



A GUIDE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT – PART THREE

Integrating Climate Action into National Development Planning

– Coherent Implementation of the
Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030

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Author: Dr Tara Shine

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FOREWORD TO THE SERIES “GUIDES TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT”

The ground-breaking Paris Agreement on climate change was adopted 2015, and it entered into force within a year. By November 2017, 170 countries, including a majority of Sida’s cooperation countries, had ratified it. The Agreement aims to keep the temperature increase below 2°C, to pursue efforts to limit it to 1.5°C, and to enhance the capacity to adapt to climate change. The main tool to achieve the goals is the system with countries’ own Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Sida supports implementation of a large number of actions in different countries that are contributing to NDCs and the implementation of the Paris Agreement. However, there is a great need and potential to support this development further.

While there are many guides, tools and initiatives out there on NDCs and climate finance, there was a need for guidelines relating NDCs and climate finance more closely to the development agenda in countries, and to the role of bilateral donors.

With that in mind, Sida commissioned the development of this series of **Guides to Support Implementation of the Paris Agreement**, with the objective of providing guidance to Sida staff for the dialogue with, and support to, partner organisations in their implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Guides to Support Implementation of the Paris Agreement:

Part One: **Supporting Access to Finance for Climate Action.**

Part Two: **Towards Green Climate Fund Accreditation and Support.**

Part Three: **Integrating Climate Action into National Development Planning – Coherent Implementation of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030.**

Stockholm, December 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The adoption in 2015 of Agenda 2030 with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda signalled an increasingly coherent international vision of sustainable development. Together they seek to move away from the siloed approaches and individual sector goals that characterised the MDG era to a more integrated and mutually interdependent post 2015 landscape. Having created this new international framework, the next challenge is to implement these agreements in a coherent way at the national level.

Chapter 1 starts by mapping out the linkages made between the SDGs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – the commitments countries made under the Paris Agreement. Commitments to climate actions and sustainability are contained in NDCs and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on progress towards the SDGs. Based on the information presented in these national documents it is clear that the potential for co-benefits between climate action and sustainable development is being understood at the national level. The next step is to integrate these commitments into national development plans and track how actions implemented on the ground capture these co-benefits in practice.

Chapter 2 then unpacks the process for updating and implementing NDCs. The 5 year NDC cycle and country experiences in NDC planning are presented. Key initiatives supporting NDC implementation are outlined, including CDKN's Planning

for NDC Implementation Quick Guide, the NDC Partnership, UNDP's programmes of support and the Transparency Partnership for the Paris Agreement.

Chapter 3 explores SDG implementation and extracts lesson learned from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted by countries on progress towards the SDGs to date. Examples of countries linking their climate and sustainable development plans and actions are presented. Key initiatives supporting SDG planning and implementation are presented, including the SDG Guide, the SDG Guide for Cities and tools for localising the SDG monitoring and evaluation.

Chapter 4 focuses on alignment between the SDGs and NDCs at the national level and presents entry points and good practices for linking SDG and NDC implementation. These include i) a green economy, ii) adaptation and risk management, iii) whole of government and society approaches, iv) data, reporting and evaluation and v) sub-national planning and implementation.

Financing NDC and SDG implementation is the focus of Chapter 5 with further detailed information available in part one of Sida's Climate Guides 'Supporting Access to Finance for Climate Action' (2017).

Finally, the role of bilateral donors and agencies such as Sida in supporting NDC and SDG planning and implementation is considered.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (of the OECD)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
LEDS	Low Emissions Development Strategies
MDG	Millenium Development Goal
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Measurement Reporting and Verification
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TERI	The Energy and Resources Institute (India)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment
UN-EOSG	United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary General
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WRI	World Resources Institute

1. ALIGNMENT BETWEEN NDCs AND SDGs: AN OVERVIEW

The adoption in 2015 of Agenda 2030 with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda signalled an increasingly coherent international vision of sustainable development¹. These international agreements and frameworks are universal in nature and address common themes such as equity, country ownership, resilience and protecting the most vulnerable. Together they seek to move away from the siloed approaches and individual sector goals that characterised the MDG era to a more integrated and mutually interdependent post 2015 landscape. Having created this new international framework, where the 2030 Agenda recognises the role of the Paris Agreement and vice versa, the next challenge to implement these agreements in a coherent way at the national level.

The focus in this report is on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and how they are being further developed and implemented, including through links and synergies with SDG implementation. The SDGs are indivisible, so climate action which is the focus of SDG 13, also relates to all the other SDGs. For example, SDG 6 on water and sanitation, SDG 7 on sustainable energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and SDG 14 on oceans.

In advance of COP 21 countries publicly outlined what post-2020 climate actions they intended to take under the Paris Agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). In order to ratify the Agreement Parties must finalise their national climate plans (INDCs) and formally submit them to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as NDCs. From that point onwards successive NDCs are submitted on a 5-yearly cycle with increasing aggregate and individual ambition over time² (see Box 1 and Figure 1 for further information on the NDC cycle).

For some countries their NDC is the same as their INDC (e.g. EU, Papua New Guinea), while in others a process of further detailing or adjusting the content of the NDC takes place before final submission (e.g. Angola). Countries can use this opportunity to increase the transparency and ambition of their climate plans before officially submitting them with greater ambition increasing the likelihood of reaching the temperature goals established in the Agreement.

Finalised NDCs are publicly available in the NDC Registry created by the UNFCCC Secretariat³. To date 164 countries have submitted their first NDC.

Box 1: The NDC cycle

NDCs are at the core of the process established under the Paris Agreement to continually ramp up international climate action every five years. All countries are required to prepare, communicate and maintain successive NDCs, and pursue domestic mitigation measures to achieve their objectives. Countries can also include adaptation commitments in their NDC although this is not mandatory. Countries will be required to regularly submit national emissions inventories and report on their progress. Every five years, collective progress towards achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement will be assessed, and countries will submit their new NDCs representing greater action than their previous plans. In short, the NDCs underpin the world's ability to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement – including limiting temperature rise to 1.5–2°C⁴.

To date the mitigation commitments made by countries in their INDCs and NDCs fall short of the temperature goals set in the Paris Agreement – in fact, even if fully implemented, the unconditional Intended Nationally Determined Contributions are only consistent with staying below an increase in temperature of 3.2°C by 2100 and 3.0°C, if conditional Intended Nationally Determined Contributions are included⁵. Conditional actions are those that require international support to be implemented, while unconditional actions are those a country can deliver with domestic resources.

The Talanoa (facilitative) Dialogue during 2018 will take stock of the collective efforts of Parties in relation to progress towards the long-term goal on mitigation established in the Paris Agreement. This will inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions with the expectation that Parties will increase the ambition of their NDCs before 2020 to get closer to achieving the Paris Agreement goals. The second round of NDCs are expected in 2020. This will be a new NDC if the first NDC runs to 2025, or an updated NDC if the first NDC runs to 2030. These NDCs will be informed by the Talanoa (facilitative) Dialogue and the IPCC 1.5°C report to be released in September 2018. The third round of NDCs are expected in 2025 taking into account the findings of the first Global Stocktake in 2023.

1 Shine and Campillo (2015) The Role of Development Finance in Climate Action Post-2015. OECD DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION WORKING PAPER 31. Accessible at <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/download/18a859bf-en.pdf?expires=1503482212&id=id&ac-cname=quest&checksum=B219035C4419641501705CE8966D9899>

