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BRIEFING NOTE

HUMAN MOBILITY in NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS

UPDATED VERSION

Developed by SLYCAN Trust

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Human mobility increasingly takes place in the context of climate change. Accordingly, climate action and policy processes need to incorporate human mobility and acknowledge the different ways in which it can become relevant: as an adaptation strategy, as an obstacle to long-term resilience, as maladaptation, or as a form of climate-induced loss and damage (L&D).

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are a key part of the national adaptation planning process and connected to both global and domestic policy frameworks.

Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement are currently in **various phases of the NAP process**, including readiness, stocktaking, development, implementation, M&E, updating, and reporting.

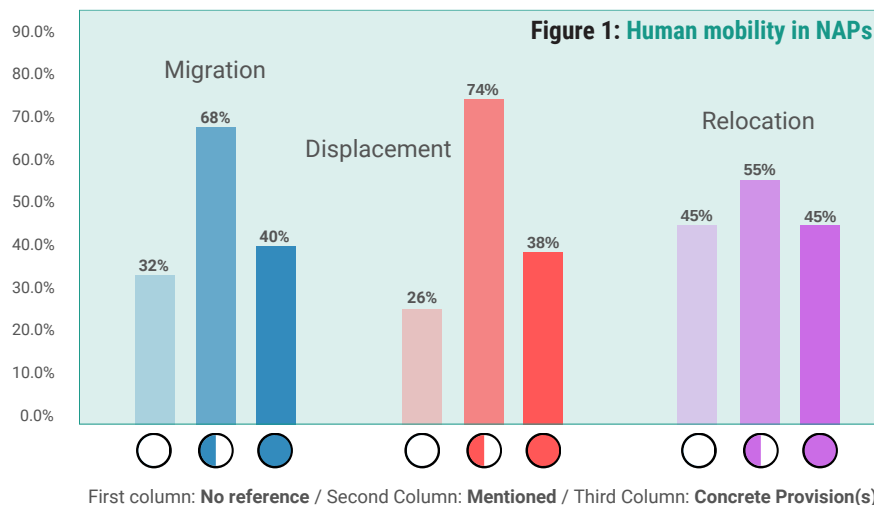
Therefore, it is important to consider **the central role of NAPs** for adaptation action as well as for managing human mobility in safe, orderly, and adaptive ways through inclusive, participatory, and equitable approaches which could prevent harmful forms of mobility.

53 **NAPS submitted** so far (February 2024)

85% of submitted NAPs **reference forms of human mobility.**

66% contain **provisions to address human mobility.**

40% of NAPs mentioning mobility **are from Africa**, 28% LAC, 26% Asia-Pacific



I. National adaptation planning and human mobility

Out of 53 NAPs submitted to the UNFCCC and [NAP Central](#) (as of Feb 2024), **85% reference one or more forms of human mobility**. However, only 66% of NAPs contain concrete provisions or commitments to address mobility in some way.

As NAPs serve as key means of identifying and addressing countries' adaptation needs and developing national strategies and programmes, the **integration of human mobility into all their key steps and elements** (see **Figure 2** below) is crucial to ensure that climate-related mobility can be addressed, managed, prevented, or facilitated **as part of a holistic policy framework** that connects the local, national, and global level and includes data collection, implementation, localization, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.

For a more detailed examination of the potential ways to integrate human mobility into the NAP process, please see our [scoping paper](#).



Migration



The permanent or temporary movement of persons away from their place of usual residence within a country or across an international border.



Disaster displacement



The movement of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or leave their home or place of habitual residence due to a disaster.



Planned relocation



The permanent relocation of persons, infrastructure, or assets away from places exposed to climate hazards or prone to climate-related disasters.

Most NAPs do not explicitly define their terminology on human mobility (with exceptions such as Brazil, Colombia, Niger, or Paraguay), but the above definitions broadly capture the three main categories of mobility and reflect the common usage of these terms under the UNFCCC and in the submitted NAPs.

