

1. **Key highlights on how COVID19 impacted adaptation particularly in advancing NAPs,**

In only a few months (March 2020 to date), the coronavirus pandemic has upended the daily lives of Sierra Leoneans. Sierra Leone is a tropical climate with two distinct seasons (The Rainy and Dry seasons); and the third most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Dry Season and the rainy season had many years being suitable for Agriculture and other activities. But recent unprecedented seasonal changes appear to be potentially damaging to every facet of lives. Our farmers, tourism, the Ocean, socio and economic activities remain major object of this seasonal disruption. It therefore goes without saying that an effective and efficient climate change adaptation response is crucial to adapting to the changing climatic trend. Our weak early warning systems unlike other Countries has posed a great threat to our adaptive capability. Thus, the importance of producing our NAP and subsequent availability of robust support for urgent adaptation action is therefore both urgent and desirable.

The impact of the virus has led to new categorizations of work ethics called “essential” workers. Currently, a large-scale of workers especially those involved in NAP task force have move to alternative working days and the ban of public gathering that is expected to continue has greatly affected consultation and strategizing for our NAP formulation. Sadly, our energies have been concentrated on the fight against COVID 19 and distracted our climate change response measure. And amid stay-at-home orders across the country, very few office workers with internet facility have ditched their daily commutes to work from their own homes. Many have found themselves in this situation for the long haul, as institutions struggle to find a path forward in handling their mandates and UN climate change obligations.

However, Sierra Leone like other countries plan to complete the NAP by the end of 2020; the Environmental protection Agency (the UNFCCC funding mechanism focal points for GEF, GCF and Adaptation fund) and the Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency (UNFCCC Focal point) are the leading institution for coordinating the NAP with other relevant institution. Both Agencies have been gazetted to be in the Ministry of Environment and this will ease coordination. The country has recruited a national consultant since last year, to work on the NAP framework (A framework document has been developed already)and the government is committed to work with the same consultant to advance the formulation of the NAP.

Nonetheless, below are the challenges the COVID 19 have posed on the development of the NAP:

- Most inter-ministerial meetings have been replaced by email and Zoom due to ban on public gathering. Which has not been productive in capturing useful information.
- Have affected business travel for consultation and experience sharing with other countries.
- Diversion on government support for the NAP co-funding to COVID related activities. Also, recurrence government budgets have been suspended for most institutions.
- The ban of international flights and closure of airports have affected travelling of international consultants and thus affected the formulation of NAP since most LCDs countries had been working with international consultants.
- The ban on public gathering and inter district lockdown have affected community consultations.
- Little to no engagement with international partners and bilateral for supports (capacity building, technical and financial support).

2. Addressing the challenges

Despite the challenges faced by COVID19 countries and Sierra Leone in particular are working on the following innovative practices to ensure work is delivered:

- Virtual experience sharing mandated by UNFCCC groups (LDC, AGN etc.) to report on status of NAPs and urging completion and submission of the same before 2020.
- The National consultant that was recruited for developing the NAP framework and attended the NAP formulation Nairobi workshop to work on some section of the NAP layout.
- Recalling and expanding the scope of the first GCF readiness proposal and not only focus on the Argic sector/ other components but to also capture NAP formulation process as key components. Alternatively, other UN agencies have been engaged to support the development of a 2nd proposal to address the full scope of NAP work.
- Discussion with relevant regional and UN agencies to procure international consultant to work with the national consultant to support/expedite the NAP work. For example:

the work will build from the prototype NAP from LEG NAP workshop, Sierra Leone NAP Framework, and the Sierra Leone coastal NAP (developed with the support from USAID), as well as all other related work;

- Leading Climate change institution (EPA and MET Agency for Sierra Leone) to support the payment of National consultant from their National budgetary support.
- Request for technical support from the LEG / NAP technical working group. Possible options highlighted include on health (WHO), agric (FAO), water (GWP) and disasters (UNDRR)

3. Skeleton of NAP including highlighted priority areas

Below is the NAP layout capturing priority areas in yellow text highlight:

General Prototype NAP

Cover page

Front matter

- a. Acronyms
- b. List of Tables
- c. List of Figures

Executive summary

Vision, mission and objective of the NAP

National circumstances

- a. The national economic context
- b. Key economic sectors and systems
- c. Description of decision-making processes and how and why adaptation options are prioritized

Regulatory frameworks and institutional arrangements for adaptation

- a. Governance structures

b. Plans for integrating adaptation and NAPs in development planning and plans

Processes supporting the development of the National Adaptation Plan

a. National roadmap and framework (the Current NAP framework)

b. Guiding principles (science, ITK, gender, transparency and participation, etc.)

c. Identification of desirable and available information

d. Resource mobilization for the process

e. Multi stakeholder consultations (initiated but to be expanded)

Assessment of impacts, vulnerabilities and risks (short-, medium- and long term)

a. Assessment framework for national adaptation

b. Synergy with SDGs, Sendai Framework for DRR, and other relevant regional and national frameworks

c. Baseline climate based on 1961-1990

d. Observed impacts

e. Future impacts, vulnerabilities and risks

National adaptation priorities and costs

a. Policies

b. Projects and programmes

Climate adaptation investment strategy

a. Implementation and support needs

b. Alignment with the GCF adaptation strategy

c. National climate change adaptation programme

d. Alignment with national strategies, GCF country programme

e. Mobilization of other sources of finance

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation framework

a. Reporting on NAPs under the UNFCCC

b. Link to the Adaptation Communication and/or the NDC

c. Reporting and outreach at the national level

References

Annexes

- a. Data and information system to support the NAP
- b. Annotated reports, strategies, plans
- c. List of ongoing programmes and projects

4. Identifying areas to build work till Dec 2020.

Processes supporting the development of the National Adaptation Plan

- b. Guiding principles (science, ITK, gender, transparency and participation, etc.)
- c. Identification of desirable and available information
- d. Resource mobilization for the process

Assessment of impacts, vulnerabilities and risks (short-, medium- and long term)

- a. Assessment framework for national adaptation
- b. Synergy with SDGs, Sendai Framework for DRR, and other relevant regional and national frameworks
- c. Baseline climate based on 1961-1990
- d. Observed impacts
- e. Future impacts, vulnerabilities and risks

Climate adaptation investment strategy

- f. Implementation and support needs
- g. Alignment with the GCF adaptation strategy
- h. National climate change adaptation programme
- i. Alignment with national strategies, GCF country programme
- j. Mobilization of other sources of finance

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation framework

- d. Reporting on NAPs under the UNFCCC
- e. Link to the Adaptation Communication and/or the NDC

Reporting and outreach at the national level

5. Next steps

- Continue work with the current National consultant and institutional climate change point of contact.
- Resume work on NAP formulation with UN agency support (international consultant) and national consultant;
- Follow up on the GCF proposal submitted and work towards expansion or submission of the new proposal;