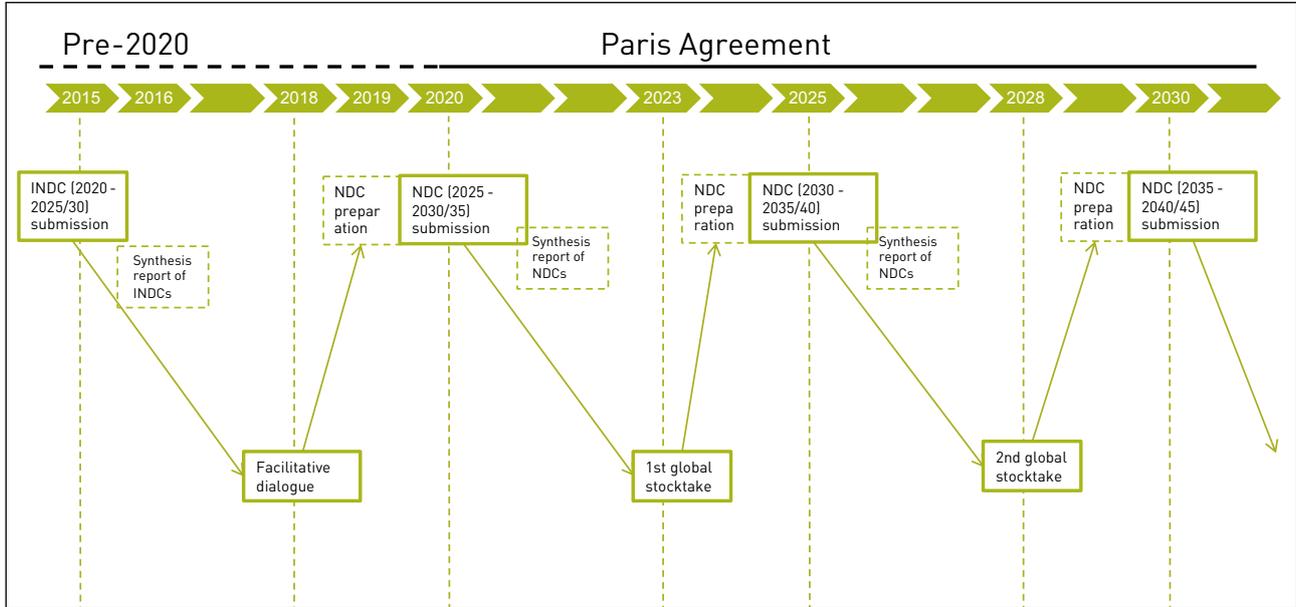
2 See this useful presentation on NDC cycles by the UNFCCC secretariat at http://unfccc.int/files/focus/application/pdf/ndc_cycle_webinar2.pdf

3 The link to the NDC Registry is <http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/Pages/Home.aspx>

4 From WRI blog by Eliza Northrup, accessible online at <http://www.wri.org/blog/2016/03/papua-new-guinea-first-country-finalize-national-climate-plan-under-paris-agreement>

5 UNEP The Emissions Gap Report 2016 available at <http://www.unep.org/emissionsgap/>

Figure 1: The Paris Agreement NDC Cycle



Meanwhile, countries are also planning for and implementing the SDGs and providing voluntary reports on their progress to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The 17 SDGs are to be implemented in a nationally determined way while respecting the indivisible and integrated nature of the goals. The Goals include SDG 13 on climate action which directly references the UNFCCC and makes an explicit link with NDCs and NAPs in Target 13.2 and the associated indicator (see Box 2). Also of note are the links to the Sendai Framework and disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning in Target 13.1 and the importance of capacity building in targets 13.3 and 13b. Target 13a focuses on climate finance and the USD 100 billion per year to be mobilised by developed countries by 2020 to support developing countries to implement climate action. This includes financing NDCs. Target 13b is of relevance to development cooperation providers as it focuses on capacity building in least developed countries and small island developing states with a focus on women, youth and local and marginalized communities. Progress towards this target will be measured in terms of the support mobilised, including finance, technology and capacity-building for climate change planning and action.

Box 2: SDG 13 on Climate Action

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

Indicators

13.1.1 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies

13.1.2 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people

Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

Indicators

13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other)

Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Indicators

13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula

13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual

capacity-building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and development actions

Target 13.a: Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

Indicator 13.a.1

Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment

Target 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

Indicator 13.b.1

Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

There is no equivalent of the NDC for SDG implementation, instead each country is free to determine how they implement and how they report⁶ on the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets. INDCs were nationally defined before the adoption of the Paris Agreement, while the SDGs and associated targets were agreed internationally and are now being translated nationally.

A report by WRI⁷ published in September 2016 examines alignment between INDCs and the SDGs. Across the INDCs examined (92 in total), climate actions were found to align with 154 of the 169 SDG targets. While very few of the INDCs referred to the SDGs or MDGs directly, or indeed their own national development objectives or plans (exceptions being for example Ethiopia) the alignment arises when the climate actions identified are compared to SDG targets (e.g. actions in the agriculture sector corresponding to targets in SDG 2).

More recently TERI has developed a web app entitled 'NDC Footprints'⁸, which seeks to bridge the knowledge gap between climate and development policies and goals. It maps linkages within Asian countries' NDCs under the UNFCCC and the SDGs, providing an online database that shows how different SDGs factor into the NDCs of various countries. They also published a report 'SDG footprint of Asian NDCs: Exploring synergies between domestic policies and international goals'⁹ which finds that some SDGs were reflected multiple times in many NDCs, especially goals 7 (sustainable energy), 13 (climate), 17 (partnerships), and 11 (sustainable cities). The authors suggest that this indicates that the Asian region is preparing strategies that focus on climate resilient low carbon development with an important role for renewable energy and sustainable cities. The authors also note that linkages between NDC actions and SDGs such as goals 4 (education), 5 (gender equality), 10 (inequality), and 16 (peace and justice) were surprisingly low.

At the July 2017 HLPF, 43 voluntary national reviews of progress towards the SDGs were presented. A search through the executive summaries of these reports¹⁰ reveals that only one country mentions its NDC directly (India) while 23 countries¹¹ include the word climate in their executive summary, with 19 of these mentions signalling some level of alignment with climate action¹².

This tracking of the links between NDCs and SDGs is also addressed in an online navigator developed by the NDC Partnership. Called 'Climate Watch', it enables NDC actions to be overlaid on SDG actions, based on information available in published national documents to get a sense of potential for synergies¹³.

In addition, the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and the Sabin Centre for Climate Change Law published a Policy Report¹⁴ in 2017 based on analysis of information in two online databases - Climate Change Laws of the

6 There is a proposal for voluntary reporting guidelines for VNRs but these are not mandatory; https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11819Voluntary_guidelines_VNRs.pdf

7 Northrup et al. (2016). Examining the alignment between the intended nationally determined contributions and sustainable development goals. WRI. Available online at https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/WRI_INDCs_v5.pdf

8 Available online at <http://www.ndcfootprints.org/>

9 TREI (2017). SDG footprint of Asian NDCs: Exploring synergies between domestic policies and international goals. Accessible at http://ndcfootprints.org/pdf/asiareport_july.pdf

10 Compilation of executive summaries of 2017 HLPF voluntary National Reviews available online at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/HLPF/2016/7&Lang=E

11 Benin, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Zimbabwe.

12 2017 Voluntary National Reviews - Synthesis Report https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf

13 <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

14 Nachmany, M et al. (2017) Global trends in climate change legislation and litigation: 2017 update. Available online at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/publication/global-trends-in-climate-change-legislation-and-litigation-2017-update/>

World and Climate Change Litigation of the World¹⁵. The climate change laws database includes INDCs/ NDCs and other relevant laws and policies for 164 countries. One of the findings of this research is that only 4 in 10 countries have factored climate change explicitly into their development plans, signaling that climate change needs to be better integrated into mainstream development strategies.

In April 2017 the United Nations Executive Office of the Secretary general (UN-EOSG) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change released a joint publication entitled 'Catalyzing the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions in the context of the 2030 Agenda through South-South cooperation'¹⁶. The report examines the linkages between NDCs and achievement of the SDGs in developing countries and identifies opportunities for south-south and triangular cooperation. Linkages between NDCs and SDGs are identified based on an analysis of 148 developing country NDCs. The analysis reveals many areas of co-benefits between NDC mitigation and adaptation actions and the SDGs. In particular, in relation to clean energy (99% of developing country NDCs), land use, land use change and forestry (65.5%), transport (60%), waste management (66%) and the mitigation aspects of agriculture (65%). In total 140 developing countries included an adaptation component in their NDCs – with priority areas emerging as water, agriculture (the adaptation aspects), health, ecosystems and infrastructure – all of which have co-benefits in terms of the SDGs.

The UN-EOSG/UNFCCC report finds that while only 9 countries make references to the SDGs in their NDC (Bolivia, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, South Sudan, Swaziland and Uganda), several countries highlight the linkages between their actions to address climate change as presented in their NDC and their development priorities, including social and economic development as well as poverty reduction. Overall the actions identified in NDCs touch on all SDGs with 75% of NDCs having linkages to SDG 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 17. For example, 93% of NDCs are linked to SDG 17 on partnership and the need for enhanced international support and cooperation for the implementation of NDCs and for enhanced ambition. Meanwhile 93% of NDCs

prioritize infrastructure development and actions in the industry sector both in terms of adaptation and mitigation (SDG 9).

The report recommends that the implementation of NDCs based on and mainstreamed into national development priorities will generate substantial co-benefits to the achievement of the SDGs. While there is no one size fits all approach, there are many commonalities between countries and this means that south-south cooperation and sharing of experiences, knowledge and means of implementation can help to overcome challenges and capacity gaps. The report notes that 'the close proximity, similar conditions and languages, and geopolitical and socio-economic relationships' mean that south-south cooperation can lead to beneficial partnerships, and that the international community can help by promoting south-south collaboration on climate and development actions.