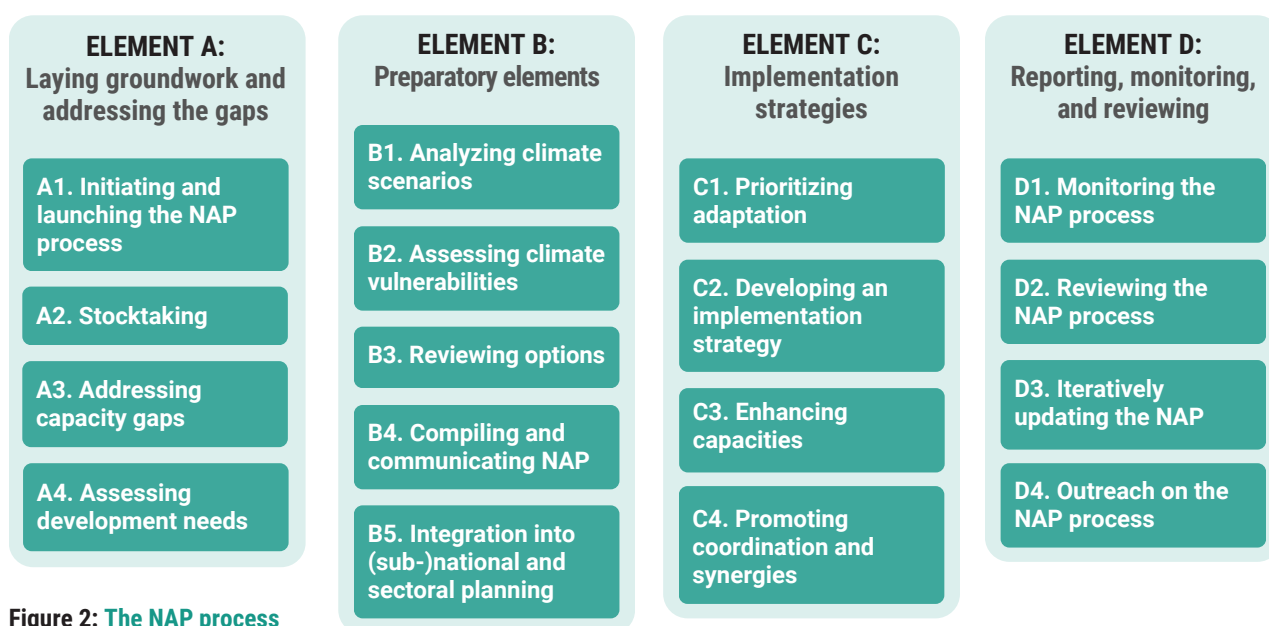


Figure 2: The NAP process

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UNFCCC as well as the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) have formulated guidelines that structure the NAP process into 4 elements and 17 steps, which serve as building blocks for a dynamic, context-specific process that is not prescriptive, seeks to enhance coherence of adaptation and development planning, facilitates country-driven action, and allows countries to monitor, review, and update NAPs in an iterative manner.

II. Stocktake of human mobility in submitted NAPs

The following table provides a **stocktake of human mobility considerations in the 45 NAPs that include any reference to either migration, disaster displacement, or planned relocation** (85% of NAPs submitted to the UNFCCC so far). Out of these 45 NAPs, 40% come from countries in Africa, 28% from Latin America and the Caribbean, and 26% from the Asia-Pacific region. The most referenced forms of human mobility in them is displacement (74%) followed by migration (68%) and relocation (55%).

