

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING IN ZAMBIA

Towards building resilience of economic systems, livelihoods and ecosystems

POLICY BRIEF • JULY 2021

Key Messages:

- The Government should fully own the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) process and provide strategic guidance.
- All key stakeholders should continue providing full political support and commitment to the NAP process in Zambia.
- Key government and non-government stakeholders should be well informed and mobilised to contribute to the success of the NAP planning process.
- Traditional leaders and their communities should actively participate in the NAP planning process by identifying key challenges and priority response adaptation actions that will build resilience of women, young people, and other vulnerable groups in the communities.
- The Government should ensure that climate change adaptation (CCA) is integrated in sub-national-level plans and budget processes.
- Policymakers and legislature should ensure sufficient allocation of public resources for the successful implementation of the NAP.
- Civil society and other stakeholders should actively participate in the planning process by sharing experiences, knowledge, tools, and best practices of adaptation planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the NAP process.
- The private sector should participate actively in the planning process and provide financing for identified climate adaptation actions.
- Actors engaged in the NAP process should ensure that gender is integrated into the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation processes.
- Financing partners should contribute to the NAP development process, especially around strategic issues including resource mobilisation. They should collaborate with the government of Zambia in contributing resources for NAP implementation.



Introduction

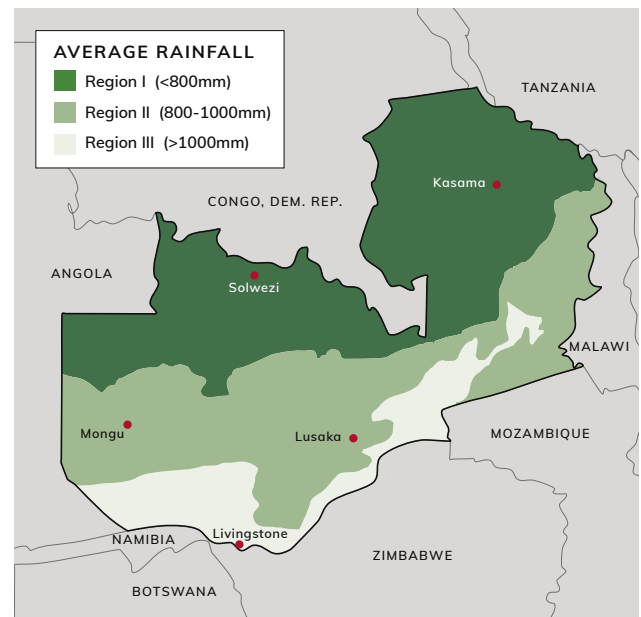
This policy brief provides an overview of the comprehensive approach that Zambia is following in developing its National Adaptation Plan (NAP), which commenced in 2020 and is due to be completed in 2023. It examines Zambia's approach to planning adaptation actions in the short term, as well as integrating climate change adaptation (CCA) into its medium- and long-term strategies. This policy brief also discusses the process of adaptation planning as it is aligned with the existing national climate change coordination system.

Why adaptation planning in Zambia?

Zambia is considered to be one of the countries in the world that is most vulnerable to climate change, ranking 26 out of 182 countries in the 2018 Global Climate Risk Index¹, and is classified as having high to extreme risk in the 2018 Climate Change Vulnerability Index². Zambia has been experiencing climate change impacts in the form of rising temperatures, droughts, floods, and unpredictable rainfall patterns. The frequency and intensity of extreme climate events is expected to increase, posing significant risks to Zambia's economy, its people's livelihoods, and the sustainability of its natural resources base. The change in temperatures is projected to increase by 3-5°C by 2100, with average precipitation declining during the early rainy season (October to December) and intensifying thereafter.

