

Climate Change Responses from West African States

ECOWAS Summit in Bamako (Source: aBamako.com, 2013)

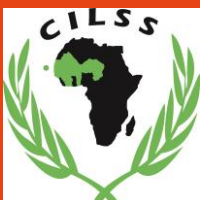
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Synthesis

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) offers the developing countries some tools to evaluate their vulnerabilities to climate changes, to plan and to implement adaptation and mitigation policies and measures.

Among them, National Action Plans for Adaptation (NAPAs) and National Communications are of particular importance, especially for West Africa.

NAPAs identify urgent adaptation actions to be supported by international climate finance, after a participatory process aiming at identifying present and future vulnerabilities, as well as existing or innovative adaptation measures, and hierarchizing priorities.

National Communications present national inventories of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and removals, as well as countries' vulnerabilities in terms of climate changes, thus identifying adaptation and mitigation policies and measures.

All Least Developed Countries (LDCs) of the CILSS/ECOWAS area have developed at least a NAPA or a National Communication; most have developed these two documents.

However, the action of the West African countries is not limited to these tools.

For over a decade, many national policies, particularly those relating to rural development and agriculture, have taken climate change into account and have planned specific actions on adaptation.

In the case of Burkina-Faso, these include the National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PAN-LCD), dealing with the prevention and management of climate hazards, the National Agriculture Investment Programme (PNIA) which addresses sustainable management of land, and the National Programme for the Rural Sector (PNSR), which includes the PNIA and provides for the adaptation of forest and agricultural resources, and the improvement of knowledge in terms of vulnerability and adaptation.

In Niger, the PAN-LCD identifies climate as the first driver of desertification and focuses on the analysis and monitoring of climate changes. The PNIA aims at reducing the dependence of farming systems to climate hazards and the 3-N initiative ("Nigériens feed Nigériens"), which largely relies on the PNIA, quotes adaptation as one of the five challenges to food security.

Introduction

Firstly, this note presents two UNFCCC tools for assessing vulnerabilities of developing countries to climate change and planning for adaptation and mitigation: NAPA and National Communications.

Secondly, it points out the cases of Burkina-Faso and Niger, by briefly presenting the content of their NAPAs and National communications, as well as integration of climate change issues in some of their national policies.

"The 49 Parties classified as Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by the United Nations are given special consideration under the UNFCCC, because of their limited ability to fight against climate change and adapt to its effects.

Parties are strongly encouraged to take full account of the special situation of LDCs when considering funding and technology transfer activities".

(Source: www.unfccc.int)

1. Tools from the UNFCCC

1.1 National Communications

Articles 4.1 and 12 of the UNFCCC commit non-Annex I Parties to submit national Communications. Since the Durban Conference (COP17 in 2011), these countries are also invited to submit Biennial Update Reports; the first ones are expected in December 2014.

The revised guidelines for the preparation of National Communications are detailed in Decision 17/CP.8 of the UNFCCC. In particular, procedures for the implementation of a national GHG inventory are described. The Communications must also describe the steps taken or envisaged to implement the UNFCCC. Finally, countries are encouraged to include relevant elements for the assessment of global emission trends.

To elaborate their National Communications, countries are technically supported by the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from non-Annex I Parties (CGE) and financially supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

	1 ^{ère}	2 ^{ème}	3 ^{ème}	4 ^{ème}	5 ^{ème}
Monde	146	101	5*	1**	1**
Afrique	47	34	0	0	0
CILSS/CEDEAO	17	13***	0	0	0

* Moldavie, Mexique, Corée du Sud, Emirats Arabes Unis, Uruguay
 ** Mexique
 *** Tous les pays sauf Burkina, Guinée, Libéria et Nigeria

Figure 1 – Lists of published National Communications (Source: www.unfccc.int, 2014)

According to the latest summary report of National Communications carried out by the UNFCCC Secretariat, development priorities, in addition to mitigation and adaptation, are the fight against poverty, the increase of food production, and the access to drinking water.

Population growth and deforestation are two major constraints, although removals from the land use sector are generally higher than emissions.

Many Parties report the occurrence of extreme weather events, especially in arid and semi-arid areas. The majority of the proposed measures are focused towards energy, agriculture, land use, and waste management.

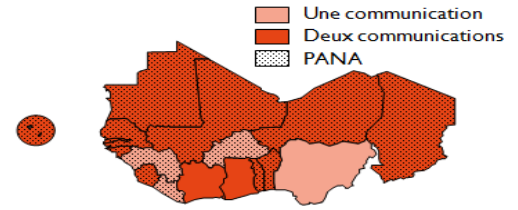


Figure 2 – National Communications and NAPAs in the CILSS/ECOWAS area (Source: SalvaTerra, 2014)

1.2 NAPAs

The National Action Plans for Adaptation (NAPAs) are documents produced by the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). They include a concerted and spatial assessment of vulnerability to current and future climate changes, the identification of potential adaptation measures, and prioritization of the most urgent measures to be financed by the international community.

Recognised by Decision 5/CP.7 as the most vulnerable to climate change and the least able to face it, LDCs thus identify activities to be implemented urgently so as not to worsen their vulnerability, which could translate at a later stage in increased costs.

