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PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

REPORTING PERIOD[1]: January – December 2025

Signed and endorsed by:

DocuSigned by:
Ashish Chaturvedi
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Team Leader, Action for Climate and Environment

Project Summary Information	
Project Title	Building climate resilience in India by initiating the national adaptation plan process and scaling up adaptation finance
Project ID	01003524
Project Duration	Implementation start date: February 2025 Planned end date: 10 January 2029 (includes an additional grace period of three months)
Location	India
CPD Outcome and Outputs	CPD Outcome 3: Climate-smart solutions, sustainable ecosystems and resilient development for reduced vulnerability Output 3.1. Institutional and policy frameworks developed and strengthened to address climate change, enhance green recovery, prevent environmental degradation and promote conservation and circular economy.
Gender marker	GEN 2
Implementing Partner	UNDP
Total Project Budget (USD)	2,764,977
Donors (funding sources)	Green Climate Fund
Annual Budget (USD)	7,11,245
Funds received during the reporting period (USD & INR)	7,11,245
Expenditure recorded for the reporting period (USD)	*440,838.27*
Expenditure recorded for the total project (USD)	USD *440,838.27*
Project Manager name:	Somya Bhatt

[1] Periodicity of this project progress report will be determined based on online input; it can be used quarterly, half-yearly, or annually. The minimum requirement for Project Board to meet at least once to review progress and risks is annual - per policy.

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1. Executive Summary

- *Prepare a **standardized and concise project introduction** including the project objective, key outputs, and geographic landscapes **that can be reused** across all progress reports for the project in each reporting cycle.*
- *Provide a **1–2 paragraph summary of key achievements** during the reporting period.*
- *Briefly mention **any major challenges** encountered.*
- *Tip: Keep this section **crisp and high-level, and absolutely results-oriented (NOT activity oriented);** details will follow in later sections.*

India successfully initiated the development of its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP), aligning national climate strategy with Article 7 of the Paris Agreement and following the submission of the inaugural Adaptation Communication at COP28. The NAP will serve as the strategic national framework for adaptation action, prioritizing resilience-building in key sectors and advancing India's climate commitments under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The NAP will focus on nine sectors, namely, (i) Agriculture and Allied Sectors (ii) Water (iii) Health (iv) Forest (v) Ecosystems and Biodiversity (vi) Disaster Management and Infrastructure Resilience (vii) Poverty Alleviation and Livelihoods (viii) Traditional Knowledge and Heritage and (ix) Adaptation Resourcing. In addition to the identified sectors, the NAP will also have cross cutting sectors namely private sector engagement and gender. The NAP is finalized and submitted for cabinet approval.

To support this national priority, the **Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved the Readiness Grant IND-RS-005 in October 2024**. UNDP serves as the delivery partner for this grant, providing strategic and technical support to MoEFCC for developing the NAP and building national capacities for adaptation planning and finance mobilization. It is to be noted that the GCF NAP project was approved in October 2024, however, UNDP has been actively working with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to initiate the NAP process since June 2024.

During the reporting period, the GCF NAP Readiness project made substantial progress in operationalizing the institutional mechanisms and technical processes required for India's National Adaptation Plan (NAP). The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), with strategic and technical support from UNDP, led the formation of a National Steering Committee (NSC), nine Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), and a dedicated Adaptation Cell to guide and coordinate the process.

Institutional Framework Operationalized: A National Steering Committee (NSC), nine Thematic Working Groups (TWGs), and a dedicated Adaptation Cell were successfully formed under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to guide and coordinate the NAP process.

Secured Financial & Technical Support: The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Grant IND-RS-005 was successfully approved in October 2024, securing strategic and technical support for the NAP development and national capacity building from UNDP.

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Accelerated Document Finalization: All nine sectoral chapters were successfully drafted, finalized, and consolidated into a cohesive NAP document through a high-level National Consultation Workshop (March 2025) and a dedicated write-shop (June 2025).

High-Level Stakeholder Validation: The draft NAP strategies were validated during the National Consultation Workshop and the Inception Workshop (May 2025), securing input from over 100 stakeholders and achieving the highest political ownership with the presence of key Union Ministers and Secretaries.

