



# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING IN ZAMBIA

Droughts, flash floods, extreme temperatures, and dry spells in Zambia are increasing in frequency and intensity due to climate change. The impact on human and economic development is serious. It affects water and energy supply, health, wildlife, forestry, and agriculture.

For 70% of the Zambian population who live in rural areas and rely on incomes from rain-fed agriculture, climate change undermines efforts to reduce poverty and enhance food security.



**Average annual temperature:**  
**Increased by 1.3°C since 1960**

- Projected to keep rising by:**
- 1.2°C to 3.4°C by the 2060s,
  - 1.6°C to 5.5°C by the 2090s.<sup>1</sup>



**Average annual rainfall:**  
**Decreased** by an average rate of **1.9mm** per month since 1960, and although is not projected to change substantially on an annual average basis, the rainy season is seen becoming wetter, and the dry season – dryer.<sup>2</sup>

## Adaptation to climate change

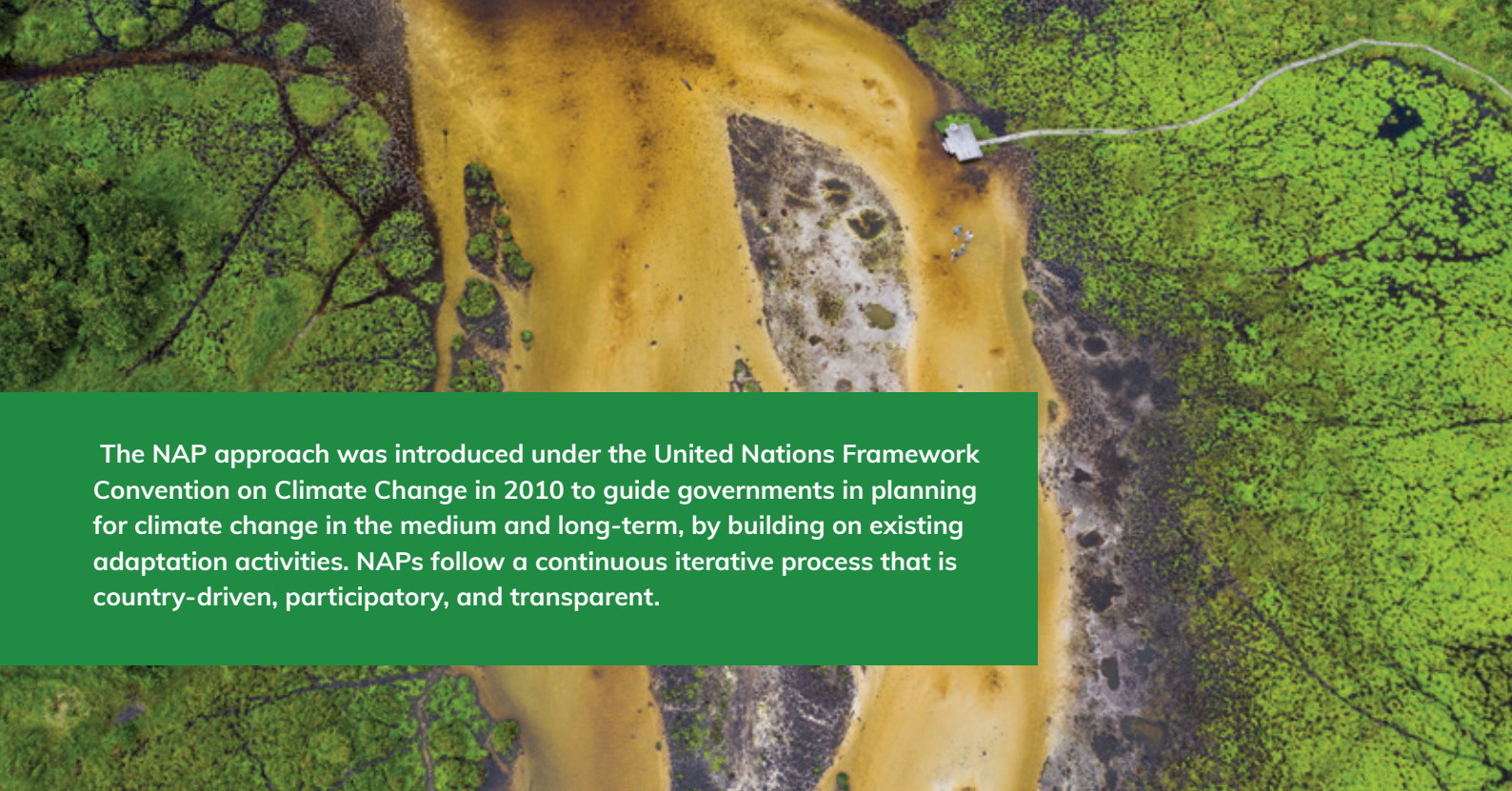
The Zambian Government began planning responses to the current and forecast impacts of climate change in 2002 with the First National Communication, the National Adaptation Plan of Action on Climate Change in 2007, the National Climate Change Response Strategy in 2010 and the National Policy on Climate Change in 2016.

