

Clima-Med

Acting for Climate in
South Mediterranean



Funded by
the European Union

**Recommendations for Climate Action
Coordination Strategy**

PALESTINE CAS

**From Planning to Action:
Mainstreaming Climate Change**



Union for the Mediterranean
Union pour la Méditerranée
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

This project is labeled by the UfM

Guidance notes for the reader

The document aims to provide recommendations for national authorities to improve mainstreaming of Climate Change (both mitigation and adaptation) into public policies, and to apply more effective ways to conduct Climate Change actions, towards improved Climate Finance.

The document is divided into two sections preceded by a table resuming the basic Country's Climate Profile including: (A) a rapid assessment of the current mainstreaming with an evaluation of Climate Policy's integration and (B) recommendations for a Climate Action Coordination Strategy.

The Country Climate Profile gives main indicators about the country's economies with a specific focus on their relation to implementing their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

A. The assessment of mainstreaming shows the convergence between Palestine NDCs and its national and local policies and strategies, in terms of NDC implementation, and – when relevant – link international institutions (both in terms of funding and technical assistance).

B. Recommendations for Climate Action Coordination Strategy draws upon four sections, alongside field-driven governance insights, to determine possible intervention areas ripe to support NDCs implementation. This section also precludes the formulation of a guideline for Climate Finance Strategy.

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The authors of the publication regret any errors or omissions that may have been unwittingly made.

Preface

Clima-Med delivers recommendations to facilitate the mainstreaming of climate action for each of the project's partner countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, and Tunisia. These recommendations are advanced in this "Climate Action Coordination Strategy" (CAS) document. The CAS is an analytical tool which provides guidance to national authorities on how to better mainstream climate change public policies and projects, focusing on both climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

In this perspective, the CAS can support various authorities:

- To facilitate cross-sectorial follow-up of its climate efforts,
- To encourage climate coordination,
- To provide input for revising the NDCs,
- To undertake climate change projects at national and local levels,
- To give visibility to opportunities, helping attract climate projects promoters and investors, and
- To provide climate finance insights for international donors and aid organizations.

The CAS was prepared jointly with the representatives of national authorities that are concerned with mainstreaming climate policies and actions, who are represented in National Coordination Group (NCG), thus addressing issues that are specific to the National Coordination Group's expectations and their country's key challenges. For example, the CAS for Jordan tackles how to improve the mainstreaming of the NDCs into Jordan's national policy framework. Separately, the CAS for Lebanon focuses on how local authorities can independently undertake climate efforts.

Though this discrepancy can create some divergence in methodologies, all CASs follow the same structure. They are all built on two interrelated sections. These are:

- (Part A): An overall assessment of the current level and efficiency of NDCs' mainstreaming through national policies.
- (Part B): Strategic recommendations to improve the efficiency and coordination of NDC's mainstreaming.

The CAS assessment includes key indicators that analyze the context of NDCs implementation-related activities.

The CAS recommendations are drawn from this analysis and from field-driven governance insights, to determine possible intervention areas that are suitable to support the implementation of the NDCs. A CAS specifically looks at the fields of:

- Policy, Strategy and Legal Framework/Planning,
- Budgeting and Investment Framework,
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework, and
- Capacity Building Needs and Activities.

Besides recommendations specific to the conditions of each country, the CAS provide recommendations common for all partner countries, which can include, among others:

- Preparation of NDCs implementation **roadmaps with timelines and costs** for all sectors.
- Giving visibility to climate policy framework by easing access to national policy documents that are linked to the NDC, including through a **curated database published online** (managed by a national public institution).
- Facilitating the international dissemination and visibility of national policy framework's targets and main orientations, e.g., by **adding executive summaries** with a translation in English or French.
- Applying a **systematic planning methodology**, which would include the development of NDCs planning templates and guidelines of climate actions, adapted, and tailored to each public institution/ ministry's conditions.
- **Synchronizing current and future plans/strategies**. This aims to develop **synchronized** NDCs action calendars for each sector, ensuring that actions are simultaneously coordinated within all relevant national policy framework documents.

In the context of Clima-Med's priorities, given to enhancing cities' active participation in their country's NDCs implementation efforts, the CAS also advances recommendations specific to local authorities. These can relate to:

- Integrating and **leveraging climate criteria in the national fiscal transfer systems**, including through: The review by national authorities of municipal finance revenue-allocation structures, fiscal transfer mechanisms, and subnational borrowing frameworks, and as such encourage the alignment of local projects and expenditure with the achievement of NDCs targets.
- Establish **a national SEACAP Support Mechanism** to act as a facilitation and expertise center: This offers local authorities (of all sizes) technical assistance in the preparation and implementation of Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans (SEACAPs), from initial formulation to facilitating fundraising, project bankability, municipal planning integration, and awareness-raising.

A CAS is a living and dynamic document. It should be continuously and systematically edited and updated to reflect changes in national policy frameworks or the country's NDCs.

Clima-Med, jointly with the NCG, has launched the CAS preparation process, by delivering this first issue. This process provides a foundation and a framework for relevant authorities, inviting them to take the lead for future updates, changes, or adjustments ensuring full ownership and adaptation to new conditions; and thus, continuously improving the mainstreaming of their NDCs within their national policy framework.

Glossary

BUR	Biannual Update Report
CAEP	Climate Action Empowerment Package
CAS	Climate Action Coordination Strategy
CO2	Carbon Dioxide
CoM	Covenant of Mayors
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease of 2019
EE	Energy Efficiency
eq	Equivalent
EQA	Environment Quality Authority
ESCO	Energy Service Company
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Production
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
INCR	Initial National Communication Report
IPCC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
KwH	Kilowatt
LA	Local Authority
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategy
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
m³	Cubic Meter
MDLF	Municipal Development and Lending Fund
MEDSTAT Project	Euro Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation
MENA	Middle East/North Africa
MRV	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCCCC	National Climate Change Coordination Committee
NCG	National Coordination Group
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NEEAP	National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
PAPA	Palestinian Adaptation Programme of Action
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PENRA	Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority
PPP	Public Private Partnership
RE	Renewable Energy
SEACAP	Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans
SSM	SEACAP Support Mechanism
tCO₂eq	Carbon Dioxide Equivalence
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
US\$	U.S. Dollars
VAT	Value Added Tax
WB	World Bank
WtE	Waste to Energy

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Executive Summary

Clima-Med prepared some recommendations in this document with the objective of improving the Climate Coordination Strategy of the Palestinian Government, in light of the assessment of the NDCs mainstreaming, as reflected in documents related to the national policy framework, National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS), and Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) prepared by the Palestinian Government (list of documents sub-section 2.1.), as well as the review of climate coordination work, undertaken by Clima-Med team with relevant Palestinian Government representatives of the National Coordination Group (list of the group members sub-section 5.1.). Additionally, Clima-Med scanned Palestinian local authorities (LAs) climate commitments in the frame of the Covenant of Mayors' adherence, and the preparation of Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plans towards advancing recommendations to enhance climate actions at local or cities' level efforts.

Among others, some main recommendations are titles gathered in the areas of:

(1) Policy, Strategy and Legal Framework / Planning (including NAP and LEDS)

- Prioritizing NDCs implementation actions and policies with adaptation focus, especially for fisheries, sustainable food policy, marine development, tourism (eco-tourism), and transport. Taking into account national policy framework, it is recommended to consider several cross-functions as gender; sustainable food and livestock development; treatment, transportation and management of waste, including but not limited to recycling and reuse; and energy consumption specifically for buildings transportation.
- Improving the National Climate Action planning methodology, especially with a clear calendar, timing, and costs. This improvement should also be achieved by reviewing, linking and undertaking NDC Action Plan, sectoral roadmaps, NAP and LEDS. Thus, supporting the accessibility and dissemination of relevant documents is recommended for all actors (e.g., cities pointed out as an important source of knowledge in developing and updating NDCs and NAPs). In this context, documents should have common planning methodologies, templates, guidelines and synchronized time horizons with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) timeline.
- Improving national climate policy Framework through covering all NAPs, LEDSs and MRVs. In this framework, sector-specific recommendations include interlinking health risks to climate change, aligning the communication of national and city-level climate policies (like the Paris Agreement and respective NDCs), and strengthening urban development through national-level standards, regulations, and data systems.
- Institutionalizing coordination efforts via developing a code of conduct of the climate cooperation, increasing visibility of current efforts towards climate change, and

enhancing the participation of all relevant parties like local communities, vulnerable groups, private sector representatives, ministries, and other relevant public institutions. It is also recommended to establish a special unit for implementing adaptation strategies for the ecosystem. By emphasizing such climate governance and coordination, climatic emergencies and cross-sectoral issues (including urban development) should be better addressed.

