



# CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

AND THE ON-GOING PROCESS  
IN GHANA





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## CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines Adaptation as adjustments in ecological, social or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects (Smith et al, 2001). It includes adjustments to moderate harm from, or to benefit from, current climate variability as well as anticipated climate change.

### WHY IS ADAPTATION IMPORTANT?

- Currently, over 800 million people (11% of global population) are currently vulnerable to climate change
- impacts and extreme weather events
- If climate action isn't taken, 100 million people could be forced into poverty by 2030, says the World Bank
- At current emissions trajectories, the IPCC predicts global temperatures will rise to 2°C by 2050, killing 99% of coral reefs

### NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process was established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF). Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the CAF as part of the Cancun Agreements at the 2010 Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico. In the Agreements, Parties affirmed that adaptation must be addressed with the same level of priority as mitigation. The CAF is the result of three years of negotiations on adaptation under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) that had followed the adoption of the Bali Action Plan at the 2007 Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

The NAP enables Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs.

It is a continuous, progressive and iterative process, which follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach.

Climate Change Adaptation means adapting to life in a changing climate. It involves adjusting to actual or expected future climate. The main aim of adaptation is to reduce our vulnerability to the harmful effects of climate change (like sea-level encroachment, more intense extreme weather events or food insecurity). It also encompasses making the most of any potential beneficial opportunities associated with climate change (for example, longer growing seasons or increased yields in some regions).

## **NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY (NCCAS 2012)**

### **GOALS**

To enhance Ghana's current and future development to climate change impacts by strengthening its adaptive capacity and building resilience of the society and ecosystems.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Improve societal awareness and preparedness for future climate change;
- Enhance the mainstreaming of climate change into national development to reduce climate change risks;
- Increase the robustness of infrastructure development and long-term investments;
- Enhance the adaptability of vulnerable ecological and social systems by increasing the flexibility and resilience of these systems;
- Foster competitiveness and promote technological innovation

### **STRATEGIES**

#### **LIVELIHOODS**

- Improve output and income of vulnerable groups
- Create awareness on climate change and its adaptation strategies
- Sensitize beneficiaries on the need to adopt new and appropriate technologies on economic and non-economic livelihoods
- Improve access to credit facilities
- Build technical and financial capacities on alternative livelihoods mechanisms

## ENERGY

- Increase the use of off-grid alternative energy resources
- Increase the use of efficient domestic appliances
- Develop low-head run on river hydroelectric schemes
- Encourage large-scale energy conservation.

## AGRICULTURE

- Build and strengthen capacity of local farmers to increase agricultural productivity and awareness of climate issues.
- Build and strengthen capacity of extension officers in new farming technologies in order to enhance their support for farmers.
- Enhance the living standards of vulnerable groups through acquisition of alternative livelihoods skills
- Protect the environment through the promotion of agricultural biodiversity
- Promote cultivation of crops and rearing of animals adapted to harsh climatic conditions
- Document existing indigenous knowledge and best practices
- Train trainers to promote post-harvest technologies to minimize losses of farm produce.

## HEALTH

- Create national awareness on climate change and its impacts on health, livelihood and environmental sanitation.
- Improve environmental sanitation by strengthening institutions and enforcement of laws and bye laws.
- Improve existing waste management infrastructure and provide new and affordable technologies for environmental sanitation.
- Enhance and strengthen policies and bye laws in relation to spatial distribution of residential, commercial, industrial and recreational areas.
- Reduce the incidence of water and air –borne diseases.
- Improve capacities of health workers to cope with climate change health related problems
- Increase and upgrade existing health facilities and



equipment (ambulance, health centers (CHPS), mobile health vans, helicopter)

- Develop and strengthen a network of rapid disaster response team.

### EARLY WARNING

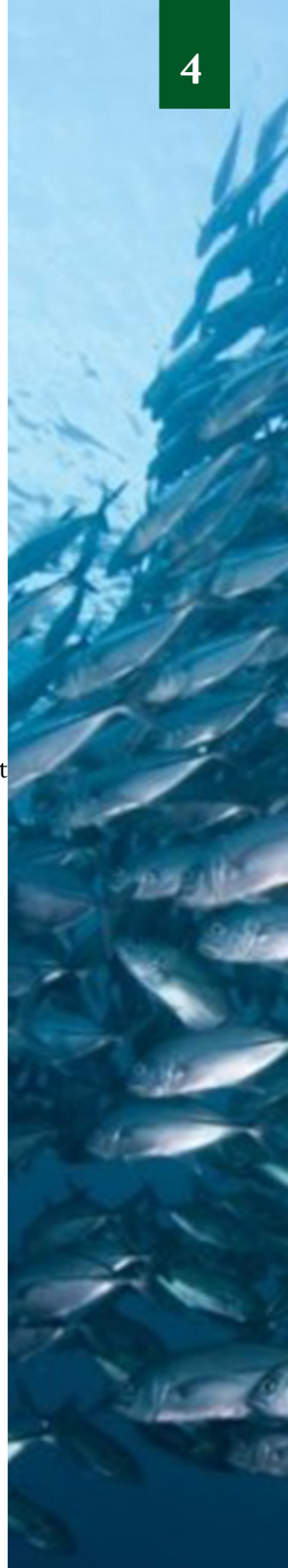
- Promote the development of modern information management system including E-Governance process
- Develop systems for data collection, processing and dissemination of information
- Promote evidence-based decision making
- Intensify government's commitment to enhance access to public information and enabling environment for media
- Promote timely dispatch of strategic information to targeted areas

### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- Promote fish farming
- Design and implement programmes on fisheries management and disease control
- Develop alternative sources of livelihoods for fisherfolks

### LAND USE

- Identify gaps in existing land-use regulations and review policies to deal with land management issues
- Implement and enforce land use regulations for sustainable development
- Enhance the capacity of vulnerable groups to sustainably utilize land resources
- Promote farming technologies that enhances productivity of agricultural lands.
- Strengthen capacities of universities and research institutions to undertake climate change studies
- Develop strategies to implement climate change adaptation options



## WATER

- Preserve/conserves water resources
- Make water accessible for domestic, agricultural, industrial, and commercial use and energy production.
- Increase water availability for domestic, industrial, agricultural, and energy production
- Improve and sustain the quality of water resources.
- To build capacity in water resources management.