Overall these assessments of linkages between NDCs, SDGs and national development plans signal the potential for co-benefits based on analysis of national documents. Further work will be needed to track how actions implemented on the ground capture these co-benefits in practice.

¹⁵ Available online at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/research-theme/governance-and-legislation/>

¹⁶ UN EOSG and UNFCCC (2017) Catalyzing the Implementation of Nationally determined Contributions in the context of the 2303 Agenda through South-South cooperation. Available online at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Download-Report.pdf>

2. UPDATING AND IMPLEMENTING NDCs

In most cases further work is needed to develop NDCs to be ready for implementation and to attract investment. The challenge is to turn the emissions reduction and climate adaptation goals contained in NDCs into action and results, while also aligning climate efforts with national sustainable development priorities.

Many INDCs were prepared in a short time frame with the assistance of consultants in the lead up to COP21¹⁷ and need further work to develop the projects they propose and to secure whole of government buy in, stakeholder ownership and support for their implementation. This process also provides an opportunity to ensure that the NDC is well integrated with national development priorities and to capture synergies with the SDGs (as INDCs were prepared before the SDGs were adopted). Some countries are further developing their INDC before they submit their final NDC, while others have already submitted their NDC to the NDC register and are currently undertaking national processes to further develop and implement NDC actions (see Box 1 and Figure 1). It is expected that some countries will update their NDCs before 2020 in light of the findings of the 2018 Talanoa (facilitative) Dialogue to reduce the gap between the goals set in Paris and national commitments¹⁸.

In some countries like Ethiopia, the NDC is based on a pre-existing national strategy (in this case the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy 2011) and so readiness for implementation is more advanced. In other cases, the INDC was developed before national plans were updated and more work is needed to develop an NDC ready for implementation. This is the case in Angola where a national climate change strategy is being developed for adoption in 2017 which will enable the implementation of the NDC once finalised (see Box 3).

In most cases government officials and country-level stakeholders will need a wide array of tools and methods to transition from setting NDC targets to producing climate mitigation and adaptation results. To address this need guidance is being developed to support developing countries in implementing their NDCs.

Box 3: Different approaches to NDC implementation – Ethiopia and Angola¹⁹

In Ethiopia the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) launched in 2011 is the guiding policy and the INDC and the NDC are drawn from the actions and commitments it contains. As a result, the NDC is judged to be very ambitious and preparedness for implementation is quite advanced (compared to other LDCs or even more developed countries).

The CRGE is embedded in Ethiopia's national development plan, the Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP). The first phase of the GTP ran from 2011 to 2015, was about learning by doing and was project based and piloted new approaches.

GTP 2 which runs to 2020 is more programmatic with each sector ministry in charge of embedding the CRGE in their 5 year planning cycles. There is also a full M&E plan for the GTP which allows progress to be tracked and will assist with reporting on the NDC.

Resources for implementing the CRGE (and the associated NDC) come from the core budget as well as from bilateral partners and multilateral funds. In order to prepare for NDC implementation the current focus is on policy making, tools and guidelines, capacity building and securing funding.

Meanwhile in Angola, the approach to developing an INDC was different. In the absence of a national climate change strategy, the INDC was prepared with the help of consultants in the run up to COP21. In 2017 the focus has been on finalising a National Climate Change Strategy (for approval in late 2017) and on amending and finalising the INDC for submission as an NDC. This includes ensuring that the actions in the INDC are feasible and that all relevant sectors are covered. Once the strategy is approved by government, work will start on a national adaptation plan and on an emissions reductions plan with a national MRV system.

The new climate change strategy is informed by the SDGs and has a timeframe up to 2030. Its focus is on Angola adapting to climate change and embarking on low carbon development, all in the context of poverty reduction. Consultations on the climate change strategy were primarily with sectoral ministries. Consultation at the local level is envisaged as part of the process of developing a National Adaptation Plan.

17 See Northrop et al. (2016). Examining the alignment between the intended nationally determined contributions and sustainable development goals. WRI. Accessible online at https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/WRI_INDCs_v5.pdf

18 See for example the position of the LDC Group of Negotiators at <https://ldcclimate.wordpress.com/2017/10/09/ministers-from-least-developed-countries-commit-to-ambitious-climate-action-and-call-for-global-community-to-step-up-support-at-un-climate-change-negotiations/>

19 Based on interviews with senior climate policy makers from Ethiopia and Angola.

2.1 Key initiatives to support NDC implementation include:

a) The NDC Partnership is a coalition of countries and institutions working together to mobilize support and achieve ambitious climate goals while enhancing sustainable development. The Partnership was launched at COP 22 in Marrakech and aims to enhance cooperation so that countries have access to the technical knowledge and financial support they need to achieve large-scale climate and sustainable development targets as quickly and effectively as possible. The NDC Partnership builds in-country capacity and increases knowledge sharing so that climate policies have meaningful and enduring impacts, and drive increasing global ambition over time.

The Partnership has three main functions:

- 1) Facilitating technical assistance and knowledge sharing: supporting countries in defining processes, policies, and plans to advance NDC implementation, while facilitating access to targeted technical assistance and fostering greater collaboration across sectors.
- 2) Creating and disseminating insightful knowledge products that fill information gaps: raising awareness of and enhancing access to climate support initiatives, best practices, analytical tools, and resources. Information to address specific implementation needs is made available through online portals, as well as communities and networks that generate opportunities for knowledge sharing.
- 3) Promoting enhanced financial support for NDC implementation: working with governments to better understand and address constraints so that they may access bilateral and international support programs. The Partnership aims to align development finance initiatives more strongly and coherently with NDC implementation.

The partnership works by engaging directly in-country with ministries and other stakeholders to assess needs and identify opportunities for collaboration across sectors, regions, and international partners. The partnership provides targeted and coordinated technical assistance to help countries develop and implement robust climate and development plans. Assistance ranges from supporting policy and strategy formulation and implementation of NDCs, to mobilizing resources and designing monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

The NDC Partnership also develops global knowledge products to help countries achieve their climate goals by supporting access to information resources, filling gaps in existing research, and building a community of learning around the experiences of countries implementing their NDCs. This includes online searchable databases of financial and technical assistance programs (The Initiatives Navigator²⁰), and tools and resources (The NDC Toolbox Navigator²¹) such as guidance documents and experience profiles. A third tool, NDC Data Explorer or Climate Watch, is now live and offers a comprehensive source of climate and NDC data²².

Sweden is a partner in the NDC Partnership²³. The Partnership is open to all countries as well as international institutions that are committed to ambitious NDC and related SDG implementation. Non-state actors including non-governmental organizations, development finance institutions and others are also able to participate as associate members.

b) CDKN's Planning for NDC Implementation: Quick Start Guide and Reference Manual. The Guide is aimed at policy-makers at national and subnational levels, and development partners and practitioners supporting the implementation of NDCs. The reference manual provides more detail on the activities that countries can include in their implementation plans. The Guide has a three step approach²⁴:

Step 1: Preparatory work

- Submit first NDC
- Consider key strategic questions
- Coordinating climate actions

Step 2: Developing the NDC implementation plan gap analysis

- Resource needs
- Sequencing of activities
- Documenting the plan

Step 3: Delivering the NDC implementation plan

- Capacity building
- Stakeholder engagement
- Updating the NDC

²⁰ The Initiatives Navigator available online at <http://www.ndcpartnership.org/initiatives-navigator>

²¹ The NDC Toolkit Navigator available online at <http://www.ndcpartnership.org/toolbox-navigator#tools>

²² <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

²³ A full list of NDC Partnership partners is accessible online at <http://www.ndcpartnership.org/partners>

²⁴ See online version of guide at <https://www.cdkn.org/ndc-guide/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Quick-Start-Guide-final-pdf.pdf>

The Guide also includes an appendix on NDCs and the Sustainable Development Goals which explores opportunities for alignment at the national level²⁵.

c) UNDP – UNDP is a partner in the NDC partnership and also has a compilation of online tools to support NDC Implementation²⁶.

In addition, in April 2016 UNDP published the results of a survey to assess capacity development support needs among developing countries as they prepare for the implementation of their NDCs²⁷. Based on responses received from 66 respondents in 58 developing countries the survey revealed countries are at different stages in developing plans or strategies for NDC implementation. However, more than two-thirds of countries had not yet started NDC implementation or are in initial discussions with stakeholders at the national level. From interviews conducted with policy makers in country or those working to support national level implementation to inform this report, it would seem that this remains the case in 2017 – with many countries in the early stages of planning for implementation and with significant capacity gaps to address.