(2) Budgeting and Investment Framework

- Providing additional incentives and technical assistance to attract climate projects' promoters through establishing a platform for dialogue and improving climate change credit lines for the private sector (e.g., Energy Service Companies (ESCOs)).
- Offering innovative and climate-sensitive fiscal measures for the private sector to ensure the collaboration with LAs to implement climate actions. That could be achieved through embedding technical commitment criteria for collaboration with LAs to tenders and calls for proposals, creating tax benefits or exemption policies, and prioritizing SEACAP projects.
- Supporting local climate planning and development of pipelines of bankable projects in intergovernmental and fiscal transfer systems. With such effort, it is also recommended to ensure climate-smart criteria is aligned to those projects. In the end, urban climate finance tracking and data availability are expected to be improved in order to ease the decision-making process in investment prioritization.
- Setting up a National SEACAP Support Mechanism that would act as a facilitator and act as an expertise center to support the preparation and implementation of SEACAPs by LAs.

- Developing the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) legal framework and offering technical assistance for PPP development at the national and local level. Under that context, SSM could also provide a technical assistance system for local authorities with relevant models of municipal concessions.

- Mainstreaming NDCs by inviting LAs to define, adopt and implement relevant regulations and incentives. This shall encourage private sector and household investments in relevant sub-sectors (e.g., green buildings, vehicles, equipment, and appliances).

(3) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

- Conducting a data gap analysis, including a sustainable Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory system - in cooperation with Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)-, and implement solutions to reduce this gap by building national "climate action trackers – monitoring indicators", online platforms, portals, and scorecards as a start.

- Using the gap analysis results to cooperate with relevant support actions, create a cross-sectoral analysis for LAs, and improve existing legislation for data collection to facilitate progress development analysis.

- Developing a national center of information to curate the data and assess the NDC mainstreaming progress at different levels.

(4) Capacity Building Activities

- Conducting capacity building activities on data collection to develop GHG inventory system, future NAPs, LEDSSs, and Climate Change Communications addressed UNFCCC.

- Encouraging capacity building activities for human resources at the local level and focusing on all sectors relevant to promoting climate resilience.

- Building a National Climate Planning team to assist in the preparation of national strategies and designating a "SEACAP Implementation Manager" for LAs to oversee the preparation and implementation of the SEACAP.

- Promoting all sort of knowledge-sharing activities (e.g., training, preparation of guidelines and public communication) for all relevant actors.

- Designing and maintaining a public communication strategy, under a national office of NDCs communication to be built, to conduct all necessary awareness-raising activities.

- Integrating gender mainstreaming to the whole NDC implementation efforts at national and local levels and accordingly, linking national policy framework of 5-year enhanced Lima work program on gender and its gender action plan (Decision 3/CP - 25 December 2019) <https://unfccc.int/documents/204536>.



Palestine's Climate Profile

Population (2021)	5,227,193 West Bank: 3,120,448; Gaza: 2,106,745	CO2 emission (tons per capita, 2020) % Share from global emissions	0.57t 0.01 %
GDP per capita (West Bank and Gaza, 2020)	3,239 US\$	Total budget necessary for NDCs (2021-2040)	5.930 million US\$ - Reducing GHGs emissions by 26.6% by 2040 (independence) - Reducing GHGs emissions by 17.5% by 2040 (status-quo) - BAU emissions to reach 22.5 MtCO2e by 2040 (independence) - BAU emissions to reach 15.93 MtCO2e by 2040 (status-quo)
GDP Growth (annual %, West Bank and Gaza, 2020)	-11.4 %	- independence	
Revenue excluding grants (% GDP, West Bank and Gaza, 2018)	20.79 %	- status quo	
Pump price for gasoline (US\$ per liter, 2016)	1.54 US\$	Budget for Adaptation	3.5 billion US\$
Electricity Price of KWh (2021)	Price change between 0.074 US\$ and 0.095 US\$/kWh (12 months plan)	Budget for Mitigation	10.6 billion US\$
Sectors value added (% of GDP, 2019)	7.05 %	CO2 inventory % per sector (2018)	Energy: 67.9%, 3072.75 tons Agriculture: 11.6%, 523.00 tons Waste: 20.5%, 931.89 tons
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing Industry (including construction)	18.43%	CO2 emission per sector (1000-ton CO2 eq, 2018) ¹⁶¹⁷¹⁸	
Local Government Revenues (2020)	406.3 million US\$	Total renewable internal freshwater resources per capital (m3, 2017)	171 m3

¹ Estimated Population in Palestine, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, URL: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/2017-2019%20المحافظات%20البيانات.html

² URL: <https://ourworldindata.org/co2/country/palestine>

³ URL: <https://ourworldindata.org/co2/country/palestine>

⁴ World Bank Data

⁵ World Bank Data

⁶ Trading Economics, URL: <https://tradingeconomics.com/west-bank-and-gaza/revenue-excluding-grants-percent-of-gdp-wb-data.html>

⁷ NDCs Palestine (2021), URL: https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDcstaging/PublishedDocuments/State20%of20%Palestine20%First/Updated20%NDC_20%State20%of20%Palestine_2021_FINAL.pdf

⁸ Organisational Review of the Palestinian Environment Quality Authority (EQA), SIDA, produced by ORGUT Consulting AB for the Consulate General of Sweden in Jerusalem

⁹ URL: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDcstaging/PublishedDocuments/State20%of20%Palestine20%First/State20%of20%Palestine20%First20%NDC.pdf>

¹⁰ Official prices have not been updated since 2016

¹¹ Palestine Electricity Rates and Power Plans, URL: <https://energyoutlet.com/texas/palestine-electricity-rates-energy-plans/>

¹² URL: <https://www.euneighbours.eu/sites/default/files/publications/04-2018/ClimaSouth20%Policy20%Paper204%pdf>

¹³ URL: <https://www.euneighbours.eu/sites/default/files/publications/04-2018/ClimaSouth20%Policy20%Paper204%pdf>

¹⁴ World Bank Data

¹⁵ URL: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=93

¹⁶ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, URL: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=97

¹⁷ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, URL: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=99

¹⁸ Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, URL: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=101

¹⁹ General Government Finance in Palestine, Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, URL: https://www.pcbs.gov.ps/statisticsIndicatorsTables.aspx?lang=en&table_id=859

²⁰ World Data Atlas, Palestine, URL: <https://knoema.com/atlas/Palestine/Internal-renewable-water-resources-per-capita>

PART A

Current Mainstreaming/Identification Climate Policy Integration

This section is constituted of six sub-sections where it is presented a screening of the NDCs mainstreaming at identified national development programs, policies, strategies, or plans. The section provides initial guidance and background information for the preparation of Part B where the Recommendation for climate action coordination strategy is presented.

1. Palestine's Role in Global Climate Action

1.1. International Climate Commitments of the Palestinian Government

The Palestinian Government has been very proactive in pursuing international climate commitments. Palestine became a state party to the UNFCCC on 17 March 2016 and to the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2016. Palestine signed and ratified the Paris Agreement and was the first in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to do so. Palestinian Government has nominated the Environment Quality Authority (EQA) as the National Focal Point for UNFCCC, the Country's National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and was acknowledged by the GCF on 25 November 2016.

Palestine has submitted the Initial National Communication Report (INCR) and National Adaptation Plan in November 2016 and the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) in August 2017 to UNFCCC. Palestine has recently finalized the NDCs Adaptation Implementation Plan for Agriculture and Energy Sectors.

In addition to completing the implementation of two readiness projects funded by Green Climate Fund (GCF): NDA Readiness and Preparatory support and Gender-Responsive Climate Technology Road Map. Environment Quality Authority has also started the implementation of two new projects: Preparation of mitigation chapter of the first Biennial Update Report and Climate Action Empowerment Package supported by Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and World Bank (WB) under the NDC Partnership global program on climate action empowerment package.

2. National Climate Actions in the Palestinian Government

The evaluation of the Palestinian Government on current conditions linked to climate change and the suggestions for mitigation practices and adaptation measures are collected by the Environment Quality Authority and have been elaborated in national policy framework documents. A special focus is given to the most vulnerable sectors to climate change which are twelve sectors (detailed in NAP, NDCS and INCR) with knock on implications on water and food security.



