

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

Ten Steps in the practical organisation of the NAP alignment Process

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United Nations Convention
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General note to users



This guide is concerned not with the theory and scientific and technical issues of the NAP process, but as its name suggests, it is rather about the practical steps necessary for the organization of the process at the national level. The ideas and theory of NAP alignment are all already captured and explained in various COP documents and decisions. The task therefore of this guide is to explain to stakeholders what are the basic actions necessary when organizing the actual activities that would lead to final alignment of the NAP. In short, it sets out the basic stages of the process and details the actions and product of each stage.

This guide must be used in conjunction with the annotations to the same. These annotations are important as they give detailed, yet precise and concise explanations as to the role and purpose of each step in the ultimate realization of the goal of NAP alignment.

Additional info. See Annotations to this guide



Step I: Preliminary organization

Objective:

Securing initial leadership for the process

Process/Actions:

- Designate relevant government agency with necessary political clout to set the process in motion (this is vital)
- Design an initial communication/advocacy strategy
- Determine and contact other possible initial partners
- Ensure ample representation (government, CSO, media, others)
- Formation of an initial body to lead the process

Product:

Initial coordinating body established

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 1 - 3

STEP II: Practical start of the process



Objective:

Develop initial strategic plan of activities with time line and resources earmarked

Process/actions:

- Brief review of the NAP/SLM process thus far
- Determine what needs to be done and how as regards mass involvement
- Establish the precise objectives and role of the initiating body
- Designing a plan of action with key objectives and a roadmap for achieving the same
- Identify and mobilizing the initial resources needed to implement the plan

Product:

Plan and time table of activities designed

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 3

Step III: Reaching/involving the Public



Objective:

Creating public awareness & popular ownership of the National Coordination Body

Process/Actions:

- National awareness raising exercises
- Reaching out to key stakeholders
- Identifying necessary capacity to support the process
- Initiating a people ownership process
- Establishing a broad-based permanent national coordinating body

Product:

Fully-fledged fully-representative NCB established

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 3

STEP IV: Initiating actual alignment



Objective:

Building the key columns of alignment

Process/Action:

- **Ensure effective functioning and constant outreach of the NCB**
- **Review all present SLM projects with a view to their alignment**
- **Seeking specific technical advise**
- **Collection/compilation of relevant data covering inter alia:**
 - ❖ **The diagnosis of DLDD**
 - ❖ **Establishment of baselines**
 - ❖ **Relevant indicators**
 - ❖ **Issues of resources (financial and others)**

Product:

Necessary data, structure, machinery and process are prepared and designed to ensure the alignment process

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 4

Step V: Preparing the aligned NAP



Objective:

Writing the draft aligned NAP for mass consumption

Process/Actions:

- Selecting a drafting committee (broad-based)
- Appointing one overall officer to be in charge of ensuring the draft is done
- Appointing officers for particular sections
- Drafting the document
- Consulting and applying the NAP guideline
- Ensuring that specific technical advice is provided when and where needed

Product:

First draft of the aligned NAP prepared

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 4

STEP VI: National Review of the first draft



Objective:

Improving the draft aligned NAP

Process/Action

- National circulation of the draft document and invitation of comments and the like
- Meeting with key stakeholders on the draft
- Sectional meetings on the draft (particular interest groups)
- National exercise(s) for consideration of the draft
- Changes made to the draft based on commitments received

Product:

Second draft is prepared

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 5

STEP VII: Expert/technical review of second draft



Objective:

Ensuring draft meets all requirements of an aligned NAP

Process/Action:

- **Creating expert technical group to check if NAP is:**
 - **Built on a platform of synergies**
 - **Mainstreamed in all relevant sectoral/development policies**
 - **Has socio-economic baselines and relevant indicators**
 - **A monitoring and evaluation mechanism**
 - **Has the proper legal and policy framework**
 - **Has a feasible IFS**
 - **Is aligned in accordance with the guidelines and national priorities of the country**

Product:

A technically correct and aligned NAP

Step VIII: Finalization and national approval of the aligned NAP



Objective:

- Popular approval and ownership of the aligned NAP

Process/Actions:

- National circulation of the second draft
- Awareness raising as to the key elements of the draft
- Local and/or national exercise for approval of the draft

Product:

Aligned NAP approved by popular endorsement

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 6

STEP IX: Official adoption of the aligned NAP



Objective:

The aligned NAP gains full official government support

Process/Actions:

- **National Coordinating Body ensures that aligned NAP successfully passes through the administrative and legislative process of the country concerned (e.g.)**
 - **Focal Point Ministry consideration/approval is done**
 - **Cabinet approval granted**
 - **Parliamentary approval given**

Product:

The aligned NAP is an official legal document and sanctioned as the national policy on SLM

Additional info. See Annotations pg. 6

STEP X: Circulation of the aligned NAP



Objective:

Increasing knowledge of and support for NAP and its implementation

Process/Action:

- Dissemination:
 - To all government sectors
 - Relevant CSOs, education & scientific institutions
 - Specific stakeholders (e.g. farmers organizations)
 - Bilateral, multilateral, sub-regional and regional partners
 - To UNCCD Secretariat/GM

Product:

A network established to support NAP implementation

For further information contact:



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