The capacity gaps identified in the UNDP report accurately reflect the views expressed by those contacted to inform this report and the areas they highlighted as priorities for capacity support.

The key themes identified for capacity development and technical support were:

- i) Mobilising resources for NDC implementation (77%)
- ii) Developing NDC implementation plans (67%)
- iii) Developing and improving information baselines and monitoring systems (62%)
- iv) Building institutional structures and coordination mechanisms (61%)
- v) Estimating NDC implementation costs (59%)
- vi) Building awareness and ownership of NDCs at national level (59%)

It is also worth noting that 42% of respondents flagged the need for support to assess the sustainable development impacts of the NDCs and links to the SDGs.

25 Available online at <https://www.cdkn.org/ndc-guide/book/planning-for-ndc-implementation-a-quick-start-guide/ndcs-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

26 Compilation of tools available online at https://www.transparency-partnership.net/sites/default/files/u2612/6-undp_support_tools_kader_26.04.pdf

27 UNDP (2016) Developing Country Support Needs for the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Available online at <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/climate-and-disaster-resilience-/country-needs-support-for-implementation-of-nationally-determine.html>

UNDP is also working with the UNFCCC, UNEP and WRI to develop joint guidance to be used by countries as they prepare for NDC implementation.

The process to prepare the guidance has been highly consultative with the last phase of consultations scheduled for 2017. The final consultation will enable inputs and feedback on the draft guidance document²⁸.

d) The Transparency Partnership for the Paris Agreement shares in-depth information on the topics the Partnership is focusing on – transparency (incl. MRV of mitigation and finance and M&E of adaptation), NDCs, LEDS, and NAMAs.

Within its database of resources, it contains the latest resources related to NDC preparation and implementation (including those of CDKN, the NDC Partnership, IIED, WRI, the UNFCCC and other cooperating partners)²⁹.

It also includes very useful 'good practice' examples to enable the sharing of experiences between countries. For example, there is a good practice example of stakeholder participation in INDC preparation from Chile and a good practice example from Morocco on developing an INDC that aligns national and sectoral policy objectives.

A compilation report based on the good practices collected in 2015 identifies the following success factors for NDCs and other national climate policies:

- Commitment and Leadership at the Highest Political Level
- Participatory Process
- Scientific Analysis
- Embedding into National Frameworks
- Learning from International Best Practices
- Long-term Vision

These factors are similar to the success factors used to integrate climate change and the environment into development planning over the past 20 years or more³⁰.

28 To participate in the consultation, go to https://www.globaldevhub.org/NDC_Implementation

29 Partnership for Transparency in the Paris Agreement available online at <https://www.transparency-partnership.net/>

30 See for example Integrating the Environment? Environmental Considerations in Sida's Work (2006) accessible online at <https://www.oecd.org/derec/sweden/38276671.pdf>

3. IMPLEMENTING THE SDGs

Unlike NDCs, national level plans for achieving the SDGs are not contained in documents submitted to the international level. Instead countries are free to determine how they implement the SDGs in accordance with the national priorities and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of progress are shared with the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) when it meets each July.

The VNRs submitted to date reveal that countries are at different stages in implementing the SDGs and that they are using a wide variety of approaches. However, there are many common challenges, including:

- implementing the SDGs in an integrated manner – i.e. getting away from a siloed approach and addressing the SDGs in an integrated manner
- measuring and monitoring progress – i.e. having the data and indicators to monitor and measure progress towards the SDGs
- communication and outreach – i.e. making sure all parts of government, society and business know what the SDGs are and how they can contribute to them. A lack of awareness of the SDGs is a challenge to their implementation on both developed and developing countries
- Mobilising finance for SDG implementation – costing actions and attracting investment from all sources

Analysis of the 2016 VNR's identifies some of the steps countries are taking to overcome these challenges³¹. To overcome the challenge of implementing the SDGs in an integrated manner Finland, Colombia, Germany, Madagascar and Sierra Leone have established coordination committees at the level of the Prime Minister's or President's office. In addition, Finland, Madagascar and Sierra Leone have established cross-ministerial committees to facilitate coordination between ministries across all 17 SDGs (See Box 4). Some countries including Colombia and Finland have also started to integrate the SDGs into their national plans.

Box 4: Institutional Responses to the SDGs

In early 2016 **Finland** reorganised its coordination mechanisms responsible for sustainable development. As a result, primary responsibility for the coordination of the 2030 Agenda internationally and domestically rests with the Prime Minister's Office. The key technical body is the 20-year-old Commission on Sustainable Development, with representatives from all ministries, Parliament, business, trade unions, civil, municipalities, environmental and social organisations, the church and research institutes. This hybrid model brings together top political leaders and actors of the civil society. The Expert Panel on Sustainable Development hosted by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra serves as a support body as well as watchdog for the Commission.

In **Sierra Leone** the Office of the President is the overall coordinator of the 2030 Agenda. A steering committee on the SDGs comprises a number of other ministries, together with the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency, Statistics Sierra Leone and civil society and private sector representatives. The SDGs are being implemented within the existing framework of national development plans such as the current poverty reduction strategy paper (The Agenda for Prosperity) to ensure coherent, harmonized and aligned national development efforts.³²

The challenges of measuring and monitoring progress towards the SDGs are significant, especially for low income countries. For example, in 2016 Uganda reported that it had only 35% of the data needed to measure progress. Meanwhile countries (including Colombia, Sierra Leone and Samoa) are also working to align their national development indicators with the global SDG indicators.

Communicating the SDGs and creating awareness and ownership of them at national level is a challenge for countries at all levels of development. The 2016 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) revealed that the Republic of Korea carried out a nationwide campaign to promote awareness of the goals. In Uganda the government in collaboration with the UN organised a national SDG launch and appointed 5 eminent Ugandans to serve as SDG ambassadors and raise awareness of the goals. Country experiences of SDG planning and implementation reported in 2017 are presented in Box 5 and a Synthesis Report of 2017 VNRs has been published by the UN³³.

31 See Policy Brief by Nathalie Risse, 25 April 2017 available online at <http://sdg.iisd.org/commentary/policy-briefs/getting-up-to-speed-to-implement-the-sdgs-facing-the-challenges/>

32 Sources: 2016 Voluntary National Reports for Finland and Sierra Leone.
33 https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf

Box 5: SDG planning and implementation: country experiences reported in 2017 Voluntary National Reviews

Kenya

Kenya is taking an ambitious approach to SDG implementation given that their Ambassador to the UN was one of the co-chairs of the process that led to the adoption of Agenda 2030. This is also reflected in the attention they have given to SDG implementation at the national level, led by the SDG coordinating department in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning and supported by the SDG Inter-Agency Technical Committee (comprised of government ministries, departments and agencies as well as UN agencies, civil society and the private sector). An SDG Road Map with guides implementation with 7 focus areas: i) mapping stakeholders and establishing partnerships; ii) advocacy and awareness; iii) localisation of the SDGs; iv) mainstreaming and accelerating implementation; v) resource mobilisation; vi) tracking and reporting; vii) capacity building.

Kenya has mapped the SDGs against its national development strategy – Kenya Vision 2030 and has established the baseline data for most of the SDG indicators. This has all been carried out through consultation with stakeholders.

The VNR provides an update on progress towards SDG 13 (climate) and the INDC is used as an indicator for 2015 and 2016. The National Climate Change Act 2016 provides the framework nationally for mitigation and adaptation action and established a climate change council to monitor progress. The Act informs actions to deliver both the NDC and the SDGs and provides a legislative framework for climate action.

Zimbabwe

Sustainable Development is a constitutional imperative and national objective for Zimbabwe. In response to Agenda 2030 the government has put in place a new institutional framework to guide implementation of the SDGs. This consists of a Steering Committee chaired by the Chief Secretary to the President which provides overall guidance and strategic leadership. The permanent secretaries of all ministries are members as well as the heads of UN agencies. A Technical Committee made up of the SDG focal points from each ministry and representatives of UN agencies, development partners, the private sector and civil society supports implementation. There are also thematic clusters to help mainstreaming the SDGs and to localise the SDGs at the sub national level.

In relation to climate change it is acknowledged as a threat to sustainable development and in particular to agricultural productivity in the 2017 Voluntary National Review (VNR). Climate smart agriculture is an area that is prioritised for action. The VNR refers to Zimbabwe's National Climate Change Response Strategy and to ongoing work to develop a National Adaptation Plan, but no reference is made to the country's INDC. However, the INDC establishes climate action in the context of the environmental rights each citizen holds under the Constitution and the commitment to sustainable development in the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio- Economic Transformation (the national economic blueprint).

