



National Adaptation Plan process in focus: Lessons from Niger

Niger is a landlocked country in the eastern part of West Africa, covering 1.267.000 km². More than 700 kilometres separate the southernmost border and the sea (Guinea Gulf). The climate is mostly hot and dry, with much of the country in the semi-arid Sahel belt, and the north reaching into the Sahara-desert. Rainfall is highly variable throughout the year, both in terms of regional distribution and frequency. The population of Niger was estimated at 19.9 million as of 2016, with an average population growth rate of 4 percent per year, which is one of the highest in the world. Niger is in the low human development category, ranking 187 out of 188, and is a member of the Least Developed Countries Group. Annual per capita income is estimated at USD 427. The rural sector (agriculture, livestock, forests and fishing) accounts for 44 percent of gross domestic product, and is the main employment for 90 percent of the working population. Agriculture is dependent on the limited seasonal rains, leaving the sector particularly vulnerable to climate change. Three major droughts have occurred in the past two decades, leading to food shortages that have aggravated existing food insecurity and acute malnutrition, particularly amongst the rural population.

Climate change risks

Projected climate-related risks include; recurrent droughts, increasingly erratic rainfalls and floods, violent sand storms and destructive invasions by locusts. Insufficient drinking water supplies are under increasing pressure from the depletion of ponds and natural lakes, the reduced flow of the Niger River and sedimentation of surface water sources. A decline in the livestock and crop sectors would lead to drastic impacts on the economy of Niger, potentially leading to widespread food insecurity, an exacerbation of rural to urban migration, and an upsurge in diseases such as malaria, meningitis and measles.

Groundwork for supporting the NAP process

Policy, planning and budgeting:

The long-term goals informing Niger’s adaptation efforts are outlined in the country’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), submitted in 2016, as shown in the table overleaf.

These goals are reflected in existing national frameworks, strategies and plans including:

- *Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy* or ‘2035 Vision”: Adopted in 2016, it lays out a medium-term development strategy for Niger.
- *Nigeriens Nourish the Nigerian Initiative*: Launched in 2011 and adopted in 2012, this aims to build national capacity for food production and supply, and strengthen food security and disaster resilience.
- *National Policy on Climate Change*: Initiated in 2012, this seeks to contribute to the sustainable development of Niger by reducing the adverse impacts of climate change.
- *National Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate and Variability (SNPA-CVC)*: Adopted in 2003 and revised in 2014, this aims to expand options for Niger’s development and preserve these options for future generations.
- *National Plan on Environment for Sustainable Development*: Adopted by decree in April 2000.
- *2014-2023 Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production*: Formulated in June 2013, this supports an enabling environment for balanced and inclusive development.
- *The Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management (2015-2029)*: Adopted in 2014, the overall objective is threefold; to improve synergy across interventions, avoid duplication of actions, and make judicious use of financial resources.



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Adaptation goals of Niger: As defined in NDC (2016)

1.	Ensuring food security
2.	Combatting poverty
3.	Promoting rational management of natural resources
4.	Enhancing the resilience of population and ecosystems

Niger is keen to ensure complementarity between these existing frameworks, the NDC and the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAP process).

Until the launch of the NAP process, the main vehicle to identify and implement measures to address Niger's climate vulnerability has been the national adaptation programme of action (NAPA), developed in 2006. The NAPA focused on addressing immediate needs and identified 14 urgent priority areas of intervention, specifically in the water, agriculture/livestock and health sectors. In addition to these sectors, Niger 2016 NDC also prioritizes the energy sector and the protection of fauna, and emphasizes the need for capacity-building and technology transfer. Adaptation measures contained in the NDC focus on sustainable land management practices drawing from the Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management.

Preparing for adaptation planning

Current and future climate assessments were conducted in preparation for the First National Communication (2000) and through the African Adaptation Programme (AAP). These assessments informed the National Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate and Variability, the National Policy on Climate Change and the NAPA. Additional assessments were made in 2012 with the support of the World Bank. Since then, two other National Communications have been developed and submitted to the UNFCCC (2009, 2016).

The impacts of climate change, including changes in temperature, rainfall patterns and droughts, was assessed for the following sectors; agriculture, livestock, forestry, health and water resources. There is a need to strengthen climate observation and monitoring systems in all sectors, to reduce uncertainties and provide more robust information to decision-makers.

Implementation of adaptation actions

Most of the priorities identified in the NAPA have been addressed through pilot projects. These all have the potential to be scaled up in the medium and long-term. For example, one project, which commenced in 2010 at the local level in the country's eight regions, tested good practices in the use of improved seed varieties, sustainable market gardening, use of enhanced meteorological data, and re-seeding of degrading grazing areas. This supported income-generating activities.

Several other adaptation projects of various sizes and scopes have also been implemented or are in the process of being implemented, through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, amongst which are:

- UNDP/FED Community based adaptation project (CBA) began in 2015 operating in the departments of Dakoro and Bermo.
- The Climate Smart Agriculture Support Project of HC-13 N targeting 20 departments. Funded by the World Bank, it started in 2016 for a period of five years.
- The Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience consists of four projects (PAC-RC, PROMOVARE, PDIPC and Small Irrigation) being implemented with the financial support of the World Bank (IFC/Pilot Programme on Climate Resilience) and the African Development Bank (2012 onwards).
- The Food Security Support Project in the Maradi region (2011-2017). Supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development for a cost of USD 31.7 million, it addresses aspects of resilience in the rural environment.

