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“Enhancing multi-sector planning and capacity for effective adaptation in Ghana”

# National Adaptation Planning (NAP) readiness project in scope



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## 1. Background/Introduction

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process emerged from the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun in 2010, where Parties affirmed that “adaptation must be addressed with the same priority as mitigation” (UNFCCC, 2010, p.3). The Cancun Adaptation Framework established a national adaptation planning process to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and to develop and implement strategies and programs to address those needs. Guided by this frame, countries around the world are putting in place programmes to advance their NAP processes, taking **steps** to assess development needs and climate vulnerabilities, analyse current climate and future scenarios and review and appraise adaptation options. The goal is to integrate adaptation into policies and plans for climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, water, health, energy, etc. Most developing countries have also included adaptation objectives within their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

The Paris Agreement (2015) in its global goal on adaptation (Article 7) brought new elements and dimension to the climate change adaptation discussions. Namely, enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the global temperature limit of less than 2°C. The UNFCCC’s Least Developed Expert Group (LEG) on adaptation released Guidelines for National Adaptation Plans (December 2012).

### 1.1 Building Synergies

In 2015, there was an overwhelming endorsement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as the Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Working hand in hand with the 2030 Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 is the roadmap for how we make our communities safer and more resilient to disaster. Even though the Paris Agreement, the Agenda 2030 and the Sendai Framework are all high-level global policies with international targets and goals, they all have inbuilt mechanisms for domestication by countries for adoption and implementation.



The NAP process in Ghana should be mindful of the value in harnessing the platforms and opportunities in these global policies and protocols to build synergies among development, safe societies and climate resilience.

## 1.2 The NAP Readiness Project in Ghana

The Government of Ghana, through the Environmental Protection Agency, under the auspices of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), has successfully 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.

The project is entitled “Enhancing multi-sector planning and capacity for effective adaptation in Ghana” and is being implemented by a small project team headed by a National Coordinator. The NAP project seeks to support multi-sectoral, medium- to long-term adaptation planning and budgeting in Ghana and promote the integration of climate change adaptation issues into development planning processes and policies. Systems for developing and sharing climate risk and vulnerability information will be reinforced, and sustainable financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation initiatives are set to be developed.

## 1.3 Changing Climate in Ghana and the Need for Adaptation Planning

Ghana is vulnerable to several climatic hazards. Mean temperature is projected to increase by 1-3C by 2060 and between 1.5 and 5.2C by the 2090s. Rainfall will continue to be uncertain and difficult to predict. Projections of mean annual rainfall from different models predict wide range of changes but the proportion of total annual rainfall that falls in heavy events tends towards an increase. Sea level rise will continue affect vulnerable coastal areas. The national data shows sea-level rise of 2.1 mm per year over the last 30 years (1960 – 1990), indicating a gradual rise of 5.8 cm, 16.5 cm and 34.5 cm by 2020, 2025 and 2080, respectively.

This increase will affect the 30 meters contour of the Nation’s coastal zone, where more than 25% of the population live.

Effective climate change adaptation planning will help Ghana to manage these impacts. A limited number of capacity development initiatives in the area of adaptation planning have been implemented in Ghana mostly notably the Africa Adaptation Programme in Ghana (supported by UNDP) which ran from 2010 to 2012 but these have typically been time-limited and the policy and planning activities have not been continued post-project. Some significant steps have been taken to mainstream climate change into the regular planning process by several institutions such as the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF) not only at the national level, but also at the local level.

The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) was developed a year later from the National Climate Change Policy Framework (NCCPF): Ghana Goes for Green Growth (G4) discussion document. The Climate Change Masterplan 2015-2020 was produced in 2014. However, these planning documents are based on patchy climate risk information and cost appraisals.

In 2018, Ghana developed and launched its National Adaptation Plan Framework (NAPF) which clarifies, in a more coordinated manner the vision, the approaches and the guiding principles to guide the implementation of the GCF NAP Readiness project and any other future projects and programmes on adaptation planning in Ghana. The implementation of Ghana's NAP project is therefore situated within this policy framework.