3.1 Key initiatives to support SDG implementation:

i) The SDG Guide – Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals has been developed by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

The SDG Guide outlines ideas and suggestions for initiating the implementation of Agenda 2030 at the national level via an online resource³⁴. It aims to help stakeholders, including governments at all levels (national, regional, and local), to understand the SDG Agenda, to start an inclusive dialogue on SDG implementation, and to prepare SDG-based national development strategies (or align existing plans and strategies with the goals). It draws upon lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and proposes guiding principles to help countries navigate the SDG Agenda. The guide reflects the universality of the SDG Agenda by recognizing countries' different starting points.

ii) SDG guide for cities

The **SDG Cities Guide** (which is also produced by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network) is aimed at local and regional government leaders, policy makers, officials, as well as practitioners from business and civil society working in cities and human settlements worldwide³⁵.

The guide is primarily intended for use in cities and amongst urban governments, but is also applicable to all forms of local authorities and regional authorities.

iii) Tools for implementing the SDGs at the local level

Localising the SDGs is a website with a Toolbox with tools to assist with local level SDG planning and implementation³⁶. It is supported by UNHABITAT and UNDP.

The Toolbox seeks to raise awareness of the SDGs among local and national actors. It aims to improve their knowledge of the 2030 Agenda, familiarise them with the implications, opportunities and challenges in localizing it, and urge stakeholders to fully realise their crucial role. As an advocacy platform, it also seeks to create an enabling environment for the localization process, to support local ownership and ensure the SDGs integration in sub-national strategies and plans.

³⁴ Available online at <https://sdg.guide/>

³⁵ Available online at <https://sdgcities.guide/scope-purpose-and-structure-of-the-guide-ef19de0c42f7>

³⁶ Available online at <http://localizingthesdgs.org/>

The Toolbox takes stock and reviews existing tools, systematizes outputs and avails the findings to policy-makers, local officers, experts and actors of local relevance. It aims at being a practical support for local stakeholders, and in particular local and regional governments, by pointing out best practices that are reliable and replicable in order to efficiently design, implement and monitor policies in line with the SDGs.

iv) Tools for SDG Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

EvalPartners has established EVALSDGs in response to the need to embed effective monitoring and evaluation in the SDGs. EVALSDGs aims to form a strong evaluation partnership to inform, support, measure and assess development efforts around the SDGs. It promotes evaluation activities around the SDGs and seeks to orient and support the review and follow-up process on the SDG Agenda2030 by adding value through evaluation. Members of EVALSDGs include UN agencies, national planning commissions, think tanks and consultancies³⁷.

EVALSDGs has several working groups that can help development practitioners and national governments build their capacities for SDG reporting. For example, the Spotlight working group showcases national efforts toward implementing a SDGs evaluation policy and sharing knowledge and lessons learned. It also contains resources such as briefing papers, many of which are prepared by IIED for EVALSDGs³⁸.

v) The SDG Fund

The Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG Fund) is an international multi-donor and multi-agency development mechanism created in 2014 by the United Nations to support sustainable development activities through integrated and multidimensional joint programmes.

Its main objective is to bring together UN agencies, national governments, academia, civil society and business to address the challenges of poverty, promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve SDGs. The fund has a particular focus on convening public-private partnerships for SDGs.

As an inter-agency mechanism, the SDG Fund works across the UN system. It is supporting joint programmes in 22 countries with an approximately USD 70 million budget. National and international partners, including the private sector, provide

approximately 58% of the resources through matching funds. Each joint programme contributes to the achievement of several SDGs. The SDG Fund is the first UN development cooperation mechanism specifically established to implement the 2030 Agenda. The list of supported programmes, publications, case studies and knowledge information can be accessed online³⁹.

³⁷ EvalSDGs members are listed online at <https://evalsdgs.org/portfolio/members-2/>

³⁸ EvalSDGs briefing papers available online at <https://evalsdgs.org/portfolio/briefing-papers/>

³⁹ Resources available online at <http://www.sdgfund.org/>

4. ALIGNMENT BETWEEN SDGs AND NDCs AT NATIONAL LEVEL

While efforts have been made to align the SDGs and NDCs, climate actions and sustainable development actions, on paper and in national plans and strategies – the next step is to see how this is reflected in actual implementation on the ground. Given that the SDGs are only under implementation since January 2016, and that some countries are still finalising their NDCs, lessons learned and good practices are only starting to emerge. Nevertheless, some useful entry points and approaches for linking NDC and SDG implementation can be identified and are outlined in this section. This is not an exhaustive list; good practices are still emerging as SDG and NDC implementation gets underway.

4.1 Green economy

The concept of green economy emerged in the lead up to Rio+ 20 as a fresh way of articulating sustainable development and as a reaction to the deadlock seen in the climate negotiations in 2009 due to a perceived trade-off between climate action and economic growth. UNEP defines a green economy as one that results in “improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.”⁴⁰ The green economy approach and narrative provide a useful way to link the SDGs and NDCs and their implementation⁴¹.

The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) supports over 20 countries to develop and implement green growth strategies and plans to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic growth⁴². The institute provides technical assistance at country level to support policy planning, finance and investment and knowledge sharing for its partner countries. It has a particular focus on green growth and SDG/NDC co-benefits for particular sectors and emphasises achieving the SDGs in a climate compatible way. Examples of countries it works with that are using a green economy approach to connect the SDGs and climate action are Rwanda, Ethiopia and Mongolia (see Box 6).

The Green Economy Coalition is a movement of over 50 organisations that share the same vision of a green, fair and inclusive future. The coalition advocates for a transition rooted in local and national contexts. The Green Economy coalition sees green economy as a narrative that can bring the SDGs and

NDCs together and provide the ‘how to’ put the SDGs and NDCs into action.

Box 6: Green economy approach to linking the SDGs and NDCs: Mongolia

Mongolia’s resource-intensive development and climate change vulnerability pose unique urgency for green growth. Since 2011, the Government of Mongolia has been accelerating the development and implementation of its green growth policy and plans. In the areas of energy, water and green construction for public buildings, GGGI has supported the government to convene stakeholders to support targeted research, capacity building, knowledge exchange, and project development.

In 2014, as part of the effort to diversify its economy and deliver growth in an environmentally sustainable manner, Mongolia adopted its National Green Development Policy (NGDP). The focus is now on developing implementation strategies to achieve the key energy, public building and water objectives outlined in the NGDP. There are clear links between these priority sectors for green growth with the Mongolian NDC⁴³ (which prioritises energy, transport and industry for GHG emissions reduction and water as a priority for adaptation) and SDGs (SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11).

Mongolia is also making efforts to develop and implement green growth statistical analysis, including national indicators and subnational green growth indicators as part of subnational green growth strategies and plans in three provinces.⁴⁴

Another actor supporting countries to capture the benefits of the green economy is UN PAGE – the United Nations Partnership for Action on the Green Economy⁴⁵. The Partnership was launched in 2013 at Rio+20 in response to the call to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories. PAGE seeks to put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices and supports countries to reframe their economic policies and practices to foster economic growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies.

PAGE brings together five UN agencies – UN Environment, International Labour Organization, UN Development Programme, UN Industrial Development Organization, and UN Institute for Training and Research – whose mandates, expertise and networks combined can offer integrated and

40 UNEP (2011) Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, www.unep.org/greeneconomy

41 See for example, the Green Economy Coalition vision available online at <http://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/our-vision>

42 Global Green Growth Institute website <http://gggi.org/>

43 Mongolia’s NDC is accessible online in the UNFCCC NDC Registry at <http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/Pages/Home.aspx>

44 Source GGGI Factsheets for Mongolia <http://gggi.org/mongolia-green-growth-planning-2/>

45 UN-PAGE website available at <http://www.un-page.org/>

holistic support to countries on inclusive green economy. PAGE coordinates UN action on green economy to assist countries in achieving and monitoring the emerging Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 8: “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.” PAGE is active in 15 countries and Sweden is a partner.

Sweden’s experience decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions is an example of a green economy approach in action and is a powerful demonstration of what can be done when green economy principles are put into practice (see Box 7).

Box 7: Decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions in Sweden

In Sweden, pricing carbon through carbon taxation has been the main policy instrument to drive fossil fuel consumption down – and it has done so significantly over the last 20 years. The CO₂ tax in Sweden was first introduced in 1991 alongside already existing energy taxes and has gradually been significantly increased, from 29€ in 1991 to 125€ in 2014 for households and services.

