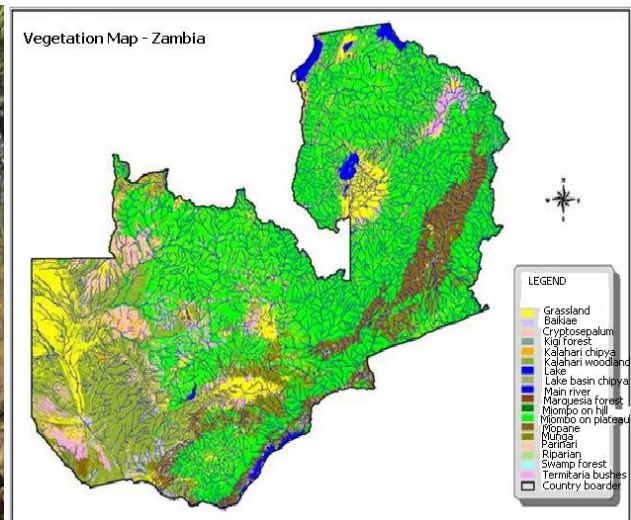




REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA
MINISTRY OF LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



BRIEF COUNTRY REPORT FOR THE WORKSHOP ON
FORESTS RANGELANDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,
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1. Introduction

The effects of Global Climate Change are being experienced at a local scale such that the need to put up rigorous interventions to counteract further destruction is **NOW**. Studies have shown that Zambia is currently and in the future vulnerable to climate change and variability. There has been a reduction in rainfall and the temperature is increasing on an average of 0.6°C in a decade. This is bound to change to even more serious climatic conditions, unless the planned programmes and many more are implemented with minimum delays.



Dry riverbed in Rufunsa District of Zambia; a common feature

A lot of work has been done with regard to National climate change policy formulation, inter-ministerial policy harmonisation and strategic planning. However, the element of capacity building in terms of finances, knowledge and institutional arrangements is on-going requiring support to speed up the process. Zambia has been working with a number of Regional and International organisations to deal with the preparatory stage for mitigation and adaptation for climate change.

Consequently, rampant deforestation which has come about especially through agriculture expansion, infrastructure development and charcoal production, has led to drying up of most streams and water availability in most communities is a problem. This scenario has restricted agriculture production to the rainy season only and the rainy seasons are not dependable as droughts are a common occurrence. This has created a

vicious circle of land degradation and a decline in the socio-economic states of most rural communities.

2. Existing projects and initiatives currently being undertaken includes the following;

- Lobbying among the Parliamentarians, who are now well informed about Climate Change mitigation and adaptation issues. This is with a view for them to influence support for government financing and implementation of climate change related programmes at constituency level.
- Additionally, the **Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** (CPA) has targeted the Parliamentarians for capacity building, to oversee climate change project implementation.

3. National priority actions for addressing climate change

Through the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP), the country is involved in Capacity Building (institutional, financial, human, research) for the purpose of articulating knowledge of low carbon, climate resilient development pathway. The objective is to develop the **Low Emission Capacity Building** (LECB). Ultimately, the **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions** (NAMA) have been formulated and there is need to ensure associated monitoring, reporting and verification system for the NAMAs are in place. The project is aligned to Zambia's 2011 – 15 **United Nations Development Assistance Framework** (UNDAF), **Country Programme Document** (CPD), and the **Country Programme Action Plan** (CPAP). Essentially, this is in conformity with the main developmental goals contained in the **Sixth National Development Plan** (SNDP), the **National Climate Change Response Strategy** (NCCRS), the **Vision 2030** and the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs).

- Zambia has incorporated climate change into the SNDP and developing the **National adaptation Programme of Action** (NAPA), the **National Climate Change Response Strategy** (NCCRS), which focuses on capacity development for mainstreaming climate change into policies and programmes.
- A **comprehensive Communication and Advocacy Strategy** on climate change has been formulated, together with the **National Policy on**

Climate Change (NPCC). Other vital policies include; the **National Disaster Management Policy and Act of 2011** and the **National Policy on Environment, the Environmental Management Act of 2011** and the **National Water Resource Management Act of 2011**. Consequently, climate change issues have been dealt with in the mentioned documents and further harmonisation of the sectoral policies and legislation is an imperative.