#### **1.4 Gender Sensitive NAP Process**

The impacts of climate change are not gender neutral. Consequently, responses to these impacts, whether at the policy level or on the ground in vulnerable communities, must be gender responsive (UNFCCC, 2015). The NAP Readiness and preparatory support document by UNEP emphasized on the need for a gender responsive NAP process. Conscious efforts are being taking to make the implementation of Ghana's NAP Project, a gender responsive one. In view of this, a gender strategy has been prepared to ensure the successful incorporation of gender into the NAP Process in Ghana.

## 2. What the NAP Readiness Project in Ghana seeks to do

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

The objective is to catalyse private sector investment into climate resilient technologies and production methods, thereby increasing the investment of adaptation in the country beyond public sector financing. The project seeks to create opportunities to bring evidence into the policy landscape thereby bridging links between the academic community and policy practitioners.

The project focuses on the following:

- a) Developing capacities for adaptation planning through training and establishment of communities of practice.
- b) Promoting political leadership and buy-in to generate the energy required to keep the process alive and to enable mainstreaming of the NAP strategies into sector and District plans.
- c) Investing in tools and mechanisms to enable the process to be replicated in future in order to keep adaptation priorities up to date with the best available information.

These tools include legislation, reporting systems and building constituencies of support among government, political and private sector leaders.

The expected outputs from the NAP readiness project in Ghana are as follows:

- a) Central level systems and processes for the development of the NAP developed and mainstreamed at all levels
- b) District level systems and processes for the development of adaptation planning developed;
- c) Enabling environment to promote private sector investment in adaptation strengthened.
- d) Learning about the NAP process disseminated among stakeholders

### 3. Implementation Phase

The project start-up was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a 4-month delay in all project activities planned. Notwithstanding, the Environmental Protection Agency under the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology & Innovation and UNEP undertook key activities within the first year of the project.

The major activities have been carried out so far;

#### 3.1 Establishment of NAP Project Management Unit (PMU)

The NAP PMU based in the EPA head office was established on 30th June 2020 following the recruitment of the NAP Project Coordinator, the Administrative Officer, the Finance Officer and the Monitoring & Evaluation and Gender Specialist. Terms of Reference (TORs) were prepared in January 2020 for all the positions specified, with the Project Coordinator recruited 3rd February 2020 while the remaining positions were advertised on 12th February 2020. Interviews were conducted between 4th-21st May 2020 and appointments letters issued on 1st July 2020.

#### 3.2 NAP Project Launch and Inception Workshop



*Dignitaries present for the Launch of the NAP readiness project. (from right) the National Project Coordinator, the NDA focal person, the UN resident coordinator, the Minister Environment Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Minister for planning, the Executive Director of EPA and the facilitator for the programme.*



The NAP project was officially launched on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 by the Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Prof. Kwabena Frimpong Boateng and in attendance were the Minister for Planning, the National Designated Authority (NDA) from the ministry of finance as well as the UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana. The UNEP Head of Climate Change Adaptation Unit also joined the launch and inception workshop

through virtual means.

The workshop was attended by over 100 participants including over 35 stakeholders joining online through Zoom. The workshop launched the Ghana NAP readiness project.

The main objective of the launch was to outdoor the implementation of the GCF NAP Readiness project to the Ghanaian public and to as well:

- Engage various stakeholders at different levels on the implementation of the NAP in Ghana
- Clarify Ghana's approach to its NAP process. This includes an articulation of the country's vision of climate change adaptation, its adaptation objectives and principles, as well as the roles played by various stakeholders
- Solicit stakeholder buy-in for the implementation of the NAP project in Ghana
- take stock of NAP activities in Ghana
- Initiate discussions on the formation of a National Steering Committee for adaptation planning in Ghana

The NAP launch and inception achieved its expectations to inform and engage relevant stakeholders for the national adaptation planning (NAP) process, solicited buy-in from stakeholders on the project and the need for the formation of a national adaptation steering committee in Ghana.





