



Regional briefing on  
National Adaptation Plans:

# AFRICA IN FOCUS

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## In brief

- Many countries in sub-Saharan Africa have begun to **integrate adaptation into national development plans and climate change policies**.
- Almost all the focus countries considered in this regional briefing have **initiated the process to formulate and implement the NAP**.
- All **I/NDCs** in the countries in focus include an adaptation component.
- **Challenges** are ongoing; particularly regarding the integration of climate change adaptation (CCA) into developmental and financial **planning across sectors and scales**.
- The process of integrating adaptation into development planning processes would be further strengthened by enhancing **high-level political support, institutional coordination and effective engagement** with a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector and vulnerable communities.
- Identifying sufficient **financing for adaptation** has been a challenge; however, **NAPs** can provide an opportunity to **catalyse both national and international finance**.
- Increasing the capacity to collect, analyse, store and disseminate climate data will strengthen decision-making for NAPs.
- Further effort is required to enhance the engagement of the **private sector**, and to fully address the requirements of the most vulnerable communities.

# Regional overview and introduction

Africa is the poorest continent and one of the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In almost all countries throughout this vast region, people are primarily dependent on climate sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, fishery, and forestry. Due to Africa's sheer size and diversity, climate change impacts will depend on specific, sub-regional environmental and socio-economic contexts. In Central and Eastern Africa, changes are predicted in seasonal rainfall patterns, alongside increasingly prolonged droughts. A significant reduction in the overall annual precipitation level is expected in countries in Western and Southern Africa. Taking into consideration the variability in the projected climatic changes across the region, adaptation activities will also vary, alongside the challenges to effective implementation.

This Regional Briefing is based on the consultations and discussions held at the *National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Training Workshop for African Developing Countries* which took place in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire from 17-19 October 2017. Delegations from twelve African sub-Saharan countries attended the workshop; Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. This briefing aims to provide a brief overview of NAP experiences in these sub-Saharan African countries, highlighting emerging issues, challenges and opportunities – with a focus on the countries whose delegates participated in the workshop. A brief desk review was carried out for five additional sub-Saharan countries: Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland, Mauritius, and Cabo Verde.

## Emerging issues for NAP processes

### Integrating adaptation into planning

Most of the countries in focus have climate change policies in place, which either incorporate, or centre on, adaptation. In addition, many countries in the region have made significant strides towards integrating adaptation into national development planning processes. Seychelles, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Gabon, Cameroon and Ghana have all commenced the process of integrating adaptation into national development planning.

Kenya and South Africa, for example, have integrated CCA into their long-term development plans, such as Kenya's Vision 2030 and South Africa's National Development Plan Vision 2030. South Africa has also developed a national Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which will be integrated into all relevant sector plans, and upon which the NAP is based.

Successful first steps towards sectoral integration have been initiated in some countries, albeit in a limited selection of sectors. For example, Ghana has formulated a National Climate-Smart Agriculture and Food Security Action Plan (2016-2020). Some countries are also making progress towards addressing a wider range of sectors. Kenya, as part of its third medium-term plan (2018-2022) for implementing the Vision 2030, has established a dedicated thematic group tasked exclusively to facilitate integration of climate change into all sectors. In Cabo Verde, innovative measures are



being implemented to integrate climate change risks and adaptation measures into key national plans and programmes for water resource management. In Mauritius, adaptation is being integrated into coastal zone management processes and guidelines, as well as into the health sector planning processes.

Significant efforts are being made in many countries in the region to integrate adaptation into national and sectoral levels development planning and climate change policies. However, there is still limited integration of adaptation into local development plans. Action is underway in some countries, for example, Cameroon is addressing this issue by seeking to integrate CCA into its five-year Communal Development Plans. Similarly, South Africa is intending to integrate climate change into specific sub-national level development frameworks, land use schemes and a planning authorization system.