NAP Document Approved: The consolidated NAP document received approval from the National Steering Committee (NSC) in October 2025, officially marking the completion of the formulation phase.

Recognizing accelerated progress in NAP formulation, the project is revising its work plan to focus more on implementation planning, regional consultations, and the development of adaptation finance project pipelines. Project team is closely supporting MoEFCC in aligning activities with GCF-approved outputs while ensuring flexibility to respond to evolving national needs.

2. Progress Review

a) Narrative Reporting

- *Highlight concrete **output-wise (Outcome-wise in case of Vertical Funds) results** to maintain a logical flow. This should be linked to the indicators as outlined in the project results framework in the project document and as per the activities mentioned in the approved AWP.*
- *Include progress towards **gender equality and women's empowerment** in the reporting period. If applicable, highlight achievements in digitalization and innovation.*

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Readiness project for India was formally approved in October 2024. However, UNDP has proactively supported the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in laying the groundwork for the NAP process even prior to project approval. The following are the key steps undertaken as part of the NAP formulation process, along with corresponding updates on the progress under the GCF Readiness project:

Outcome 3.1 Adaptation planning governance and institutional coordination strengthened
Output 3.1.1 National and/or sectoral adaptation plans developed or updated.
Activity 3.1.1a: Conduct a NAP inception workshop

- The **formal inception of the GCF-NAP Readiness project** was marked by a multi-stakeholder meeting on **19–20 May 2025**, signaling the transition from preparatory activities to full-scale implementation.
- A **multi-stakeholder writeshop** convened over two days brought together representatives from **MoEFCC, the Adaptation Cell, UNDP, and all Technical Anchoring**

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Institutes, creating a common platform for strategic alignment, and led to the **consolidation and refinement of sectoral and cross-sectoral adaptation strategies**, laying the foundation for a coherent and integrated National Adaptation Plan (NAP) document.

- The event clarified **roles, responsibilities, and coordination mechanisms**, strengthening institutional ownership and enabling smoother execution of upcoming activities.
- The **implementation framework, work plan, and timelines** were reviewed and formally endorsed by participating stakeholders.
- Key **institutional arrangements**—including the functions of the Technical Anchoring Institutes and Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)—were introduced and operationalized.
- The session also helped identify **early operational synergies and priority actions**, accelerating coordination among stakeholders.
- This exercise represented a **major milestone** in advancing toward the preparation of a unified, inclusive, and technically sound National Adaptation Plan.

Activity 3.1.1b: Constitute a NAP drafting committee and sectoral working groups for the development of the NAP and its related documents for submission to UNFCCC

- **A drafting committee and TWG (Thematic Working Groups) were constituted.**
- **Nine Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)** were established on 31 May 2024, each responsible for developing a sectoral chapter. The establishment of nine Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) on 31 May 2024 enabled focused and expert-driven development of sectoral adaptation strategies, ensuring comprehensive coverage of key climate-vulnerable sectors.
- An orientation meeting held on 30 July 2024 brought together TWG Chairs and anchoring institutions, aligning them on a common framework, timelines, and deliverables—facilitating a coordinated and coherent drafting process.
- An **Adaptation Cell** was formally established on 6 August 2024 to coordinate technical and operational aspects of the NAP process.
- The **Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)** was held on 23 December 2024 at 3:00 P.M, under the chairpersonship of Ms. Geetu Joshi, Advisor, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, enabling the formal initiation of full-scale activities.

Activity 3.1.1c: Prepare a baseline of climate adaptation in the country including an assessment of policy measures and climate vulnerability, risk and impact assessments at the national and sub-national level

Activity 3.1.1d: Develop adaptation plans/roadmaps for the 9 sectors

Activity 3.1.1e: Formulate the NAP for India

- A comprehensive NAP Guidance Framework was developed and formally approved, providing a standardized methodology for all nine TWGs to draft sectoral adaptation strategies, enabling consistency in approach and structure across sectoral chapters. The **nine TWGs**, each anchored by a designated Technical Anchoring Institute, have been convened regularly to coordinate expert inputs and draft sector-specific adaptation

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chapters. These institutes have played a pivotal role in facilitating technical discussions, synthesizing evidence, and ensuring cross-sectoral coherence.