These processes have helped various sectors to prioritise activities, including better land and forest management, income diversification, and climate-proofing of infrastructure and sanitation in urban areas.

In 2020, Zambia received a US\$2.2 million grant from the Green Climate Fund under the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme to build on these activities by preparing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP). Global Water Partnership worked with the Zambian Government to secure the funding and will continue to support the NAP during 2021 - 2022. The NAP is being implemented as part of, and in coordination with, the broader Continental Africa Water Investment Programme (AIP). The AIP has as its goal to improve the investment outlook for climate-resilient water and sanitation projects on the continent.

1 Third National Communication (2020) [https://www.mlnc.gov.zm/?wfb\\_dl=99](https://www.mlnc.gov.zm/?wfb_dl=99)

2 Irish Aid, 2016. Zambia Climate Action Report 2016.



The NAP approach was introduced under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2010 to guide governments in planning for climate change in the medium and long-term, by building on existing adaptation activities. NAPs follow a continuous iterative process that is country-driven, participatory, and transparent.

The process of developing the NAP will address six challenges Zambia has faced in adapting to climate change over the past two decades.



## 01 Co-ordination

The impacts of climate change cut across most economic sectors. That is why the response should be coordinated and take an inter- and multi-sectoral approach.

Zambia's existing institutional structures don't allow for adequate coordination and collaboration among various government institutions in planning and implementing climate change adaptation actions.

Coordination is also inadequate at sub-national levels of government. Climate change impacts occur at the local level: they must be planned for, financed, and implemented at appropriate provincial, district, and community levels. Currently, planning and budgeting takes place mostly at the national level.



## 02 Planning and budgeting

Zambia's past and current National Development Plans (NDPs), which are guided by the *National Long-Term Vision 2030*, have not embedded climate change adaptation activities. As a result, sector and sub-national plans and budgets have not integrated climate change adaptation to a sufficient extent. Because activities were not included, resources are not available for their implementation.

The Ministry for Local Government should play an active role in integrating climate change in sub-national planning and budgeting, to ensure that current and forecast climate change impacts are addressed.



## 03 Data-driven and evidence-based planning

Zambia's adaptation plans have been short-term until now, prioritising projects that address immediate impacts, often without reference to valuable historical information. This is in part due to lack of access to data and capacity to make projections. The limited technical capacity for continuous collection and preservation of meteorological data, incomplete data, and weak climate change modelling skills have negatively affected long-term planning. The Zambian Meteorological Department has expanded its weather observing stations from 41 to 150 in the recent past. This is expected to increase the volume of current and historical data available to support the development of accurate and long-term climate vulnerability modelling.



## 04 Institutional capacity

Zambia's Department of Climate Change and Natural Resources coordinates implementation of climate change programmes in the country. Currently the department does not have organisational units at sub-national level to undertake this function at local level. Support is needed at this level to carry out technical assessments, analysis, and project appraisals to inform decision-making and implementation by respective sectors.



## 05 Resource mobilisation

Zambia needs approximately US\$50 billion to meet the 2030 climate change commitments made in the Paris Agreement of 2015. International climate funds will be an important source to meet this need. Accessing international support is dependent on strong political commitment, institutional and technical capacity, and an effective policy framework. However, technical capacity across sectors for preparation of projects to access climate finance from international climate funders needs to be strengthened.

The passing into law of the Climate Change Bill (2019) by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources could catapult Zambia's climate change agenda to the highest political level – the Presidency. This has huge potential to unlock international financing for climate change adaptation from multilateral and bilateral sources and to promote private sector participation in climate change adaptation.

Meanwhile, the NAP process is expected to strengthen institutional capacity and decentralise Zambia's institutional framework to include a more active role for local authorities and facilitate resource allocation to local level efforts.

Locally, the private sector will be encouraged to invest in adaptation projects or technology development and transfer in return for policy or economic incentives.



## 06 Monitoring and evaluation

Zambia needs a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to objectively assess the extent to which its development plans, policies and strategies integrate climate change adaptation and meet the objectives of the National Climate Change Policy (NPCC) and achievement of Vision 2030.

**The key sectors in which Climate Change Adaptation programmes will be implemented are: AGRICULTURE, WATER, FORESTRY, ENERGY, WILDLIFE, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND HEALTH.**

# ZAMBIA NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN 2021 – 2023

Zambia's Department of Climate Change and Natural Resources in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources initiated development of the country's NAP in March 2021, and is working towards finalising the plan in the first quarter of 2023.