Sweden provides evidence that decoupling GDP growth from CO₂ emissions is possible and that carbon tax is an efficient way of achieving a decrease in CO₂ emissions with fossil origin. This decoupling has been absolute; emissions have decreased in absolute terms at the same time as GDP has increased (as compared to relative decoupling, meaning that emissions increase at a slower pace than GDP).

4.2 Adaptation and risk management

Most developing countries include an adaptation component in their NDC. NDCs are used to set out a country’s high level vision and objectives for adaptation. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), meanwhile are country driven, national level processes to integrate adaptation into planning processes. NAPs can operationalise the commitments set out in NDCs. In addition, the adaptation actions delivered by NDCs and NAPs can also result in benefits for the SDGs, by building resilience in sectors from agriculture and food to cities and disaster risk reduction. Two of the targets in SDG 13 directly relate to adaptation: target 13.1 on strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity and target 13.2 on integrating climate change policies into national policies, strategies and planning processes. A country that is developing and implementing the adaptation components of an NDC via a

NAP is effectively implementing these SDG targets⁴⁶ (see example in Box 8). In addition, the SDGs provide a normative framework to guide approaches to implementing the actions set out in NDCs and NAPs, such as human rights, gender equality and inclusion. In essence the SDGs promote a development first approach in NDCs and NAPs, in order to inform and influence a country’s development pathway.

Box 8: Aligning NAP, NDC and the SDGs in Kenya

Kenya has taken steps to align its planning cycles to reach the goals and strategies outlined in its National Adaptation Plan (NAP), NDC, and national SDG action plans through a combination of both top-down and bottom-up approaches.

This includes placing emphasis on climate-smart agriculture as a top entry point to build resilience among local communities, while simultaneously ensuring food security, equitable access to natural resources, green growth and poverty reduction. Through this work, the Government of Kenya has developed strategies for different agricultural crop value chains to confront climatic stresses, work that extends also across livestock and fisheries⁴⁷. To help realize these action plans, gender-sensitive climate budgeting is now mandated as part of planning reforms. Line ministries must comply before receiving any annual budget.

The Climate Change Directorate is collaborating with the ministry responsible for the coordination of SDG implementation to capture synergies and co-benefits in both planning and implementation. As a result, there are consistent approaches that emerge across Kenya’s national policies and plans. For example, Kenya has a focus on climate proofing infrastructure in its NDC (with a cross reference to the NAP). It identifies a range of actions from short to longer term, including vulnerability assessments, sectoral priorities and upgrading infrastructure over time. Together these actions contribute directly to SDG 9 on resilient infrastructure⁴⁸.

4.3 Whole of government and whole of society approaches

As with the MDGs, securing high level political support is critical to mobilising an entire government behind the SDGs. Given the scope of the 17 SDGs and their indivisibility they can only be achieved if all

⁴⁶ See Hammill, A. & Price- Kelly, H. (2017) Using NDCs, NAPs and the SDGs to advance climate-resilient development. NAP Global Network/ NDC Partnership. http://ndcpartnership.org/sites/default/files/NDPC_Expert_Perspectives_NDC_NAP-SDG_full.pdf

⁴⁷ See presentation available online at http://ledsgp.org/2017/06/planning-act-climate-change-achieve-sdgs/?loclang=en_gb

⁴⁸ Sources Kenya NDC (2015) available online at http://www4.unfccc.int/ndcregistry/PublishedDocuments/Kenya%20First/Kenya_NDC_20150723.pdf, Kenya NAP (2015) available online at http://www.kccap.info/images/docs/nap_final.pdf, LEDs Global Partnership available online at http://ledsgp.org/2017/06/planning-act-climate-change-achieve-sdgs/?loclang=en_gb and Hammill & Price-Kelly (2017)

ministries and all sectors play their part. Likewise, NDCs illustrate that a wide range of sectors will need to deliver emission reductions and to increase resilience, from energy and agriculture to water and infrastructure. Beyond government there is also a need to engage society at large in delivering the SDGs and making the transition to low carbon, climate resilient development. Civil society, business and local authorities all need to play a role. Countries that can catalyse this broader commitment to the SDGs are more likely to succeed (see Boxes 9 and 10 for examples). As a starting point it is important to communicate, raise awareness and ensure active participation in all aspects of planning and action. As a next step putting in place institutions to help with coordination, inclusion and reporting can maximise both synergies and impact.

Box 9: Uganda – aligning national agendas

Uganda's national policy context has aligned over the years with global milestones in the development agenda; from the 1995 constitution which was formulated ahead of the Millennium Summit and contains commitments to sustainable development, to the second National Development Plan prepared ahead of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This places Uganda in a unique position in terms of localizing and popularizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴⁹. As a result, there is a high level of alignment between the Second National Development Plan and the Ugandan NDC⁵⁰.

For example, Uganda is working to integrate adaptation into water catchment management as part of the country's evolving NAP process. This is reflected in the vision set out in the NDC to improve water catchment protection. It also addresses a priority in Uganda's Second National Development Plan, to improve water provision through the protection and management of catchment areas. The Second National Development plan is the framework for implementing the SDGs nationally and these actions on catchment management contribute directly to SDG 6, as noted in Uganda's report Voluntary National Review to the HLPF in 2016⁵¹.

Box 10: Bangladesh – high level commitment and a whole of society approach

Building on Bangladesh's success in implementing the MDGs, commitment to the SDGs is led by the Prime Minister who is also a member of the High Level Panel on Water established by the UN SG to champion SDG 6. Implementation of the SDGs is led nationally by the Ministry of Planning and an 'SDG Implementation and Monitoring Committee' has been formed at the Prime Minister's Office to facilitate and implementation of an SDG Action Plan. The government has adopted an 'all of society' approach to ensure wider participation of NGOs, development partners, the private sector, media and civil society in the formulation of a national Action Plan and in the implementation of the SDGs.

In response to the SDGs Bangladesh mapped the responsibilities of ministries and agencies to achieve the SDGs. Lead, co-lead and contributing ministries have been assigned to each SDG, in an effort to reduce duplication and enhance synergies. The ministries are required to incorporate the SDGs in their annual business plans and budgets and demonstrate how they are meeting agreed indicators. An SDG monitoring cell in the office of the Prime Minister led by a senior bureaucrat tracks progress across ministries and a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the SDGs is being developed to this process.

Beyond government and in line with the whole of society approach, non-governmental inputs to the SDGs are organised around each of the 17 SDGs and coordinated by the Centre for Policy Dialogue. There is a civil society focal point for each SDG – with SDG 13 on climate being led by the International Centre for climate Change and Development. Links to the NDC are made through the civil society group and the government departments working on SDG 13 (climate). The NDC was developed by the ministry of the environment with the assistance of consultants and there is an ongoing dialogue to strengthen the links to the SDGs in Bangladesh's second NDC. In Bangladesh the SDGs are very much the driver, with climate action being integrated into the SDG framework⁵².

4.4 Data, reporting and evaluation

Measuring progress towards the SDGs and having the data needed to measure progress is a major concern for many developing countries. In fact, some commentators worry that the focus on measurement and on the 169 SDG indicators risks detracting decision makers from planning and action. Nevertheless, the need to assess data availability, developing monitoring and evaluation capacity and deliver reporting requirements is a catalyst for action and for coordination in some countries. Designing the systems and metrics to measure progress is an entry point for capturing synergies between climate action and

49 See 'Uganda, Our vision, Our commitment our SDGs'. UN country team. <http://www.un-ug.org/sites/default/files/reports/Our%20SDGs%20Uganda.pdf>

50 Northrup et al (2016).

51 Sources Uganda NDC, Uganda VNR (2016), Hammill & Price-Kelly (2017), BOND presentation https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/masterslide_set_-_08.02.17_-_sdgs_event.pdf

52 Sources Bangladesh Voluntary National Review (2017) & Interview with Saleemul Huq (Sept 2017)

sustainable development. Effective monitoring and evaluation can actually inform planning by providing the analysis and information to make informed choices⁵³. While most developing countries identify monitoring and evaluation as a capacity gap⁵⁴ efforts are underway to assess data availability to monitor progress and to capture links between different reporting instruments (e.g. to UNFCCC and HLPF) (see example in Box 11).

