

Interactive and Cross-cutting Approach for National Adaptation Planning in Sri Lanka



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Lessons Learned and Policy Recommendations

- In the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts (NAPCCI) in Sri Lanka, mechanisms for tackling cross-cutting issues are actively proposed. The issues have been identified in the consultation process of NAP. Examples of the mechanisms are the National Working Group (NWG) and Climate Adaptation Cells (CACs).
- During preparation of the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts (NAPCCI) in Sri Lanka, there was emphasis on interaction and consensus among stakeholders. This enabled vulnerability profiling, identification of actions, and clarifying responsibilities in a short period, even without detailed scientific information.
- During the NAP drafting process, stakeholders had heightened awareness of climate change impacts. This led to active participation among stakeholders, and was one of the keys to completion of NAP in a short period.

Background

● Geographical characteristics

Sri Lanka, a tropical nation, is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. As a small island in the Indian Ocean, the coastal region of Sri Lanka is susceptible to changes in sea level. Important sectors of the economy such as fisheries and tourism could be affected by impacts of sea-level rise.^[1]

A significant population of the country is dependent on livelihoods connected to agriculture. Besides, a substantial share of foreign income is earned from export crops, which are highly sensitive to fluctuations of weather.

● Basic policies

The National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Sri Lanka was established in 2010, and the National Climate Change Policy of Sri Lanka in 2012. These documents elaborate the national vision and strategic priorities with regard to facing the threat of climate change. They also provide a source of legitimacy and authority required for NAP.^[2]

The Climate Change Vulnerability Profiles for five major sectors (agriculture, health, water, biodiversity and human settlements) was prepared in 2010. It identified many geographical locations and economic sectors that are vulnerable to climate change impacts.

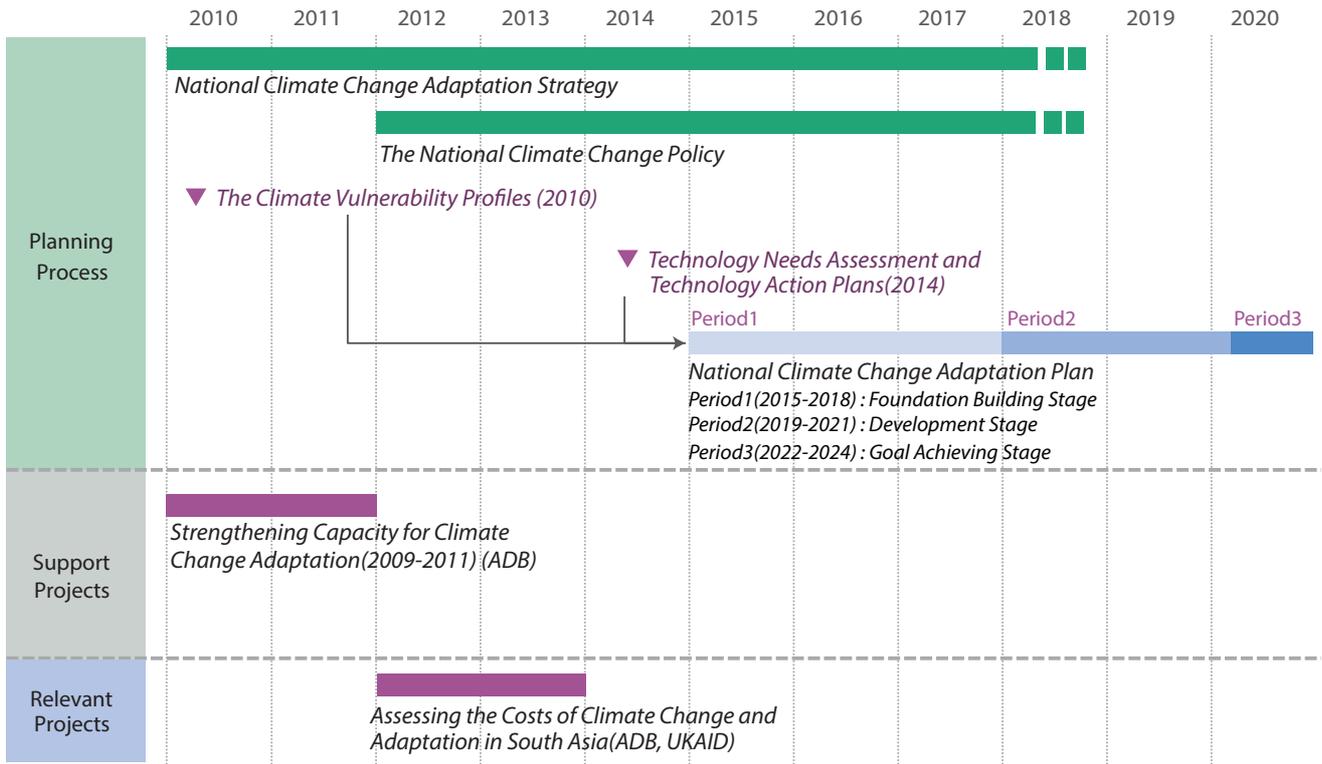


Figure 1-4-1 Timetable of NAP process and national development planning in Sri Lanka