**The main goals of the two-year NAP development process will be to:**



**01** > Strengthen institutional coordination and collaboration for adaptation planning in Zambia



**02** > Establish a system of integrating climate change adaptation in plans and budgets.



**03** > Develop an overarching national plan that prioritises medium- to long-term high-level adaptation actions for key economic sectors affected by climate change.



**04** > Strengthen the institutional capacity for implementing the NAP



**05** > Develop a strategy for mobilising financial and other resources for NAP implementation in Zambia.



**06** > Climate change coordinating structures and institutions develop tools for reporting, monitoring and reviewing.



## Zambia's Iterative NAP process

### ELEMENT A

#### Lay the groundwork and address gaps

- 01 Initiating and launching of the NAP process
- 02 Stocktaking: identifying available information on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and assessing gaps and needs of the enabling environment for the NAP process
- 03 Addressing capacity gaps and weaknesses in undertaking the NAP process
- 04 Comprehensively and iteratively assessing development needs and climate vulnerabilities

The NAP process in Zambia is at Element A stage

### ELEMENT B

#### Preparatory elements

- 01 Analysing current climate and future climate change scenarios
- 02 Assessing climate vulnerabilities and identifying adaptation options at the sector, subnational, national and other appropriate levels
- 03 Reviewing and appraising adaptation options
- 04 Compiling and communicating national adaptation plans
- 05 Integrating climate change adaptation into national and subnational development and sectoral planning

### ELEMENT C

#### Implementation strategies

- 01 Prioritizing climate change adaptation in national planning
- 02 Developing a (long-term) national adaptation implementation strategy
- 03 Enhancing capacity for planning and implementation of adaptation
- 04 Promoting coordination and synergy at the regional level and with other multilateral environmental agreements

### ELEMENT D

#### Reporting, monitoring and review

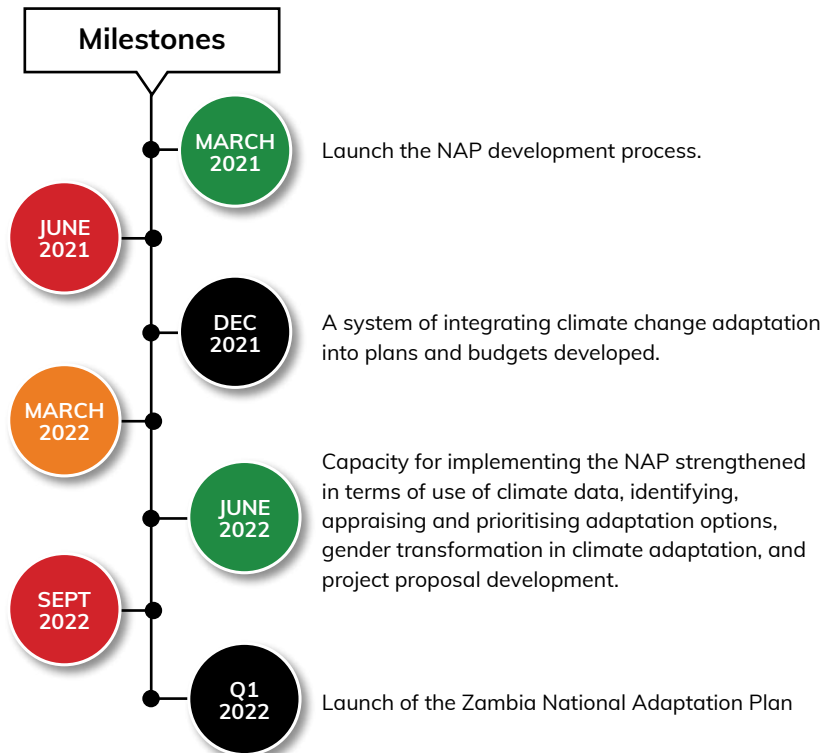
- 01 Monitoring the NAP process
- 02 Reviewing the NAP process to assess progress, effectiveness and gaps
- 03 Iteratively updating the NAP
- 04 Outreach on the NAP process and reporting on progress and effectiveness

#### Milestones

Challenges and gaps in the institutional coordination and collaboration for adaptation planning in Zambia identified and mechanisms for strengthening them developed.

Adaptation action plans for sectors prioritised and developed, accompanied by spatial regional plans developed by local authorities. An overarching NAP implementation plan informed by long-term and robust risk and vulnerability scenarios to guide the sectoral plans developed and launched.


Strategy for mobilising financial and other resources for NAP implementation launched.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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