2.1 Identified National Climate Policy Framework for National Climate Actions

The national climate policy framework includes political commitments, mandates, and laws that support the integration of mitigation and adaptation objectives into the country's national development planning and sectoral strategies. The below table provides short highlights on each document of the identified relevant national policy framework. These highlights don't aim to be comprehensive but to give an overview and priorities of the current national policy framework. The list is open to be enlarged upon recommendations and suggestions of the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) members and building on additional actions when occurring. Noting that Clima-Med created the National Coordination Group (NCG) to associate representatives of key national authorities into the project's proposed actions and primarily to help develop, and at a longer run, to adhere to the CAS.

Document Title In English	Date
Communications for International Climate Commitments (National Reports Submitted to UNFCCC)	
Palestine Initial National Communication Report	2016
First National Determined Contributions (NDCs)	2017
Implementation Road Map for State of Palestine's NDC (Appendix to NDCs and three more documents submitted as annex to NDC)	2017
National Plans	
Atlas of Sustainable Development	2020
Fourth National Plan: "National Policy Agenda: Putting Citizens First and the Sector and Crosscutting Strategies"	2017-2022
National Climate Change Committee Establishment Decree	2010/revised in 2016
National Cross-Sectoral Environment Strategy	2020-2023
"Technology Road Map for the Implementation of Climate Action Plans in Palestine" - Gender responsive capacity development programme	2019
Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Palestine	2018
Gender Policy, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance	2019
Public Policies of Prime Minister's Office	2021-2023
Adaptation related documents	
Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	2010
National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change - Palestinian Adaptation Programme of Action (PAPA) – Submitted to UNFCCC	2016
National Agricultural Sector Strategy	2017-2022
National Water Sector Strategic Plan and Action Plan	2017-2022
Mitigation related documents	
The Comprehensive National Strategy of Energy Sector in Palestine	2017-2022
The Overall strategy for Renewable Energy	2012-2020
The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP)	2012-2020

2.2 Linkage of National Policy Framework to NAP, LEDS, and MRV

The table below identifies national policies framework documents that are tackling international conventions' expectations for national actions such as NAPs, LEDSs, and MRVs as the Palestinian Government prepared a specific NAP and Atlas of Sustainable Development as LEDS. Some additional documents are also contributing to country's LEDS approach. However, the country has not delivered yet any document dedicated to establishment of the MRV system.

Nation Policy Framework Documents dealing with NAP, LEDS and MRV issues	
NAP	National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change 2016
LEDS	Atlas of Sustainable Development Fourth National Plan: National Policy Agenda: Putting Citizens First and the Sector and Crosscutting Strategies Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan in Palestine
MRV	N/A (but mentioned in INCR and NDCs)

3. Priorities of the NDCs and National Policies

Table 3.1 aim is to identify convergence between the country's NDCs and its national policies and strategies.

3.1. Initial Communication to UNFCCC & National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change

Adaptation Priorities	Mitigation Priorities
<p>(i) Agriculture and Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable community irrigation (p.135) • Promoting "smart" agriculture (p.135) • Improving water efficiency, alternative water resources for agriculture (p.135) • Adopting agricultural disaster/risk management plans, strategies (p.135) • Management of crop production systems including soil and water resources (p.136) • Water efficiency at irrigation (p.114) <p>(ii) Coastal and marine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening coastal agriculture through rainwater harvesting, saline-tolerant crops (pp.137, 116) • Excavation of sand, coastal dunes (p.116) <p>(iii) Gender</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting water efficiency in women's agricultural projects (p.142) <p>(iv) Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and monitoring safety systems for water, sanitation, food (p.143) 	<p>Stabilizing GHG concentrations to prevent anthropogenic interference with climate (p.79)</p> <p>(i) Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming current practices to implement renewable energy and reduce CO2 emissions • Promoting energy efficient practices in households, industrial and commercial sector • Decreasing energy demand and emissions by 2040 by adopting mandatory EE measures (p.87) • Decreasing energy dependency and increasing local energy generation by 50% by 2030 (p.84) <p>(ii) Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More control over vehicle fleet (p.88) • Encouraging energy efficiency, renewable energy usage and minimized Co2 emissions • Promoting public transportation <p>(iii) Agriculture and forestry - Supporting afforestation, increasing forest areas (p.83, p.91), promoting greenhouse management (p.140)</p>

- Awareness raising in water poor areas on preventing related diseases (p.143)

(v) Tourism

- Implementing flood management for cultural heritage sites, eco-tourism (p.147)

(vi) Urbanism

- Integrating climate sensitivity in city management (p.128)

(vii) Waste and wastewater

- Improving water supply through wastewater collection, treatment (p.144)
- Improved landfill and waste management; promote recycling, reuse (p.148)

(viii) Water

- Controlling water leakage (p.149)
- Enhancing use of additional, alternate water resources-nondomestic use (p.149)
- Improving stormwater drainage (p.150)

(ix) Industry

- Capacity building activities for industries to adapt to climate change (p.145)

(iv) Water, waste, and wastewater

- Promoting solid waste usage for energy generation, reduction of CO2 eq. emissions
- Wastewater network coverage to 60% (p.84)
- Reducing methane, CO2 eq. emissions (p.90)

(v) Industry

- Reducing energy consumption through introduction of modern production (p.144)
- Conducting energy audits to increase energy efficiency measures (p.145)

3.2. First NDCs 2017

Adaptation Priorities

(i) Agriculture

- Agricultural land development and rehabilitation of unused agricultural land.
- Improving efficient water use in irrigation
- Adapting climate-smart agriculture
- Enhancing food security

(ii) Coastal and marine

- Strengthening coastal agriculture, rainwater harvesting, saline-tolerant crop introduction.

(iii) Tourism

- Applying flood management schemes to cultural heritage sites

(iv) Waste- Water

- Increasing water availability enhancing management of water resources, minimizing water leakage
- Water monitoring and safety systems and capacity building on water-sanitation

Mitigation Priorities

(i) Energy

- Reducing electricity dependency
- Increasing renewable energy- solar, wind, WtE and electricity generation from waste.
- Improving energy efficiency
- Improving infrastructural conditions

(ii) Environment

- Increasing green areas within the country by 2%

(iii) Transport

- Promoting public transportation, energy efficient vehicles

(iv) Industry

- Improvement of industrial facilities' capacity to adapt to climate change
- Conducting energy audits for more EE

3.3. Palestine NDCs Adaptation Implementation Plans- Agriculture and Energy sectors 2020

Adaptation Priorities

(i) Agriculture

- Reducing soil erosion (p.21)
- Increasing water resources, quality (p.21)

Mitigation Priorities

(i) Agriculture

- Agroforestry, rangeland development (p.20)

- Improving land ecosystem (pp.21, 22)
- Increasing production, profitability (p.29)
- Enhancing crop production, soil and water system management (p.28)
- Promoting climate smart agriculture (p.28)

(ii) Energy

- Providing reliable electricity supply (p.37)
- Continuously upgrading electricity grid (p.38)
- Implementing EE measures; modern production technologies, energy audits (p.44)
- Using solar photovoltaic, wind and WtE as RE sources (p.51)
- Improving energy resilience (p.39)

3.4. Atlas of Sustainable Development

Adaptation Priorities

(i) Agriculture and Food

- Capacity building for fishing, infrastructure upgrades, sustainable methods (p.77)
- Promoting sustainable food consumption and manufacturing (p.68).
- Promoting sustainable and “climate- smart” agricultural production (p.68)

(ii) Environment

- Sustainable resource management (p.81)
- Protective measures for protected areas, biosafety and biodiversity (p.82)
- Improving capabilities, national strategies, plans for emergencies (p.72)
- Prohibiting random dump-site usage (p.71)
- Closing and/or rehabilitating dumpsites to limit health/environmental impacts (p.71)

(iii) Water

- Improving quality/reliability of water supply, distribution (p.38)
- Ensuring protection of water resources from pollution and decreasing water losses (p.39)

(iv) Tourism

- Promoting eco-tourism (p.68)

Mitigation Priorities

(i) Energy

- Upgrading existing legal and regulatory framework for investment in energy-efficient and renewable energy systems (p.45)
- Promoting energy efficient appliances and equipment (p.45)
- Developing and retrofitting transmission and distribution systems for smart grids (p.45)

(ii) Urban & Rural Development

- Promoting green building, green public infrastructure (p.68)

(iii) Waste

- Enhancing management of hazardous waste, expanding “polluter pays” system (p.69)

3.5. Fourth National Plan: National Policy Agenda

Adaptation Priorities

Mitigation Priorities

- Fulfilling obligations of international treaties and organization memberships (p.16)

(i) Environment

- Strengthening capacity for disaster response and crisis management (p.32)
- Encouraging biodiversity, nature preserves, green spaces (p.32)
- Promoting management and protection of natural resource usage and conservation including land, water, energy (p.32)