The African Climate Change Adaptation Programme (2008-2012) which was managed by UNDP with the financial support of Japan, established an index-based insurance prototype to prevent episodes of drought and started work on integrating climate change adaptation in sectoral plans.

Niger is working to align the NAP with the NDC, and ensure complementarity with the SDGs, to support development planning which is climate resilient'

Dr Kamayé Maâzou, Executive Secretary of the CNEDD (SE/CNEDD), NDAPS





Niger's NAP process

Institutional arrangements

Currently, the lead institution for the NAP process in Niger is the National Council on Environment for Sustainable Development (CNEDD), which was established in 1996 and manages the implementation of all three Rio Conventions. The CNEDD is also the Green Climate Fund (GCF) National Designated Authority.

NAP process timeline

May 2014 –

The Government of Niger launched its NAP and a stocktaking of existing adaptation-related plans, policies, programmes and projects was undertaken.

2015-2016 –

The road map was revised to integrate new information. Due to a lack of funding in the LDCF, access to funding to support its implementation has been delayed.

NAP support

To date, the NAP process has been supported by a range of partners, including at the international level the NAP-GSP and the GCF, and at the regional level by Agryhmet and ACMAD.

Challenges

Overcoming national capacity constraints represents an important positive step for Niger towards undertaking the NAP process. Building synergies, scaling up actions, improving coordination, advancing institutional and technical capacity, improving data availability, reliability and management, and integrating climate change adaptation into planning and budget processes are important objectives within the NAP process. In parallel, financial resources need to be mobilized, including for sustaining the work of the NAP coordination mechanism led by the CNEDD.

Late 2014 –

A NAP road-map was prepared, which detailed activities, and a timeline over a 3-5-year period. These activities are aligned with the “Nigeriens Nourish the Nigeriens” Initiative, the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy, the Economic and Social Development Plan as well as the National Climate Learning Strategy. However, actions included in the roadmap could not be implemented due to lack of funding.

2016 – 2017 –

2016/2017. A proposal to the GCF readiness and preparatory activity programme is prepared. In accordance with the road map, the GCF readiness funding will be used to support the formulation of a NAP and the integration of adaptation into planning processes.

What is the process to formulate and implement the NAP?

The Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process in 2010, to enhance country-led planning and preparedness for climate change adaptation (CCA) in the medium and long-term. The objectives of the NAP are to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and to integrate adaptation into all levels of development planning. The NAP process is multi-sectoral, involving Ministries of Environment as well as Planning and Finance, in addition to other key Ministries. By bringing greater institutional integration and coordination to adaptation planning, NAPs can enhance ongoing national development planning processes, safeguard development gains, and build resilience.



‘The NAP process will facilitate adaptation planning in the country by supporting the integration of climate risk and opportunities in national and sector strategies and programmes.’

Gousmane Moussa, Lead Climate Change Advisor, SE/CNEDD

Successes

The coordination of the NAP process can build on the long-established institutional arrangements in place in Niger for implementing the three Rio Conventions in a coherent manner. The CNEDD is leading this work and has set up working groups focusing on specific themes such as integrating climate change in planning processes and defining a consultation framework for adaptation.

Opportunities

The NDC provides a sense of direction by outlining long-term adaptation goals linked to development priorities. There is a high level of awareness of climate change risks in Niger at the national level. Various initiatives and interventions have already supported substantial adaptation actions, contributing to laying the groundwork for the NAP process.

Niger is preparing a medium-term development strategy, the *Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (2035)* or ‘2035 Vision’. Building on this strategy, the NAP process will facilitate adaptation planning in the country by supporting the integration of climate risk and opportunities in national and sector strategies and programmes.

There are many stakeholders involved in climate change adaptation planning in Niger. This is due to the expected impact on food security, as well as overall economic development. Building synergies, improving coordination and mainstreaming climate change are considered crucial, and different initiatives have begun to lay the groundwork for a successful NAP process.

Next steps

A national NAP vision and mandate are an important first step for Niger. This will be developed to officially recognize the National Climate Change Commission and its technical secretariat as a NAP coordination lead, and to establish a steering and monitoring mechanism. The mandate will also define the means of cooperation and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.

Niger’s NAP roadmap details the series of steps to be taken, along with key strategic interventions, which will support the NAP process. These interventions focus on enhancing coordination, skills development and institutional capacity building, building an effective information platform, integrating climate change adaptation into the ‘2035 Vision’, and strengthening integration and implementation of adaptation efforts within local level governance structures.

This roadmap also contains activities to develop climate information systems and improve data collection and management, as well as specific activities to coordinate, monitor and review the NAP process. A readiness proposal has been submitted to the GCF for support, through the readiness and preparatory activity programme.

Key documents

- [Nigeriens Nourish the Nigerian Initiative](#)
- [NDC, 2016](#)
- [Third National Communication, 2017](#)

0.06%

of total global emissions

9

adaptation measures in NDC

70

stakeholders consulted as part of the NAP process

21

years’ experience of the 3 Rio Conventions (CNEDD)

4-5

NAPA projects under implementation

About the NAP-GSP

The joint UNDP-UN Environment National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) was launched in June 2013, financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). The NAP-GSP, together with partners, are assisting developing countries to identify technical, institutional and financial needs to integrate climate change adaptation into medium and long-term national planning and financing. The NAP-GSP provides technical expertise and guidance on country NAP processes, and provides opportunities for knowledge exchange on NAPs.

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