



Africa Adaptation Programme

In December 2008, UNDP, in partnership with UNIDO, UNICEF and WFP, launched a US\$92 million programme, "Supporting Integrated and Comprehensive Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation in Africa" funded by the Government of Japan. This programme is under the "Japan-UNDP Joint Framework for Building Partnership to Address Climate Change in Africa," which was established at the Fourth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD IV) organized in Yokohama, Japan in May 2008.

WHAT IT DOES

The Africa Adaptation Programme is assisting 21 countries across the African continent in incorporating climate change risks and opportunities into national development processes. The Programme is helping countries to establish an enabling environment and develop the capacity required at local and national levels to enable them to design, finance, implement, monitor and adjust long-term, integrated and cost-effective adaptation policies and plans that are robust within a wide range of possible changes in climate conditions.

HOW IT WORKS

The *Inter-Regional Technical Support* project is established to assist the countries in the early analysis, development and implementation of national activities. This project will facilitate access to the best available data and information on climate variability and impacts. Moreover, the programme will support institutional and leadership development, identify best practices and share them among countries, facilitate innovative financing partnerships, and establish a region-wide learning mechanism.

ISSUE: Key Impacts of Climate Change in Africa

Some observed impacts of climate change include:

- **Drought:** Africa is considered one of the most vulnerable regions for drought. It is estimated that around 220 million people are exposed annually to

Africa Adaptation Programme An Interagency Programme with



Launched	December 2008
Agencies	UNDP UNIDO UNICEF World Food Programme
Funding	\$92 Million

Objectives

- Introduce dynamic, long-term planning mechanism to manage the inherent uncertainties of climate change
- Build leadership and institutional frameworks to manage climate change risks/opportunities in an integrated manner
- Implement climate-resilient policies and measures in priority sectors
- Expand financing options to meet national adaptation costs
- Generate and share knowledge on adjusting national development processes

21 Participating Countries

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Tanzania, and Tunisia.

(One country to be confirmed.)

drought. This resulted in severe famines in the 1980s.

- **Dust and Sand Storms:** The Sahara is the largest source of airborne mineral dust in the world. Dust and sand storms negatively affect agriculture, water resources, health, etc.

Some projected impacts of climate change include:

- **Water Resources:** In Africa, around 300 million people have no access to potable water or adequate sanitation. Climate change is likely to be associated with increased water stress in Africa.

- **Mt. Kilimanjaro Icecap:** The icecap of the mountain has decreased by 82 percent since 1912. Several rivers are drying out during the dry season or are no longer perennial due to a reduction of icemelt.

- **Agriculture/Food Security:** Agriculture is the most important sector in many African countries, representing about 30 percent of Africa's GDP and employing 70 percent of the total African population (and 90 percent of Africa's poor). Climate change is expected to reduce soil fertility, reduce livestock productively, and increase incidence of pest attacks.

ISSUE: Development Challenges in Africa

Africa's social and economic situation improved significantly in recent years as a result of the renewed commitment of its leaders to address the continent's development challenges, and the commitment of its development partners to scale up aid.

Despite these positive signs, Africa still faces considerable development challenges. Economic growth has yet to impact meaningfully on poverty reduction, decent employment, private sector expansion, gender disparities and social inequalities. The proportion of the population living below the poverty line increased from 44 percent in 2000 to 47 percent in 2008. The continent also suffers from rapid population growth, a heavy disease burden, notably HIV/AIDS, and environmental degradation.

Climate change is an additional stress for this vulnerable continent. Africa's climate is predicted to become more

variable and extreme weather events more frequent and severe. Changing climate is expected to affect key sectors such as agriculture, water, health, disaster risk reduction, coastal zones and ecosystem management. The poor are particularly vulnerable to climate change as they have limited adaptive capacity with limited political, economic and informational resources.

Case Study: Namibia

Participating countries started the development of national project proposals in January 2009. Namibia is one of the countries most advanced in finalising the outline of national project activities.

Namibia faces serious climate change risks such as a hotter climate, more arid conditions, and both more frequent and more extreme weather events. The country has already placed a certain level of institutional and human capacities to cope with climate change risks. Through stakeholder consultations the country identified further needs to strengthen policy and institutional frameworks for climate change risk management. Additionally, the country identified strong needs to develop adaptive capacities of rural people as they are at direct risk to climate change and least equipped to cope with risks due to linguistic/cultural diversity, vast distances and legacy of Apartheid.

The country is expected to undertake the following activities: 1) Strengthening adaptive long-term planning capacities; 2) Developing institutional and individual capacities with a focus on the youth; 3) Implementing policies and measures in priority sectors such as floods/settlements and sanitation/health; 4) Developing innovative financing mechanisms; and 5) Implementing knowledge management activities.

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