



AFRICA ADAPTATION PROGRAMME: A CROSS-PRACTICE APPROACH

United Nations Development Programme

CLIMATE RESILIENCE IS THE NEW SUSTAINABILITY

Climate change threatens to throw new obstacles onto the already difficult paths out of poverty for many African countries.

Higher temperatures, lower rainfall, increasing storm intensity, rising sea levels, shorter crop-growing seasons and the arrival of new pests and diseases are among the anticipated effects.

Agriculture is particularly vulnerable. As the basis of food production and the livelihoods of millions of people, any threats to agriculture will jeopardize overarching human development in Africa.

The ability of African countries to build climate resilience into their national development plans will be a major factor in their ability to achieve and sustain the gains of the Millennium Development Goals – to reduce hunger and poverty, improve the empowerment of women and the health of mothers, reduce child mortality, reduce the spread of contagious diseases, improve

environmental sustainability and increase levels of education.

In response, many countries are being offered assistance in the form of adaptation projects. These projects often vary tremendously in size and scope, cut across different sectors and are hosted in different ministries. In order to effectively take advantage of these projects, governments need strong in-country capacity to manage a diverse portfolio and an ability to link these efforts to a long-term development strategy.

In many countries, this capacity is limited. The knowledge, institutions and processes to identify and implement policy options for informed decision-making by African leaders must be strengthened if resilience to climate change is to be improved and sustained.

The African Adaptation Programme is not an adaptation project in its own right, but rather a programme that helps countries develop their capacities to finance and manage adaptation projects more effectively within a long-term planning framework.

AFRICA ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

The Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) was launched in 2008 by UNDP, in partnership with UNIDO, UNICEF and WFP, with funding of US \$92 million from the government of Japan.*

It is a strategic initiative to foster more informed climate adaptation decision-making and more effective implementation of those decisions in each of the 20 participating countries. The AAP supports countries in their development of capacities to identify climate-related risks to their national development priorities, and design and implement holistic climate-resilient adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans to address these risks.

Support for engagement with the AAP is provided by UNDP's country office in each of the participating countries: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia. Africa-wide management and coordination of the AAP is provided by the Inter-Regional Technical Support Component (IRTSC) located in Dakar, Senegal.

Backstopping the entire operation is the AAP's cross-practice approach integrating UNDP expertise from its key practice areas – including poverty reduction, gender mainstreaming, governance, knowledge management, and policy and planning – to deliver a comprehensive suite of technical assistance to the 20 AAP countries.

Participating countries

- *Burkina Faso*
- *Cameroon*
- *Congo*
- *Ethiopia*
- *Gabon*
- *Ghana*
- *Kenya*
- *Lesotho*
- *Malawi*
- *Mauritius*
- *Morocco*
- *Mozambique*
- *Namibia*
- *Niger*
- *Nigeria*
- *Rwanda*
- *Sao Tome and Principe*
- *Senegal*
- *Tanzania*
- *Tunisia*

NATIONAL COMPONENT

Approximately 80% of the programme financing will be channeled directly to national activities in participating countries to support development of planning mechanisms, institutions, policies, financial options and knowledge base that will be needed to respond to climate change in the years to come.

Detailed national projects will be developed in close consultation with governments, civil society organizations, technical experts, concerned donors, UN agencies and other partners. The projects will be tailored to meet the specific circumstances and climate-related needs in the country, while also being aligned with the overall programme outcomes.

The table below presents the climate change impacts anticipated in the four main African climatic sub-regions, as identified by IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report (2007), and lists the AAP countries within each of the regions.

AAP Countries per Sub-Region

SUB-REGION	PROGRAMME COUNTRIES	EXAMPLES OF CURRENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CLIMATE IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITIES IDENTIFIED BY THE IPCC
North Africa	Morocco, Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decrease in mixed rain-fed and semi-arid systems, particularly the length of the growing period, e.g. on the margins of the Sahel• Some possible increased water stress and runoff by 2050
East Africa	Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Likely increase in rainfall• Previously malaria-free highland areas could see less stable conditions by 2050, becoming highly suitable for transmission by 2080
Southern Africa	Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Possible heightened stress in some river basins• Likely southward expansion in transmission zone of malaria• Dune fields may become highly dynamic by 2099• Some biomes (e.g. fynbos and succulent karoo) likely to become most vulnerable ecosystems, while savannas may become more resilient• Food security likely to be further aggravated
West and Central Africa	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Ghana, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Varied impacts on crops• Possible agricultural GDP losses• Coastal settlements possibly affected by projected rise in sea levels and flooding• Changes in coastal environments (e.g. mangroves and coastal degradation) could negatively impact fisheries and tourism