(ii) Water

- Expanding community access to clean water and sanitation (p.32)

(i) Energy

- Expanding access to reliable/efficient energy, efficiency, renewables (p.32)

(ii) Environment

- Reducing and effectively controlling pollution (p.32)

(iii) Waste and wastewater

- Expanding solid waste and wastewater management, recycling (p.32)

3.6. Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan in Palestine

Adaptation Priorities	Mitigation Priorities
<p>(i) Agriculture & Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopting climate smart, sustainable, practices as drought resistant and salinity tolerant crops, organic fertilization • Switching to alternative water resources such as treated wastewater (p.37, 46, 47) • Improving post harvesting to save water, energy, and soil degradation (p.39, 46, 49) • Promoting local food production (p.43) • Introducing protocols for diseases considering environmental issues (p. 50) <p>(ii) Construction and Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updating building and licensing regulations, building codes for energy efficiency and greening (p.104) • Awareness raising for green technologies, energy and water conservation, renewable energy, grey water systems (p.108) 	<p>(i) Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing access to renewable energy, natural resources, and EE measures (pp.46, 38, 50, 99) • Updating governmental specifications with environment (p.103) to reduce emissions - Updating environmental impact assessment policy and use it in physical plans (p.104, 105) <p>(ii) Waste and Wastewater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting anaerobic digestion, WtE through incineration, composting (p.111) • Introducing preliminary wastewater treatment in food manufacturing (p. 53) • Improving demolition of waste (p.110) <p>(iii) Eco-Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop 15 eco-tourism sites (pp.28, 84, 85), awareness raising (p.87)

3.7. Public Policies of Prime Minister's Office

Adaptation Priorities	Mitigation Priorities
<p>(i) Agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding cultivation areas via a land reclamation programme (p.47) • Developing agricultural value chains (p.80) • Promoting agriculture clusters towards self-reliance (p.80) <p>(ii) Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserving biodiversity by establishing nature reserves and expanded green spaces (p.79) • Protecting and promoting sustainable use and conservation of natural resources (p.79) 	<p>(i) Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing new and reliable energy sources (p.77) • Increasing reliance on renewable energy (p.79) • Restructuring public services and financial processes (p.52) <p>(ii) Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting communities to clean water and wastewater grids (p.77,78) • Expanding wastewater management, treatment and reuse (p.79) • Restructuring public services and financial processes (p.52) <p>(iii) Transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing the quality of public transportation services through intelligent and intermodal transport systems (p.77,78) <p>(iv) Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing and controlling pollution (p.79) • Promoting integrated solid and hazardous waste management and recycling (p.79)

3.8. Cross-sectoral Environment Strategy 2020 – 2023

Adaptation Priorities

(i) Water sector

- Development and management of resources-ground and surface and protecting from pollution and improving water quality
- Collecting and treating wastewater household and re-use them in areas suitable for their quality and quantities
- Water harvesting or water desalination
- Provision of new water sources and the rationalization of the use of available resources
- Development of institutional and legal frameworks that regulate the water sector
- Use of renewable energy sources and the rationalization of energy use from all sources
- Raising energy efficiency

(ii) Agriculture sector

- Improving sector's water and pollution impact

Mitigation Priorities

(i) Local Authorities

Mobilizing local authorities in the implementation of in the environmental protection activities

(ii) Agriculture sector

- To develop procedures and interventions to mitigate agriculture sector's EE

(iii) Tourism- *promoting the concept of tourism environment.*

(iv) health sector- *managing the medical waste generated by the sector, monitoring*

- The relationship between disease and the cause of environmental pollution

Education sector

- Developing curriculums on environment and climate change fields
- Development of extra-curricular activities to simulate and consider the environment

3.8. Gender Policy, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance

- Capacity building, awareness raising for innovative and gender-sensitive projects (p.15)
- Preventing gender discrimination, creating opportunities, intervention mechanisms (p.16)
- Facilitating women's work in climate related sectors (p.16), including RE&EE
- Supporting rural women in agricultural production and livestock (p.16)
- Forming a gender unit in line ministries for climate change for more gender responsive policies to empower women in key sectors (agriculture, energy, water, waste, and transport) (p.16)
- Capacity building on gender and climate change (p.15)
- Raising women awareness in climate change (p.16)

3.9. National Agricultural Sector Strategy

- Establishing large water facilities in arable irrigated areas (p.35)
- Supporting the efficiency of the available water (p.35)
- Taking measures for high temperatures, fluctuating precipitation or declining rainwater, (p.35)
- Promoting research to protect the forests and natural reserves, improve pastures (p.35)
- Enhancing greening of Palestine (p.35)

3.10. National Water Sector Strategic Plan and Action Plan

- Promoting integrated management and sustainable development of water resources by improving the quality and reliability of water supply services; ensuring fair distribution (p.37)
- Development of Water Sector institutions to reinforce good governance bases (p.37)
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of water utilities and water service providers (p.37)
- Improving wastewater services and structures including collection, treatment, and reuse (p.37)

3.11. Livestock Sector Strategy 2015 – 2019

(i) Agriculture and Livestock

- Enhancing resilience of livestock keepers against climate change and natural hazards (p.17, 18)
- Ensuring conservation, management and development of grazing land and pastures (p.18)
- Increasing access to agricultural water and improving infrastructure (p.19)

(ii) Water and Wastewater

- Enforcing by-laws for the conservation of water catchment areas (p.22)
- Encouraging treated wastewater usage for feed cropping (p.20)

(iii) Environment

- Establishing natural disaster management mechanisms (p.19)
- Enforcing laws and regulations against wrongdoings to environment (p.23)
- Awareness raising for conservation of biodiversity and environmental resources (p. 23)
- Improving institutional capacity for planning, directing, and overseeing capabilities (p.24)
- Increasing availability and access to agricultural water

Mitigation Areas

3.12. National Strategy for Solid Waste Management

- Development of legislative framework and improving institutions/systems supporting integrated solid waste management (e.g., collection, transport, and disposal) (p.10)
- Encouraging the reduction of solid waste quantities destined for landfilling (p.11)
- Reducing the cost for SW collection and transport (p.12)
- Achieving cost recovery and self-financing for SWM operating cost (p.12)
- Utilization of MSW to generate energy, reduce quantities and upgrade management
- Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases emitted as a result of solid waste activities (p.12)
- Prohibiting random dump-site usage and closing and/or rehabilitating dumpsites (p.12)
- Promoting the partnership to enhance the awareness of solid waste issues (p.13)
- Enabling investment environment that encourages the private sector to participate (p.20)

3.13. The Comprehensive National Strategy of Energy Sector in Palestine

- Achieving energy security through diversification of sources - increasing locally produced energy and increasing proportion of renewable energy in total energy mix (p.37)
- Increasing energy efficiency applications through reasoning consumption and reducing losses (p.37)
- Developing competent and efficient institutions working in the energy sector (p.38)
- Ensuring energy efficiency under one policy framework that regulates energy sector with its three components (electricity, renewable energy, energy efficiency and hydrocarbons) (p.39)
- Developing and enhancing the transmission and distribution system (p.41)
- Promoting natural gas resources for electricity power generation (p.48)
- Supporting energy efficiency and rationalization of consumption (p.48)
- Raising the efficiency of cadres working in the energy sector (p.44)

3.14. The Overall strategy for Renewable Energy

- Electricity generation from renewable resources – equiv. to 10% of electricity produced locally by 2020 (p.1)
- Applying the Palestinian solar initiative (PSI)
- Adopting a development plan for the renewable energy resources until 2020 (p.1)

4. Mainstreaming of International Commitments into National Actions

4.1. Linkage of the National Adaptation Plan Principles with the National Policy Framework

The analysis on the NDCs' mainstreaming in the Palestinian Government's national policy framework aims to identify medium and long-term adaptation priorities and needs. One of its main objectives is to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant existing and new policies, as part of the development planning processes.

Beyond the NDCs, the importance of adaptation is emphasized within the text of the Paris Agreement itself, which includes a call for all countries to engage in the national adaptation planning processes. The goals of the NAP process - established under the 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework under the UNFCCC - are meant for countries to build resilience to the impacts of Climate Change through medium to long-term planning; and integrate adaptation considerations into all relevant policies and strategies. Whereas the adaptation components of NDCs communicate internationally a country's contribution to (and/or needs for) dealing with the impacts of Climate Change, NAP processes are domestic planning processes that would allow a country to identify, address and review their evolving adaptation need.

