



# UNDP BRIEFING NOTE

## Adaptation to Climate Change: Doing Development Differently

UNDP is focusing its adaptation efforts on climate risk “hot spots” where both vulnerability and climate hazards are high. Drawing upon an extensive package of adaptation services and resources, UNDP will ensure that development gains are delivered where they are most needed – to the countries and communities most at risk.

### CHALLENGE

Climate change is already affecting poor and vulnerable communities around the world. The poor are the least able to recover from adverse climate impacts and their economic growth is highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and forestry. As a result, climate change poses grave risks to attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The estimated costs of adaptation are high by all estimates – they are likely to be in the tens of billions (USD) annually by 2030, above and beyond the costs of development. Even so, early action is cost-effective when compared to the costs of inaction. Existing finance, however, falls far short of what is needed to address adaptation to climate change.

### VISION

Climate change requires us to “do development better.” Greater progress is needed to develop national capacity to support cross-sectoral policy processes as the foundation for sustainable adaptation in coming decades. But better development is only part of the challenge – we must also “do development differently.” To reduce climate change risks, systemic changes to planning and practice are crucial.

### UNDP’S ROLE

With a presence on the ground in more than 160 countries and a UN co-ordinating mandate, UNDP is uniquely placed to assist developing countries to leverage financing to meet national development objectives – using national budgets, the UN system, overseas development assistance, private sector investments, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other innovative sources. UNDP is the principal agency delivering projects through the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), managed by the GEF. Due to their higher vulnerability, LDCs and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are a UNDP priority.

UNDP will use its development expertise to deliver adaptation solutions that go to the heart of the problem through its practice areas of poverty reduction, democratic governance, crisis prevention and recovery, and environment and energy. Partnerships are the most effective way to deliver technical expertise, so UNDP is partnering with specialised agencies to support policy changes, capacity building, and climate risk reduction practices that secure the MDGs in the face of climate change. Activities will build upon the extensive work already undertaken by UNDP with local communities and government ministries to reduce climate vulnerability.

Climate risk management will be incorporated at two levels; national and sectoral development planning, and UN and UNDP programming. UNDP will work with UN Country Teams, Country Offices and governments to address key climate risks and develop long-term programmes that build sustainable capacity and create transformational change to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

### UNDP’S PROGRAMME ON ADAPTATION

UNDP’s programme for adaptation is built upon a **goal** of pro-poor and pro-growth adaptation that supports sustainable economic development and livelihoods.

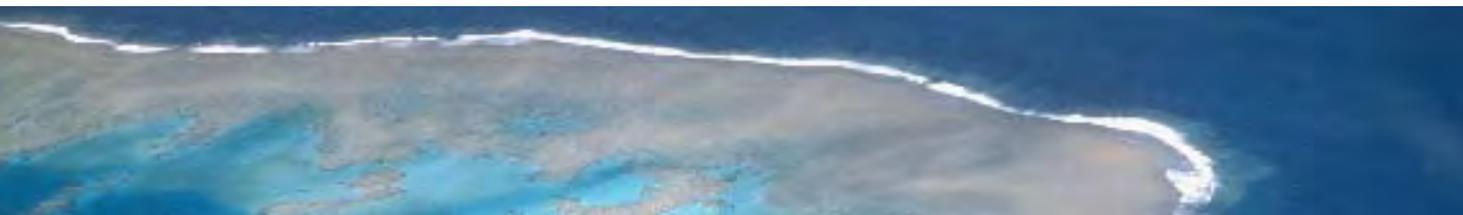
The **objective** is climate-resilient development, including systemic changes to development processes.

Key **outcomes** will be the reduction of climate vulnerabilities and improvement of adaptive capacity, as well as the integration of climate change risks into national planning and poverty reduction efforts. Success will be measured through **indicators and targets** that convey measurable, systemic and sector-wide policy changes.

UNDP offers the following adaptation services (see

overleaf for details):

- **Integrating climate resilience into development planning** – bottom-up risk and adaptation opportunity assessments
- **Programming strategy** – linking assessments, climate change projections, and development priorities; targeting climate “hot spots”
- **Programming guide-lines** – taking a structured approach to adaptation, addressing multiple drivers, monitoring and evaluation
- **Methods for adaptation** – assessing and treating risk and vulnerability through stakeholder processes
- **Awareness and capacity building** – delivering training materials and outreach
- **Knowledge management** – co-ordinating adaptation knowledge sharing



UNDP has developed a unique set of resources to assist developing countries in planning adaptation, ranging from online country adaptation profiles to methodological approaches.

