

# Mainstreaming **Climate Change** into National Development Strategies

By: Mohammad Reza Salamat  
Senior Sustainable Development Officer  
DSD/DESA

Capacity Development Workshop and Expert Group  
Meeting on Mainstreaming Sustainable Development  
in National Development Strategies  
New York/ 10 October 2013

# Why **Mainstreaming Climate Change** into **National Development Strategies**?

Because **Climate Change**:

- Is a Development issue
- Is a Cross-cutting issue
- There exist Linkages between both Causes and Consequences of CC and Development
- Has impacts on achieving the MDGs
- CC presents Opportunities for Sustainable Development (Green job creation, poverty reduction and economic development)

# Why Mainstreaming ...?

Therefore, there is a need to:

- Mainstream CC into **National Development Planning and Strategies**
- Develop and implement **Coherent Policies on CC and Development** in an Integrated manner
- Position CC into the **Sustainable Development** context

## Types of National Reporting/Action Plans by **Non-Annex-I Parties**:

1. National Communications (**NCs**)
2. National Adaptation Programmes of Action (**NAPAs**-by LDCs)
3. Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (**NAMAs**)

National Reporting by Parties to UNFCCC is done through “**National Communications**”

National Communications by Non-Annex-I Parties to UNFCCC:

- **INCs** (Initial National Communications); Total: of 145 INCs as of 28 June 2013
- **SNCs**; Total: to 92 SNCs as of 11 Sept 2013
- **TNCs**; Total: 4 as of Aug 2013
- **Fourth NCs**; Total: 1 as of 14 Dec 2009
- **Fifth NCs**; Total: 1 as of 6 Dec 2012

# INCs by Non-Annex-I Parties

- All Non-Annex-I Parties have submitted their Initial National Communications (**INCs**) to the UNFCCC by early 2000
- These **INCs** focused:
  - ✓ Primarily on analyzing Climate Change Impacts and Emissions
  - ✓ Contributed to raising National Awareness on the issue of CC

# NCs by Non-Annex-I Parties

Subsequent NCs:

- Involved broader ranges of **Stakeholders** and institutions
- Explored links with **National Policies**, particularly Development Policies
- Addressed **Adaptation activities** and **Mitigation Strategies**

# Main components of **NCs**

- GHG Inventory
- Mitigation Analysis
- Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment
- Information related to Technology Transfer and to a Tech Needs Assessment
- Approaches for mainstreaming **CC** into **National/Development Planning**
- Education and Public Awareness raising
- Info on Systematic Observation, Research programmes, and constraints and gaps in Financing. Tech, and Capacity Development
- Technical Assistance and Financing Needs



# Lessons learned and best practices from NCs process

1. Engagement of a broad range of Stakeholders from various disciplines, including Ministries (of Environment, Finance, Planning, Energy, Agriculture and Forestry, etc.), the private sector, NGOs, academia and others
2. Establishing a National NC Coordinating entity with strong Leadership
3. Focusing on Institutional and Technical in-country capacity building
4. Maintaining a strong, motivated and stable NC Team

# Engaging a broad range of Stakeholders

## Example-1; The Cook Islands

- The Cook Islands engaged a particularly broad range of stakeholders in its Country Team, not only including an inter-ministerial steering committee, NGOs and research institutions, but also involving community leaders, the religious advisory council and traditional leaders. The country Team was backed up by a strong secretariat that provided management and administrative services

## Example-2; Philippines

The NC preparation involved an inter-agency process in which diverse Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and national consultants participated. Women's groups figured among these

## Example-3; Bolivia

It explicitly involved women's associations and indigenous groups throughout the consultations and meetings of the NC preparation and took particular care to include the interests of these groups in the measures and recommendations set forth in the NC itself

## Capacity Building through the NC process

CB methods used by countries included:

- Learning-by-doing approaches
- On-line Platforms and Networks
- Workshops
- Training Seminars

# Use of NCs to spur Action

Countries use their NCs experiences to:

- Promote CC action at the national level
- Mobilize financial resources
- Help create harmony between the issue of **CC** and **Development** Plans
- In some cases, countries used their NC results and recommendations to revise and enhance the National Legal Framework within certain areas. One example is unclear land ownership, a major barrier for many activities related to climate change impacts, mitigation, or development issues
- Develop project proposals