- Through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) the **Joint Programme on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCDRR)** has been formed with a view to improve capacities at National, local levels for effective multi-sectoral and multi-level response to climate change. The agencies involved includes; **FAO, UNDP, UNIDO, WFP, UN-HABITAT, UNICEF and global Mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**. The approach on dealing with the communities at programme implementation stage provides link for adaptation among the grassroots.
- Zambia has been implementing projects for the **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)** since 2000, through the CDM capacity building programme Start-up CDM in ACP countries (CDM SUSSAC), capacity building to develop an Enabling Environment for Industrial CDM projects in Africa, CDM capacity building among **Private Sectors** in Southern Africa (CDM - CAPSSA), CDM for Sustainable African-Capacity Building for Clean Development Mechanism in Southern Africa. These programmes have provided an entry point for the CDM **Project Idea Notes (PINs)**, **Project Design Documents (PDDs)**, which have been developed and evaluated by the Country's **Designated National Authority (DNA)**. So far only one project has been certified by the UNFCCC Secretariat.
- Other committed stakeholders in the area of climate change forest management and climate change mitigation and adaptation includes; **Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN)**, **CIFOR** and **Lloyds financials** and **the African Carbon Credit Exchange**
- Long-term Coordination Structure;
 - Inter- Ministerial Committee on Climate change (IMCCC) – Ministers
 - Interim Climate Change Secretariat is in place

- Implementation of the **Least Developed Countries Fund** (LDCF) programmes, which is spearheaded through UNDP is currently working on adaptation project in agricultural sector, drafting of the **National Climate Change Response Strategy** NCCRS and drafting of the NPCC. The youth have been involved in various CC programmes especially through the **Climate Change Youth Ambassadors** programme and many other such agencies.

4. Forestry Sector

- A review of the **Zambia Forestry Action Plan** (ZFAP), **Forest policy** and **legislation** is under way to ascertain putting into effect forest regulatory measures that takes into account aspects of; participatory approaches, **Private, Public Partnership Programmes** (PPPP), devolution of programmes to grassroots, Climate Change mitigation/adaptation, and Carbon management factors among other issues related to **Sustainable Forest Resource Management** (SFRM).
- The **Integrated Land-use Assessment** (ILUA II) operations are underway with a view to generate data on deforestation rates, soil carbon and land classification types. This information will be an input to the **UNREDD+** readiness and a mechanism for the GHG baseline for the country.
- Government has taken up the task of greening the environment with a rigorous involvement of the communities and other stakeholders. Forestry nurseries have been established on a large scale with a view to expand the local supply plantations and agro-forestry interventions through out the country. Communities have been called upon to participate in forestry nursery establishment on an out-grower scheme arrangement.
- There is strong accord to take a new approach to **natural forest** management to ascertain expansion of the forest resource base, improve forest **ecosystem functions** and **biodiversity conservation** with **research** providing information on best practices for **Sustainable Forest Management**.

5. Recommendations

There is need for us to come up with **strategies** that will strengthen research and data collection on the **response** of various ecological components to climate change

There is need to promote awareness on the dangers of over-exploitation of natural resources and the need for the forests to be protected so as to contribute to mitigation of **climate change** through increased biomass for **carbon sequestration**

Ecological assessment of **terrestrial** and **aquatic** ecosystem degradation is an imperative in order to know the seriousness of **impacts** and prioritise allocation of merger human as well as financial resources to prevent degradation and foster rehabilitation (Simuta and Mansur, 2012).

The available knowledge on **ecological systems** must be synthesized, considering the **biophysical, economic** and **social limits** of the system and the interactions of various components within the forest ecosystems (Jensen and Bourgeon, 2001).

6. Conclusion

Considering that the impacts of climate change are becoming more and more apparent Regional and International links ought to be strengthened towards Capacity Building for effective response to the challenges at hand.

Funding institutions can take advantage of the **Public Expenditure Management and Financial Accountability** (PEMFA) programme launched in 2005, with a view to provide quality outputs in all developmental programmes in the country. Ultimately, forest governance is an imperative for all climate change related interventions to make an impact at community level.

References

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