The adaptation planning of climate change in the Palestinian Government is under the responsibility of the Environment Quality Authority that has delivered the first NAP in 2016, in which all relevant stakeholders participated and engaged actively in its development. The NAP process is meant to play an important role in providing a formal roadmap for implementing all sectoral adaptation plans. It is anticipated that it will allow a comprehensive overview of adaptation activities, listing associated financial needs and creating a system for monitoring and reporting the progress of these activities. The NAP builds on the Palestinian Adaptation Programme of Action (PAPA) and identifies key adaptation actions for agriculture, coast and marine, energy, food, gender, industry, terrestrial ecosystems, tourism, infrastructure, waste management, and water with a detailed implementation (for a ten-year period) cost estimate of USD 3.5 billion of which USD 1.02 billion is for agriculture activities and USD 894 million is for water activities.

Palestine's NDCs, NAP, GCF Country Program priorities and initial communication to UNFCCC are in full complementarity. In addition to that, the NDCs implementation plans have a special focus on agriculture, which is also strengthened by two main national policy documents: the national agriculture strategy and the national water sector strategic plan and action plan.

4.2. Linkage of the Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) and the National Policy Framework

The LEDS is a national, high-level, comprehensive, long-term strategy developed by domestic stakeholders. Countries use different denominations for LEDS, such as Low Carbon Development Strategy, Climate-Compatible Development Plan, or National Climate Change Plan. The main criteria for a LEDS are identifying sources of GHG emissions and prioritizing options for their mitigation with solutions achieving development through mitigation actions. LEDs are a fundamental tool to envision low-emission development aligned with broader sustainability, socio-economic and climate change adaptation goals. The Paris Agreement states that all countries should strive to formulate and communicate long-term LEDS, and the Paris Agreement's accompanying decision invites countries to communicate a LEDS by 2020.

The Palestinian Government gathered all mitigation efforts in three key energy strategy documents: the Comprehensive National Strategy of Energy Sector in Palestine 2017-2022, the Overall Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012- 2020, and the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) 2012- 2020. The Palestinian Government integrated mitigation plans into sustainable developments efforts towards the Atlas of Sustainable Development in 2020, which is the revised and more comprehensive version of the Fourth National Plan and National Policy Agenda of 2017. The Atlas of Sustainable Development provides a set of concrete and defined objectives for climate action in high-priority areas that have been identified by a long-term strategy.

4.3. Linkage of the Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) and the National Policy Framework

The MRV concept, introduced by the Bali Action Plan in 2007, involving both developed and developing country parties, includes all measures which a country takes to collect data on green gas emissions (measuring), mitigation actions and support, to compile this information in reports and inventories (report), and to subject these to some form of international review or analysis (verification). The Paris Agreement, sealed in December 2015, established universal and harmonized MRV provisions for Climate Change mitigation actions. However, UNFCCC requirements and the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPCC) guidance on MRV leave considerable flexibility for countries to decide how to meet reporting requirements. MRV systems are implemented based on the country's national circumstances and priorities and built on existing domestic systems and capacities, which risks consistency, quality and details of reporting and comparison of the reported data.

MRV helps national policymakers track the mitigation policy's impact and guide international support mechanisms on the efficacy of supported action. There are three types of MRV systems: MRV of GHG emissions, conducted at the national level, which reports it in emissions inventory; MRV of mitigation actions that seek to assess GHG mitigation effects and monitor their implementation and MRV of support (e.g., climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building) which aims to track provision and receipt of climate support.

In Palestine, even though a GHG inventory is included in the INCR, there is currently no systematic GHG inventory, as it is only collected for the purpose of UNFCCC reporting. There is not a single resource where one can reach the most updated information on types of MRV used in Palestine. Like other developing countries, the country encounters several challenges in verifying the climate finance information on support provided by developed countries. The current system (including data collection and processing) remains insufficient to track climate finance expenditures and mechanisms to integrate climate change into national budgeting, monitoring, and reporting systems.

The latest progress has started in the MRV process with the support of three initiatives: the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency supports EQA in drafting a national MRV project plan, the World Bank under Climate Action Empowerment Package (CAEP) hosted by NDCs Partnership supports Palestine's effort to establish a national MRV system. The Global Environment Fund (GEF) through Global Support Program administered by UNDP is funding the preparation of the mitigation chapter of the 1st Biannual Update Report (BUR) for Palestine, which will cover, among others, the issue of MRV.

4.4. Analysis of the Mainstreaming of the NDCs into the National Policy Framework

Since the first NDCs, Palestine has set up strategies for almost all the priority areas of its NDCs. Palestinian Government developed eighteen sector strategies, three cross-sectoral strategies for the period from 2017 – 2022 and the Atlas of Sustainable Development, which is an example of comprehensive LEDS, illustrates a high level of mainstreaming of climate change within the development.

The Atlas of Sustainable Development, prepared in 2020, elaborates most of the priorities of the Fourth National Plan and adds additional focuses on agriculture, energy and food, urban planning and infrastructure, and better incorporation of local authorities. With this perspective, the Atlas of Sustainable Development has advanced most of the concrete strategic objectives, measures, and instruments to take into consideration the NDCs' revision in each involved sector (water,

coastal areas, agriculture/food security, energy, health, and tourism). However, it is missing a gender perspective for sustainable development and climate change (This can be developed with respect to the country's national policy, via an analysis alongside Gender Policy, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance documentation). During the preparation of the GCF Country Program and Technology Road Map, many workshops and meetings were held aiming at enhancing mainstreaming of gender in climate-relevant plans and strategies.

Additionally, the NAP identifies highly vulnerable issues concerning the twelve sectors which are agriculture, coastal and marine (Gaza Strip only), energy, food, gender, health, industry, terrestrial ecosystems, tourism (West Bank only), urban and infrastructure, waste and wastewater, and water.

Most of the national policy framework of Palestine, prepared with the support of international organizations, are available in English and accessible online via relevant institutions and ministries. The national plans are mainly coordinated in terms of planning methodology and timing synchronization since all strategies were prepared in the same period, with technical teams working in coordination to ensure consistency and synergy among all relevant strategies. However, this may create difficulties to ensure consistency, complementarity, and climate mainstreaming; please see the below examples.

We also note that Palestine's entire national policy framework is very clearly written and concisely planned. However, each sector follows its own planning methodology and (for the preparation of the strategic plan) each institution uses a different planning template – despite the official format issued by the prime minister's office. This variation of methodologies, templates and structuring in planning can decelerate cooperation, complicate coordination, and become a setback to mainstreaming despite strong governmental efforts to mainstream climate change in all national plans.

In terms of vision and targets, while some of the priorities of the recent national policy framework are beyond the NDCs priorities, dedicated national policies are still missing for some NDCs priorities.

For example:

- There is no national strategy for fisheries, food policy, marine development, tourism, and transport.
- There are three plans mentioning measures in the tourism sector: The NDC 2017, Initial Communication to UNFCCC, and Palestine NDC Adaptation Implementation Plans; the Atlas of Sustainable Development 2020 emphasizes eco-tourism. Even though, they all are in accordance, there is no dedicated national policy framework.

- **The Gender Policy**, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance Plan promote the integration of a gender perspective in climate change efforts. It puts gender sensitivity and anti-discrimination as part of all sectors and policies, which was missing in the initial communication. In the case of climate, to exemplify, measures as forming a Gender Unit in line ministries and ensuring climate policies are gender-responsive are not addressed in NDC 2017 nor in Initial Communication to UNFCCC which considers women involvement in only water and agriculture relevant sectors.
- The priorities and projects listed in **the Livestock Sector Strategy (2015-2019)** aim at enhancing the resilience of livestock keepers against climate change and natural hazards, ensuring the conservation, management and development of grazing land and pastures, and increasing access to agricultural water and improving infrastructure.
- In the **Energy policy**, the main focuses of NDCs 2017 are coming down to efficiency and self- sufficiency.

Current practices are planned to be transformed to a more energy-efficient manner while national reserves and energy-saving rates increase. To do so, renewable energy sources and additional energy supplies are highlighted, especially to handle electricity usage.

- In the **Waste policy**: While the initial NDC 2017 does not detail the waste policy priorities, main national policy framework documents such as Fourth National Plan: National Policy Agenda: Putting Citizens First and the Sector and Crosscutting Strategies, National Strategy for Solid Waste Management and National Water Sector Strategic Plan and Action Plan emphasize waste treatment, transportation, regulatory framework, recycling, and reuse.
- Climate-related risks that **health sectors** will need to mitigate, such as increasing temperature and air pollution, are not mentioned in the NDC 2017 and Initial Communication to UNFCCC.