Climate impacts are estimated to currently cost Zambia 0.4% of annual economic growth. Without proactive adaptive action, rainfall variability alone could cost up to 0.9% of GDP growth over the next decade, affecting the poor and most vulnerable, and holding a significant section of Zambia's population below the poverty line.³

ZAMBIA AGRO-ECOLOGICAL REGIONS

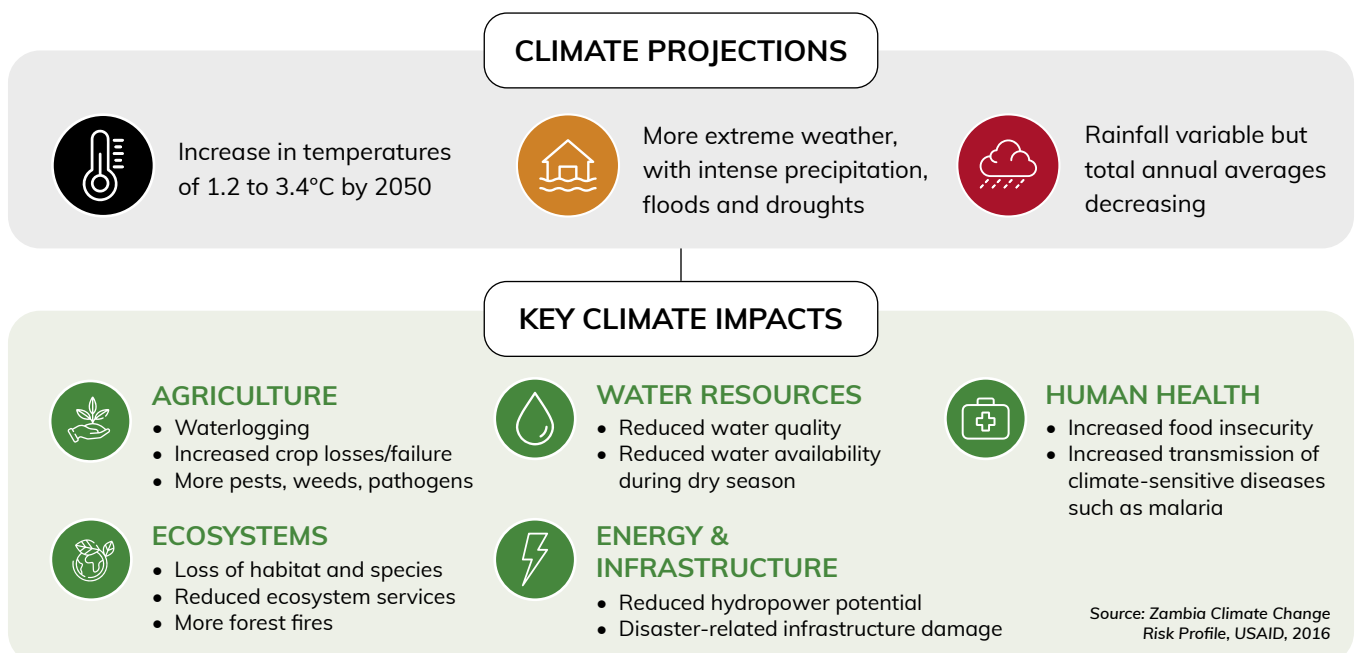


Zambia therefore considers building climate resilience as critical for inclusive and sustainable development. Adaptation planning will enable Zambia to strengthen systems for integrating CCA into planning and budget processes, and also to develop prioritised adaptation actions with financing strategies.

A comprehensive but phased NAP in Zambia

Zambia's NAP process will be implemented in two phases. The first phase will focus on developing the overarching National NAP, while a Water NAP will be developed in Phase 2.

Phase 1 will focus on building the capacity of key actors, providing clarity and coherence in the existing



¹<https://germanwatch.org/sites/default/files/publication/20432.pdf>

²Maplecroft, 2017.

³<https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/country/zambia>

institutional structure, as well as strengthening the necessary national-level coordination mechanisms to enable a holistic approach to national adaptation planning, resource mobilisation, and implementation of adaptation activities.

Phase 2, on the other hand, will focus on developing the Water NAP, which will serve as an important pathway for building resilience and strengthening synergies with the water-sensitive sectoral plans in Zambia, such as health and agriculture. This process will test the implementation of the overall NAP and make the necessary adjustments. Other sectoral NAPs will also be supported to make sure that the sectoral NAP processes are aligned with the overall NAP framework.