NAPAs are also a first step towards the development of National Communications and a mean to build capacities in that aim (Decision 28/CP.7).

Countries elaborating their NAPAs are technically supported by the Least Developed Countries' Experts Group (LEG) and financially supported by several Funds: Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), and adaptation Fund (AF).

NAPAs are published on the UNFCCC and the GEF websites. The priorities identified and the amounts involved are reported in the UNFCCC database.

Based on the analysis of 18 sub-Saharan NAPAs, it appears that 97% of budgets are directed towards the adaptation of agriculture at large, with the following thematic division:

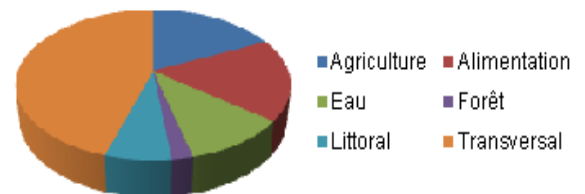


Figure 3 – Share of budgets from 18 sub-Saharan NAPAs (Source: SalvaTerra, 2013)

50 countries have developed a NAPA (510 projects identified for 1 billion US\$), including 34 African countries (over 350 projects identified for over 630 million US\$) and 14 countries in the CILSS/ECOWAS area (196 projects identified for 364 million US\$), or all CILSS/ECOWAS countries except Ivory Coast, Ghana, and Nigeria.

Since 2010, all developing countries are encouraged to develop National Adaptation Plans (NAP), which should detail adaptation actions, on the short- to long-term.

2. Case studies from CILSS/ECOWAS

2.1 Burkina-Faso

Its **National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (PAN-LCD)**, launched in 2000, emphasizes the role of climate change in the disappearance of ecological niches and the desertification process.

PAN-LCD objectives are consistent with adaptation to climate changes:

- Sustainable and integrated management of natural resources to enhance food security;
- Improvement of the economic environment, in order to fight against poverty;
- Improved knowledge of desertification and monitoring of drought.

In particular, the PAN-LCD has the objective to improve the capacities in terms of prevention and management of climate hazards.

The **Initial National Communication** was published in 2002. It identifies the livestock sector as the main source of emissions (4.5 MtCO₂e/yr, or 96% of total emissions). At the opposite, the land use sector is a net sink (1.5 MtCO₂e/yr), which accounts for approximately 1/3 of emissions.



Figure 4 – Land degradation in Burkina Faso (Source: National Communication, 2002)

The vulnerability assessments anticipate negative impacts of climate change in the Sahel and Sudan zones, but positive ones for cotton production (due to increased CO₂ concentration).

A significant risk of shortage of drinking water in Ouagadougou is also emphasized.

The National Communication finally estimates emission reduction in the energy sector, by improving the energy efficiency of households and small businesses. Forest protection, reforestation, and regeneration are also identified as possible mitigation activities.

The **NAPA** was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2007. It identifies 12 projects with a total budget estimated at 5.9 million US\$, focusing mainly on water management, income generating activities, training, and energy efficiency.

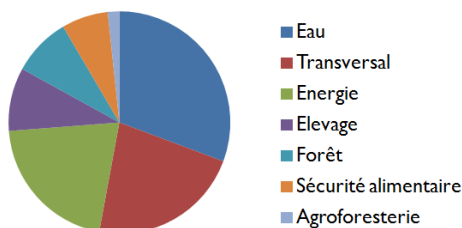


Figure 5 – Share of the PANA budget by topic in Burkina-Faso (Source: SalvaTerra, 2013)

3 projects were funded and completed, with a total budget of 6.4 million US\$:

- "Adaptation to climate change in order to improve human security" with awareness raising and capacity building activities;
- "Building capacity for adaptation and for reducing vulnerability to climate changes", with pilot projects in six villages;
- "Capacity building for better addressing issues related to climate changes in the preparation and implementation of development plans, programs, and projects."

Another project of 7.7 million US\$ should soon be launched on the corridor forests of Mouhoun and the wetland basin of the Oursi pond (Pers. Comm. NAPA National Coordinator, 2014).

The **National Agriculture Investment Programme (PNIA, 2009)** identifies climate change as a major constraint of the environment and agriculture sectors, which are dependent on unstable rainfall and threatened by other climate hazards.

In total, 37% of the budget (upon 1,114 million CFA francs) aims at adapting agriculture to climate change through three programmes:

- Sustainable Land Management (budget unknown. > 23.6 million CFA francs)
- Improved Water Management (345.9 million CFA francs)
- Crisis Prevention (43.4 million CFA francs)

Globally,
multilateral funding
for adaptation
reach 700 million
US\$...