Box 11: South Africa – Climate Change Response Monitoring and Evaluation framework

'Issues surrounding data production, monitoring, and standards are at the core of the transformative agenda. You can't know whether you have left anybody behind unless you know where they started from.' Pali Lehohla⁵⁵

The South African National Climate Change Response Policy 2011 prioritises the development of a country-wide monitoring system to measure climate variables at scales appropriate to the institutions that must implement climate change responses. Chapter 5 of the National Development Plan sets out the government's vision of South Africa's transition to a low-carbon, resilient economy and just society which is well underway by 2030. Under this objective building an evidence base is prioritised as is monitoring, reporting and verifying South Africa's progress against national goals of the envisaged economy and society. M&E covers adaptation, mitigation and climate finance and there is an emphasis on learning from the M&E process to iteratively improve climate actions. The M&E system is designed to support reporting to the UNFCCC and other processes such as SDG reporting.

South Africa has also focused in on M&E for climate resilience. With the aim of developing high level objectives and priorities for M&E adaptation actions it has examined the relevant national strategies and legislative frameworks assess linkages, synergies and differences in terms of the information collected. The policies assessed include the National Development Plan 2030, the NDC, the NAP, sectoral and local plans and the National Climate Change Response Policy 2011. The aim is to identify desired adaptation outcomes for M&E for climate resilience. The results can then be used to report progress on climate action and sustainable development⁵⁶.

4.5. Sub national planning and implementation

Localising the SDGs in decentralised planning is another useful entry point for NDC / SDG linkages, bringing decision making to the local level. For example, the UN Global Compact recognises that the only way the SDGs can be achieved is through actions in local communities and countries around the world, engaging stakeholders from business and civil society to drive change. The Global Compact's Local Network SDG Action Plan looks at how local networks can engage key stakeholders to collaboratively shape the local SDG agenda, set a strategy and take action to implement it⁵⁷. Local disaster risk management (DRR) plans can provide a useful entry point for linking climate adaptation and sustainable development and city and municipal level authorities are often in the lead in translating the international goals into local action. Local government coalitions such as the C40 with 91 affiliated cities help municipalities to embed sustainability in their planning with initiatives to provide peer to peer support and access to finance⁵⁸. In some countries, including Mexico, decentralised planning for climate action is enshrined in law (see Box 12). See more on localising SDGs in section 3.1 of this Guide; and on decentralising climate finance in section 9 of the Sida Guide 'Supporting Access to Finance for Climate Action' (2017).

53 See for example, IIED/ EVALSDGs (2016) Evaluation: a crucial ingredient for SDG success. Available online at <http://pubs.iied.org/17357IIED/>

54 UNDP (2016) Developing Country Support Needs for the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

55 Quoted in Aligning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to the NDP: Towards domestication of the SDGs in South Africa. WITS School of Governance/Tambo Debates. June 2016. Available online at <http://pubs.iied.org/17357IIED/>

56 See presentation by Tsepang Makholela to CCXG Global Forum, March 2017, available online at https://www.slideshare.net/OECD_ENV/ccxg-global-forum-march-2017-bga-tailoring-the-national-adaptation-me-systems-to-reach-and-benefit-key-target-audiences-by-tsepang-makholela

57 For more information see <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/sdgs/in-action-plan>

58 For further information see <http://www.c40.org/programmes>

Box 12: Sub-national planning for climate action in Mexico

Mexico implemented a climate change law already in 2012. The law provides a climate change policy framework and institutional arrangements that involve all relevant stakeholders at all levels (national and subnational) in a national climate change system that promotes participation and coordination. The integrated approach involving different levels of government is one of the novel elements of the Mexican climate law. Sub-national governments (states and municipalities) are developing their own climate change plans with adaptation and mitigation actions in response to the climate law and national climate change strategy.

In some sectors, sub-national levels of government actually take the lead. For example, in a sector like transport, many projects are initiated at the metropolitan level, including in the creation of public/private partnerships that can attract international and private sector financial support. The Global Green Growth Institute is working with the Megalopolis Environmental Commission and the Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources to strengthen green growth planning capabilities at the sub-national level with a focus on urban transport. An evaluation of fiscal incentives to shift urban mobility from private vehicles to public and non-motorised transportation, including low emissions zones, vehicle registration fees, fuel surcharge has been carried out and is now informing planning at sub national level.

Finally, it is important to note that the Mexican government is also conducting a process to capture synergies between the SDGs and climate change commitments, including the identification of processes and indicators that are common for both⁵⁹.

⁵⁹ For more information see NDCi Global blog <http://ndci.global/on-the-ground-paris-implementation-gets-real-in-mexico/>; GGGI factsheet on Mexico <http://gggi.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Fact-Sheet-Mexico-Subnational.pdf> and the Transparency Partnership https://www.transparency-partnership.net/sites/default/files/ws15223_mexico_gpa2015_en_fin_web.pdf

5. FINANCING IMPLEMENTATION

Finance is critical for the implementation of the mitigation and adaptation actions set out in countries' NDCs and for achievement of the SDGs. The broad scope of the SDGs and the transition envisaged to low carbon, climate resilient development in the Paris Agreement mean that unprecedented levels of investment are required. International public financing sources, such as the Green Climate Fund, will not be able to provide the large-scale investment needed on their own. Additional sources of finance, including from domestic budgets and the private sector, will also be needed. Many developing country NDCs include conditional actions, which require international support (finance, capacity building and technology transfer) to be realised.

Many countries are now working to assess the cost of the actions identified in NDCs and to develop investment strategies. In order to access finance, countries need clear project concepts and financing propositions. In addition, institutional capacities may need to be strengthened and the enabling environment for policy implementation and private sector engagement enhanced. A UNDP survey published in 2016 identified costing NDC actions and mobilising resources as priority capacity needs in developing countries⁶⁰.

The Sida Guide 'Supporting Access to Finance for Climate Action' (2017) is a good entry point for information on sources of support and tools to assist developing countries to finance NDC implementation.

CDKN's Quick Start Guide to NDC Implementation has a helpful section on financing NDCs that includes information on sources of climate finance, identifying funding gaps, costing climate actions, developing a project pipeline and attracting private sector investment⁶¹. The guide captures linkages to the SDGs where appropriate.

The NDC partnership's 'Funding and Initiatives Navigator' is a searchable database of financial and technical support that can help countries to plan and implement their NDCs⁶². It includes open funds and technical support as well as existing assistance on the ground that will help coordination of new support. The navigator is designed to help government officials and other stakeholders involved in planning or implementing climate policies at the country level who need help identifying relevant and accessible

financial and technical assistance programs to support NDC planning and implementation. It can also help donor country governments and multilateral organizations to coordinate, harmonise and increase transparency in relation to the support they provide for NDC planning.

Countries are already testing different approaches to funding NDC implementation and the SDGs. In Bangladesh the national climate change fund which contains both domestic and international resources is central to NDC implementation. Rwanda's Green Fund or national climate change and environment fund was established in tandem with the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy. The purpose of the fund is to ensure sustainable financing is accessible to support environmental sustainability, resilience to climate change and green growth. The fund is the primary mechanism through which Rwanda accesses, programmes, disburses and monitors international and national extra-budgetary climate and environment finance. Funds are distributed to Government, private sector, civil society and communities to implement a range of projects. Another innovative approach to SDG financing from Colombia is presented in Box 13.

60 UNDP (2016) Developing Country Support Needs for the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

61 CDKN's Quick Start Guide to NDC Implementation available online at <https://www.cdkn.org/ndc-guide/book/planning-for-ndc-implementation-a-quick-start-guide/finance/>

62 NDC partnership Funding and Initiatives Navigator available online at <http://ndcpartnership.org/initiatives-navigator>

Box 13: Colombia Sosentible – a new fund for a new Colombia

In 2015, the Government of Colombia established a new fund called “Colombia Sostenible”. The fund is a country wide initiative that takes a systematic approach to addressing climate change, social inequality and post conflict challenges. It aims to balance the pressures of development with the protection of rich and diverse ecosystems. The fund has the potential to maximise national public funds, raise international finance and involve the private sector to build clean, resilient and more prosperous communities. It is seen as a building block for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the NDC.

The fund examines risk and vulnerability in the context of the economic landscape to identify pathways to transformational change. For example, the 2015/2016 El Niño event challenged traditional thinking behind hydro power vulnerability to climate events and the impact on energy security. The Colombia Sostenible initiative could champion new renewable energy technologies and distributed smart grids in rural areas to improve energy security. This approach could also help build a new generation of high quality green jobs.

Delivering public investments in the short term that contribute to low carbon development will depend largely on Colombia’s ability to match short term actions with a long term vision. Colombia Sostenible is working to identify specific areas for investment where the fund can repeatedly add value in the long term vision⁶³.