● Outline

To face the challenges of climate change, especially the formulation of overarching policies, the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) was created as a dedicated institution under the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment (MMDE) in 2008. CCS is also the National Designated Entity (NDE) for United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In the preparation of NAP, CCS served as the national focal point. CCS designated sectoral focal points in other ministries, and started the communication to identify sectoral impacts and adaptation options.

The National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts (NAPCCI) in Sri Lanka will be finalized in October 2016. Subsequently, activities of CCS will shift to the facilitation of implementation and regional-scale planning.

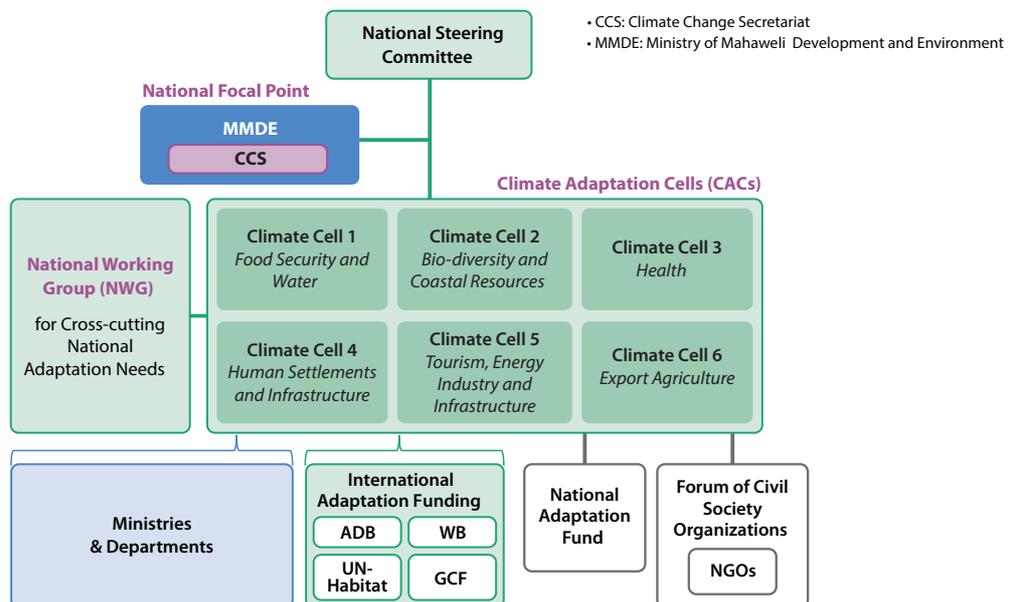


Figure 1-4-2 Institutional arrangements proposed in National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts

● Institutional arrangements

In the NAPCCI, several new institutional arrangements for adaptation planning and implementation are proposed. CCS identified a coordination gap among stakeholders during NAP preparation, and the institutional arrangements aim to fill the gap.

In the NAPCCI, Climate Adaptation Cells (CACs) are proposed to be established for six vulnerable sectors to coordinate activities within sectors. Each CAC will be represented by members of state agencies, private sector, community

organizations, and NGOs, which are key stakeholders of a given sector. It will coordinate activities related to implementation and monitoring of adaptation policies for the sector.

In the NAPCCI, the National Working Group (NWG) is proposed to be established with the aim of acting as a consortium of national lead agencies and non-state representatives, coordinated by staff members of CCS. The NWG has responsibility for implementing adaptation actions related to cross-cutting national issues.

Lessons Learned and Policy Recommendations

1 In the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts (NAPCCI) in Sri Lanka, mechanisms for tackling cross-cutting issues are actively proposed. The issues have been identified in the consultation process of NAP. Examples of the mechanisms are the National Working Group (NWG) and Climate Adaptation Cells (CACs).

● National Working Group (NWG) for cross-cutting national issues

National Working Group (NWG) is proposed for implementing adaptation actions related to cross-cutting national issues. There are ten cross-cutting issues (See Table 1-4-1) identified in NAPCCI. These have been identified as a result of the consultation process between the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) and other ministries. This approach can be effective because it narrows down activities that require national-level focus and coordination.

● Climate Adaptation Cells (CAC) for sectoral planning and implementation

For sectoral planning and implementation, it is proposed to establish multi-stakeholder institutions called Climate Adaptation Cells (CACs). There will be six CACs for the key impact sectors, and each cell will be represented by relevant ministries and departments, private sector, and community organizations. The proposal is based on the understanding that even if certain issues relate to a single sector, they cannot be tackled by a single ministry or organization alone, and cooperation and coordination among organizations is essential. CACs could be effective because they prevent so-called silo effects, which limit the possibilities of adaptation actions.