4.5. Analysis of the mainstreaming of the NDCs in the national Priorities Linked to Local Authorities (LAs)

The table aims to identify convergence between the country's NDCs, national policies, strategies and priorities linked to Local Authorities and to give visibility areas where local authorities provide contribution to support better implementation of the NDCs.

4.5.1 First NDCs 2017 – Priorities related to Local Authorities

Adaptation Priorities	Mitigation Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community irrigation scheme, land use planning, rangeland development <p>Industry – Capacity building for industries to adapt to climate change and energy audits</p> <p>Tourism – Flood management (p.25)</p> <p>Waste and Wastewater – Supporting waste management, promoting reducing, re-using, recycling, and collecting leachate from landfills.</p> <p>Water – Water efficiency, additional/alternative water resource usage (pp.19, 26) and Improving stormwater systems/drainage (p.26)</p> <p>Improving efficient irrigation, alternative water resources</p>	<p>Energy – Promoting green buildings (p.25), energy efficient lightbulbs (p.7)</p> <p>Installing off – grid PV systems in remote areas to replace the diesel generators.</p> <p>Promoting solar water heaters, solar heating, solar fruit driers usage (p.17)</p> <p>Transport – Promoting public transportation and energy efficient vehicles (p.7) and reduction of traffic jams and development of multi-modal transport patterns (p.17)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified fare systems, improved passenger information (p.7) • Better vehicles and maintenance (p.7) • Rehabilitating roads • Campaigns for hybrid electric vehicles (p.7)

4.5.2 Palestine NDCs Adaptation Implementation Plans- Agriculture and Energy Sectors 2020

Adaptation Priorities	Mitigation Priorities
<p>Electricity grid updating in cooperation with Local Authorities and the electricity distribution companies</p>	<p>Promoting energy efficiency and generating renewable energy (p.56)</p>

4.5.3 Atlas of Sustainable Development

Adaptation Priorities

(i) Agriculture and Food – Capacity building activities for promoting innovative/ sustainable fishing methods; sustainable food consumption and food manufacturing and climate-smart” agricultural production (p.68).

(ii) Environment

- Taking protective measures on protected areas, biosafety, and biodiversity (p.82)
- Improving capacity for emergencies (p.72)
- Adopting disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies, plans (p.72)

Mitigation Priorities

(i) Urban & Rural Development

- Supporting participatory and resilient local governance interventions (p.66)
- Elaborating, adopting evidence-based, inclusive public space policy (p.67)

(ii) Waste – Following legal framework of hazardous waste management (p.69)

(iii) Environment – Following the prohibition of using random dumpsites and contributing to closure and rehabilitation of dumpsites (p.71)

4.5.4 Fourth National Plan: National Policy Agenda

Adaptation Priorities

(i) Environment

- Promoting capacity building activities for disaster response and crisis management
- Supporting expansion of green spaces

Mitigation Priorities

(i) Water – Promoting access to clean water

(ii) Energy – Promoting access to reliable energy

(iii) Environment – Control of pollution measures

(iv) Waste and wastewater – Promoting recycling, solid waste management, wastewater treatment

4.5.5 Public Policies of Prime Minister’s Office

Mitigation Priorities

(i) Energy

- Putting in place for efficient water and electricity service facility (p.44)
- Adopting the restructured public services and financial processes (p.52)

(ii) Water – Adopting the restructured public services and financial processes (p.52)

4.5.6 Gender Policy, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance

Adaptation Priorities

- Capacity building on gender sensitive planning and climate
- Raising women awareness in climate change.
- Supporting rural women in agricultural production and livestock

4.5.7 Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan in Palestine

Adaptation Priorities

(i) Agriculture & Food – Switching to alternative water resources, reducing water tanker dependence

(ii) Eco-Tourism – identify and develop eco-tourism to protect environment, reduce degradation

(iii) Construction and Housing

- Promoting awareness raising of green technologies, clean energy and water conservation, renewable energy, and grey water systems

- Promoting green buildings and retrofitting existing buildings stocks (p.100, 106)

(iv) Waste and Wastewater- introducing wastewater treatment

4.5.8 National Strategy for Solid Waste Management

Mitigation Priorities

- Organizational strengthening for solid waste management
- Developing management systems for better solid waste collection, transport, disposal (p.17)
- Capacity building activities to create an enabling investment environment (p.20)
- Institutionalizing community awareness in the frameworks and plans (p.21)

4.5.9 National Water Sector Strategic Plan and Action Plan

Adaptation Priorities

- Promoting social consciousness in terms of payment for water services (p.42)
- Increasing the efficiency of wastewater systems, particularly its transportation (p.40)

The Ministry of Local Government is an official member of the NCCC, which shows a very concrete commitment towards considering local authorities as a solution partner for climate change projects, under the same framework that the NDCs and several national policy framework documents use to prioritize new climate-related tasks for Las. However, the country does not have a special policy for developing and enhancing LAs.

When one focuses on the NDCs of 2017, one can note that horizontally, even though the NDCs link women's role in small scale agriculture with LAs, and the Gender Policy, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance Plan supports this approach by prioritizing gender sensitive planning and awareness raising, LAs are not tackling these issues in their SEACAPs.

According to the NDCs priorities and many national policy framework documents, local authorities are considered as solution partners in the areas of adaptation and mitigation. Some objectives are listed in the LAs' competency areas as well. However, few measures exist to accompany Las in the realization of those objectives.

For example, the Atlas for Sustainable Development delegates some actions to the agriculture sector to realise agriculture priority with activities like community-level irrigation and climate-smart agriculture. However, there is no special technical support unit for activities at the local agriculture level inside either the ministry of agriculture or the Ministry of local government.

In the same way, the National Agriculture Strategy puts objectives on forests and natural reserves as well as the greening of Palestine, which also contains a nexus to Las' activities, but with similar practical shortcomings. With respect to the livestock sector, institutional capacity

building activities and partnerships in cooperation with the private sector and Las do not consider this field within their competence.

Some very specific activities are also mentioned in the priorities for the energy sector, especially for green building, including a focus on Tubas Municipalities' public building and wastewater treatment plant powered by solar energy in Za'tara. However, there is no special unit to accompany cities in including those energy targets or looking for funding. In the same way, the overall strategy for renewable energy places, as an objective, ensuring at least 30 buildings be certified for energy efficiency and greening. But there is no technical support system to help Las accompany those ambitious objectives.

Likewise, the LAs are expected to be more active in the transport sector, to move towards more efficient/hybrid/electric vehicles, but there is no national strategy for planning local transport.



5. National Coordination for Climate Policy

5.1. Clima-Med National Coordination Group Members

The NCG has been established in coordination with the nominated and the prospective focal points, by the project to ensure that the projects deliverables will consolidate and be incorporated in existing climate action coordination systems. The table lists the key institutions members of NCGs who will ultimately act as key bodies to implement mainstreaming actions. Along with the project's implementation, the NCG is expected to acquire a key role in the Climate mainstreaming and complementarity between key actors at national and local levels.

Entity/ Institution	Name and title of the focal point/s	Title
Ministry of Local Government	Eng. Omar Sharqia	Director of Projects Department
Ministry of Local Government	Eng. Remah Ramahi	Projects Department
Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF)	Eng. Barakat J. Bani Jaber	Technical Supervisor
Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority (PENRA)	Mr. Bassel Yassin	Advisor
Palestinian Environment Authority	Mr. Nidal Katbeh	Advisor for Climate Change