## Institutional coordination of adaptation planning

Several countries have highlighted the weaknesses of institutional coordination mechanisms for adaptation. However, a few good practices can be identified, which demonstrate enhanced cross-sectoral adaptation planning, and the establishment of a strong national mandate. For example, in Kenya, the National Climate Change Framework Policy and Climate Change Act created a National Climate Change Council (NCCC) that is anchored in the Presidency and chaired by the Deputy President. This has the authority to convene ministries and demand accountability on matters related to climate change across sectors. In Gabon, the climate change agenda is coordinated by the President.

## NDCs

All of the African countries in focus have included an adaptation component in their **Nationally Determined Contributions** (NDCs) – or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) for those countries which are yet to submit their NDC. This in itself highlights the importance of adaptation for the region. The NDCs for Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have made strong linkages between their current and future adaptation efforts, and the process to formulate and implement their NAP.

## Land use planning

Land use planning is emerging as a critical and challenging issue for development and CCA. In many African countries, land use planning systems have centered broadly on promoting and facilitating social economic development. These systems have not been developed further to take into account disaster risk reduction (DRR), or CCA and mitigation. Whilst legislation to guide sustainable land use activities has been put in place in various countries, implementation remains a challenge. In many cases, regulatory measures are not proving effective. Therefore, countries are requesting for enhanced support to develop strategic land use planning, as a useful tool to integrate DRR and adaptation, towards a more holistic sustainable development framework.

## Regional collaboration

New institutions and initiatives have been established regionally, which provide opportunities for countries to work with partners to access and implement adaptation activities. The Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), launched in Paris during the COP21, is a good example. AAI works with partners to facilitate access to support, scale up adaptation initiatives, address adaptation financing gaps and implement measures to address loss and damage. The Fonds vert du système de l'économie verte de l'Afrique centrale (SEVAC), established by the African Union through the Economic Community of Central African States, is an instrument for financing environment and climate change programmes. It is to be managed by the Climate Commission of the Congo Basin.

Improved engagement with regional bodies (e.g. Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS, in West Africa, and New Partnership for Africa's Development – NEPAD, across Africa), could provide strategic support for improved NAP development and implementation. Funding and data are available within these regional institutions, but these resources can only be made available to countries through improved collaboration strategies – something which NAP processes could potentially facilitate.

# Moving forward on the process to formulate and implement NAPs

## NAP processes

The majority of countries in the region are at various stages of the process to formulate and implement NAPs. Two countries, Kenya and Cameroon, have formulated NAPs which have been submitted to the UNFCCC.

Significant advancements to initiate and launch NAPs have been made in Botswana, Cote D' Ivoire, Nigeria, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. These countries are building on previously established climate strategies and policies to integrate adaptation into both planning and budgeting over the medium- to long-term, developing roadmaps, and initiating national climate dialogues and workshops. Mauritius has a National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework (NCCAPF) in place, which aims to mainstream CCA into national development planning, and includes a policy, an action plan and an investment plan.

NAP processes have been initiated in the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Swaziland, including through establishment of political and institutional support.

## Challenges

Challenges persist in the region, particularly regarding the integration of CCA into developmental and financial planning across sectors and scales. Institutional arrangements and concrete climate change strategies are in place in several countries. However, there is an ongoing requirement to strengthen mandates to ensure **engagement with sub-national levels**, as well as **relevant national institutions and ministries**. This will bring cohesion, and strengthen mutual understanding across all sectors and scales. Various ministries and levels of government are still excluded from the process, or become involved at a much later stage in the development of the NAP. This creates challenges for the adaptation integration process.

For climate change integration to be considered a cross-cutting process, the **ownership of the NAP** needs to be all encompassing and **inclusive of all relevant stakeholders**. Frequently, the responsibility for climate change efforts has rested with one sectoral Ministry (primarily the Ministry of Environment). The mandate of this Ministry may not be adequate to have sufficient influence and convening power over other Ministries. It remains a challenge to ensure high-level political support to **strengthen decision-making processes** at all levels of government, and also to decentralise adaptation planning.