## Example; Cuba

Much of the scientific knowledge obtained from the INC mitigation analysis in Cuba was used as a basis for their “Energy Revolution”. Starting in 2006, this process consisted of measures at various levels to improve national energy efficiency, largely by replacing inefficient appliances (refrigerators, fans, electric stoves, water heaters, pots, lamps, and so on)

# NAPAs and LDCF

**NAPAs**--National Adaptation Programmes of Action

- Least Developed Countries (LDCs) identified **Adaptation** as their Top Priority
- LDC Fund: COP-7 established the Least Developed Countries Fund (**LDCF**) to support the implementation of the LDC Work Programme
- COP-7 also entrusted the GEF to operate the **LDCF** and provided initial guidance to the GEF to focus on providing support for the preparation of NAPAs

# LDCF

- **LDCF** was tasked with financing the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs)
- As of 12 Nov 2012, 45 **NAPAs** were prepared and submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat



# LDCF

- **LDCF** focusses on those sectors and resources that are central to development and livelihoods, such as water; agricultural and food security; health; disaster risk management and prevention; infrastructure; and fragile ecosystems
- NAPA implementation projects under LDCF are designed in accordance with country priorities and executed by national stakeholders, and involving active participation of vulnerable communities

# LDCF

- GEF has financed, through **LDCF**, the preparation of 50 NAPAs, of which 49 have been completed
- 113 NAPA implementation projects and programmes in 47 countries have been approved for funding, totaling \$591.4 million and mobilizing \$2.7 billion in co-financing (Source: GEF)

# NAPAs/ LDCF

Barriers and possible areas for improvement

- Little understanding at the national level of CC issues in general and adaptation in particular
- A lack of human resources capacities and a weak institutional framework to address CC issues
- Difficulties in accessing relevant data and information
- Challenges in coordination at the national level
- Limited financial resources

# NAMAs

**NAMAs**-Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions  
(by Developing Countries)

- As part of the Doha Agreements, Developing Countries will take **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)** in the context of **Sustainable Development**, supported and enabled by Technology, Financing and Capacity Building
- NAMAs will aim at achieving a deviation in emissions relative to “business-as-usual” emissions in 2020

# NAMAs

- As of 28 May 2013, a total of 57 Developing Country Parties as well as the African Group have communicated information on such NAMAs to the UNFCCC Secretariat
- These NAMAs are diverse and range from project-based actions to economy-wide emission reduction objectives
- **NAMA's Registry**: COP also established a Registry to record information on NAMAs and support, and also to facilitate matching of NAMAs with support available

# NAMAs

## Key Features of NAMAs:

- Are distinct from legally binding Quantified Emission Reduction Commitments/Targets by Developed Countries
- Are on Voluntary basis
- Are concrete actions and project activities within the context of Sustainable Development
- Are based on national circumstances, national sustainable development strategies and priorities of DCs

# NAMAs

## Key Features of NAMAs (Cont.):

- Must be measurable, reportable and Verifiable
- Are enabled by Technology, Finance and Capacity Building to be provided by Developed Countries
- Appropriate mechanisms to be established to match NAMAs with technology, Finance and CB support

# Mainstreaming of **NAMAs**

- Contribution of **NAMAs**:
  - in meeting National Mitigation Goals and Targets
  - to Sustainable Development and other National Development Goals
- Institutional Framework for Governance of NAMAs and Mainstreaming into Development Planning Frameworks



# Conclusions

- Because of multiple interlinkages between CC and Development, **Mainstreaming** CC into National Development Strategies is a necessity
- There exist the required tools within UNFCCC (**NCs**, **NAPAs** and **NAMAs**) to mainstream CC into National Development Planning
- Mainstreaming CC can spur synergistic actions that can achieve both **Mitigation** and **Adaptation** benefits, such as through Ecosystems management
- Cross-cutting policies can deliver synergistic benefits

# Conclusions (Cont.)

- **NAMAs** require an Integrated approach to **Mainstreaming** climate change mitigation within the National Development Planning
- National **SD objectives** are a key driver for **NAMAs**, given the lack of legally binding mitigation targets for DCs
- The aim of **Low-carbon Development Strategies (LCDS)** is to mainstream climate mitigation actions into development planning to promote a *Sustainable Development pathway*