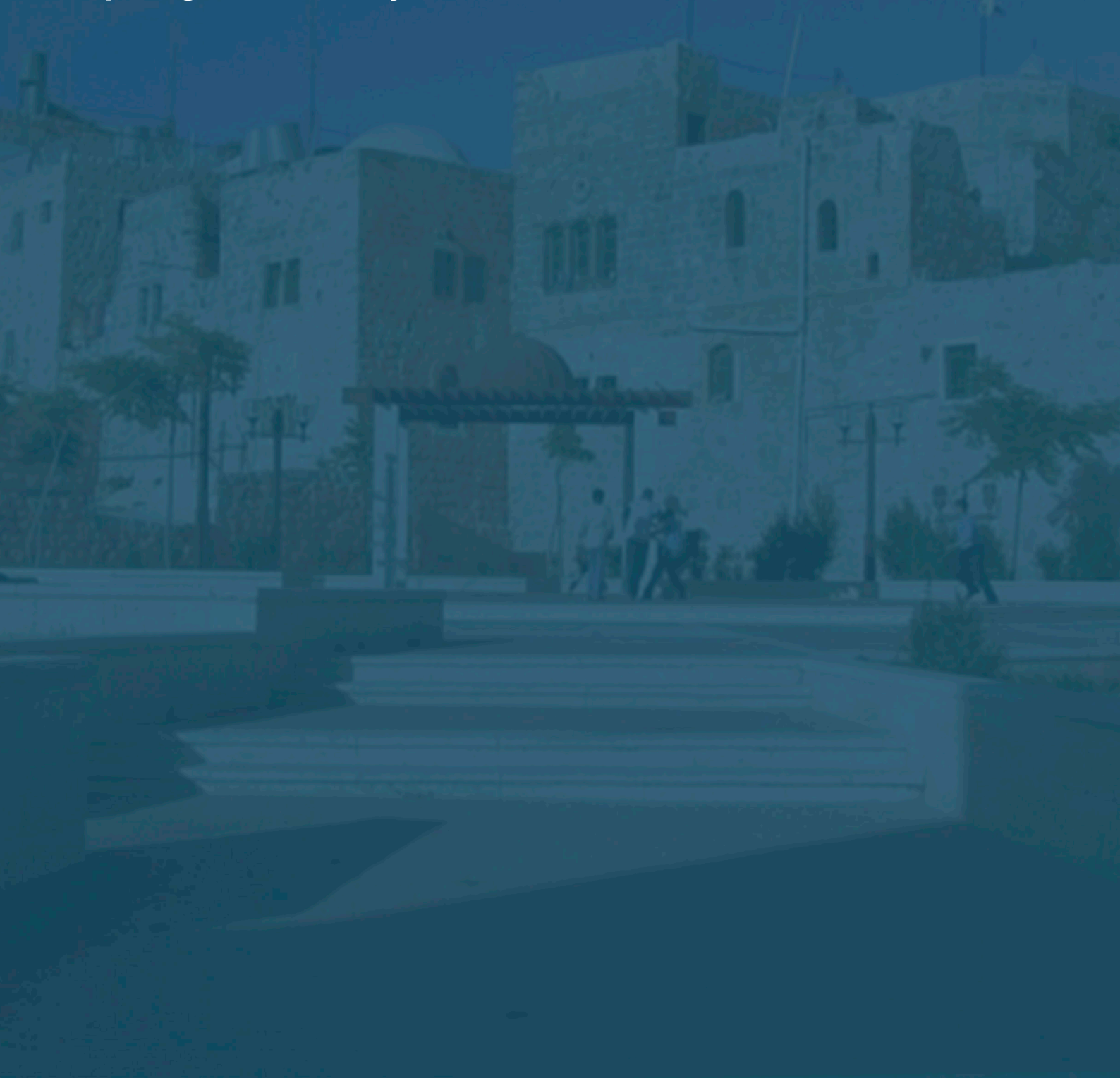
5.2. Assessment of the National Climate Change Coordination

The Palestinian Government established a National Climate Change Coordination, NCCC, by a ministerial decree in 2010 and revised it in 2016. The Ministries of Local Government, Tourism and Antiquities, Woman Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Public Works and Housing, Social Development and Interior are designated as official members of this committee (all members in the NCCC should be mentioned). The NCCC is effectively engaged; it has participated in all climate change relevant activities in Palestine and held four official meetings as part of the NDCs implementation and planning processes.



PART B

The effective NDCs mainstreaming, and climate coordination require governance adjustment and institutional and cultural shifts.



The following Recommendations for Climate Coordination Strategy are built on the assessment of National Policy framework, NAP and LEDS (as exposed in the preceding section). The aim is to contribute to the enhancement of the national climate coordination and mainstreaming of the NDCs into the National Policy framework and to the improvement of the NAP and LEDS.

1. Policy, Strategy and Legal Framework / Planning (including NAP and LEDS)

1.1. Prioritization of international climate commitments

- It is highly recommended to officially declare the prioritization of NDC implementation actions and further focus on adaptation, as Palestine's share of global carbon emission is limited.
- To complete the preparation of the National Policy framework for of the NDCs priorities, especially in the fisheries, food policy, marine development, tourism, and transport where there is not a dedicated policy framework.
- To develop a policy implementation plan giving instructions on implementing the eco-tourism and sustainable food development concepts mentioned in the Atlas of Sustainable Development.
- Considering the high economic and environmental impact in country's climate profile, develop projects in the transportation sector to better implement measures available in NDC 2017 and Initial Communication to UNFCCC. For example, emission testing practices could be useful to both identify the number of vehicles to be converted to more environment-friendly models and monitor CO2 emissions in a sustainable manner.
- In the revision of the NDCs, taking into account some of the priorities of recent national policy framework are beyond the NDCs priorities, among others, Clima-Med recommends taking into account below recommendations during revisions:
 - In accordance with the Gender Policy, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance Plan : to better integrate a gender perspective in climate change efforts and puts gender-sensitivity and anti-discrimination as part of all sectors and policies, which is a missing factor in the initial communication.
 - In accordance with the Livestock Sector Strategy: to better integrate priorities linked to the resilience of livestock keepers against climate change and natural hazards, ensuring the conservation, management and development of grazing land and pastures, increasing access to agricultural water and improving infrastructure. For the NDCs revision, giving priority to sustainable food and livestock development has a vital importance for Palestine.

- In accordance with the Fourth National Plan, National Strategy for Solid Waste Management: to emphasize waste treatment, transportation, regulatory framework, recycling and reuse.

- In accordance with UNFCCC commitments, it is also recommended to merge environmentally sustainable solutions in the mitigation measures, including production and/or importation of energy with existing measures mostly based on the consumption side such as buildings and transport.

1.2. Improvement of National Climate Action Planning Methodology

- To conduct detailed planning activities for climate actions with a clear calendar, timing, and costs.
- It is recommended to prioritize reviewing, linking, and putting on track the implementation of the NDC Action Plan, undertaken interactively with sectoral road maps (with complementary legislative setups, timelines and costing), NAP, and LEDS.
- It is recommended to expand accessibility to plans and strategies interconnected with the NDCs and initiate their effective dissemination to all actors involved in NDC implementation. It is recommended to add an English executive summary for each document to facilitate its visibility and use.
- It is recommended to incorporate and incentivize cities' efforts when developing and updating their NDCs and National Adaptation Plans as well as during their implementation.
- Different planning methodologies and structuring approaches are applied and need to complement each other better. To overcome this challenge, it is recommended:
 - To gradually develop and apply common planning methodologies and compatible templates,
 - When elaborating planning guidelines, include instructions on how to better mainstream the NDC into the national policy, and
 - To gradually synchronize time horizons of plans and strategies related to NDC of all relevant ministries with the UNFCCC timeline.

1.3. Improvement of National Climate Policy Framework, the NAP, and the LEDS

NAP related recommendations include

- To update National Adaptation Plan to Climate Change 2016 after the revision of the NDCs.
- To ensure a direct link of national adaptation plans to the NDCs.
- To develop a national policy framework document covering all adaptation priorities of the country with a special focus on the fields of fisheries, food policy, marine development, and tourism.

LEDS related recommendations include

to place Palestine's revised NDCs in harmony with Atlas of Sustainable Development, Fourth National Plan and Sustainable Consumption and Production National Action Plan in Palestine.

MRV related recommendations include

to complete the legal framework and institutional system for the MRV and tracking climate finance, the way it is already mentioned in the NDCs.

Specific sector related recommendations include:

- To interlink health risks related to Climate Change as reported in the NDCs and National Communication into a national strategy for health, including climate-related risks to the health sector.
- To support national and city-level climate policy alignment both top-down and bottom-up. Assess and communicate how city climate action plans align with national and international goals like the Paris Agreement and respective NDCs.
- To dedicate a special to support climate changes projects and urban development. To strengthen national-level standards, regulations, and data systems that support low-carbon and climate- resilient urban planning and development and carbon pricing mechanisms at the municipal level.
- In the field of mitigation measures linked to energy efficiency and renewable energy, to interlink recommendations from dedicated projects such as Meet-Med with climate change actions by upgrading the legal framework in RE and EE actions (such as ESCO regulations, coordination of energy system by local authorities etc.).

1.4. Strengthening National Climate Coordination Mechanisms

- It is suggested to develop a Conduct Code of Cooperation among different institutions towards

effective harmonization of climate actions targets.

