

Annex R: The Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership

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1. Overview of the Partnership and time-line of Danish support

The Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership (NDCP) was launched at UNFCCC CoP 22/2016 in Marrakech by a coalition of countries, institutions, and non-state actors, led by Germany and Morocco¹. Denmark soon joined and contributed DKK 5 million in 2016-2018, DKK 9 million in 2018-2020, and DKK 35 million in 2020-2022 (Danida, 2020). The NDCP has the twin goals of accelerating the implementation of NDCs and raising their levels of ambition. It works directly with national governments, international institutions, civil society, researchers, and the private sector to fast-track climate and development action. Membership is open to countries and international institutions that are committed to ambitious implementation of NDCs and to achieving the SDGs.

2. Capacities and priorities of the Partnership

The NDCP has 180 members (Danida, 2020), which gain access to a global network of partners that can deliver services geared towards implementation of NDCs, through targeted technical assistance (TA) and capacity building, knowledge products and enhanced financial support. It maintains a Knowledge Portal to offer easy access to data, tools, guidance, good practice and funding opportunities, particularly related to reducing emissions or adapting to the impacts of climate change. There are also opportunities for knowledge sharing in a peer community of countries implementing their NDCs.

The NDCP's work is facilitated by about 20 technical staff at an NDCP Support Unit which has branches at its two host institutions: the World Resources Institute (WRI) in Washington, DC and the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany. It is guided by a Steering Committee which comprises *ex*

¹ See: www.wri.org/blog/2016/11/ndc-partnership-rocks-marrakech; <https://ndcpartnership.org/news-and-events/news/release-national-governments-partner-ensure-climate-action-fast-effective-and>.

officio members of UN Climate Change and WRI, and representatives of developed and developing nations and international institutions², and is currently co-chaired by Costa Rica and the Netherlands.

The NDCP maintains a Good Practice Database³, which was established by the Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement⁴, the International Climate Initiative (IKI) NDC Support Cluster⁵, the UNDP NDC Support Programme⁶, the Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) Global Partnership⁷ and the NDCP Support Unit. Its key features are:

- that it serves as a central hub for case studies on learning and leadership in climate action, and is curated to reflect priorities identified by countries and to highlight innovative NDC implementation measures;
- that it includes more than 150 world-wide case studies, and profiles a variety of sectors, themes, and implementation stages in mitigation and adaptation, with several available for download in English, French and Spanish;
- that all content has been tagged (e.g. by country, region, action areas, planning and implementation activities, sectors and themes, barriers overcome, success factors, and languages) and is searchable, so that users can find results most relevant to their circumstances;
- that case studies include those developed by the LEDS Global Partnership and the NDCP Support Unit, and others drawn from leading organizations working in this field; and
- that it includes a Global Good Practice Analysis (funded jointly by the German Government and the European Union).

A Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) was launched in September 2019, through which the technical and financial support of 46 partners is helping 63 countries to prepare and implement enhanced NDCs as part of the 2020-2021 update process. The NDCP web-site also has a Climate Toolbox which is accessible using key words, and a Climate Finance Explorer covering about 100 different funding sources.

3. Effectiveness of the Partnership's mitigation efforts

The NDCP has a purely supportive role, and no specific mitigation effort in any particular country can be directly attributed to its work. The performance of the NDCP is subject to independent reviews, however, of which the first was by Keen *et al.* (2020) to cover the 2018-2020 work programme, and the next is due in 2023. According to Danida (2020), the first review concluded:

² Currently, Denmark, Germany, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Marshall Islands, United Kingdom, World Bank Group, Inter-American Development Bank and UN Development Programme.

³ <https://ndcpartnership.org/good-practice-database>.

⁴ www.transparency-partnership.net.

⁵ www.ndc-cluster.net.

⁶ www.ndcs.undp.org/content/ndc-support-programme.html.

⁷ <https://ledsgp.org>.

- that the NDCP is highly relevant, since its country engagement process and Partnership Plans have helped developing countries prioritise and coordinate efforts to achieve NDCs, including tangible synergies between sectors on mitigation and adaptation policies and activities;
- that support from in-country facilitators has been critical to the success of the national Partnership Plans, which are valued for coordinating support from donors and enabling country aid effectiveness (although coordination amongst development partners at country level is still a challenge);
- that members recognise the NDCP's role in developing, consolidating, managing and brokering knowledge and learning; and
- that members report broadly positive experience with the CAEP as a vehicle for enhancing and raising the ambition of their NDCs, and also with the TA Fund that supports it.

