

The background image shows a coastal town with several houses built on stilts over the water. In the distance, there is a harbor with several boats and a hillside with more buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

**ADDRESSING URBAN AND
HUMAN SETTLEMENT ISSUES**

**IN NATIONAL
ADAPTATION
PLANS**

a Supplement to the UNFCCC
Technical Guidelines on the
National Adaptation Plan Process

Version 1.0

Addressing Urban and Human Settlement Issues in National Adaptation Plans

- A Supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines on the National Adaptation Plan Process

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Coordinators

Marcus Mayr & Yali Wang, UN-Habitat

Lead Authors

Liam Fee, Marcus Mayr & Yali Wang, UN-Habitat

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Contributors

Bert Smolders, Frank Wildschut - Arcadis; Dr Nopant Tapananont - Chulalongkorn University; Julie Greenwalt - Cities Alliance; Heinrich Gudenus, Siwaporn Tangwanichagapong, Wesley Wojtas - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH; Asrat Yirgu Senato - Ethiopia, Senior Climate Change Adaptation advisor for Ethiopia under the NAP Global network in country support by IISD; Britta Horstmann - German Development Institute (DIE); Dr David Dodman - International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED); Angie Dazé - International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and NAP Global Network Secretariat; Shuaib Lwasa - Makerere University; Nedal Katbeh-Bader - Ministry of Environment Affairs, Palestine; Mery Yaou - Ministry of Environment and Forestry resources, Togo; Pochanie Kajonpredanon, Wijada Songkittipakdee - Ministry of Interior, Thailand; Chompunut Songkhao - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand; Batu Krishna Uprey - Nepal, Former Joint-Secretary and Chief, Climate Change Management Division, Ministry of Environment; Choi Yeeting - Office of Te Beretitenti/President, Kiribati; Julie Teng, Laura M. Hammett, Rohini Kohli, Tomke Rinschede - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); Dr Paul Desanker - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Dr Himanshu Shekhar - United Nations University; Joanna Mary McMillan - Universität Stuttgart

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Busan, the Republic of Korea's second largest city after Seoul. © UN Photo / Kibae Park

Foreword

Addressing Urban and Human Settlement Issues in National Adaptation Plans

We live in an urban world: more than 55 per cent of the world population lives in urban areas today; this likely grow to 68 per cent by 2050. Human settlements are the local, national and global drivers of economic prosperity and development, with up to 80 per cent of the global Gross Domestic Product generated in our towns, cities and metropolises. Cities are also the hubs for governance and state institutions, for ideas, commerce, culture, science and for social, human and individual development.

While they are drivers of prosperity, cities also drive climate change, and are particularly vulnerable to its effects. Worldwide, some of the communities most vulnerable to climate change are the urban poor. They are the people living in already stressed informal urban settlements, in at-risk areas unsuitable for permanent development: susceptible to flooding, landslides and sea level rise. These communities often have limited means to withstand extreme weather. They contain substandard dwellings, with limited basic services and infrastructure to support them pre- and post-crisis.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change aims to set the course toward a healthier, safer, more prosperous future by limiting global warming and ensuring an adequate adaptation response. According to UN-Habitat's analysis of the national pledges under the Paris Agreement, approximately two-thirds of all countries have urban content in their Nationally Determined Contributions. Of these, 113 out of 164 countries have focused on adaptation in human settlements. Translating these commitments to national plans and strategies is crucial in the coming years.

National Adaptation Plans are essential in articulating the adaptation needs and priorities of countries. The process of formulating such plans helps countries to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and to develop, scale up and implement strategies and programmes to address them. Formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans is also necessary to scaling up planning and attracting investment for adaptation actions.

Integrating urban issues and human settlement aspects in National Adaptation Plans enables countries to reduce vulnerabilities of people and improve adaptabilities to climate change. It is my hope that this guide will support countries to achieve this goal. This publication responds to a call by Least Developed Countries Expert Group of the United Nations



Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), inviting international actors to "...come forward in drafting supplementary sectoral guidelines to the NAP Technical Guidelines...", the overarching guidance on formulating National Adaptation Plans.

This supplement to the National Adaptation Plans Guidelines was developed as an outcome of discussions with Member States. It was informed by the parties working under the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme, National Adaptation Plans experts and the urban development community over the course of the last year in a participatory and consultative process. UN-Habitat is grateful to its partners for their support in this endeavour, and hopes that it will be a useful contribution to government efforts to improve their climate resilience in settlements, towns, cities and metropolises.

I would like to encourage planners at the national level, experts, and decision-makers working on climate change to use this Supplementary Guide to better understand the need and opportunities for climate change adaptation in human settlements. At the same time, I hope that this publication will also be useful for local authorities to contribute to National Adaptation Plans, and strengthen synergies and partnerships between national and urban actors.

By building more resilient cities together, we can achieve our common global commitments, articulated in the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda, and pledge to leave no one and no place behind.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF	Adaptation Fund
AFINUA	Action Framework for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
AR5	Fifth Assessment Report
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CIF	Climate Investment Fund
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPI	Climate Policy Initiative
DFI	Development Finance Institution
DIE / GDI	Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik / German Development Institute
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GDP	Gross domestic product
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic information system
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German International Cooperation Agency)
HS	Human Settlement
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
JCM	Joint Crediting Mechanism
JI	Joint Implementation
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAP-GSP	National Adaptation Global Support Programme
NAP-HS	Addressing Urban and Human Settlement Issues in National Adaptation Plans
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions



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