

## GWP and UNDP-GEF launch National Adaptation planning (NAP) Capacity Development Initiative for Africa - 'Economics of Adaptation Water Security, and Climate Resilient Development'

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA (November 29, 2013) – Seventy five representatives from 25 African countries attended the kick off Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop on the 'Economics of Adaptation Water Security, and Climate Resilient Development'.

With funding from Austria, DFID, Danida, CDKN and the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA), based at the African Development Bank (AfDB), the initiative supports the implementation of the African Union (AU) and African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW)'s Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP) implemented by Global Water Partnership (GWP) and partners. The collaboration by GWP and UNDP-GEF contributes to the objectives of the National Adaptation Plan - Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) funded by the Least Development Climate Fund (LDCF). NAP-GSP is led by UNDP-GEF and UNEP-GEF in collaboration with GWP, FAO, WHO, IFAD, UNITAR, GEF, and UNFCCC.

The objective of the capacity development initiative is to develop the capacity of planners and technical officers to identify, appraise no/low regrets investment options and integrate these into national development planning processes and plans. The primary target audience are government planners across line ministries such as Economic Planning, Finance, Water Resources, Agriculture, Environment, Energy, Health and Infrastructure.

The initiative is expected to develop the capacities and knowledge required by planners and decision makers in Africa and enhance skills in:

- Applying economic analysis to develop an economic case to high level policy makers on the importance of water security;
- Mainstreaming no/low regrets investments into development planning processes;
- Using economic analysis tools and methods to appraise investment options including cost benefit analysis, cost effectiveness assessment and others;
- Project preparation and access to climate finance and other funding sources;
- Undertaking climate impact assessment, climate screening and robust decision making;
- Designing of financing and investment programs for climate resilient development.



Picture 1: Participants at the ToT workshop

The initiative will be delivered through interrelated capacity development activities at regional and national level. This will be complemented by knowledge management and experience sharing including research on priority issues related to economic appraisal and investment definition.

Over the next 2 years, at least 40 training country workshops are expected to be delivered on mainstreaming water security and climate resilience into development plans. In between the country workshops, regional workshops be undertaken focusing on deepening understanding in use and application of economic models, data and economic analysis tools to appraise investment options for climate resilient development. Field work, on-the-job-training and mentorship activities will undertake as part of the initiative

The emphasis is on the job training, supporting and encouraging each participant in applying economic tools to enhance climate resilience development approach in their daily work.

In his opening remarks, GWP's Global Water and Climate Coordinator, Mr. Alex Simalabwi underscored the need for finance and urgency for Africa to develop capacity and mainstream water security and climate resilience in development planning. According to the AfDB, 10-30 Billion USD is required in the next two decades for adaptation in Africa.



*'Climate change is challenging current development planning paradigms and countries need to enhance their analytical, technical and institutional capacity to understand the implications of a changing climate to their economies and develop investment projects that promote climate resilient development and can attract funding', he said.*

Mr. Alex Simalabwi, Global Water and Climate Coordinator – GWP

Dr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya, Senior Advisor of UNDP-GEF, highlighted that addressing capacity gaps that exist in African countries for accessing climate funds are a serious issue, and that the GWP/UNDP-GEF joint Capacity Development Programme will address this issue. He emphasized that

in Africa, priority should be given to infrastructure development as one of climate change adaptation mechanism for the continent.

Dr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya further highlighted how UNDP and GWP can help the countries prepare and tap into adaptation resources available. He highlighted three main gaps emerging and the UNFCCC decision on NAPs:

*Gap 1: Economics of adaptation and supporting decision-making on adaptation;*

*Gap 2: Making national policy and planning more coherent, strengthening, governance and institutional capacity, evaluation-evidenced based impact results, etc.;*

*Gap 3: Domestic finance related issues e.g. innovative instruments and financing modalities need to be explored.*

He presented the two main objectives of NAP process as follows:



*Dr. Pradeep Kurukulasuriya the Senior Advisor of UNDP-GEF*

- To reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by development adaptive capacity and resilience;
- To facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.

The NAP process was presented following the UNFCCC - LEG technical guidelines as follows:

- Laying the groundwork and addressing gaps;
- Preparatory elements; implementation strategies; and reporting, monitoring and review.

Speaking on behalf of the AMCOW, Ms. Laila Oualkacha applauded the initiative and welcomed the collaboration by GWP and UNDP-GEF to develop capacity in African countries.

*'Analysis of climate impacts and investment options using a combination of hydrological models, climate models and economic models is unique and an innovative approach that is timely for Africa. AMCOW welcomes this approach that takes into account various uncertainties to aid decision makers with tools and integrate making', she said.*

The overall objective of the TOT workshop in Addis Ababa was to create a common understanding of the GWP/UNDP-GEF joint Capacity Development Programme on the Economics of Adaptation, Water Security and Climate Resilient Development in Africa.

Speaking on behalf of UNDP-Cap-Net, capacity development Analyst Ms. Yasmina Rais El Fenni expressed Cap-Net's commitment in further providing support to the WACDEP program as a whole. Ms. Yasmina Rais El Fenni emphasized that Cap-Net is keen to support the quality of the training and capacity development programme. Cap-Net will be available to provide financial support on a case by case basis for adapting training materials and developing relevant case studies.