These findings led to the following recommendations, which have been integrated into the 2021-25 workplan:

- that the NDCP should continue its work with moderately expanded staffing in the support units to manage increased demand and engagement with a higher number of countries and to further develop the role of in-country facilitators;
- that avenues should be explored for improving members willingness to coordinate at country level;
- that the knowledge and learning strategy should be further strengthened and developed;
- that the success of the CAEP should be built on by agreeing a Pooled Funding Mechanism for additionality taking the TA Fund into account;
- that additional resources should be set aside for implementation of the NDCP gender strategy; and
- that the Theory of Change, particularly regarding climate finance, should be further developed and linked to a refined results and monitoring framework.

The NDCP's 2021-25 workplan is designed to coincide with the five-year Paris Agreement cycle for NDC revisions. It will therefore support countries through implementation of their revised NDCs to be submitted in 2020-2021, through the Global Stocktake of 2023, and into the new cycle of NDC revision thereafter. The core of its work will remain much the same, for example in the four focal countries of this evaluation as summarised in the NDCP country pages⁸:

- in Ethiopia, it is undertaking a 'Stage 2: Rapid Assessment and Interventions Scoping Exercise', and has two other initiatives ongoing (i.e. support to updating of Ethiopia's National Climate Resilience and Green Economy Strategy 2011-2025, and first draft Ethiopia's NDC Update Roadmap 2020-2030);
- in Indonesia and South Africa, its database records nine and 18 mitigation and adaptation initiatives respectively, and the main NDCP activity centres on support to updating of the NDC; and

⁸ <https://ndcpartnership.org/countries-map>.

- in Vietnam, the Plan for Implementation of the Paris Agreement (PIPA) forms the basis for NDC implementation, and thus for engagement with NDCP, which is coordinating support from NDCP members and establishing an NDC Implementation Platform to promote effective dialogue and coordination among stakeholders.

The 2021-2025 workplan is also designed to adapt to unforeseen events, like those which since CoP 25/2019 in Madrid have included youth protests demanding climate action, a global pandemic, the steepest economic downturn in a century (in the UK, in three centuries), and politically-charged actions in response to racial, social, and economic injustice. Major adjustments can be made by bi-annual Steering Committee meetings and the mid-term review in 2023.

4. Conclusion on effectiveness of Danish support

Danida (2020) builds a case for continued Danish support for the NDCP, noting:

- that its priorities of enhancing ambition, reducing emissions and strengthening adaptation and resilience align well with the Danish long term strategy for global climate action;
- that its aims, ways and means for engaging with developing countries are supportive of Danish priorities, policies, and strategies, including the current Danish development policy and the long-term global strategy for climate action;
- that the NDCP contributes to Danish ambitions for mainstreaming climate across development policies and programmes, creating stronger climate and development links, establishing Green Strategic Partnerships, and strengthening climate diplomacy at country level and in all multilateral fora to raise climate ambition;
- that by supporting the NDCP, Denmark obtains platforms for strengthening Danish bilateral and international climate diplomacy, specifically by providing access to finance ministries which can take the climate diplomatic dialogue to a higher level in countries where Denmark has strategic sector cooperation (such as South Africa, Indonesia and México); and
- that Danish engagement with the NDCP could create better coherence and synergies at country level between Danish bilateral programmes and multilateral programmes and partnerships supported by Denmark, and the Danish secondment to the NDCP Support Unit as proposed by Danida (2020) should facilitate such synergies.

Thus, Denmark sees synergies between its engagement with the NDCP and with other focal countries where it has thematic ('strategic sector') cooperation programmes on energy, and also with high-level EU Climate Diplomacy dialogue. Central to this dialogue and the specific collaborations are the multiple benefits of energy transition that arise, for example, from the increasing deployment of RE/EE and the phasing out of coal-based energy systems. By collaborating with the NDCP, Denmark and its partners can more convincingly demonstrate the multiple benefits of energy transition, and there are also opportunities to help raise NDC emissions in light of zero net emission commitments.

Annex a: Information sources for the review.

This review was drafted by the NDC Specialist based partly on his direct observation of the NDCP working in Vietnam but is otherwise informed by study of the NDCP web-site and of documents listed in the bibliography.

Abbreviations and acronyms (NDCP)

CAEP	Climate Action Enhancement Package.
EE	Energy efficiency.
GP	Global Partnership.
IKI	<i>Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative</i> (International Climate Initiative, of Germany).
LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategies.
TA	Technical assistance.
NDCP	Nationally Determined Contribution Partnership.
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme.
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
RE	Renewable energy.
WRI	World Resources Institute.

Bibliography (NDCP)

Danida (2020) *Agenda Item 5: Danish Support to the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership 2020-2022*. Department of Green Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (Copenhagen).

Keen, M., Friedman, J. & Henderson, S. (2020) *Independent Mid-term Review of the NDC Partnership's 2018-2020 Work Programme*. Final Report, March 2020. IOD PARC (Sheffield).