

Evolution of adaptation: needs and gaps for LDCs under the UNFCCC

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Outline of presentation

- Adaptation and its evolution in climate change regime
- Adaptation gaps of LDCs
- Needs and way forward

Adaptation

- Global climate change regime emerged primarily as a mitigation policy
- Reason: climate change was seen as an issue of atmospheric pollution through emission of GHGs
- Over time UNFCCC COPs made many substantive decisions regarding adaptation, and their cumulative impact is mounting
- Both climate science and policy politics played their role in contributing to adaptation's current elevated status
- Given the difficulties in advancing an adequate mitigation regime, the LDCs and others have turned to adaptation as a more winnable agenda

Adaptation

- Article 2 of the UNFCCC refers to natural adaptation of ecosystems and sustainability of food production and economic development,
“... Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”
- The IPCC AR3 defines adaptation as:
"Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities."

Evolution of adaptation: four phases



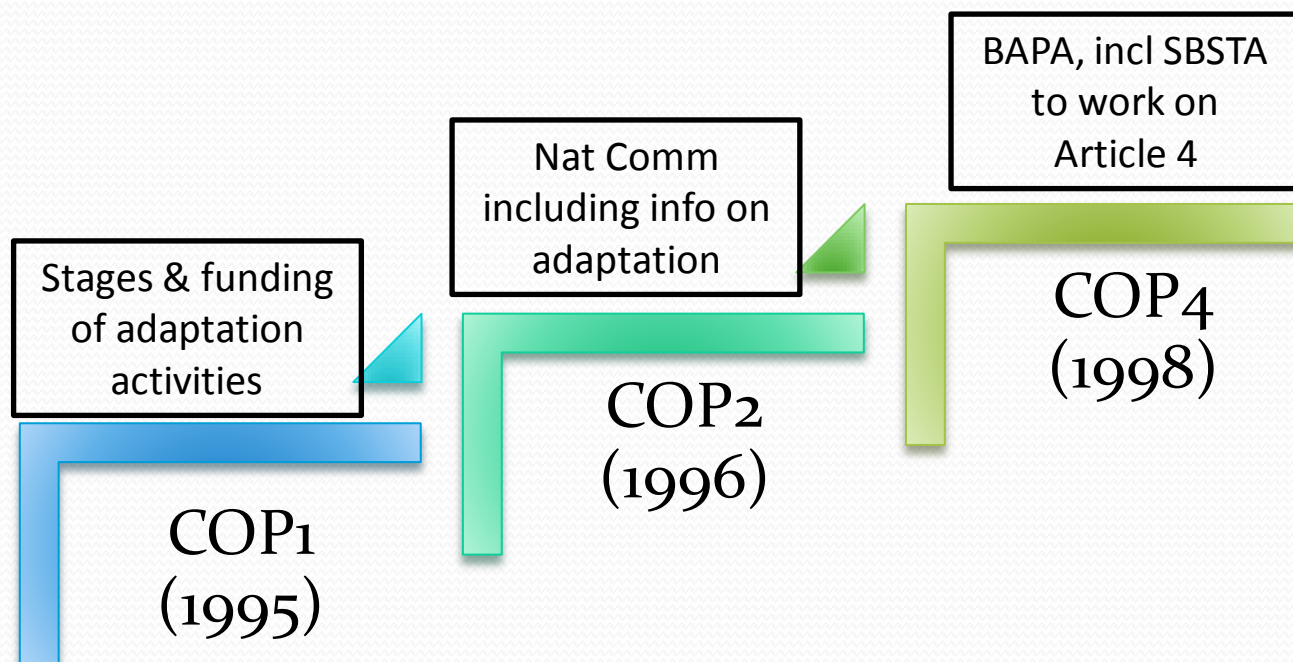
Pre - 2000

2001-2004

2005-2010

2011-2015

Conceptualization of adaptation



While Parties continued to deliberate on arrangements to address adaptation during the initial years following entry into force of the Convention, it was clear that for LDCs attention was needed to address urgent and immediate needs