INTER-REGIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT COMPONENT

The Inter-Regional Technical Support Component (IRTSC) will provide a package of support to the country teams to link the country projects together. All countries will benefit from and contribute to a much wider knowledge base founded on best practices. The support will extend to both UNDP geographic regions involved: sub-Saharan Africa, led by the Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), and the Arab States bordering the Mediterranean Sea, led by the Regional Bureau for Arab States (RBAS). This technical support package will be a key mechanism to deliver expertise, training, and tools to countries as they develop and implement their country projects.

Countries will benefit from a much wider knowledge base founded on best practices.

The IRTSC will support countries in the following ways:

1 Facilitate country access to best available data and information on climate variability and impacts. UNDP will provide assistance to countries to access, collect and analyze best available data on climate change and its impacts. Cooperation with the UN Environment Programme, World Meteorological Organization and other relevant monitoring and assessment centers of expertise will be established. The end goal is to facilitate rational decision-making and planning processes despite a certain degree of future uncertainty.

2 Support institutional and leadership development through structured and specific interventions that are responsive to the unique circumstances and needs of each country. The Inter-Regional Technical Support Component will support the implementation and strengthening of institutional mechanisms needed to promote coordination on climate change risks and opportunities across multiple sectors. Les-

sons will be shared among national teams and UNDP will provide technical advice, policy and operational support, and tools and resources. Finally, capacities will be developed to design and implement climate change adaptation activities. Countries will receive assistance according to their specific circumstances and existing institutions.

3 Make available to countries best practices, experiences and technologies for facilitating the implementation of climate resilient policies in priority sectors. This component will reach across the different parts of Africa to identify best practices of specific sectors and adaptive capacity activities, and exchange them between countries facing similar challenges. The Inter-Regional Technical Support Component will compile, review, and integrate existing adaptation tools, methods and procedures and develop new ones as required so that the best possible resources are available at the country level. This will include technical expertise from other regional and global networks.

4 Provide countries with information on innovative financing options and facilitate key partnerships. A key aspect will relate to financial tools and mechanisms, including

knowledge on how to access and integrate different sources of climate change funding for specific national objectives. The Inter-Regional Technical Support Component will actively investigate and share knowledge on financing options available to support climate risks management and will help countries establish partnerships with relevant regional and international organizations. The programme will develop strategies to engage the private sector and leverage additional financing for adaptation.

5 Create a region-wide knowledge and learning mechanism to raise awareness, engage stakeholders, inform decision makers and promote exchange and cooperation between countries. Knowledge and awareness of adaptation will be facilitated across participating countries and regions. These mechanisms will provide targeted support to address knowledge and awareness needs of specific groups of stakeholders, for example decision-makers, sector experts, private sector, and local communities. Existing global and regional networks will be used, including the Adaptation Learning Mechanism and UNDP's 'EE-net'.

CROSS-PRACTICE STRATEGY COMPONENT

In the world's poorest countries, climate change is poised to reach throughout society and touch all sectors of activity, threatening to derail development on many fronts. Any effort to protect the sustainability of national development plans from the effects of climate change is inherently a multi-disciplinary undertaking.

If agriculture is threatened by rising temperatures and reductions in rainfall, for example, what are the implications for women who comprise the majority of agricultural workers across Africa? What will be the implications for maternal health, child mortality and the ability of children to attend school? What will be the consequent demands on governance in the health and education sectors? What type

of knowledge will be required to develop agriculture policies and plans that are able to maximize progress and minimize negative effects in other areas of development?

In order to identify such challenges and opportunities, and support innovative solutions, the AAP is employing a cross-practice strategy that integrates UNDP's expertise across its core practice areas – poverty reduction, gender mainstreaming, governance, knowledge management, and policy and planning – into a comprehensive suite of technical assistance that can be provided to countries. This support will complement AAP resources available in-country and through the IRTSC, at all stages of the programming process.

** The AAP was launched under the Japan-UNDP Joint Framework for Building Partnership to Address Climate Change in Africa, an integral part of the Yokohama Action Plan of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD).*



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