launching in Nepal

Chief Guest Dr. Bharatendu Mishra announced the inauguration for launching of the National Adaptation Plan formulation process in Nepal. The programme being held on the occasion of Science Day, the Chief Guests formally inaugurated the programme by watering the plants which was different from how is usually done.



3.5 Presentation Session

Presenter: Naresh Sharma, Senior Agriculture Expert, Nepal NAP Coordinator, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment

Mr. Sharma's presentation discussed the NAP process, objective, requisite, outcomes, and elements of NAP technical guidelines. He raised attention on proposed the NAP working procedure and process framework, based on the concept note which has been approved by Government of Nepal.



The presentation also covered:

- Adaptation initiation under UNFCCC negotiation process;
- Nepal action on adaptation and climate change policy and programmes;
- The emphasis on mid and long term adaptation plans to address increasing risk and challenges induced by climate change;
- Decisions made under UNFCCC in relation to commencing of National Adaptation Plan Process including information on Durban Conference in 2011 and Nepal commitments on following the NAP technical guidelines prepared for LDC;
- Clarification on the differences between NAPA and NAP process;
- Potential benefits from the National Adaptation Plan formulation and implementation process;
- Updates on initiatives by the Ministry under NAP process;
- Updates on various initiatives undertaken under NAP by various institutions in Nepal;

- Proposed NAP process and working modalities and framework to be led by MoSTE in collaboration with line ministries;
- Proposed sectors based on NAPA are: (1) agriculture and food security, (2) forest and bio-diversity, (3) water resource and energy, (4) public health, (5) climate-induced disasters, (6) urban settlement and infrastructure, (7) tourism, natural and cultural heritage, (8) gender and marginalized group (social inclusion) and (9) livelihoods and governance as two cross-cutting thematic groups;
- The extension of the above into integrated sectoral working groups; and
- Highlights on steps based on the NAP initial guidelines and technical guidelines.

Proposed work procedure for Nepal NAP formulation process

- Initiate and launch of NAP formulation process;
- Establish technical committee under leadership of MoSTE;
- Request concerned ministries with terms of reference (TOR) to set up their thematic working group;
- Provide necessary technical and financial resources to facilitate thematic working groups to stock take and complete their gap and need assessment;
- Each thematic working groups to present the findings for the stock taking and gaps analysis at national and local level consultation events and to collect suggestions from stakeholders on climate change integration into the regular development planning processes;
- Each thematic working group to carry out necessary consultation with the stakeholders to collect review suggestions on addressing climate vulnerabilities and development needs;
- Once each thematic working group undertaken the above, MoSTE will lead the drafting of the NAP implementation strategy and carry out public consultation, interaction and workshop for suggestion and feedback;
- MoSTE will also collect feedback and suggestions on the NAP implementation strategy from concerned ministries;
- Incorporate suggestions and feedback to finalize the NAP implementation strategy, and submit this to Government of Nepal for necessary decision making;
- Implement the NAP strategy and develop clear monitoring and evaluation and reporting process, and
- Concerned ministries lead in accessing finance and implementing identified actions under NAP.

3.6 Remarks

Dr. Bharatendu Mishra, Member of National Planning Commission Secretariat

Dr. Mishra opened his remarks citing that the agriculture sector experiences comparatively higher climate change impacts and noted that in the NAP formulation process it is important to fully consider climate change concerns in planning and decision making process. He emphasized two important aspects as constraints to



development. First, i) that Nepal is a least developed country with poor and marginalized communities, and second that the diverse geographic landscape increases the vulnerability of these communities to the impacts of climate change. These have direct and adverse effects on the economy of the country. For this reason, the NAP process requires leadership from the Government of Nepal with participation and collaboration across sectors to provide a mechanism by which policies can gradually be modified to ensure that Nepal is climate resilient.

He emphasized that Nepal is recovering from a post-earthquake situation and climate change will further aggravate the problems and threats associated with national hazards. He emphasized the importance of research and knowledge and the coordination of technical expertise across sectors such that the NAP process can identify appropriate activities, policies, and programmes for adapting to climate change. The NAP process should establish a strong and reflective monitoring and evaluation system of adaptation needs and measures, and ensure that resources allocated for the NAP implementation are disbursed and utilized in an effective, accountable and transparent manner.

Dr. Mishra highlighted that although the NAP process has been launched, continuous follow-up and meaningful progress is essential to make it a strategic, country-owned adaptation planning process. It is therefore necessary to engage wide range of stakeholders in the process of planning and formulate adaptation activities in the days ahead. He assured that the National Planning Commission would provide its support in this endeavor.

Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel - Secretary of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Government of Nepal

Mr. Paudel addressed the gathering by saying that “No one is separated from the climate change issues as it affects all aspects of life and sectors”. It is no doubt that climate change issues has increasingly gaining importance after the post-earthquake situation and the promulgation of the constitution of Nepal. Therefore it is essential to build synergies across



sectors to take a medium and long term approach to reduce climate vulnerability and ensure that it is integrated with national development planning processes and strategies.

He commented on the proposed nine thematic sectors under the NAP formulation process framework, and call upon concerned stakeholders to provide inputs, views and suggestions. He suggested that there should be deeper level analysis across sectors to identify current trends in climate variables and to synthesize the likely impacts on these sectors to support the NAP process for prioritization, planning and decision making. He also noted the need to raise awareness on the benefits of the NAP process in the country.

He noted that the main reason Nepal is lagging behind is due to lack of capacity in scientific thinking and the inability to ensure environment friendly behavior. He requested all to commit and make resolutions to work on these two issues. He added that the on-going various initiatives on climate change has successfully raising awareness on this topic, and that continued efforts are needed to make it more effective. The general experience has shown that Nepal has experts in preparing good plans and reviewing these. For the NAP process, Nepal should continue its efforts to take a more considered approach and work towards transformational change in its capacity to address adaptation. If Nepal can ensure these elements, it would be able to access financial support to address its climate change problems.

He stressed that NAP process is a shared program and call upon all concerned agencies and organizations to engage in this national endeavor, to coordinate their support, and ensure the sustainability of this national adaptation effort. If a resolution of commitment could be reached, Nepal would be able to develop NAPs covering all areas of Nepal. He also stressed the importance of learning from past processes and utilizing existing institutions and their

experiences. MoSTE noted that is committed and willing to provide support in every step to meet and fulfill the NAP process objectives.

3.7 Technical Discussion and Participants Remarks

Technical session chairman: Ram Prasad Lamsal

Under the chairmanship of Ram Prasad Lamsal, the objective of the technical session was to collect suggestions, queries and advices from the participants in order to make the NAP process inclusive, accountable and responsive. Suggestions from the participants on the presentation have been listed below:

3.7.1 Suggestions

Participants provided inputs and suggestions mainly around the NAP formulation process, inter departmental and organization coordination, research, use of appropriate data and statistics, mainstreaming planning in other sectors, uniformity in NAP process, sectoral technical capacity building and ownership issues. Participant's



suggestions on the presentation have been categorized under five different headings and are listed below:

3.7.1.1. The NAP planning and formulation process

- The NAP process should be taken as an opportunity within the context of sustainable development goals wherein its working areas should be made clearer and its scope widened. It should also understand the context of Nepal and widen its working areas giving appropriate attention to our adaptation priority, climate change adaptation related policy, capacity and focus efforts on areas of expectation that can be achieved.
- As the NAP process aims to prepare long-term plans it should gather learnings from NAPA formulation process in order to define its scope and objectives. This learnings are necessary help determine the objectives of climate adaptation in Nepal. This aspect is especially important during stock taking to lay the ground work for the formulation of the NAP.

- The NAP process and documents will be basis for future support and investment for climate change action in Nepal. It is thus necessary to determine the working areas of the NAP and delineate its scope so that it can provide guidance to prepare proposals to access international funds in the future.
- The NAP process should clearly recognize and ensure integration of climate adaptation in the upcoming development plans and ensure that it addresses local community needs.
- The Government of Nepal has introduced NAP as a national process, however many organizations have identified their existing programs that fall under either NAP or NAPA. It would be ideal to prepare criteria and conditions where various action plans identified contributes to the NAP process.
- The NAP process should take account of experience from, learnings made, and issues observed from ongoing and implemented programmes.
- It would be appropriate for the NAP process and its implementation to be based on climate induced disasters.
- Clarity is required if NAP process will it be approached from the national level or through different thematic areas.
- The NAP formulation process should consider various level of sectoral governance and it tiers to be more effective.
- The NAP process should take account existing institutional mechanisms to ensure that issues and concerns from center to village level are noted and take into consideration.

3.7.1. 2. Inter-departmental and Institutional co-ordination

- In order to ensure ownership by the various ministries of the NAP process, it should be initiated under the existing co-ordination mechanism/ committee so that it does not result in the establishment of new working committee. These existing mechanisms will ensure that resulting work plans are implemented.
- Irrespective of being under the same department the co-ordination within the organization is weaker, therefore, the synchronization between them is a necessity.
- There is an emerging need to understand and reflect present government organizational capacity especially that of its ministries and their respective departments to undertake and be involved in the NAP formulation process.
- The NAP process should promote and facilitate inter-organizational interaction and discussion.
- The proposed membership in the technical working group for inter-organizational coordination mechanism seems to be fairly large. The working group should be made

smaller and the members involved should have clear roles and responsibilities guided by specific terms of reference.

