

Policy Brief

January, 2016

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES OF ACTION - NAPA

Executive summary

Prolonged dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine and flash floods remain the most serious climatic hazards in Malawi. The groups that are most vulnerable are mostly subsistence farmers, urban poor and fishermen. In order to address these challenges, Malawi launched its National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) in 2008. This 1st edition of NAPA set the main priorities to adapt to climate change which emphasized on improving community resilience. The 2nd edition of NAPA highlights the vulnerable sectors that need urgent adaptation adaptation needs and prioritized adaptation options including: (a) Early warning systems for disaster preparedness and response; (b) Climate smart agriculture programmes to increase resilience; (c) Integrated water resource management to sustain agricultural production; (d) Forest restoration in all degraded areas across the country to increase forest cover and to reduce energy related problems; (e) Rural electrification to increase energy access in rural areas; and (f) Climate change integration into fisheries management to ensure sustainability of the fisheries sector.



Trócaire



Introduction

Malawi experiences frequent climate change impacts, hence the need for a systematic plan of adaptation. The NAPA recognises that climate change affects several socioeconomic sectors of the country and ecosystems. Malawi's vulnerability to climate change can be attributed to a number of factors including a) narrow economic base, which is also affected by demographic and climatic factors stemming from limited agro-processing facilities, pre-dominance of rain-fed agriculture and poverty b) heavy dependence on natural resources, mainly soil and water, fisheries and fuel wood. Therefore changes in climatic patterns and any increase in extreme weather events results in serious impacts.

The NAPA process was adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to provide a process for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs to adapt to climate change.

The 1st Edition of the NAPA for Malawi was developed in 2008 and was designed to address urgent and immediate adaptation needs. It has served as both a policy and strategy document. After the launch, there was an increase in the number of climate change interventions at different levels which shows that there has been some response with more focus on adaptation.

Hence Government developed the 2nd Edition of the NAPA to enable the country to continue addressing the urgent and immediate adaptation needs caused by climate change and extreme weather events as they emerge and evolve. It has also been prepared to address gaps and to incorporate new developments that have occurred since the first NAPA at international and national levels such as the National Climate Change Management Policy and the National Climate Change Investment Plan (NCCIP).

Framework for Adaptation Programme: Is NAPA in line with National Aspirations/Vision?

Implementation of the NAPA will aid the Country to achieve sustainable economic development as stipulated in the Vision 2020, Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) and the National Climate Change Management Policy. The goal of Vision 2020 is for Malawi to be “secure, democratically mature, environmentally sustainable, self-reliant with equal opportunities for and active participation by all, having social services, vibrant cultural and religious values and being a technologically driven middle-income economy”. The MGDS II identifies climate variability, weak institutional capacity for managing climate change, inadequate mainstreaming of climate change issues; weak enforcement capacity of laws and regulations; accelerated deforestation and poor land use management practices as areas requiring special attention to achieve sustainable management. In addition, Malawi has developed a National Climate Change Management Policy which strives to reduce vulnerabilities of Malawians and promote community and ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change, ensure that women, girls and vulnerable groups are engaged and involved in planning and implementing climate change adaptation interventions; and ensure that communities are able to adapt to climate change while promoting climate compatible development in the long term.

Identification of Key Adaptation Needs

The key adaptation requirements for the vulnerable groups are:

- (a) Agriculture and food security: Interventions like climate smart agriculture programmes, crop and livestock diversification, promoting irrigation farming would be ideal to address the impacts of climate change in the agricultural sector;

- (b) Good Health: Interventions that improve nutrition such as development of drought tolerant varieties, intensified irrigation systems and crop and animal diversification could reverse the current situation;
- (c) Sustainable Energy: interventions such as use of energy saving technologies, encouraging rural electrification, introduction of mini community hydroelectric plants, river bank protection, reforestation and afforestation would be ideal;
- (d) Fisheries: interventions like aquaculture to supplement capture fisheries should be promoted
- (e) Wildlife: Climate change effects have resulted in destruction of natural habitats to maintain wildlife. Rehabilitation of protected areas and promotion of collaborative management approaches of wildlife protected areas would protect the endangered species and lost natural resources
- (f) Water: Introducing programmes on integrated catchment conservation and management and integrated water resource management would address some of the adaptation needs;
- (g) Forestry: interventions such as reforestation, natural woodland regeneration, promoting truncheons and watershed management programme development and implementation should be promoted;
- (h) Gender: Gender adaptation needs would be addressed if all interventions integrate gender, specifically considering involvement of women, youth and vulnerable groups in climate change adaptation; and (i) Unstable infrastructure due to extreme weather events: Introduction of standards for regulation of built environment, introduction of green cities and town planning that integrates climate change adaptation and

disaster preparedness would address the adaptation needs for this sector.

Choice of adaptation actions: How it was done?

The final list of interventions was run through a prioritization process using a Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA). A total of 15 priority adaptation options were identified, guided by the UNFCCC Annotated Guidelines for the Preparation of NAPA. Six of the 15 adaptation options were identified as urgent activities and have since been developed into project profiles, taking into consideration the importance of gender and infrastructure. The list of criteria used for prioritisation of the options, arranged in descending order of priority, is as follows:

- Technical feasibility;
- Economic growth (income levels of communities or target groups);
- Synergies (with ongoing policies, programmes and multilateral environmental agreements);
- Magnitude of impact of the option on vulnerable groups;
- Cost of the project;
- Stakeholder level of participation;
- Losses that can be avoided by vulnerable communities upon introducing the option; • Livelihood sustainability; and
- Cross-cutting issues.

Priority Adaptation Activities in Malawi

The 2nd Edition of the NAPA has identified six priority adaptation activities which were developed into project concepts: The six adaptation activities are;

- Improving existing early warning systems to enhance disaster preparedness and response;
- Development of climate smart agriculture programmes to increase resilience;
- Improving integrated water resource management to sustain agricultural production;
- Restoring forests in all degraded areas across the country to increase forest cover and to reduce energy related problems;
- Improving rural electrification to increase energy access in rural areas; and
- Integrating climate change into fisheries management to ensure sustainability of the fisheries sector.

Preparation Process for NAPA

The preparation process for NAPA took a multi sectoral approach where stakeholders from public, private sector, academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations, faith-based, researchbased organizations, youths, as well as local communities were consulted. The findings were presented to the key stakeholders and reviewed by the National Technical Committee on Climate Change and endorsed by the National Steering Committee on Climate Change.

Conclusion

Malawi is vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change and this has negatively affected food security, poverty eradication and social and economic development of the country. Implementation of the prioritized actions will build Malawi's resilience to climate change by increasing adaptive capacity and addressing the urgent and immediate adaptation needs. There is need for participation by all key stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NAPA. An implementation cost of the NAPA has been estimated at 50 million USD and stakeholders are invited to support implementation of the NAPA.

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