- To give more visibility to the current intensive work of the EQA and enhance its public communication and visibility.
- To advance and present suggestions on how to integrate representatives of local communities, vulnerable groups, the private sector, and the gender aspects in both national climate action and related international technical assistance.
- To enhance the participation of the ministries and public institutions in charge of food, health, transport, and marine in the NCG would strengthen the national coordination.
- To establish a special unit for implementing adaptation strategies for the ecosystem.
- To make more emphasis on climate governance in addition to plans and targets. Especially in cross-sectoral thematic such as environment and forests in addition to measures (as habitat connectivity for biodiversity hotspots or DRM plans for agricultural lands) and targets to provide guidance on how to involve relevant parties to handle climatic emergencies.
- It is recommended to develop a special governance component of urban development (as management of growing cities, resilience in local governance and systematic perspectives in public space policies) for a long-term implementation plan of urban development against climate sensitivity, making them more sustainable in practice.

2. Budgeting and Investment Framework

2.1. Provide additional incentives and technical assistance to climate projects' promoters from the private sector

- To establish a platform for dialogue between the public, private, and financial sectors.
- To improve regulation for the Energy Service Companies (ESCO and open the climate change credit lines market.

2.2. Development of innovative and climate sensitive fiscal measures and incentives

- To expand the Meet-Med project's recommendation about the tax benefits or other incentives in investment for energy efficiency goods and projects to larger areas of climate change.
- In tenders and calls for proposals launched by national authorities to fund local authorities' actions in Climate Change fields, it is recommended to embed in the call's selection criteria, a priority or an additional incentive for local authorities that are committed to the CoM (and/or similar type of commitment) or are in

the process of preparing or have prepared a SEACAP. This will encourage local authorities to prioritize the planning of their climate actions and mainstream NDC in their projects.

- To create tax benefits or other incentives for local authorities (e.g., creating VAT exemption for climate-sensitive investments of local authorities) would be beneficial, as would be the granting of tax benefits or other incentives for private and public organizations, industries and households who join the energy-saving programs led by local authorities (Tax benefits will help bring down costs, shorter return of investment).

2.3. Support local climate planning and the development of pipelines of bankable and replicable projects

- It is recommended to better integrate and leverage climate criteria in intergovernmental and fiscal transfer systems.
- To review municipal finance revenue assignment structures, fiscal transfer mechanisms, and subnational borrowing frameworks to ensure they align to climate-smart criteria. These frameworks can be established for services that underpin planning and financial capacity building particular to climate as well as climate-smart capital investment.
- To contribute to the development of innovative financing tools for funding SEACAP projects in small and medium-size local authorities with limited financial resources.
- To adapt and leverage intergovernmental and fiscal transfer systems to support and incentivize city-level climate action.
- Direct green recovery stimulus funds to urban areas severely affected by COVID-19 cases and facing economic uncertainty.
- Improve urban climate finance tracking and data availability in order to offer an investment prioritization tool for national and subnational policymakers, international organizations, and impact-oriented investors. Tracking investments at the project level can include progress monitoring, measuring gaps, identifying synergies, and optimizing and identifying opportunities surrounding the urban green transition.
- Establish a national SSM that would act as a facilitator and expertise center that offers to local authorities of all sizes technical assistance in the preparation and implementation of SEACAPs (from initial formulation up to facilitating fundraising, bankability of projects, integration to municipal planning, awareness-raising and public communication etc.).
- The SSM which will also provide an umbrella platform for all actions, directly and indirectly related to the NDC

implementation in local authorities' framework of action (e. g. support initiatives such as Smart Cities, Healthy Cities, Clean Cities, and altogether sustainable urban/ municipal management). The aim is also to coordinate actions and perspectives of results, to assess progress better and avoid duplications of efforts.

2.4. Private sector investments mobilization

- Enhancing the public-private partnership legal framework and Technical Assistance for PPP development at the national and local level.
- Enhancing multiplication of relevant models of municipal concessions (e.g., Municipal Trading Companies) inside the country with a technical assistance system for local authorities (This service can be provided inside the SSM).

2.5. Local level mobilization

- It is also recommended to involve local authorities in the NDCs mainstreaming process by defining and embedding climate considerations in all levels of local planning, in addition to SEACAPs.
- Local authorities are invited to adopt and implement regulations, design standards, and incentives to encourage private and household investment in green buildings, vehicles, equipment, and appliances.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework

3.1 Data Gap Analysis

- The vulnerability of the monitoring and evaluation framework decreases the effectiveness of the legislation, policy framework, NAP and LEDS.
- The development of a sustainable system for GHG inventory.
- Build national "climate action trackers – monitoring indicators", online platforms, portals and scorecards to start and/or deepen national discussions around Climate Action and its national context. This will allow tracking government climate action and measuring it against Paris Agreement aim.
- To create a single entity to act as a hub to collect, process, archive, and report GHG inventories in cooperation with Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).
- Use results and products and set cooperation with relevant support actions to fill the Data Gap, e.g., with MEDSTAT project (Euro Mediterranean Statistical Cooperation).

- For local authorities, conduct a cross-sectoral analysis of available data to measure the progress of SEACAP implementation.
- To improve legislation to facilitate data collection of the private sector.

3.2. Data collection and management

Develop a national center of information, curate data and assess the progress of NDCs mainstreaming at the national and local levels.

To coordination the establishment of the climate data center with the expected creation of an information center and data bank for all RE projects and water (as planned in the national cross- sectoral environment strategy)



4. Capacity Building Activities

4.1. Human Resources at national and local levels

• At national level

- To conduct capacity building activities for national experts on data collection – i.e., developing a GHG inventory including detailed use of IPCC guidelines and data sheets and calculations.
- To design, fund and carry out targeted capacity building actions and on-the-job training to national experts responsible for preparing future Climate Change Communications addressed UNFCCC.

- To conduct capacity building activities for national experts on NAP and LEDS preparation.

• At local level

The NDCs include a wide variety of actions involving directly local authorities in the agriculture sector for smart agriculture, community irrigation scheme, land use planning, rangeland development; in the energy sector for promoting green buildings and upgrading grids; in the transport sector for promoting public transport; in the environment sector for expansion of green spaces; and in the management of waste and wastewater sector, by promoting recycling, solid waste management, wastewater treatment. To better accompany those requirements, it is recommended to strengthen the human capacity of local authorities in the above-mentioned sectors and infrastructural and machinery investments. Capacity building and resilience promoting measures could be especially more effective in responding to given energy objectives, in parallel with the infrastructural ones.

- To include the SEACAP plan within or build upon the Strategic Plans of municipalities and activate its implementation by linking this to the annual budget planning and/or allocation set for municipalities.
- To build a National Climate Planning team that will assist in preparing national strategies (interactively with the SSM).
- To designate a “SEACAP Implementation Manager” in each local authority, who will oversee the preparation and implementation of the SEACAP.

4.2. Training activities

- Assess needs towards holding nationally adapted training on NDC implementation, including answering needs and meeting challenges at the local level.
- In addition to direct SEACAP training through the proposed SSM, to provide also a well targeted capacity building actions for NCG members on how to develop a national guideline and implement NDC mainstreaming (namely applying the advanced recommendations above).
- Providing specific capacity building actions to raise climate finance capacity in different areas, e.g., interlinking exiting national finance to ensure complementary with available international finance.
- To develop national capacity in developing project proposals responding to demands and expectation of international funding and donor agencies.

4.3. Tools/guidelines

- Ensure pertinent preparation of relevant training activities syllabi, tools, and guidelines to use and implement the recommendations by different stakeholders.
- Use and make available SEACAP innovative planning guidelines, templates and multiple tools that will be available through the SSM, and planning guidelines adapted to national conditions.
- Organize twinning activities through the institutions of NCG's members with countries where NDCs' mainstreaming in national plans are advanced.

4.4. Public Communication

- Create a national office in charge of NDCs communication that would work horizontally with all relevant ministries and vertically with all local authorities in order to deliver a synchronized and complementary message to the public.
- Design and hold awareness actions at the national level, such as:
 - Prepare and launch general National Awareness Campaigns on several levels. Activities would, for instance, include Informative Posters; Short Films about climate change reality; a series of small testimonial films to promote creative minds and actions and eco-innovative solutions; campaigns to boost green entrepreneurship in the country, highlight successful actions taken by women entrepreneurs etc.
 - Include in all available national programs a climate awareness-raising component.
 - Design and hold awareness actions at the civil society level, such as Youth Challenges Actions, to enhance young people's power and inspire them to join, addressing climate challenges in social media through best stories and actions. These can be posted on a specific blog where people can vote and share their favorite stories and pictures.

4.5. Gender mainstreaming

- Integrate gender mainstreaming to the whole NDC implementation efforts at national and local levels, under the Gender Policy, Stakeholders Engagement and Climate Finance Plan.
- Link national policy framework to 5-year enhanced Lima work program on gender and its gender action plan (Decision 3/CP - 25 December 2019) <https://unfccc.int/documents/204536>.





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