3.7.1.3. Further areas and topics that needs to be included in the NAP process

- It would be useful and effective to identify inter-relationships between thematic sectoral information and their implications on livelihood linking it with development and entrepreneurship.
- The process should be inclusive enough to take every concerns and issues from all climate sensitive sectors and sub sectors.
- It would be effective to include issues around eco-systems and targeting the needs of communities.
- In the NAPA, gender inclusion issues were not thoroughly addressed, thus a lot more attention is needed on this topic in the NAP process.
- Issues on agricultural land use and urbanization should be included in the NAP process.
- Environmental governance should be included in the NAP process.
- Socio-economic aspects especially migration should also be included in the NAP process and facilitated through a separate working group under the NAP process.

3.7.1.4. Research Studies

- It would be good to establish an Information Center or utilize the existing national climate change knowledge management center in order to share and exchange experiences between the various thematic working groups to overcome repetition and duplication of the efforts.
- An initial scoping study is needed as it will advise and guide the development of a comprehensive NAP process.
- The NAP process should prioritize and develop a climate vulnerability index targeted at addressing the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities.
- The initial research is vital for the collection and analysis of sectoral data to contribute to the NAP formulation process. The expertise and experiences of academic research institutions should be utilized and given importance. This will help develop institutional capacity to assess future research needs.
- Another important aspect to take into consideration for the NAP process is local indigenous knowledge and promoting the utilization of the local resources helping to reduce the dependency on donors and the NAP process as a sustainable solution to this problem.

- The NAP implementation strategy should not only include the negative impacts of climate change but also its positive impacts. For example brinjal is now possible to grow in the Mustang area.
- The documentation and sharing of appropriate cases and experiences related to adaptation will facilitate the development and design of intervention plans and programmes for farmers.

3.7.1.5. Policy implementation aspects

- Within the country context, good and effective policies have been developed, however, aspects relating to their implementation and evaluation are weak. Therefore, while initiating the NAP process, monitoring and evaluation aspects should be developed in a scientific manner so that plans iteratively address emerging needs.
- It is observed that the project and programmes on climate change are many and there is little coordination amongst these. Nepal's climate change policies need to be considered so that the projects undertaken are managed in a systematic way and avoid duplication. Once the good coordination is realized, Nepal would be able to adopt strategies for promotion of climate friendly action.
- Requests were made for tools to ensure adequate financial allocation for needed programmes and the direct allocation of resources to target areas.
- With the promulgation of new constitution, Nepal has just undergone administrative and geographic reforms, attention must be drawn towards how NAP process will address this context.

3.7.2 Remarks from Chair

Ram Prasad Lamsal
Joint Secretary, Climate Change Division, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE)

Mr. Lamsal thanked the participants for raising relevant and pertinent issues and believed that the session on technical presentation and discussion was useful to strengthen the NAP process. He noted that Nepal is in the preliminary stage of the NAP process and hence there is neither a need to be concerned nor worried at this stage. He accepted the fact that Nepal has institutions and experts eager to contribute to the NAP process and for this reason facilitation is necessary to utilise the best individual and institutional capacity available. He added that MoSTE highly anticipates technical support to make the NAP process robust and successful. He expressed gratitude towards all the institutions present at the event for showing their commitment, support and cooperation in taking the NAP process forward in a scientific manner. He stressed that this is high time that Nepal improves their decision making process

using science-based evidence and requested the integration of disaster risk reduction issues into the planning process. Finally, he closed his remarks saying that the NAP process is a need, priority and obligation to continuously plan and implement adaptation action at all levels.

3.7.3 Vote of Thanks

Mr. Gehendra Gurung, Department Head, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Practical Action

Mr. Gurung provided additional information on the NAPA and NAP processes and highlighted that the former was designed to address urgent and immediate needs but the latter involves a process to help identify and implement mid and long term plans in a better way to fully consider climate change concerns in planning and decision making. He extended his sincere gratitude for all the guests and participants for their active participation in providing suggestions, inputs and directions to the NAP process. He assured that all the suggestions and feedback will be included in the NAP. He requested all stakeholders to engage and actively participate and contribute on technical aspects based on their sectoral expertise and competency. On behalf of Practical Action, he thanked the DFID Climate Proofing Growth and Development (CPGD) South Asia programme for supporting the organization of the NAP process launching event.

Lastly, Mr Ram Prasad thanked all the participants for making the workshop a success and formally closed the event.