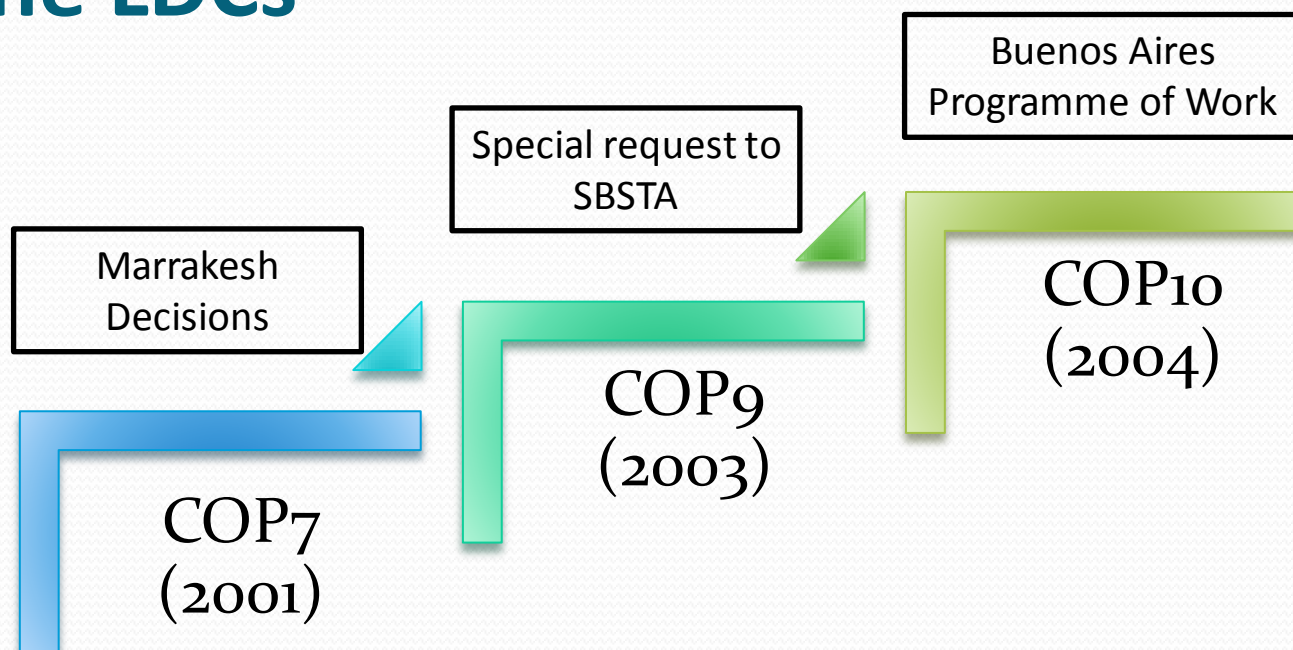
Pre - 2000

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2011-2015

Addressing urgent and immediate needs of the LDCs



A process for addressing urgent and immediate adaptation needs for LDCs and a work plan to commence work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change was initiated

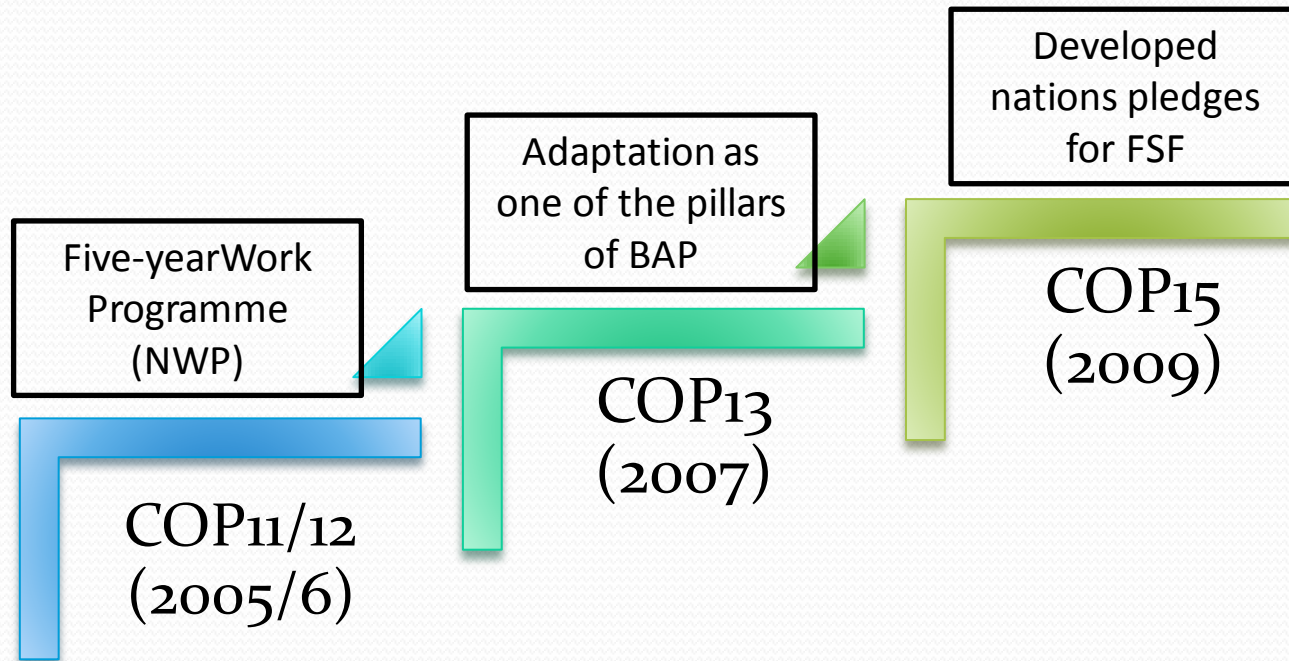
Pre - 2000

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Facilitating implementation of NAPAs