Country	Mobility	Contents
Argentina (2023)	  	Highlights vulnerabilities of migrants and displaced persons; aims to promote strategies for rooting of local communities and analyze social needs of relocated populations.
Bangladesh (2023)	  	Mentions all forms of human mobility under climate impacts and commits to protection and resilience-building of migrants, including through their integration into urban planning, livelihoods, insurance etc., and planned relocation.
Benin (2022)	  	Highlights mobility as an adverse impact and potential adaptation strategy; commits to collecting data on climate migration, developing strategies for climate migration and relocation, promoting livelihood diversification to reduce rural-urban migration, protecting and empowering displaced persons, and relocating people out of high-risk areas.
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2022)	  	Includes number of displaced persons as an indicator for climate impacts.
Brazil (2016)	  	Mentions migration/displacement as adverse impacts. Includes relocation of settlements, plantations, and industry as adaptive measures.
Burkina Faso (2015)	  	Mentions climate-related forced migration as a risk and commits to relocation away from flood-prone areas.
Burundi (2023)	  	Refers to migration in the context of water scarcity and displacement caused by rains, winds, floods, and landslides.
Cameroon (2015)	  	Mentions all forms of mobility under climate risks, including social conflict, migration-related health effects; commits to building capacities to anticipate disaster-related migration, providing medical care for displaced persons, and relocating industries away from high-risk areas.
Central African Republic (2022)	  	Mentions seasonal or cyclical agricultural migration and displacement risk; commits to developing a vulnerability assessment methodology for displaced persons.

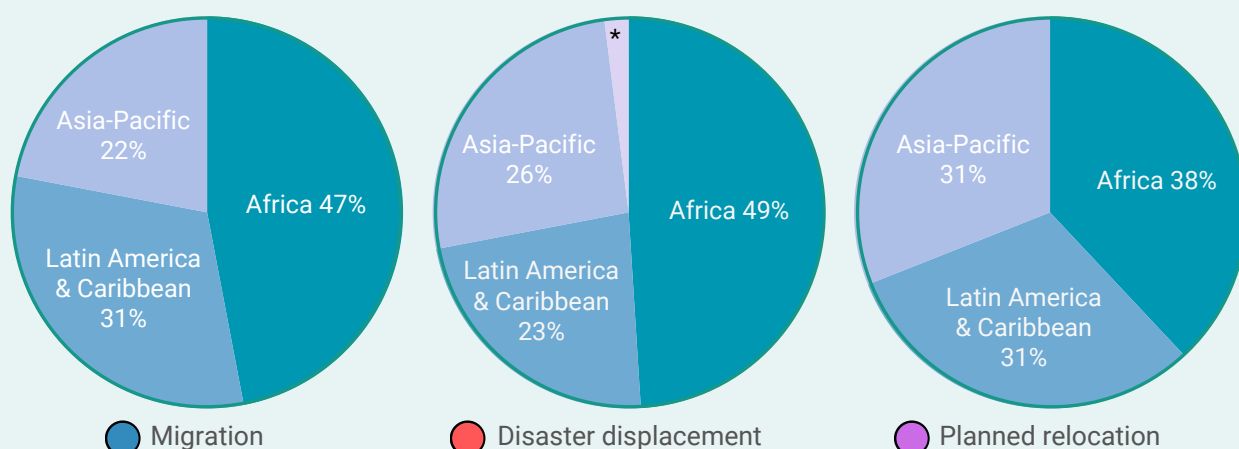
Chad (2022)		Mentions climate-related migration as a risk; commits to providing food/livelihood support for displaced persons and integration into adaptation planning and water management.
Chile (2017)		Commits to developing long-term plans for adaptation and climate-related migration and identifying areas for planned relocation, including economic and social viability.
Colombia (2018)		Mentions migration and displacement as climate risks; aims to generate knowledge on relocation, integrate with spatial planning, and find solutions for managing human mobility.
Costa Rica (2022)		Identifies migrants and displaced persons as vulnerable groups; includes development of knowledge products on vulnerabilities and risks faced by migrants; commits to conducting capacity-building of migrant populations.
Democratic Republic of the Congo (2022)		Mentions displacement risk caused by landslides, erosion, and drought; commits to preparing contingency plans, climate-resilient development plans, and risk management.
Ecuador (2023)		Has an annex on climate change and human mobility focused on migration, displacement, and relocation.
Ethiopia (2019)		Mentions migration as a risk but also as a potential coping mechanism; commits to arranging voluntary resettlement/migration and enhancing livelihoods and social protection.
Fiji (2018)		Commits to facilitating orderly, safe, regular, and responsible human mobility, including through integration into sub-national development planning, provision of affordable serviced land, targeted action, and planned relocation.
Grenada (2019)		Mentions climate-induced displacement as a risk and the example of a community relocated out of a high-risk area.
Guatemala (2019)		Contains a dedicated section on climate-related human mobility including migration, displacement, and relocation.
Haiti (2023)		Mentions climate migration as a priority area in the national climate policy.
Kenya (2017)		Mentions internal migration and displacement as risks; commits to promoting livelihood diversification to reduce rural-urban migration.
Kiribati (2020)		Mentions displacement as a climate impact; commits to relocating public and private buildings and infrastructure and addressing potential conflicts caused by such relocation.
Liberia (2021)		Mentions migration and displacement due to coastal flooding and erosion and associated security risks.