## UNDP'S ADAPTATION SERVICES

### *Integrating climate resilience into UN development planning*

Core UNDP activities reduce vulnerability and identify adaptation measures that deliver development dividends.

- **Screening for key climate change risks and opportunities** to support adaptation in UNDP's practice areas
- **Country portfolio analysis** identifies climate change risks and adaptation opportunities (*draft report available*)

### *Programming strategy*

Programming centres climate risk "hot spots", supported with economic analyses to assist policy makers.

- **Hot spot analysis** is based on vulnerability and hazard data (*draft report available*)
- **Regional strategies** build on UNDP-GEF's *Adaptation Policy Framework* and identify adaptation priorities ([intra.undp.org/gef/adaptation/undp/05\\_RegionalStrat.html](http://intra.undp.org/gef/adaptation/undp/05_RegionalStrat.html))
- **Analysis of economic costs** of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies by sector (*forthcoming 2008*)

### *Methods for adaptation*

Comprehensive guidance for policy-makers.

- UNDP-GEF's *Adaptation Policy Framework* comprises nine technical papers outlining a structured approach to formulating and implementing adaptation strategies, policies, and measures ([www.undp.org/gef/adaptation/climate\\_change/APF.htm](http://www.undp.org/gef/adaptation/climate_change/APF.htm))

### *Programming guidelines*

Project developers are supported with tools ranging from GEF and UNDP guidance to climate risk profiles.

- **Web-based guidelines** describe 10 unique requirements for formulating GEF adaptation projects ([www.undp.org/gef/adaptation](http://www.undp.org/gef/adaptation))
- a **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** describes goals and objectives for vulnerability reduction and building of adaptive capacity in six thematic areas (water, agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, natural resources, coastal zones) in support of MDGs. Includes standard indicators and sample outcomes and indicators for thematic areas ([www.undp.org/gef/adaptation/learning/ME.htm](http://www.undp.org/gef/adaptation/learning/ME.htm))
- **Thematic area guidance** describes impact projections by region (drawing on IPCC's *Fourth Assessment Report*) and outlines development challenges and opportunities in six thematic areas for adaptation (*draft available by request*)

- **Climate Risk Profiles** derive country-level climate change projections (sub-national for large countries) from climate model outputs assessed in the IPCC *Fourth Assessment Report* (*forthcoming, first quarter 2008*)

### *Awareness and capacity building*

Internal capacity is being developed as the starting point for supporting national adaptation and development activities.

- **Adaptation training** delivered to more than 430 UNDP staff by the end of 2007. UNDP's active role is recognised in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's stocktaking on integrating adaptation into climate change and development co-operation
- A 1-hour **web-based training module** on climate change adaptation (*forthcoming, first quarter 2008*)

### *Knowledge management*

The wealth of knowledge created through UNDP activities will be captured and shared with national practitioners.