During this period LDCs focused on preparation of NAPAs and the priority was accessing financial support for the implementation of NAPAs. COP11 provided guidance to the LDCF to support implementation of NAPAs

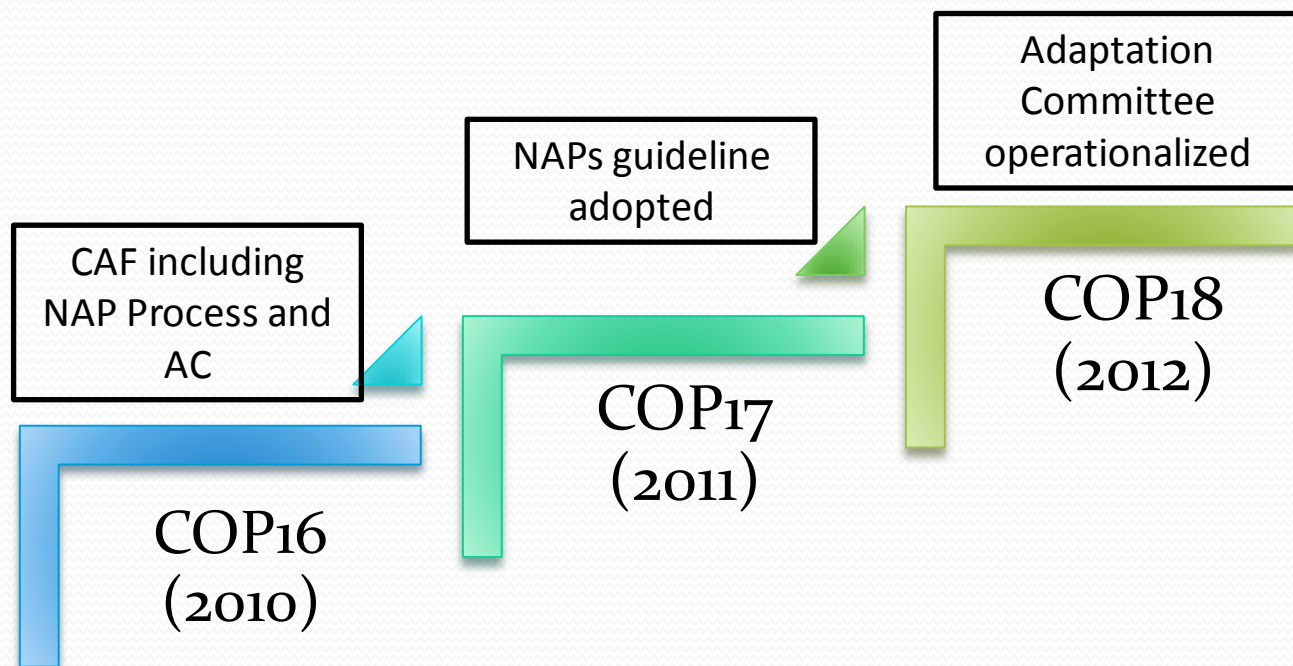
Pre - 2000

2001-2004

2005-2010

2011-2015

Addressing medium- and long-term adaptation needs of LDCs



LDCs supported in undertaking their NAP process through an LDCF-funded global support programme, which seeks to strengthen institutional and technical capacities for the iterative development of comprehensive NAPs

Pre - 2000

2001-2004

2005-2010

2011-2015

Gaps in NAPs

Technical support of LEG through initial and technical guidelines, and trainings are adequate for **laying the groundwork**

Gaps

- no guidelines on structure and form of NAPs
- no reference for submitting NAPs
- no guidelines for the implementation of NAPs
- no guidelines for M&E

How to address adaptation gaps? (1)

- NAPAs to be implemented prior to the enforcement of 2015 agreement
- recognize the reciprocal relation between mitigation levels and adaptation needs
- funding support should be defined by assessing the levels for adaptation requirements on the basis of aggregate mitigation ambition communicated by Parties
- by ensuring that LDCs are given priority in accessing support for adaptation

How to address adaptation gaps? (2)

- Fostering coherence among the institutions on adaptation (CAF, AC, LDC WP, LEG, NWP, TEC, GCF, and AF) to ensure more effective support and implementation of adaptation
- Giving further mandate to LEG after 2015 for the formulation of implementation strategies for LDCs, including linkages with other relevant bodies



**Much has been done but more
needs to be achieved...**

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