Madagascar (2022)	  	Mentions climate migration and disaster displacement as a risk, including potential conflict with host communities; commits to providing economic and social support to farmers to prevent rural exodus; commits to strengthening infrastructure and facilities to prevent displacement.
Marshall Islands (2023)	  	Mentions all three forms of human mobility.
Morocco (2024)	  	References climate-related migration, displacement, and migration (transhumance and rural exodus).
Mozambique (2023)	  	Refers to migration, displacement, and relocation, including gender aspects of displacement and resettlement of persons displaced by sudden events.
Nepal (2021)	  	Mentions risk of displacement and migration causing non-economic losses; commits to strengthen social protection and DRM to address displacement and identify vulnerable and safe areas for the purposes of relocation.
Niger (2022)	  	Refers to displacement and outlines links between climate change and migration; commits to analyzing climate-induced migration patterns and their impact on health and education.
Pakistan (2023)	  	Mentions displacement in the context of climate impacts and urbanization; includes climate migration as a priority area for adaptation; commits to conducting a vulnerability analysis and the development of strategies and activities for relocation.
Papua New Guinea (2023)	  	Mentions migration and displacement as negative climate impacts and migration as adaptation; commits to building capacities of migrants and displaced persons on land management and agroforestry.
Paraguay (2020/2022)	  	Mentions different forms of climate migration and their potential to have a positive or negative impact.
Peru (2021)	  	Includes detailed references and a section on climate-related migration and displacement; commits to developing an action plan to address climate migration.
Saint Lucia (2018)	  	Mentions all three forms of human mobility as climate-related impacts and risks; commits to providing support and protection, including on non-economic values, and developing policies to manage human mobility.
St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2019)	  	Highlights the need to relocate coastal communities and infrastructure.
Sierra Leone (2022)	  	Mentions rural-urban migration as a risk and highlights developing a national resettlement policy as an opportunity.

South Africa (2021)	  	Commits to developing adaptation strategies for displaced persons as well as a research roadmap on climate migration, and providing incentives for businesses to relocate.
South Sudan (2021)	  	Makes multiple references to migration and displacement in the context of climate change; commits to developing a long-term research plan and indicators on the climate-migration-conflict nexus and mainstreaming displacement into sectoral planning; commits to relocating vulnerable communities.
Sri Lanka (2016)	  	Mentions displacement as a climate risk; commits to developing contingency plans for coastal relocation.
State of Palestine (2016)	  	Mentions displacement as a climate-related risk, including in the context of social disruption and psychological impacts.
Sudan (2016)	  	Mentions different forms of migration and displacement and references planned relocation; commits to implementing adaptation measures to reduce migration and displacement.
Timor-Leste (2021)	  	Mentions out-migration as a potential threat to resilience and displacement as a potential climate impact; commits to conducting research on climate-related forced relocation and resettlement.
Togo (2018)	  	Mentions displacement due to coastal erosion and potential issues caused by it.
Tonga (2021)	  	Mentions migration in the context of climate change; commits to conducting a study of relocation scenarios.
Zambia (2023)	  	Mentions displacement as a social risk and impact of floods; commits to improving emergency humanitarian responses and relocating communities out of wildlife corridors and from flood-affected areas to higher ground.

Migration  = 36 x  = 21 x Displacement  = 39 x  = 20 x Relocation  = 29 x  = 24 x

As illustrated by the table, 58% of NAPs that reference migration also include concrete provisions to address it, as compared to 51% of NAPs that reference displacement, and 83% of NAPs that reference relocation.