⁶³ Informed by a blog by E3G available online at <https://www.e3g.org/library/getting-to-grips-with-sdg-and-ndc-implementation-learning-from-columbia> and ‘Colombia Sostenible’ available online at https://publications.iadb.org/bitstream/handle/11319/7320/Colombia-Sostenible_NEW_DEC2_webFINAL.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

6. THE ROLE OF BILATERAL DONORS IN SUPPORTING NATIONAL PROCESSES

According to interviews carried out to inform this Guide with government officials working on NDC and SDG implementation, the key ask of development agencies is for **capacity building and training** across ministries and sectors to enable effective planning and implementation. This reflects the findings of the UNDP 2016 survey which reveals that there are significant and common gaps across many developing countries, including capacity to: mobilise resources for NDC implementation, develop NDC implementation plans, develop and improve information baselines and monitoring systems and build institutional structures and coordination mechanisms. While tools and networks like the NDC partnership can provide information and support, countries also stress the value of bilateral support as bilateral donors tend to be well informed about national policies and budgets and are well placed to provide tailored advice and support.

The new universal nature of the 2030 Agenda also signals a change in the flow of **lessons learning and good practice experience** between countries. Where in the past lessons learned would have primarily flowed from north to south, in the areas of sustainable development and climate action, the flow of information may actually be from south to north. For example, Bangladesh's experience in adaptation planning could offer lessons to less vulnerable and more temperate countries, and Costa Rica's long term commitment to sustainability could inform approaches to the SDGs in more developed countries. Bilateral agencies can facilitate these south-south exchanges of information as well as their own experiences in pursuing sustainable development. **South-south cooperation** and **triangular cooperation** have been emphasised as key approaches for SDG implementation by the UN⁶⁴ as well as the High Level Panel on 'A New DAC in a Changing World: Setting a Path for the Future'⁶⁵. This report also stresses the need for more inclusive and equitable cooperation and partnership between OECD DAC members and partner countries to reflect the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda.

Developing countries have identified capacity gaps in the area of data, the development of national level **indicators and M&E**. These are certainly important areas of development cooperation, for example

supporting national statistics offices and ministries of environment to develop GHG emission inventories or data on water quality and water supplies to inform strategic adaptation actions. However, it is equally important to support partner countries in **planning and implementing** their NDC and SDG plans. Much of this work should be a continuation of what went before – helping countries to mainstream climate change into sustainable development strategies, creating new partnerships, sharing experiences, facilitating inward investment to support national priorities etc. Bilateral agencies have both experience and tools that are relevant to SDG and NDC implementation from years of working, environment mainstreaming, sustainable development, inclusiveness, gender equality, human rights etc. Many of these tools can be modified to inform a new era of SDG and NDC implementation.

Finance is obviously a critical requirement for both NDC development and implementation and **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** has an important role to play in financing both NDCs and the SDGs. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda sets a global framework for financing sustainable development including domestic resource mobilisation, private finance and international public finance, including ODA. However, the scale of resources required to implement the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, estimated in trillions rather than billions of dollars, means that ODA alone will not be enough; it will have to be coupled with domestic resources, other form of international finance and private sector finance. ODA will however continue to play an important role in the Least Developed Countries and in leveraging these other sources of finance. Climate-related ODA has been increasing in absolute and relative terms since 2002. However, total ODA to the poorest countries is falling as their vulnerability to climate change increases⁶⁶. The Paris Agreement aims for a balance between adaptation and mitigation finance. Finance for adaptation will have to increase to achieve this goal, as in the period 2013–2014 the majority of climate-related development finance targeted mitigation. In order to achieve the adaptation goal of the Paris Agreement it will be important to raise the profile of adaptation and encourage developed countries to increase support for adaptation, particularly in the most vulnerable countries⁶⁷.

64 UN EOsG and UNFCCC (2017) Catalyzing the Implementation of Nationally determined Contributions in the context of the 2303 Agenda through South-South cooperation. Available online at <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Download-Report.pdf>

65 High Level Panel on the DAC (2017). Report available online at <https://www.oecd.org/dac/Report-High-Level-Panel-on-the-DAC-2017.pdf>

66 Shine, T & Campillo, G. (2016). The Role of Development Finance in Climate Action Post-2015. OECD DAC Working Paper. Available online at http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/the-role-of-development-finance-in-climate-action-post-2015_18a859bf-en;jsession-id=2dixnfqvr6m7s.x-oecd-live-02

67 Ibid.

In addition, the Busan Partnership for **Effective Development Cooperation** and the principles and commitments countries have made as part of it will be important driving forces for NDC and SDG implementation. From country ownership and partnership, to a focus on results and transparency, the Busan principles are well aligned with the SDG and the Paris Agreement. Table 1 presents an overview of the opportunities for coherence between development and climate finance and the role of development co-operation providers in realising these opportunities.

their policies to the SDGs. This signals a new opportunity for knowledge and experience sharing between progressive business and investors, governments and development agencies to determine new and innovative ways of leveraging private sector investment to support the implementation of the SDGs and NDCs in developing countries. Development agencies could consider convening dialogues with these actors to exchange lessons learned and to find new way to support partner countries achieve the SDGs.

Table 1: Summary of factors for improved coherence of climate finance and development finance⁶⁸

Factors	Role of development cooperation providers
Enhance Country ownership	Consistently apply development effectiveness principles in support
Greater mainstreaming of climate and environment in development cooperation	Develop and share tools to increase mainstreaming
Reduce fragmentation of climate finance	Strengthen accountability and transparency in climate finance reporting
Improve access to finance	Support climate finance readiness in partner countries, especially LDCs and SIDS
Define climate finance and increase transparency	Contribute to an agreed definition of climate finance and increase transparency and accountability of support
Increase financial resources	Increase resources and target them to where they are most needed and can have greatest impact, including to local level
Improve predictability of financial support	Report on planned contributions in a timely and reliable manner
Reduce competition between climate and development finance	Strengthen understanding of the potential for competition at a national level and ensure that resilience concepts are integrated across sectors to maximise climate and development outcomes
Prioritise public international climate finance for most vulnerable	Address imbalances between adaptation and mitigation finance and target support to most vulnerable countries and communities

Some parts of the **private sector**, in particular impact investors and responsible businesses, are re-aligning their practices and objectives to the SDGs⁶⁹. The OECD, the Global Compact, UN Principles of Responsible Investment and other organisations are actively working with businesses to help them play their part in achieving the SDGs⁷⁰. In some cases the response of progressive businesses to the SDGs surpasses the efforts made by governments to realign

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ For example, the SDGs were a point of discussion in almost every session at the June 2017 Responsible Investment Conference in London <https://www.eiseverywhere.com/ehome/222706/agendapage/>

⁷⁰ See for example [OECD Responsible Business Conduct and the SDGs](#), [Global Compact tools for SDG integration for business](#), [UNPRI Aligning responsible investment with the SDGs](#)

7. CONCLUSIONS

There are many ways that development cooperation providers can support coherent and synergistic SDG and NDC implementation. In fact, there is an opportunity to use many of the tools and knowledge that are already in place from years of mainstreaming environment, climate change and biodiversity into development cooperation. The challenge is to inject new energy into these efforts using the new international framework created by Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement, while responding to the changes inherent in the universality of these agreements and fostering new and innovative ways of working. In addition, new tools and partnerships, including those presented in this report can assist countries to implement NDCs and SDGs effectively and coherently.

There are many opportunities to deliver win-win outcomes and co-benefits from an integrated approach to NDC and SDG implementation. The experience bilateral donors have from years of working on policy coherence for development, donor harmonisation, country ownership, alignment and managing for results is directly relevant to this new paradigm⁷¹.

Dealt with in isolation there is a risk that NDCs could result in countries focusing on a narrow range of sectors, particularly those relevant to emissions reductions. This would run contrary to the principle that the 17 SDGs are indivisible and must be implemented in a coherent and mutually reinforcing way. The integrated nature of the SDGs is their strength but it also poses a challenge in terms of implementation. With 17 goals, 169 indicators and links to be made to other international agreements, SDG implementation is complex and multidimensional and will require new ways of doing things and new institutions. There is a risk that governments, development cooperation partners and business will pick the SDGs they like or have skills in and ignore others. On the other hand, the SDGs provide a development first framing for NDCs and if well-coordinated could help to increase the ambition of NDCs and ensure zero poverty and zero carbon go hand in hand.

Overall, it is important to note that the context in each country is different – in some countries NDCs are the driver while in others it is the SDGs or a green economy approach. It is critical for development agencies to align their support to partner countries for SDG and NDC implementation with national strategies and development priorities.

⁷¹ See report of the High Level Panel on the DAC

