

NAP Action Days: regional exchange on NAP projects in Latin America and the Caribbean

Introduction

On October 20 and 21, 2020, more than 30 people participated in the virtual meeting "NAP Action Days: regional exchange on NAP projects in Latin America and the Caribbean" organized by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

With funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), UNEP and UNDP are supporting more than 10 countries in Latin América and the Caribbean (LAC) to strengthen their planning processes for adaptation to climate change through the NAPs. The "NAP Action Days" is an inter-agency UNEP / UNDP initiative that aims to promote the dialogue between the coordination teams of these projects, to share experiences and lessons learned, generate synergies and bring together efforts for adaptation to climate change in the region.

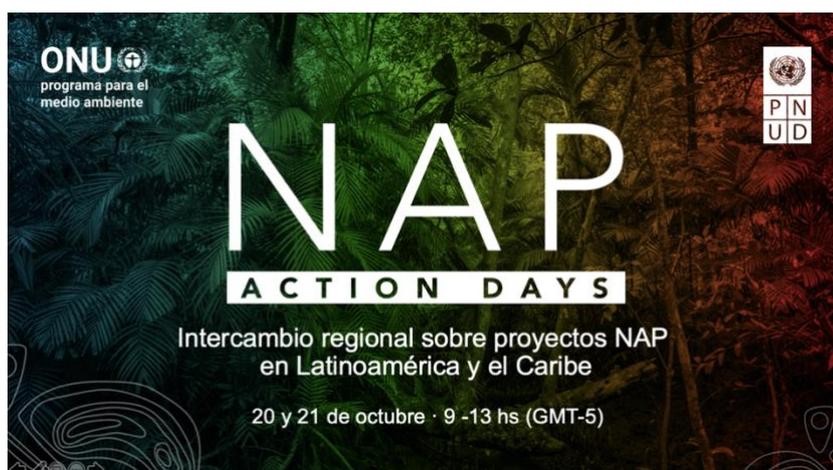
Representatives of the Government as well as NAP project teams from 10 LAC countries participated in the virtual dialogue: Argentina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

The topics addressed during the meeting included aspects related to:

- Climate risk assessments and prioritization of adaptation measures.
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of adaptation.
- Finance strategies and the role of the private sector in NAPs.
- Integrating NAPs into NDCs.
- Ecosystem-based Adaptation.
- Adaptation in cities / urban areas.
- The role of NAPs in post-COVID-19 recovery.



NAP Action Days agenda, list of participants and PowerPoint presentations available [here](#).



Key messages from the sessions

Claudia Ortiz (Regional Advisor for Adaptation, UNDP Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean) and **Marta Moneo Lain** (Program Officer, Climate Change Unit, UNEP) kicked off the meeting. They highlighted that adaptation to climate change allows a comprehensive vision and planning based on the best available climate science, which leads to a more resilient development. In particular, they mentioned that nature-based solutions, or ecosystem-based adaptation, is a cost-effective option to manage natural resources in the region, which has five of the ten most mega-biodiverse countries in the world. This approach brings numerous co-benefits and allows for the simultaneous achievement of environmental and development goals. The speakers highlighted the need to increase ambition in adaptation, which is even more relevant in the current context: LAC is one of the regions most affected by the health crisis caused by COVID-19. The long-term resilience of the economy must be guaranteed through a green recovery, they concluded.



In the session on **climate risk assessments and prioritization of adaptation measures**, the representatives of Costa Rica presented on the progress made on this subject within the country's NAP. They introduced climate risk analysis as an indispensable tool in any adaptation planning process. They explained the methodology used to analyze extreme hydrometeorological events, which includes the development of one integrated hazard index, one integrated vulnerability index and two integrated risk indexes (one for extreme dry events and the other for extreme rainy events). They indicated that Costa Rica will work on the development of current and future climate risk maps at the cantonal level in the country. Session participants noted that **NAPs are an opportunity to support sub-national governments in developing climate risk maps and climate change assessments at the local scale, useful for informed decision-making.**

During the session on **monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MR&E) of adaptation**, the representatives of Ecuador explained the MR&E system for Adaptation to Climate Change that the country is developing within the framework of their NAP. Ecuador's MR&E system is based on five principles (transparency, consistency, comparability, completeness and accuracy) and proposes the monitoring of adaptation goals and measures at three levels. Expositors commented on the reporting system associated to the achievement of adaptation goals (at the sectoral level, local level and those contained in the reports of projects led by the Ministry of

Environment and Water) and on the evaluation of the progress made in implementation of adaptation measures and in reducing vulnerability. Finally, the representatives of Ecuador highlighted the use of audits as a tool for ex-post evaluation of adaptation. Related to the MR&E topic, participants identified several challenges and questions to be resolved in order to advance in the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of adaptation: **How to update indicators based on the new available data? What governance scheme should be used to articulate the national and local level? How to monitor adaptation actions that are carried out outside public organizations? How to guarantee continuity in the reports given challenges such as changes in government administration and consequent changes in priorities?**



In the session on **adaptation finance strategies and the role of the private sector in the NAPs**, it was identified the need to recognize the private sector as a heterogeneous group of actors, with specific strengths and needs that must be taken into account for their adequate adaptation. It was pointed out that there is a lack of representation of small and medium-sized companies in conversations on climate action, so that it would be convenient to seek options for their participation. Regarding access to financing, the participants agreed on the need to **move towards attractive investments and mobilize private capital. Blended financing systems and public-private partnerships were recognized for their potential for financing adaptation.**

Participants identified NAPs as a vehicle to strengthen the adaptation component of NDCs **in the session on integrating NAPs into NDCs**. In the process of reviewing their NDCs, several LAC countries plan to include an adaptation component or increase ambition in the commitments assumed. **NAPs can be an instrument for the implementation of the adaptation component of the NDCs, for example, by supporting the development of roadmaps and implementation plans of priority axes, goals and actions.** In addition, within the framework of the NDC, there is an opportunity to address adaptation and mitigation in a simultaneous and integrated manner.



In the session on **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)**, the countries of the region identified the NAPs as: a vehicle to articulate adaptation policy with the country's protected areas system; an instrument to link the private sector with EbA measures; a **tool to visualize the role that ecosystems play in the prevention, response and recovery from an extreme phenomenon**; an element to address mitigation and adaptation policies in an integrated way; an tool to strengthen capacities in green infrastructure and ecosystem management; an opportunity to generate agreements and synergies with the academy to advance in the knowledge and understanding of the EbA approach.

For LAC, which has a high percentage of the population in urban areas, **resilience in cities is of great relevance**. The adaptation policy of urban areas can be an opportunity for vertical integration, where the national government and subnational governments work in a coordinated manner. In this session, it was recognized that each city has its specific characteristics and there is no single adaptation strategy that is adequate for all. An identified good practice consists of characterizing the different types of cities in a country or region and developing pilot activities that can be replicated in similar populations.

A connecting topic throughout the event was **the role of the NAPs in the post-COVID-19 recovery**. Participants identified the challenges posed by the health crisis for the regional adaptation agenda and explored ways to overcome them. It was concluded that **NAPs present opportunities to develop COVID-19 response strategies that, in addition to being functional for economic recovery, serve to propose a future that is more resilient to climate change**.

See complete article: [*Adaptation to climate change as an opportunity for post-COVID-19 recovery \(November 2020\)*](#)

The “NAP Action Days” served as a space for the exchange of experiences between decision-makers in government institutions and technical project managers who lead national initiatives to advance adaptation planning. The objective of UNEP and UNDP is to promote the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned, facilitate the creation of alliances and strengthen networking to advance adaptation to climate change in LAC region.