



Republic of South Sudan

National Adaptation Programmes
of Action (NAPA) to
Climate Change

2016



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Sudan is a least-developed country located in east-central Africa. It is the world's newest country, having gained independence from Sudan in July 2011 after a prolonged period of civil war. In addition to the harmful impacts of long-term conflict, communities in South Sudan are also experiencing the negative effects of a changing climate. In general, the country is experiencing substantially warmer and drier weather, and the combination of these effects is leading to more droughts. In addition, rainfall is becoming more erratic, which is increasing the frequency and severity of floods. These climate change effects in turn decrease agricultural productivity, upon which the majority of the population depend for their livelihoods. Unless communities can adapt to these climatic changes and their impacts, climate change will hinder socio-economic development and contribute to existing tensions and conflict in South Sudan.

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) serve as simplified, rapid and direct channels for Least Developed Countries to identify and communicate priority activities to address their urgent and immediate adaptation needs. NAPAs emerged from the multilateral discussions on adaptation measures within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). South Sudan's NAPA therefore specifies five priority activities (referred to as Priority Adaptation Projects) for effective climate change adaptation across the five identified priority thematic areas, namely: i) Environment; ii) Water Resources; iii) Agriculture; iv) Disaster Risk Reduction; and v) Policy and Institutional Framework.

The NAPA preparation process followed the guidelines outlined by the UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group. Seven main steps were followed:

- i) establishment of NAPA Team;
- ii) synthesis of available information;
- iii) inception workshop and thematic working group discussions to establish climate change problems and possible adaptation projects/options based on available information;
- iv) thematic working group meetings to identify and draft a list of 28 Adaptation Project Options;
- v) project prioritisation workshop for screening, ranking and prioritising identified Adaptation Project Options;
- vi) development of NAPA project profiles for five Priority Adaptation Projects; and
- vii) public review process.

The final set of Priority Adaptation Projects (Annex A) as well as priority thematic areas were selected/prioritised using participatory discussions with a broad range of stakeholders. These five Priority Adaptation Projects therefore represent the most urgent and immediate adaptation needs in the country. However, it is also noted that the other Adaptation Project Options (Annex B) identified through the NAPA process remain important and that ideas/activities/elements can be blended across projects and thematic areas when designing final project concepts for implementation in the country.

The NAPA process also identified other guiding principles for adaptation projects in South Sudan, including that:

- Adaptation projects should promote conflict resolution and peace-building.
- Gender equality should be considered in the design of adaptation projects.
- Adaptation projects should target those groups most vulnerable to climate change impacts.
- Adaptation projects should contribute to the further development of legislative and regulatory frameworks in South Sudan.
- Adaptation projects should promote livelihood diversification.
- Capacity building – of human, institutional, technical and financial resources – should be included in the design of adaptation projects.
- Adaptation projects should promote long-term research on climate change adaptation, including the collection of baseline information.
- Indigenous knowledge should be included in the design of adaptation projects.
- Land tenure must be considered when deciding the location for adaptation projects.

Priority Adaptation Projects
Environment Promotion of reforestation and agroforestry to reduce vulnerability to droughts and floods
Water Resources Sustainable management and conservation of wetlands in South Sudan
Agriculture Promotion of climate-smart agricultural techniques to improve livelihoods and food security under changing climatic patterns
Disaster Risk Reduction Establish improved drought and flood Early Warning Systems in South Sudan through an improved hydro-meteorological monitoring network
Policy and Institutional Framework Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Government of South Sudan to integrate climate change into national policies and planning processes

FOREWORD

South Sudan attained its independence on 9th July 2011 and has since then taken its rightful place by joining global efforts in addressing environmental issues by acceding and becoming party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 18 May 2014. The compilation and production of this National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA) is the first step by South Sudan towards fulfilling its commitments and obligation under the UNFCCC and becoming a full member of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

South Sudan is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change; thus the identification and the implementation of the 28 projects in this document will enable the country to adapt and implement its development agenda with minimum impacts to the environment. Simply put, the livelihoods of its citizens will be enhanced. As climate change impacts could severely undermine economic growth in South Sudan, this NAPA represents an important opportunity for the formulation and implementation of policies on climate change adaptation that are vital for sustainable development.

The process for preparing the NAPA has been very helpful in achieving a better understanding of the links between adaptation to climate change and our government's ongoing efforts at poverty alleviation. It is important that South Sudan's existing goals, strategies, institutions, policies, plans and treaties/agreements form the framework to support the Implementation of the NAPA. The participatory and stakeholder-driven approach was essential in understanding the extent to which poor communities and assorted livelihoods across the country are already acutely vulnerable to climatic variability. Indeed, potential synergies between identified Adaptation Project Options and national policies and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) were included as a project prioritisation criterion.

The Ministry of Environment would like to acknowledge and thank the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for availing funds and the UNEP office in South Sudan for coordinating and facilitating the process. Our thanks to the Staff of the Ministry of Environment, the stakeholders from other line ministries, academics from the Universities of Juba and Upper Nile, NGOs, Development Partners, CBOs and Civil Society Organizations for their rich and expert contribution to this document. The reviews from the states are very much appreciated.

South Sudan is now poised to address the impacts of Climate Change and embark on a Green Development Path.

Deng Deng Hoc Yai



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