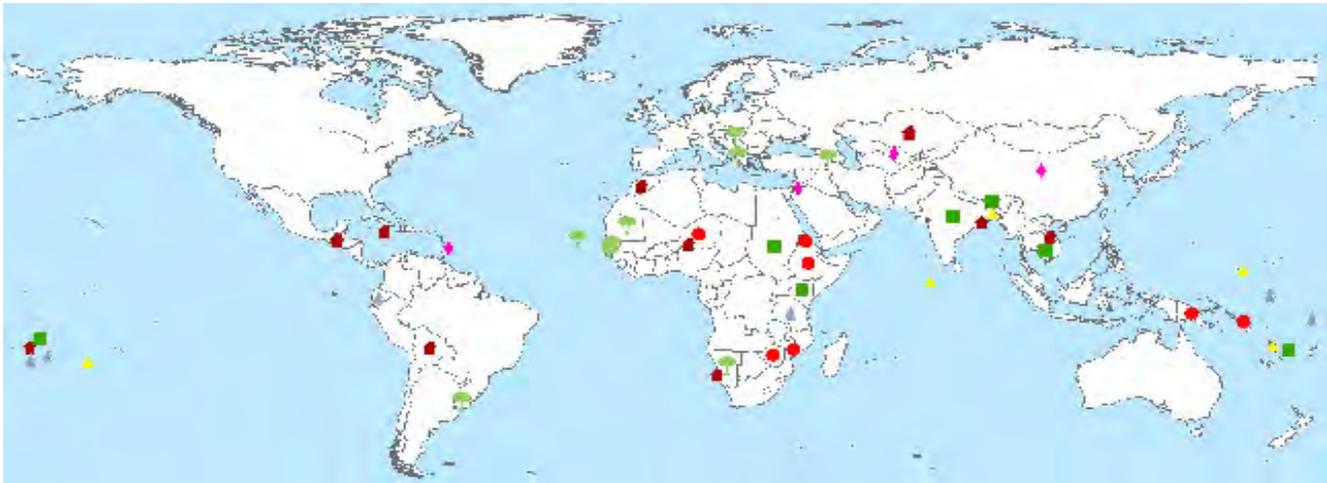
- UNDP's **Country Adaptation Profiles** provide information on climate change and national initiatives for 140+ developing countries ([www.adaptationlearning.net](http://www.adaptationlearning.net)). Users can also submit information to the database.
- *Planning Adaptation to Climate Change: Ten Lessons Learned from Project Development at UNDP*. A review of adaptation planning based on 11 project development processes (*draft available*)
- The **Adaptation Learning Mechanism** is a \$1 million project that captures and disseminates adaptation experiences and good practices via an open knowledge platform ([www.adaptationlearning.net](http://www.adaptationlearning.net)) (*Dec 2007*)

### *National Communications Support Programme (NCSP)*

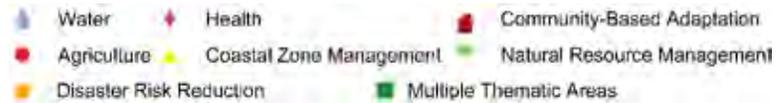
UNDP-GEF provides support to 100 countries to prepare Second National Communications (SNCs), which include vulnerability and adaptation assessments

- The NCSP, executed by UNDP, provides technical and policy guidance to SNC teams on linking climate change risks to national development priorities ([ncsp.undp.org](http://ncsp.undp.org))

The GEF financed the majority of these products and activities.  
Contact: [adaptation@undp.org](mailto:adaptation@undp.org). © UNDP, November 2007.



UNDP-GEF's current adaptation portfolio comprises 21 projects in 45 countries.



## UNDP-GEF'S ADAPTATION PORTFOLIO

UNDP-GEF's adaptation portfolio comprises 21 national, regional and global projects taking place in 45 countries.

Projects fall into one of two categories:

- 1) under implementation, or about to commence implementation (Table 1);
- 2) preparatory development phase underway or completed,

with financing for project implementation expected from GEF funds (Table 2).

There are currently three GEF sources of funding: the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the Strategic Priority on Adaptation (SPA) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), although the latter two funds are almost depleted.

Table 1: UNDP-GEF projects under implementation, or about to be implemented

| Region         | Country   | Project title   | Thematic area               | Fund | GEF (\$ millions) | Total (\$ millions) <sup>1</sup> |
|----------------|---|---|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Africa         | Ethiopia  | Coping with drought   | Agriculture                 | SCCF | 1                 | 2                                |
| Africa         | Mozambique  | Coping with drought   | Agriculture                 | SCCF | 1                 | 2                                |
| Africa         | Namibia   | Adapting to climate change through the improvement of traditional crops and livestock farming systems             | Natural resource management | SPA  | 1                 | 2                                |
| Africa         | Senegal, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania  | Responding to shoreline change and its human dimensions in West Africa through integrated coastal area management | Natural resource management | SPA  | 4                 | 10                               |
| Africa         | Tanzania  | Mainstreaming climate change and adaptation into integrated water resource management in the Pangani River Basin  | Water                       | SCCF | 1                 | 2                                |
| Africa         | Zimbabwe  | Coping with drought   | Agriculture                 | SCCF | 1                 | 2                                |
| Europe and CIS | Hungary   | Lake Balaton integrated vulnerability assessment  | Natural resource management | SPA  | 1                 | 5                                |
| Global         | Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Samoa, Viet Nam | Community-based adaptation  | Natural resource management | SPA  | 5                 | 5                                |
| <b>Total</b>   |   |   |                             |      | <b>15</b>         | <b>30</b>                        |