The overarching NAP framework will enable medium- and long-term strategic planning and coordination of adaptation in line with National Development Planning processes, and foster coherence and synergies with sectoral NAP planning processes. Gender will be an integral dimension in the NAP process, guided by Zambia's 2018 Climate Change Gender Action Plan. The NAP process will recognise gender differences in adaptation needs, opportunities and capacities. In addition, the participation of women and men in adaptation decision-making processes and their knowledge, concerns and experiences will be taken into consideration.

The NAP process in Zambia is a multisectoral and participatory process that requires strong coordination and collaboration. The process is expected to strengthen the existing climate change coordination system of Zambia. It will provide a framework for Zambia to ensure that long-term development planning and budget processes integrate CCA, in order to effectively translate CCA plans into action.

The process will lead to the development of CCA actions for the different sectors. Other important aspects included in the Zambia NAP process are strengthening institutional capacities for both planning and implementing CCA, and developing a resource mobilisation strategy for implementing the NAP and supporting the broader Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Zambia.

The NAP process in Zambia will be implemented by building on previous efforts such as the 2007 National Adaptation Programme of Action, which identified the most vulnerable sectors; the most critical climate hazards; the key vulnerabilities to be addressed; and priority actions for urgent implementation. The NAP process will also be implemented within the broader framework of Zambia's climate change strategies and policies, mainly the National Climate Change Response Strategy (2010), the National Policy on Climate Change (2016) and the NDC (2015).

Current status of NAP Process

Since inception, the NAP process has accomplished some of the requirements under Element A "Laying the groundwork and addressing gaps" of the NAP process as provided by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) Guidelines. These include stocktaking of available information on climate change; consensus building among stakeholders on the NAP Roadmap and official launch of the NAP process in April 2021. The process to identify capacity gaps for the implementation of the NAP was initiated, which included identification of weaknesses and gaps in climate change coordination and addressing the gaps through training of the National Technical Committee on Climate Change and Provincial Planning Units.

A participatory and government-led process of adaptation planning in Zambia

Zambia's NAP process is coordinated by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources through the Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Department. However, since the NAP planning process requires participation of various stakeholders at different levels, the process adopted the same structure used for stakeholder participation in the design of the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). This structure will allow for involvement of key stakeholders beyond the national level. The 7NDP introduced an integrated "cluster" approach to reduce sectoral fragmentation and duplication at ministerial level. In addition, a national development coordination framework has been put in place at the national, district, and ward levels. The Ministry of National Development Planning is responsible for National Development Plan (NDP) formulation and coordination. At the local level, the Ward Development Committees, the District Development Coordinating Committees and the Provincial Development Coordinating Committees are the structures to be used for consultation. At the national level, the National Climate Change Coordination Structure will be used.

How stakeholders can play a role in the Zambia NAP process: Key messages for stakeholders

The adaptation planning process in Zambia is expected to strengthen systems for integrating CCA into planning and budget processes, and also to develop prioritised adaptation actions with financing strategies. This will enable Zambia to systematically advance implementation of priority adaptation actions contributing to the implementation of Zambia's NDC and the NDP.

A successful NAP process in Zambia requires a strong mobilisation and the participation and support of several stakeholders. Various stakeholders will play key roles in the process. The following are some of the key messages to the different stakeholders:

Messages to government policy/decision-makers

- Continue providing full political support and commitment to the NAP process in Zambia.
- Fully own the process and provide strategic guidance for the planning process.
- Ensure that key government and non-government stakeholders are well informed and mobilised to contribute to the success of the NAP process.
- Ensure that the NAP process is aligned with the key national planning processes and is coordinated within the national system for coordinating climate change programmes in Zambia.
- Ensure that gender is integrated into the NAP process.
- Ensure that CCA is integrated in subnational-level plans and budget processes.