Table 1-4-1 Ten Cross-cutting issues to be discussed in the National Working Group

1	Policy legislations and governance
2	Institutional development
3	International co-operation and partnerships
4	Resource mobilization
5	Research and development
6	Technology transfer
7	Education, training and awareness
8	Extreme events management
9	Climate information management
10	Building adaptive capacity

● Coordination with DRR initiatives in the disaster management sector

As one of the activities of the National Working Group (NWG), it is proposed to establish coordination with the Ministry of Disaster Management. While the NWG takes up issues concerning long-term capacity development to face the threat of extreme events, the Ministry of Disaster Management is responsible for short-term and urgent adaptation responses. Cooperation between these initiatives is essential for consistency between short-term and long-term response.

2 During preparation of the National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change Impacts (NAPCCI) in Sri Lanka, there was emphasis on interaction and consensus among stakeholders. This enabled vulnerability profiling, identification of actions, and clarifying responsibilities in a short period, even without detailed scientific information.

● Building consensus among stakeholders

During creation of the NAP, under the coordination of CCS, there was an interactive process including ministries and departments (See Figure 1-4-3). First, CCS provided forms and templates to be filled in by relevant ministries, along with climate change projection and impact information gathered from existing literature. Then, the ministries responded by filling in the form with vulnerability, impact, and adaptation options. The process facilitated the collection of impact information from different sectors, and it eventually led to effective consensus-building in the National Working Group and the Validation Workshops.

● Clarifying responsibilities

For each adaptation action item, responsible organizations are identified based on communication among stakeholders. This clarifies the implementing entity, giving adaptation measures a better chance of being implemented in the following process.

● Proposal to fill the gap

Based on the understanding of current challenges and gaps, actions are proposed to address the gap. These include institutional arrangements (CACs, NWG) for filling communication gaps, focused impact research programs for filling information gaps, and technological programs for filling technology gaps.

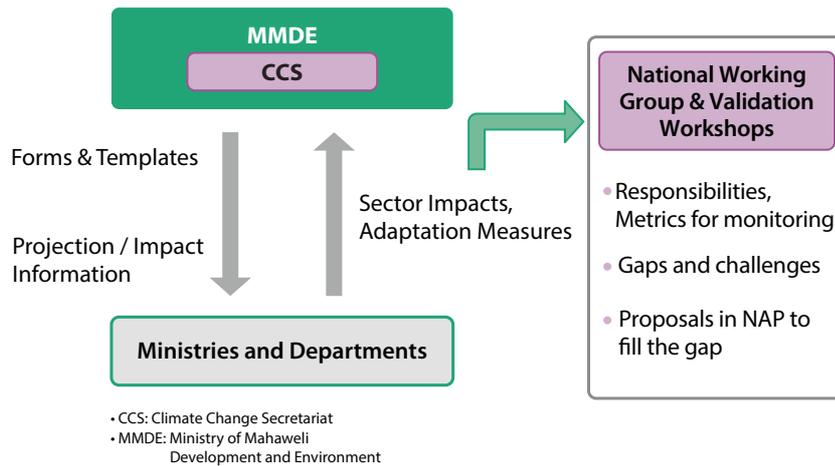


Figure 1-4-3 Interactive process of building consensus during NAP creation

3 During the NAP drafting process, stakeholders had heightened awareness of climate change impacts. This led to active participation among stakeholders, and was one of the keys to completion of NAP in a short period.

● **Awareness raised by experience**

Recently, the general public has experienced natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, which had unexpectedly serious impacts. For example, traditional water reservoirs, which had been effective for the past 500 years, became ineffective because of increased rainfall. These events are also actively covered by the media (newspapers, TV programs, etc.), raising concerns about climate change issues among the general public.

● **Leveraging high levels concern**

When the Climate Change Secretariat (CCS) started drafting NAP, it called for other ministries and departments to cooperate in the drafting process. They were eager to participate, because there was a common understanding that climate change impacts are a serious national issue. Provincial municipalities were also willing to create their own plans to tackle regional adaptation issues. For example, The Western Province of Sri Lanka has already published a regional action plan for climate change, even before the national level adaptation plan is finalized.



Photo courtesy of JICA

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SOURCES

- [1] "National Climate Change Adaptation Plan of Sri Lanka (Draft) 2015 to 2024", (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Sri Lanka, 2016)
http://www.climatechange.lk/NAP/National%20Adaptation%20Action%20Plan_LatestVersion.pdf
- [2] "Sri Lanka's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to UNFCCC" (Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment, Sri Lanka, 2016)