1. Total value of project, including co-financing.

**Table 2: UNDP-GEF project development phase underway/completed, with GEF financing for project implementation expected**

| Region                    | Country  | Project title   | Thematic area               | Fund | GEF (\$ millions) | Total (\$ millions) <sup>1</sup> |
|---------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Africa                    | Eritrea  | Introducing community-based pilot rangeland and livestock improvement in the northwestern lowlands                                      | Agriculture                 | LDCF | 3                 | 6                                |
| Africa                    | Kenya <sup>2</sup>   | Adaptation to climate change in arid lands  | Agriculture                 | SCCF | 1                 | 2                                |
| Africa                    | Niger  | Implementing NAPA priority interventions to build resilience and adaptive capacity of the agriculture sector to climate change in Niger | Agriculture                 | LDCF | 2                 | 4                                |
| Africa                    | Sudan <sup>3</sup>   | Building climate change resilience in the agriculture and water sectors   | Multiple                    | LDCF | 3.4               | 6.4                              |
| Asia & Pacific            | Bangladesh   | Strengthening adaptive capacity to address climate change threats on sustainable development strategies for coastal communities         | Coastal zones               | LDCF | 3                 | 6                                |
| Asia & Pacific            | Bhutan   | Reduce climate change-induced risks and vulnerabilities from glacial lake outburst floods in the Punakha-Wangdi and Chamkhar valleys    | Disaster risk management    | LDCF | 3.5               | 7                                |
| Asia & Pacific            | Cambodia <sup>3</sup>  | Building capacity to integrate climate risks into water resources planning for agricultural development                                 | Multiple                    | LDCF | 2                 | 4                                |
| Asia & Pacific            | Cook Islands, Fiji, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu <sup>4</sup> | Pacific Islands adaptation to climate change  | Multiple                    | SCCF | 11.5              | 45.8                             |
| Asia & Pacific            | India <sup>4</sup>   | Climate-resilient development and adaptation  | Multiple                    | SCCF | 4.5               | 12                               |
| Asia & Pacific            | Maldives   | Implementing tourism adaptation to climate change in Maldives   | Coastal                     | LDCF | 1                 | 2                                |
| Asia & Pacific            | Samoa  | Integrated climate change adaptation in Samoa   | Multiple                    | LDCF | 2                 | 4                                |
| Europe & CIS              | Albania  | Identification and implementation of adaptation response measures in the Drini-Mati river deltas  | Natural resource management | SPA  | 1                 | 2                                |
| Europe & CIS              | Armenia <sup>5</sup>   | Adaptation to climate change impacts in mountain forest ecosystems  | Natural resource management | SPA  | 0.9               | 0.9                              |
| Latin America & Caribbean | Ecuador  | Adaptation to climate change through effective water governance   | Water                       | SCCF | 3                 | 9                                |
| Latin America & Caribbean | Uruguay  | Uruguay coastal adaptation  | Natural resource management | SPA  | 1                 | 2                                |
| Global                    | Barbados, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Jordan, Kenya, Uzbekistan <sup>4</sup>  | Health and adaptation   | Health                      | SCCF | 6.5               | 22.5                             |
| <b>Total</b>              |  |   |                             |      | <b>49.3</b>       | <b>135.6</b>                     |

1. Total value of project, including co-financing.

2. Joint implementation with World Bank (total grant \$6.5 million).

3. Pending GEF approval, UNDP will commence preparatory activities in 2008.

4. Submitted to 2007 November GEF Work Programme, but not yet approved due to shortage of funds in SCCF.

5. Preparatory activities to commence in 2008.

*The following governments have submitted letters of interest in pursuing LDCF projects with UNDP in 2008: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, DR of Congo, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Lao, Liberia, Mali, Rwanda, Tuvalu, Yemen, and Zambia.*