- Seven Letters of Agreement (LoAs)/Responsible Party Agreements (RPAs) were formalized with the Technical Anchoring Institutes, enabling systematic support for drafting sectoral chapters and organizing stakeholder consultations.
- All TWGs received technical **backstopping**, including structured templates, sectoral frameworks, and **support on gender mainstreaming** and vulnerability integration. This has helped harmonize the drafting process and improve the quality of outputs.
- As a result, draft chapters for **all nine sectors** have been completed and shared for review and validation through **inter-ministerial consultations and multi-stakeholder platforms**. This marks a critical milestone in consolidating sectoral priorities into a unified National Adaptation Plan.

Output 3.1.3 Inter and intra institutional coordination and decision-making mechanisms established or strengthened
Activity 3.1.3a: Conduct a gap assessment with respect to co-ordination and decision-making mechanisms among government institutions and agencies.
Activity 3.1.3b: Set up a national level inter-ministerial working group/steering committee to strengthen adaptation governance and planning in India

- **Institutional Strengthening and Coordination:**
- The **National Steering Committee (NSC)** was formally constituted on 28 May 2024 and held its first meeting on 11 July 2024 under the chairpersonship of the Secretary (EFCC), establishing a high-level governance mechanism for the NAP process to provide policy-level decisions and approvals for the NAP process.
- **National Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement:**
    - A **high-level National Consultation Workshop** was organized on **18 March 2025** under the GCF-NAP Readiness project, witnessing participation from **over 200 stakeholders** with **40% women participation** representing central and state governments, research institutions, civil society, and development partners.
    - **Initial draft strategies developed by all Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)** were presented and **multi-sectoral feedback was solicited** to strengthen and refine the sectoral adaptation approaches.
- As part of the GCF Readiness support, UNDP engaged a national consulting agency to lead the gap assessment, compilation, synthesis, and finalization of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) document. The draft NAP has been prepared based on the inputs from sectoral strategies, national priorities, and multi-stakeholder consultations. The document is currently under review by relevant ministries, sectoral experts, and key stakeholders to ensure coherence, policy alignment, and technical soundness before final submission.

- **Progress on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:**

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- Recognizing the differentiated impacts of climate change on women and vulnerable groups, gender mainstreaming has been embedded as a cross-cutting theme across all components of the NAP
- A gender expert was engaged to provide targeted support to all Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) to identify gender specific climate risks and strategies. This has ensured that sectoral strategies address gender-specific vulnerabilities and incorporate inclusive adaptation measures.
- A comprehensive Gender Strategy was developed to guide the integration of gender considerations throughout the NAP. The strategy supported TWGs in conducting policy analysis, identifying gender-differentiated climate indicators and risks, and formulating gender-responsive adaptation strategies within their sectoral chapters.

a) Indicator and Expenditure Reporting

Output statement	Indicator	Baseline Value	End of the project target	Actuals achieved against target for the indicator[2]	Evidence[3]	Budget as per AWP (USD)	Actual Expenditure (USD)	Remarks (if any)
Output 3.1.1: National, sub-national and/or sectoral adaptation plans developed or updated	Indicator 3.1.1.1 How many National Adaptation Plans have been developed or updated	*0*	*1*	*8 sectoral plans developed. -RPAs were signed with ICRIER, TERI & and CSTEP and LoAs with BRLF, IIT-Roorkee, NIH & WII.*	Final signed RPAs and LOAs with the responsible parties. Draft sectoral chapters for 9 sectors	*303,250*	*229,248.77 (-74,0001.23)*	*The expenditure is lower than planned because two LoAs could not be materialized as*

[2] Please report cumulative actuals.

[3] Means of verification will require evidence, links, reference, photos, transcripts from exit interviews, feedback surveys, call center reports, phone verification, etc. All methods and means used to collect and report on the results should be described, and links prepared for future reference, spot checking, and verification by independent teams when necessary. It also means that the same expectation will apply when third-party monitors are used.

If the data source involved meetings, then details of meeting participants and matters discussed and agreed actions should be documented as part of the evidence/data source.

