

ADAPTABILITY MEASURES TAKEN BY LESOTHO

As a response to climate change adaptation, Lesotho has adopted the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) which sets out some of the key elements for national poverty reduction. The initiative was at the request of the UNFCCC which has mandated parties to consolidate their commitments by way of formulating, implementing, publishing and regularly updating national measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change. The Lesotho NAPA process was undertaken under conditions of extreme challenge when the nation was facing exponentially rising levels of poverty that have maintained livelihoods at their survivalist point.

Climate- change-induced poverty remains a major challenge for now and in the foreseeable future. The key objectives of the NAPA process entail the identification of communities and livelihoods most vulnerable to climate change and generating a list of activities that would form a core of the national adaptation programme of action. It also aims at communicating the country's immediate and urgent needs and priorities for building capacity for adaptation to climate change. To ensure across the board ownership of the NAPA process the country adopted a participatory and integrated approach in the development of this report. Hence, the report represents views and concerns of the various stakeholders of the NAPA process from the grassroots level to policy makers.

The Lesotho NAPA Team conducted an intensive assessment to characterize the country vulnerability zones. Three main vulnerability zones were depicted namely; Zone I (Southern Lowlands across the Senqu River Valley), Zone II (Mountains) and Zone III (Lowlands and Foothills). Zone I emerged as the most vulnerable area in the country followed by Zone II and subsequently Zone III. Communities that reside in Zone I are mainly peasant subsistence farmers and small livestock farmers including destitute households that have no means to support livelihood. The area also is under critical environmental stress and would be under high threat of climate change. In Zone II the rugged mountainous terrain with minimal land presents a critical vulnerability area. Zone III is also exposed to risk of climate change due to its drought proneness and livelihoods being supported by farming. The Lesotho NAPA process identified and prioritised the eleven adaptation activities which will be implemented in the various vulnerability zones. These projects will address the adaptation needs of communities within, and shall build capacity within designated vulnerable communities. These projects have been organized in a hierarchy of importance of which development and improvement of livestock production occupies the critical rung and is closely followed by the development of crop based livelihood.

LESOTHO'S NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMME OF ACTION IS TO IDENTIFY AND PRIORITIZE NATIONAL NEEDS SO THAT EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION MEASURES MAY BE PUT INTO PLACE TO COMBAT THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

OPTION 1: Improve Resilience of Livestock Production Systems Under Extreme Climatic Conditions in Various Livelihood Zones in Lesotho.

OPTION 2: Promoting Sustainable Crop Based Livelihood Systems in Foothills, Lowlands and Senqu River Valley

OPTION 3: Capacity Building and Policy Reform to Integrate Climate Change in Sectoral Development Plans

OPTION 4: Improvement of an Early Warning System Against Climate Induced Disasters and Hazards

OPTION 5: Securing Village Water Supply for Communities in the Southern Lowlands

OPTION 6: Management and Reclamation of Degraded and Eroded Land in the Flood Prone Areas (Pilot Project for Western Lowlands)

OPTION 7: Conservation and Rehabilitation of Degraded Wetlands in the Mountain Areas of Lesotho

OPTION 8: Improvement of Community Food Security Through the Promotion of Food Processing and Preservation Technologies

OPTION 9: Strengthening and stabilizing eco-tourism based rural livelihoods

OPTION 10: Promote Wind, Solar and Biogas Energy Use as a Supplement to Hydropower Energy

OPTION 11: Stabilizing Community Livelihoods which are Adversely Affected by Climate Change Through Improvement of Small Scale Industries