Countries of the region are still struggling to identify how sufficient **climate finance can be mobilised**, particularly at local levels. This is partially due to the lack of integrated assessments, lack of planning across sectors and low levels of government budgetary allocations that could help better manage domestic and international climate funds.. Climate financing has been limited and driven primarily by **project-based and bilateral and/or multilateral funding sources**. Private sector engagement with adaptation is particularly challenging **when strong mitigation co-benefits are not included**. Further effort is required to engage strategically with the private sector on adaptation.

A universal challenge in the region is the lack of institutional capacity to ensure that **climate data and information** is collected, stored, analysed and shared effectively. A climate information and technology infrastructure, with the capacity to generate robust climate information, is lacking in the region. Efficient communication platforms are essential for dissemination, along with knowledge about how to package climate information and ensure it is readily available. Climate information systems and capacities require development and strengthening across the region.

## Opportunities for NAPs

The process to formulate and implement NAPs in African countries provides key benefits and opportunities, particularly in the following aspects:

- **Strategic integration of adaptation priorities within the broader national development framework**, in the context of the SDGs, enhances development and fiscal policies to more effectively guide adaptation decision-making and strengthen cross-sectoral linkages.
- Multi-sectoral integration can facilitate **identification and access to funding for implementation**, especially through government budgetary allocations.

- **High-level political support , institutional coordination and effective engagement of a wide range of stakeholders, including the private sector and vulnerable communities,** will enhance the integration of adaptation into development planning at all levels and scales.
- **Local level participation** in adaptation planning and prioritization, with the support of decentralised decision-making, can enhance implementation of adaptation.
- For countries who are at the NAP implementation stage, the NAP can function as a **business plan which can be catalysed** as a pipeline for future adaptation project development.
- The **opportunity for financial support** for NAP Readiness, including through the GCF, can enhance implementation of the adaptation planning processes which have been initiated, or are ongoing.

## What is the process to formulate and implement a NAP?

The Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process in 2010, to enhance country-led planning and preparedness for CCA in the medium and long-term. The objectives of the NAP are to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and to integrate adaptation into all levels of development planning. The NAP process is multi-sectoral, involving Ministries of Environment as well as Planning and Finance, in addition to other key Ministries. By bringing greater institutional integration and coordination to adaptation planning, NAPs can enhance ongoing national development planning processes, safeguard development gains, and build resilience.

## Regional Trainings

The joint UNDP-UN Environment NAP-Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) is convening a global series of NAP Regional Training Workshops, to build capacities and exchange experiences on NAPs.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Training Workshop for African Developing Countries convened 32 participants, including 25 government representatives, from 12 African Sub-Saharan countries, together with representatives of the NAP-GSP (UNDP and UN Environment) and partner organisations (WHO, UNFCCC, GCF).

The objectives of the workshop were to: Increase countries' understanding of the process to formulate and implement NAPs as a means to accelerate adaptation planning and implementation, and; to take stock of how countries are advancing their NAPs. The workshop also provided an opportunity for county delegates to exchange lessons learned and experiences, and to identify where they require additional support for the NAP. The workshop used an interactive format, with a combination of brief presentations, panel discussions and participatory group exercises. The full workshop report is available at <http://globalsupportprogramme.org/node/4233>

## About the NAP-GSP

The joint UNDP-UN Environment National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) was launched in June 2013, following a decision at COP17 in Durban, requesting UN organisations to support the National Adaptation Plan process. The programme is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). The NAP-GSP, together with partners, is assisting developing countries to identify technical, institutional and financial needs to integrate climate change adaptation into medium- and long-term national planning and financing. The NAP-GSP provides technical expertise and guidance on country NAP processes, and provides opportunities for knowledge exchange on NAPs.

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