While the costs of
restoration of
degraded land in
the
CILSS/ECOWAS
area already
amount to 100
million US\$ per
country

(Source:
CILSS/ECOWAS
Workshop on
Climate
Negotiations,
Ouagadougou -
October 2013)

Short Bibliography

NAPAs' Presentation on the UNFCCC Website

www.unfccc.int

National Communications' Presentations on the UNFCCC Website

Sixth Compilation and Synthesis of NAPAs on the UNFCCC Website

Comprehensive Analysis of NAPAs' Agricultural Measures for 18 Sub-Saharan Countries (SalvaTerra, in press)

PAN-LCD of Burkina-Faso (2000)

Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC of Burkina-Faso (2002)

NAPA of Burkina-Faso (2007)

PNIA of Burkina-Faso (2009)

PNSR of Burkina-Faso (2011)

Burkina-Faso's Forest Investment Program (2011)

PAN-LCD of Niger (2000)

PANA of Niger (2006)

Second National Communication of Niger (2009)

PNIA/SDR of Niger (2010)

2012-2015 Investment Plan of the 3N initiative (2012)

Watershed Management in South-Western Niger (SUBSOL, 2013)

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It includes the management of banks, streams, ponds, irrigation facilities, rainfed and pastoral areas, as well as capacity-building activities (training, awareness creation, development and dissemination of technologies, income generating activities for vulnerable populations).

Published in 2011, the 2011-2015 **National Programme for the Rural Sector (PNSR)** took into account the ratification of the UNFCCC.

To operationalise the strategies and policies of the agriculture sector (PNIA), the forestry, and the environment sectors, adaptation actions are planned: reforestation, management of natural areas, water and soil management and conservation facilities, improved agricultural and forestry seeds, fodder production.

It also aims at improving knowledge: identification of the drivers of vulnerability of natural resources, identification of adaptation solutions, and projections of climate changes.

Finally, the **Forest Investment Program (FIP)** will fund two mitigation projects totalling 28 million US\$: Decentralised Management of Forests and Woodlands (PGDFEB, 16.5 million US\$ from the FIP) supported by the World Bank and co-financed (9.76 million US\$ by the GCCA) and Participatory Management of Classified Forests (PGPFC, 11.5 million US\$ from the FIP) supported by the African Development Bank and co-financed (1.17 million US\$) by the Government.

2.2 Niger

The **PAN-LCD** was launched in 2000 and identifies climate change as the first driver of desertification.

The fight against climate hazards is one of the three priority areas of the Plan. It includes the analysis and monitoring of the drivers contributing to drought and desertification.

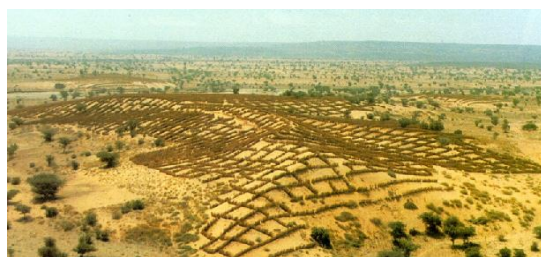


Figure 6 – Dune fixation to combat erosion (Source: PAN-LCD of Niger, 2000)

Niger submitted its **NAPA** to the UNFCCC in 2006. It identifies 14 projects, mainly in the water sector. Transversal actions (research and observation, capacity building, training, income generating activities) are also numerous.

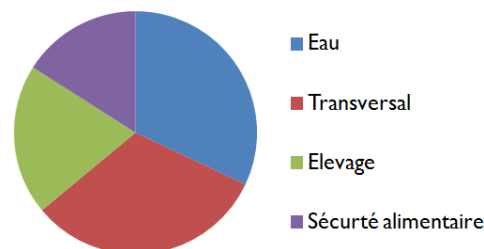


Figure 7 - Share of the PANA budget by topic in Niger (Source: SalvaTerra, 2013)

Niger hosts the **Community Action Project Phase 2** (63 million US\$), funded by the World Bank, which aims at integrating resilience issues in development strategies and in agro-forestry-pastoral systems, together with the provision of social safety net to the local people.

The **Second National Communication** of was published in 2009. The land use sector is the larger emitter (17 MtCO₂e/yr) but removals (34 MtCO₂e/yr) largely offset these emissions. The agriculture sector is the largest net emitter (12 MtCO₂e/yr), followed by energy (3 MtCO₂e/yr).

The Communication anticipates a rise in temperature and a slight increase of precipitations. However, the rainy season would start later, with adverse consequences for agriculture and food security.

39 adaptation measures are proposed in the areas of agriculture, water resources, farming, transport, and human health.

Many mitigation options are proposed, mainly in the areas of energy and transport: distribution of improved stoves, solar power, electric vehicles, biofuels, etc.

18% of the budget (upon 547.3 million CFA francs) of the **PNIA** (2010) is aiming at promoting the adaptation of agriculture to climate change.

Four dedicated programmes are planned (budgets expressed in million CFA francs):

2/ Local Management of Natural Resources (7.2)

9.1/ Crisis Prevention (33.2)

10/ Environmental Protection (33)

13/ Land Restoration and afforestation (42.9)

Finally, the Government adopted in 2012 the **3-N initiative** ("Nigeriens feed Nigeriens ") as a food security and sustainable agricultural development strategy.

It is largely based on the PNIA and underlines the high sensitivity of agriculture to climate hazards.

The adaptation of agriculture is listed as one of the five challenges to be met.