



RCC West and Central Africa

CASE STUDY: Advancing the National Adaptation plan Formulation Process of The Gambia

RCC WAC Africa supported the government of The Gambia to initiate the development of its National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to strengthen resilience to climate change and integrate adaptation priorities into national development planning. Led by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNAR), the process brought together sectoral ministries, national experts, and development partners to advance a coordinated framework for long-term adaptation planning aligned with the Paris Agreement.

The support focused on improving institutional coordination, strengthening technical capacities, and refining key planning components, including the NAP workplan and budget. These efforts helped clarify the steps to finalize the NAP and advance the country's adaptation planning.

Context and Background

As an LDC, The Gambia ranks among the most vulnerable countries to the effects of climate change, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, water resources, coastal zones, health, and infrastructure. Increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and sea-level rise pose risks to livelihoods, food security, and socio-economic development. This calls for medium- and long-term adaptation planning.

In 2023, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved the Government of the Gambia's readiness proposal aiming to initiate the development of its NAP to provide a long-term framework for reducing vulnerability, strengthening resilience, and integrating adaptation into national planning processes. However, while institutional leadership was clearly established under MECCNAR, technical and coordination challenges were identified: MECCNAR requested RCC WAC Africa to provide technical support to facilitate the NAP formulation process and ensure alignment with UNFCCC guidance.

Support design: the RCC operational reality

MECCNAR formally requested RCC WACA's support to strengthen The Gambia's NAP process, with additional needs identified through ongoing engagement. Priority areas included improving technically the draft NAP workplan and budget, enhancing cross-sector coordination, engaging regional stakeholders, building national technical capacities, and receiving guidance on the NAP formulation process in line with UNFCCC guidelines.



In response, RCC WAC Africa worked with the Government of The Gambia to design targeted, demand-driven assistance to improve the technical quality and coherence of the NAP, reinforce institutional coordination and national ownership, strengthen capacities of national experts and the Ministry's Adaptation Focal Point, and support progress toward NAP finalization and submission.

Results and Outcomes

The RCC intervention generated the **following key outputs**:

- Technical advisory inputs and structured review comments;
- A refined and strengthened NAP workplan and budget framework;
- Planning and preparation of a national inception workshop;
- Strengthened institutional coordination mechanisms for adaptation planning;
- A clear and actionable roadmap toward NAP finalization and submission.

Impact

Accelerated and Strengthened NAP Formulation: The support improved the structure, coherence, and technical quality of the NAP framework, accelerating progress towards finalization.

Enhanced National Capacity: National technical experts gained a better understanding of the NAP process, and institutional coordination requirements.

Improved Cross-Sectoral Coordination: Clearer role definition and strengthened communication channels enhanced collaboration across ministries and stakeholders.

Lessons Learned and Follow-Up

Early and inclusive stakeholder engagement, combined with strong leadership from MECCNAR, helped build national ownership, strengthened coordination, and maintained momentum in the NAP formulation process. Structured capacity-building and clearer role definitions among institutions also improved efficiency and preparedness for implementation.

The RCC facilitation approach—**combining technical guidance, institutional strengthening, and partnership support**—proved effective and adaptable to similar country contexts. Moving forward, support may focus on advancing and finalizing the draft NAP, guiding its formal submission, strengthening monitoring and evaluation systems, and assisting with implementation planning and investment readiness.