Figure 3: Regional distribution of NAPs with references to forms of human mobility

**Bosnia and Herzegovina is the only European Party with a NAP referencing human mobility*

III. Categories of identified actions

The mobility-related commitments included in the NAPs submitted so far can be clustered into **several common categories of actions**. Beyond the strengthening of data, planning, and the enabling or policy environment, these categories cover a range of **positive and negative aspects of human mobility** through the protection of migrants, host communities, and families staying behind; the prevention of maladaptive forms of mobility; and the facilitation of mobility as an adaptation strategy.

Enhancing data availability and closing knowledge gaps

- Collecting data on climate-related migration (Benin)
- Creating knowledge products (Costa Rica)
- Developing a research roadmap (South Africa) or long-term research plan (South Sudan)
- Conducting research on resettlement (Timor-Leste)

Anticipatory planning and scenario development

- Developing long-term plans for climate-related migration (Chile)
- Preparing contingency plans and resilient development plans (DRC)
- Identifying vulnerable areas and safe areas for relocation (Nepal)
- Developing an action plan to address climate migration (Peru)

Strengthening the enabling and policy environment

- Integrating human mobility into sub-national plans (Fiji)
- Developing national policies for human mobility (Saint Lucia) or resettlement (Sierra Leone)
- Mainstreaming displacement into sectors and identifying synergies between adaptation, relief, and resettlement (South Sudan)

Protecting and supporting people on the move

- Providing medical care for displaced persons (Cameroon)
- Providing food and livelihood support (Chad)
- Building capacities of migrant populations (Costa Rica)
- Building capacities on land management and livelihoods, for example, agroforestry (Niger)

Preventing mobility through adaptation

- Promoting livelihood diversification to reduce rural-urban migration (Benin)
- Strengthening infrastructure and facilities to prevent displacement (Madagascar)
- Implementing adaptation measures to reduce migration and displacement (Sudan)

Utilizing mobility as an adaptation strategy

- Relocating settlements (Brazil) or infrastructure (Burkina Faso)
- Enhancing social protection and livelihood options for successful resettlement (Ethiopia)
- Providing affordable and serviced land for relocated people (Fiji)
- Providing relocation incentives for businesses (South Africa)

IV. Conclusions

As habitability and livelihoods become more fragile and uncertain in many areas across the world, **mobility increasingly becomes a central factor in decision-making processes** for households, communities, municipal administrations, local authorities, and national policymakers.

NAPs can have simultaneous or interconnected purposes or functions, including:

- Coordinating adaptation efforts on the national and sub-national level and serving as a policy keystone for data collection, planning, implementation, M&E, and reporting, potentially also including actions of non-government stakeholders.
- Formulating and detailing adaptation components of the country's NDCs.
- Facilitating access to funding for readiness, preparation, and implementation of adaptation action, including from the GCF.

In the context of human mobility, this means that **NAPs can unlock synergies in several ways**:

- Accessing funding to better address climate-related human mobility.
- Providing a platform to connect climate change adaptation and human mobility with relevant sectoral processes, such as those on migration, disaster displacement, disaster risk reduction, health, or education.
- Mainstreaming cross-cutting considerations, such as those related to gender, age, poverty, or disability.



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By **identifying these connections and enhancing coherence, coordination, and exchange**, NAPs can directly access levers of change to facilitate safe, secure, orderly, legal, and adaptive forms of mobility.

Further research is also needed to evaluate best practices and impact of current mobility-related actions in NAPs, as well as to systematically assess **linkages between national adaptation planning, human mobility, and other processes related to climate change adaptation and L&D**, such as the Global Goal on Adaptation or the Task Force on Displacement and the work on human mobility under the Warsaw International Mechanism on L&D.

Organizational profile

SLYCAN Trust is an internationally recognized non-profit think tank working on climate change, sustainable development, finance, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, animal welfare, and social justice including gender and youth empowerment. Our work spans the national, regional, and global level from policy analysis and evidence-based research to on-the-ground implementation. For more information, please visit our [homepage](#) or the [Adaptation & Resilience Knowledge Hub](#).