*Mr. Charles Abani, the UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana, delivering his statement*



*Jessica Troni, Head of Climate Change Adaptation Unit, UNEP joined through zoom*



*Participants seated during the launch of the NAP Readiness Project*

### **3.3 Inauguration and 1<sup>st</sup> Project Steering Committee Meeting**

The Inauguration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) membership and the 1st Steering Committee meeting was held on the 1st of July 2020. The Committee has a membership of 17 representing multi-stakeholder institutions from MESTI, UNEP, NDA, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Gender and Social Protection, EPA, Head of Local Government Service, National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), Academia, Civil Society Organisation representative, ABANTU for development, Private Enterprise Federation and ECOBANK. The PSC is co-chaired by the EPA and the NDA.

The operations of the PSC is guided by adopted terms of reference (TOR) and operational charter. In addition, appointment letters have been issued to all the members of the PSC by the EPA and copied the respective institutions represented on the PSC. The objective is built institutional ownership at the strategic level as well as ensuring transparency of the process.

The proposed 2020 workplan and budget was presented by PMU to the Steering committee for review and approval.

### 3.4 Development of Terms of Reference for different consultancy works

The Project Management Unit (PMU) initiated a working session with some stakeholders to develop the Terms and Reference for various consultancy works to be carried out in 2021 as indicated in the project document and workplan.

Seven comprehensive TORs were developed for the Climate Change modelling, policy analysis and evaluation, economic assessment, Policy briefs development, Climate Change ambassadors, 5 Cross-Sectorial Policy Working Groups, Private Sector engagement and the Steering Committee.



*An on-going working session to develop TORs for consultancies*

### 3.5 Nominations, Formation, Inauguration, Inception and Training for the Cross-Sectoral Policy Groups (CSPGs).

Capacity building for effective adaptation planning and mainstreaming at various levels is continuous and iterative. Strong institutional coordination and participation will form the basis for successful outcomes of the NAP in process in Ghana. To enhance country ownership of the



project outputs, one of the key project implementation strategies is the establishment of Cross-Sectoral Policy Groups. The idea was to use the Policy Groups as the “technical heart” for all technical deliverables of the project including the development of a costed national adaptation plan for Ghana.

Five (5) CSPG groups were proposed by the steering committee and nominations were received from stakeholder institutions which led to the formation of the 5 CSPGs (Infrastructure, Private Sector, Disaster Risk and Cities, Agriculture & Forestry and Health). The CSPGs were inaugurated on the 25th of August 2020 by the Executive Director of Environmental Protection Agency followed with an inception and a training programme thereafter. The Executive Director of EPA in his opening remarks stated that “it is imperative for the EPA (the Executing Entity) to develop the NAP “with” and not “for” the stakeholder institutions who are the supposed custodians of the NAP process in Ghana”. The CSPGs also reviewed and consented to their Terms of Reference (TOR).



*A section of CSPG members*



*A section of CSPG members*



### **3.6 Recruitment of Communication Specialist**

As part of the project implementation arrangement, the Project Management Unit is required to recruit a Communication Specialist who is expected to support the NAP project team in project-related communication tasks for a duration of thirty months (30 months) as stipulated in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this position.

The incumbent will be responsible for the overall Communication related issues for effective implementation of the project. The Communication Specialist will be responsible for planning, designing, implementing, and carrying out the NAP Project communication activities. S/he will draft information, content and/or products for public access, create and maintain the Project's public communication information systems (such as Facebook, public website, Twitter, etc.), act as a writer/editor for the Project as needed, and fulfil requests for information from the media and public regarding the NAP Project implementation in Ghana.

Recruitment of Communication Specialist started with a Call for CVs through advertisements on EPA website and other professional platforms. Evaluations were conducted on CVs received and shortlisted applicants were interviewed through virtual means. The most qualified person has therefore been recruited to start work from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The recruitment process was competitive, open and fair to all.

### **3.7 Recruitment of an Information Technology (IT) Specialist**

As part of the project implementation arrangement, the Project Management Unit is required to recruit an Information Technology Specialist who is expected to support the NAP project team in project-related IT tasks for a duration of thirty months (30 months) as stipulated in the Terms of Reference (TOR) for this position.

