While few countries have all the systems and capacities in place needed for effective adaptation, no country is starting from zero. All countries have development and risk-reduction activities ongoing to some extent, and these may contribute to adaptation or may provide useful “entry points” for making a country more adaptable. Whether adaptation planning takes place in a highly integrated manner or in a largely separate “stand-alone” process, it will not be in a vacuum and will need to take into account the current political landscape and development trajectory of the country. This worksheet is intended to help NAC users develop a sense of the political and developmental contexts in which adaptation takes place within a country, and should assessment.
Political Landscape

A. Use a page of text, or a set of bullets, to briefly describe the current national political context in which adaptation will take place. This should cover a range of potential entry points and barriers, such as (but certainly not limited to) an upcoming election, a new five-year plan, a reorganization of government agencies, or major upcoming legislation. Political dynamics, such as the views and stances of political parties, should also be considered. Depending on the circumstances in the country and the specific adaptation planning process, it may be necessary to include stakeholders in the completion of this section to ensure that the description is accurate and sufficient.
B. Once you have identified the political context in the country and the potential entry points for adaptation, perform a brief political economy analysis of the relevant actors, organizations, and processes. This should be an examination of the formal and informal structures that will shape the way adaptation planning occurs in a country, and should consider the distribution of power and resources among key actors. This will help in understanding the incentives, interests, and norms that may influence planning efforts. For example, your assessment of the national political context may reveal that certain agencies receive more funding or greater prioritization in planning processes; a subsequent political economy analysis aims to understand why this is the case.
C. What are the major processes, either already in place or ongoing/upcoming, relating to sectoral planning? List any relevant documents, when they were created, and the key institutions responsible for funding and implementing them.

D. What major policies, plans, or programs, either established or upcoming, relate to poverty reduction? What institutions are responsible for funding and implementing them?
E. What major policies, plans, or programs, either established or upcoming, relate to disaster risk reduction? What institutions are responsible for funding and implementing them? If important in the country, discuss implementation of the Hyogo framework.

F. List any important environmental planning tools or processes (e.g. sustainable development plan, EIA procedures, SEA, etc.) In what ways are they influential? What institutions are involved?
Equity/participation

A. What are the major existing policies and laws relating to freedom of information? Describe the rights to information provided to the public by these laws.

B. What mechanisms are in place to ensure stakeholder involvement and engagement in national planning processes?
Budgeting Processes

A. Describe the country’s budgeting process. When and how does national budgeting occur? What institutions are involved in allocating and distributing funds to ministries and sub-national governments?

B. How is budgetary review and oversight exercised? What institutions and stakeholders are involved?