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				All institutes have actively engaged in the preparation of their respective sectoral chapters, with UNDP providing technical guidance, sectoral frameworks, and gender mainstreaming support. Draft chapters for all nine sectors have been finalized and shared for feedback through inter-ministerial and multi-stakeholder consultations.				*the institutes did not receive approvals from the competent authorities. These activities will be reprogrammed following consultations with MoEFCC and the GCF.*
Output 3.1.3: Inter and intra institutional coordination and decision-making mechanisms established or strengthened	Indicator 3.1.3.1: Have inter and intra institutional coordination and decision making mechanisms been establish	*NA*	*This is a qualitative indicator as per GCF ProDoC and is evaluated based on the quality*	*draft NAP document highlighting institutional mechanism developed-A technical agency has been engaged to to conduct gap assessment and*	*Draft NAP document* *National Workshop Report.* *Writeshop Report*	*120,035*	124,301.31	

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	ed or strengthened?		*of stakeholder consultations and institutional mechanisms*	*coordinate with working group members to produce final NAP. One national workshop organized on 18th March 2025 One writeshop to synthesize NAP chapters and project inception meeting organized on 19-20 th March 2025.*				
Output 3.2.1: Adaptation impact monitoring, evaluation and learning systems established or strengthened for strategic planning and investment	Indicator 3.2.1.1: Have adaptation impact monitoring, evaluation and learning systems been established or strengthened?	*0*	(i) Report on compilation of M&E indicators (ii) National level M&E framework /M&E strategy document developed	*Study yet to be initiated to design the M&E framework- Contract awarded to conduct a study to assess M&E indicators & approaches of existing and planned adaptation projects at the national and sub-national level and design a*	*Deliverable 3.2.1- MEL Agency Contract- Deloitte*	76,240	60,973.92	

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				national level M&E framework for monitoring and evaluating adaptation projects.				
Output 3.2.2: Studies on climate vulnerability, and identification of adaptation solutions conducted (and used) for strengthening adaptation investment	Indicator 3.2.2.1: Have climate vulnerability studies been conducted to strengthen adaptation planning?	*0*	(i) Report on climate risk and vulnerability studies for all key adaptation sectors (ii) Online database of existing studies on vulnerability and climate risks in India	*Activity has yet to be initiated. Contract has been awarded in Nov 2025*	*Deliverable 3.2.2-VA database and decision support*	136,000	00	
Output 3.3.1: Strategies, policies and incentives developed to foster private investment in adaptation solutions	Indicator 3.3.1.1: :Report on global best practices and key learning in the Indian context to	*0*	i)Four post-stakeholder consultation reports (ii) Report on global	*This activity was not initiated in 2025 and is planned now in 2026*		20,000	nil	

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	address barriers and incentivize adaptation investment		best practices and key learnings in the Indian context to address barriers and incentivize adaptation investment (iii) One stakeholder consultation workshop to validate findings of the study conducted. (iv) A strategy document on attracting adaptation investments from					

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			the private sector					
Monitoring and Evaluation Cost							5151.87	
Project Management Cost						*42,350*	**21,162.40**	
Total AWP Budget and Actual Expenditure (USD)						*711,245*	*440,838.27*	
Co-financing Materialized for VFs (USD)								

3. Challenges encountered, project risks and mitigation measures

- *Define key challenges and risks noted/materialized, whether new/recurrent/persistent.*
- *Describe new risks identified and propose ways to correct a course of action and agreed with responsible members to address these and the timelines. Describe if escalation is required for Project Board or other mechanisms. Update the project risk register accordingly.*
- *Latest version of Offline* ***Project Risk register must be attached as an annex*** *to the report.*

Event: Originally planned readiness activities for NAP development may no longer be relevant in their initial form and need to be adapted for NAP implementation.

Cause: The Government of India has made accelerated progress in drafting sectoral chapters and advancing the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process, which has moved faster than anticipated in the project design. As the NAP process advances, some originally planned readiness activities can be strategically adjusted to align more closely with emerging priorities and implementation needs.

Impact: If not realigned, some resources may be underutilized, and activities may lose relevance in the current context.

Mitigation Measures: The project team is actively coordinating with MoEFCC to reassess and realign project resources. Discussions are ongoing to ensure remaining resources are directed toward priority areas such as finalizing the NAP, initiating implementation strategies, and developing adaptation finance pipelines, thereby maximizing the strategic value of the readiness grant.

4. Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Reporting (Applicable for moderate, substantial, and high risk projects)

- *Describe the SES risks (existing and new) identified for the project via the SESP.*
- *Has the SESP been updated during the reporting period? If yes, provide a brief description of new risks added and proposed mitigation measures.*

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- *Provide an update on the SES risk assessment and management plans recommended as per the SESP.*
- *Provide an update on the Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM) under the project*
- *Has any issue been reported under the project during the reporting period through GRM or any other reporting mechanism? Provide status update.*

The project has been screened and classified as a **Moderate risk** project under the Social and Environmental Standards (SES), as reflected in the approved Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP).

The key SES risks identified relate to **institutional capacity constraints affecting effective integration and implementation of NAP outputs**, and **potential exclusion or under-representation of women and marginalized stakeholders in consultations and decision-making processes**.

To manage these risks, a **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)** and a **Gender Action Plan (GAP)** were developed during the project design stage to ensure inclusive participation, gender-responsive processes, and systematic stakeholder engagement throughout implementation. Capacity-building activities and targeted consultations are being undertaken to support effective uptake of NAP outputs.

A project-level **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) has been formalized**, with the **Project Board serving as the principal GRM**. No grievances have been reported through the GRM or any other mechanism during the reporting period.

A **Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)** is currently underway to assess the **policy-level environmental and social implications of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** process. The findings of the SESA will inform the implementation of NAP policies and frameworks to ensure alignment with SES principles and inclusive, sustainable adaptation outcomes. The SESA is expected to be completed by **Q1 2026**.

5. Communications and Visibility

Please provide URLs specific to this project (for example, project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.) as far as this is applicable. Note that some of these links would be the evidence and data sources for point no. 3 above.

- Information related to the NAP process has been shared via UNDP and MoEFCC's official communication channels and regular updates are being provided to the GCF Secretariat.
- Coordination with 9 national technical institutes has strengthened inter-sectoral dialogue and coherence.
- Media coverage of the national consultation was shared on UNDP India's Twitter and LinkedIn accounts.
  https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=2112351
  Press release PIB

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https://www.undp.org/india/press-releases/moefcc-undp-and-gcf-host-inaugural-session-national-workshop-indias-national-adaptation-plan-climate-change
Press Release UNDP

https://www.newsonair.gov.in/nap-to-build-resilience-reduce-vulnerability-to-climate-related-risks/
News On Air

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-to-submit-national-adaptation-plan-to-un-on-climate-crisis-in-november-101742324760478.html
Hindustan Times

https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/india/india-to-submit-national-adaptation-plan-to-un-on-climate-crisis-in-november/ar-AA1Bcuk8
MSN

6. Partnerships

Provide details of new partnerships (financial/non-financial) realized during the reporting period.

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7. Lessons Learned and Way Forward

Document any lessons that will be applied to address challenges or improve the implementation pace. Outline any good practices, as applicable. Based on the above, mention key issues which need to be addressed/prioritized for next reporting period

Lessons

1. *Establishing institutional mechanisms early (NSC, TWGs, Adaptation Cell) enhances coordination and accelerates progress.*
2. *Gender mainstreaming requires dedicated expert facilitation embedded throughout the drafting process.*
3. *High-level engagement through national consultations builds ownership and helps align diverse sectoral inputs.*

Way Forward

1. ***Align the revised activity work plan** to reflect the shift from NAP formulation to implementation, ensuring that remaining GCF Readiness resources support activities such as regional engagement, financing strategy development, and institutional capacity-building.*
2. ***Initiate regional and state-level consultations** to validate sectoral strategies, identify localized adaptation priorities, and co-develop a framework for NAP implementation at the sub-national level, fostering ownership and ensuring alignment with local development goals.*

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3. ***Develop a comprehensive NAP Financing Strategy*** *and establish a pipeline of bankable adaptation projects aligned with the NAP's sectoral and cross-cutting priorities, with a focus on leveraging public and private finance, including climate finance from bilateral and multilateral sources*

8. Annexures

Risk Register- **here**

Provide ***CO SharePoint/public website links*** *to the sources of evidence.*