### GHANA'S NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN FRAMEWORK (2018)

Under the leadership of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and with support from the United States In-Country Support Program (managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development [IISD], host to the NAP Global Network Secretariat), the Government of Ghana prepared a National Adaptation Plan Framework to guide and advance its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to address medium-and long-term adaptation needs in a coherent and coordinated manner.

The purpose is to provide an overall framework to guide the country in developing, coordinating and implementing its NAP process. The framework serves to describe the benefits of the NAP process in the context of Ghana, and to ensure that the NAP does not unnecessarily add to the proliferation of national planning processes and related documents. Specifically, the objectives of the NAP Framework are to:

Clarify the country's approach to its NAP process - This includes an articulation of the country's vision of climate change adaptation, its adaptation objectives and principles, the roles played by stakeholders within the national government, and priority adaptation actions to be undertaken. It will also provide a reference point for bringing together various adaptation planning efforts from different sectors, sub-national structures and scales of decision making.



The institutional structure for the NAP process is described in detail in the framework, which involves multiple sectors and agencies, working at national and sub-national levels. Stronger collaboration and coordination among the different institutions and ministries is required to reduce overlaps and duplication of adaptation efforts at different ministries and institutions. In addition, the framework highlights the need to engage the private sector in the NAP process, and to ensure that it is gender-responsive. The NAP process also adopts community-based and ecosystem-based approaches, and works to ensure that it delivers multiple co-benefits in relation to sustainable development, poverty reduction and climate change adaptation.

The framework also outlines the alignment between existing national, regional and international policies and legal frameworks. Climate change affects different sectors and communities differently. Thus, the framework highlights the need to ensure greater, meaningful participation by different stakeholders and socioeconomic groups, including youth and women. This is to ensure a greater buy-in and ownership for the NAP process by relevant stakeholders.

Finally, fundamental to the success of the NAP process are:

- addressing capacity gaps and weaknesses;
- identifying and appraising adaptation options at the sectoral, sub-national and national levels;
- creating an enabling environment for effective institutional functioning and capacities for adaptation;
- designing a coherent approach to fund mobilization for effective climate change adaptation;
- developing innovative approaches for engaging the private sector; and,
- developing an effective monitoring and evaluation scheme to facilitate implementation.



## GHANA NAP DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (2020)

In the early stages of the year 2020, Government of Ghana, through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under auspices of the Ministry of Environment Science and Technology Innovation (MESTI), has obtained a grant of USD 2,950,634 from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for a three-year project to build capacity to advance National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process in Ghana. The UN Environment is the Delivery Partner for the project, with the role of supporting and overseeing the project implementation.

### GOALS

The project seeks to develop a NAP process that will produce a costed adaptation strategy for the Ghana and provide the tools, mechanisms, system and information with which to replicate the NAP process at regular intervals and to mainstream the adaptation strategy into sector and District development plans.

### EXPECTED OUTCOME

- Central level systems and Processes for the development of the NAP developed and mainstreamed at all level
- District level systems and processes for the development of the NAP;
- Enabling environment to promote private sector investment in adaptation strengthened.
- Learning about the NAP process disseminated

### OUTCOME 1:

Central Level Systems and Processes for the Development of the NAP developed

### OUTPUT

- Leadership and management foundation for NAP process established
- Cross Sectoral Policy Groups established to develop NAP
- Ghana's downscaled sectoral climate change risk scenario analysis including socio-economic modelling developed
- Adaptation options analysis and investment plan developed by CSPGs
- National costed adaptation plan developed and integrated into policy and

planning tools and processes.

- Monitoring and reporting established for the NAP process
- Climate risk and vulnerability information portal developed
- 3 GCF concept notes developed
- Climate change bill developed

## OUTCOME 2

District Level Systems and processes for the NAP developed

### OUTPUT

- Downscale sectoral climate change risk and vulnerability scenario analysis including socio-economic modelling developed in 5 climate zones
- Capacities for adaptation planning in 20 Districts developed and District level adaptation plans developed in 10 Districts
- District level climate vulnerability information portals established in 3
- Districts that can link up to the national level information portal
- Training provided to the 10 Regional authorities and to 20 District Mayors

## OUTCOME 3

Enabling Environment to promote Private Sector Investment in Adaptation strengthened

### OUTPUT

- Engagement strategy for the private sector on climate change adaptation developed
- Climate change adaptation recommendation developed for the land zoning regulation reform process
- Standards and regulations developed to include climate change considerations for buildings and infrastructure

## OUTCOME 4

Learning about the NAP process disseminated

### OUTPUT

- Lessons from the project disseminated among stakeholders

## REFERENCES

- <https://www.unsystem.org/content/unfccc-cancun-adaptation-framework>
- Ghana National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS, 2012).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, Ghana)
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SYND is a youth-oriented NGO that promotes youth inclusion in the governance of climate and other environmental actions in Ghana.

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