Messages to implementing (government and non-government) stakeholders

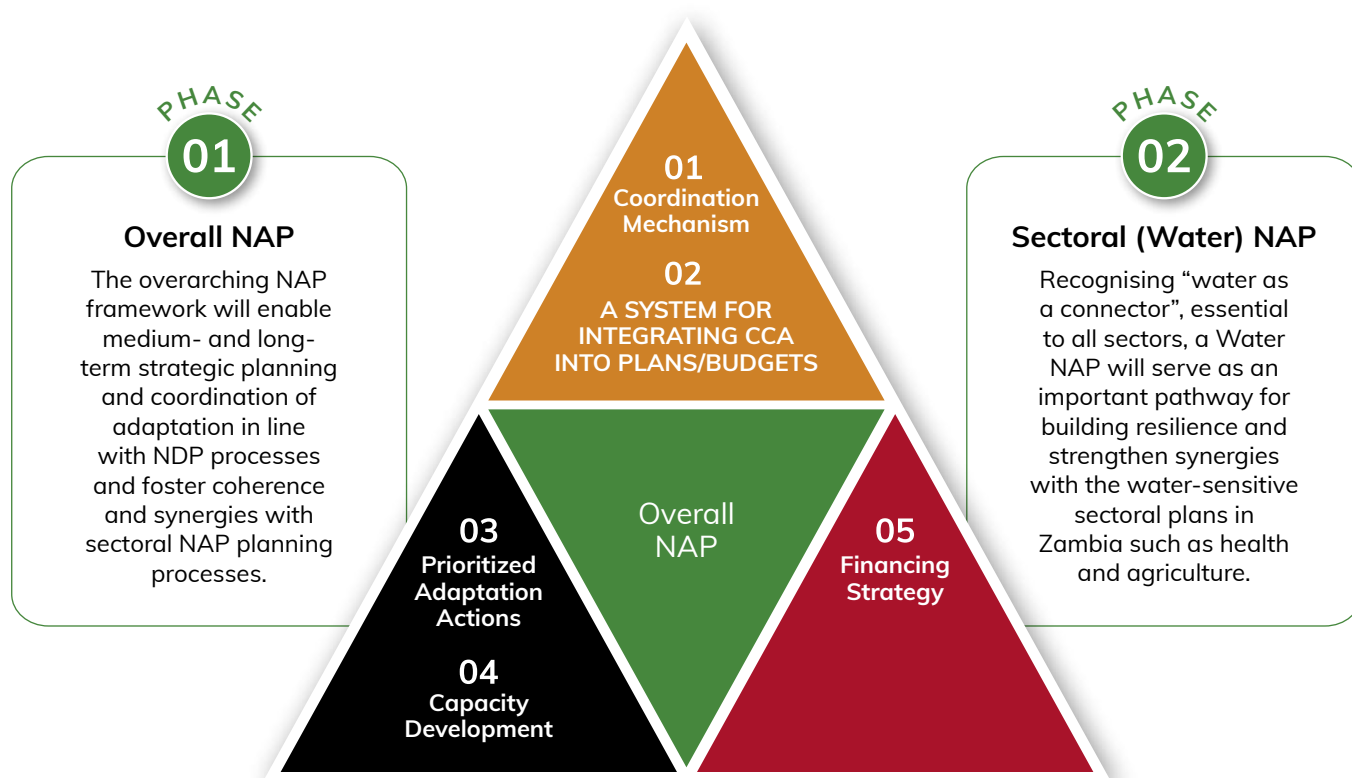
- Participate actively by sharing experiences of adaptation planning and implementation.
- Share knowledge, tools and best practices in adaptation planning and implementation.

Messages to financing partners

- Contribute to the NAP development process, especially around strategic issues including resource mobilisation.
- Collaborate with the government of Zambia in contributing resources for NAP implementation.
- Share experiences for developing a NAP implementation strategy.

Messages to communities

- Be aware of the impacts of climate change and the need for building the climate resilience of the communities, their livelihoods and ecological systems.
- Actively participate in the NAP planning process in identifying both key challenges and response adaptation actions that will build the resilience of women, young people and other vulnerable groups in the communities.



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