The incumbent will be responsible for the overall Information Technology (IT) related issues for effective implementation of the project, the IT specialist will be responsible for planning, designing, implementing and carrying out the NAP Project IT activities. The IT Specialist is expected to support the NAP Project Team in project-related tasks for the duration of the period of 30 months.

Recruitment of the Information Technology Specialist started with a Call for CVs through advertisements on EPA website and other professional platforms. Evaluations were conducted on CVs received and shortlisted applicants were interviewed through virtual means. The most qualified person has therefore been recruited to start work from 4th January 201. The recruitment process was competitive, open and fair to all.

### 3.8 Youth Engagement



One of the cardinal principles of the NAP process in Ghana is the active involvement of the youth in adaptation planning. In line with this principle, the PMU has taken early steps to engage with some Youth Networks to openly discuss how this principle could materialize in the in NAP project implementation.

As a result, the PMU organized a youth forum on the 29<sup>th</sup> September with the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) and was attended by twenty (20) members of the youth. There were presentations from both the PMU and the youth groups which generated valuable discussions.



*Deputy Executive Director – Technical, giving a welcome statement to the youth group.*

The SYND is a youth-oriented NGO, which promotes youth inclusion in the governance of our natural resources and environmental sector. It functions through four thematic areas namely Climate Change, Biodiversity, Forestry and Renewable Energy.

The PMU discovered the youth as a powerful tool to communicate and disseminate information about the project and that has the potential to build their capacities and enhance continuity.

The youth group commended the government of Ghana for successfully accessing a NAP Readiness support from the Green Climate Fund aimed at strengthening the capacity of Ghana’s government at all levels to implement a NAP process including planning and budgeting for adaptation.



*The National NAP Project Coordinator making a presentation to the youth group.*

SYND expressed their sincere gratitude to the Project Management Unit of the NAP Project for making provision for youth representation in four Cross-Sectorial Policy Groups out of the five that have been constituted.

The youth group as a stakeholder, further requested the PMU to organize a Youth Forum to engage the youth constituency on the NAP to:

- Create more awareness and provide clarity on the project to help young people engage better by providing concrete ideas or ways of enhancing the project’s communication
- Enhance the knowledge of the youth reps on the CSPGs
- Serve as an opportunity to promote gender mainstreaming and social inclusion through active youth participation.

### **3.9 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting**

The Project Management Unit (PMU) led by the Project Coordinator who is also the secretary to the Steering Committee on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee organized the second and final Steering Committee meeting for the year 2020.





*Section of Steering Committee members during in an on-going deliberation.*

The Agenda for the meeting was as follows:

1. Update and assessment of progress of work since the first Steering Committee meeting
2. Presentation, discussion, and approval of workplan and budget for 2021
3. Discussion and adoption of draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for Steering Committee members
4. Discussion and adoption of draft Charter to guide the operations of the Committee

The following outlined decisions were taken at the close of the meeting:

1. 2021 Workplan and budget approved
2. Letter on behalf of the Steering Committee to UNEP to hasten process of review and approval of draft TORs and recruitment of Consultants.
3. Appointment letters to members should be resent
4. Reach out to the Steering Committee member from Ecobank who have been absent for the first 2 meetings of the Committee.

#### **4. Challenges so far**

The 2020 project start-up was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a 4-month delay in all project activities planned for this reporting period. Notwithstanding, the Environmental

Protection Agency under the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation and UNEP undertook key activities.

Discharging some activities in this reporting period was also challenged due to the 2020 General election on December 7, the project steering committee decided that the implementation of some key activities which required the nominations and orientation of high level climate ambassadors and parliamentarians, be postponed to Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 of 2021 to ensure that nominations are carried out after the Ghana 2020 elections to ensure long term political leadership and support of the NAP process.

Also, the recruitment process for all appointments of the project so far continue to be slow due to the various approval stages in the process.

## **5. Reflections in 2020**

Despite the obvious challenges posed by COVID-19, the PMU made extensive use of IT resources including Zoom, Microsoft teams and other live streaming services to engage with some stakeholders and some important meetings including the project launch, project steering committee meetings and participation in trainings and webinars, while ensuring government health guidelines are followed.