

MALAWI CLIMATE CHANGE FACTSHEET



CONTENTS

Background and Definitions	1
Climate Change in Malawi	2
Independent organisation, NGOs and Research institutions in Malawi	4
World Bank research papers	4
Adaptation and Scottish and international NGOS working in Malawi	5
NIDOS members working on climate change in Malawi	6

BACKGROUND and DEFINITIONS

NIDOS members requested information sheets on the impact of climate change on a number of countries where NIDOS members work. This factsheet is one of these and, as with the others, covers the key climate impacts in the country, what the government there is trying to do in terms of climate adaptation measures and what other agencies including NGOs and NIDOS members are also doing. The following outlines briefly the current international approach to supporting Southern governments with Climate Adaptation programmes and the international context for climate change campaigns.



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which came into force in 1994, established the first intergovernmental framework aiming to tackle climate change. This treaty ensures that member states work collaboratively in order to develop initiatives that not only reduce negative impacts associated with climate change, but also

build capacity to cope with effects of increasing temperatures. The *Kyoto Protocol*, enforced in 2005, enshrined this commitment in legislation and presented legally binding targets which imposed requirements for ratified member states to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions. The commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012. <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) <http://www.napa-pana.org> In order to help developing nations plan for tackling the effects of climate change, the UN established NAPAs. NAPAs build the capacity of developing nations to identify priority actions required for effective adaptation to climate change. The aim of NAPAs is to decrease developing nation's climate change adaptation costs and climate change vulnerability more generally.

Next steps – Copenhagen At a UN Conference of Parties in Bali 2007, ratified member states made the crucial decision to begin new negotiations aiming to establish tougher targets on reducing GHG emissions and ensure that ratified member states fulfil obligations. Negotiations were reviewed in Poznan, Poland, in 2008 and will conclude in **Copenhagen, Denmark, on December 7th – 18th 2009** and should strengthen global ambitions and commitments to cut GHG emissions and also include mechanisms enabling developing countries to have low carbon development that does not undermine efforts to tackle poverty. Many NGOs are currently campaigning to ensure that Government commitments represent more than just fine words, but instead represent firm action.

CLIMATE CHANGE IN MALAWI

EXTRACT FROM:

MALAWI'S NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES OF ACTION (NAPA)

UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/mwi01.pdf>

Introduction

Malawi has experienced a number of adverse climatic hazards over the last several decades. The most serious have been dry spells, seasonal droughts, intense rainfall, riverine floods and flash floods (See http://www.tyndall.ac.uk/publications/working_papers/wp63.pdf). Some of these, especially droughts and floods, have increased in frequency, intensity and magnitude over the last two decades, and have adversely impacted on food and water security, water quality, energy and the sustainable livelihoods of rural communities.

Malawi has developed its National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) by evaluating the impacts of adverse climatic conditions in eight important sectors of economic growth, and ranked the identified activities using multi-criteria analysis to arrive at a list of fifteen urgent and immediate priority needs for adaptation. The sectors that were analyzed are agriculture, water, human health, energy, fisheries, wildlife, forestry and gender. What follows is a brief overview of the findings from the eight sectors.

Impacts of Climate Change in Different Sectors

1 Agricultural sector

Malawi relies on rain-fed agriculture, and the current droughts have resulted in poor crop yields or total crop failure, leading to serious food shortages, hunger and malnutrition.

Flooding has also severely disrupted food production in several districts of the country.

The most vulnerable groups are rural communities, especially women, children, female-headed households and the elderly. The proposed interventions include: (i) improved early warning systems (ii) recommended improved crop varieties, (iii) recommended improved livestock breeds, and (iv) improved crop and livestock management practices.

2 Human health sector

The human health sector is directly affected by climate change, and is especially linked to infant malnutrition and chronic ailments associated with malaria, cholera and diarrhoea as a result of droughts and floods. For example, malaria is expected to increase and spread to previous cool zones as temperatures increase due to global warming. The proposed interventions include: (i) improved nutrition for infants and other vulnerable groups, (ii) prevention of diseases, such as malaria through increased distribution of insect treated bed-nets (ITNs), and diarrhoea, (iii) water treatment, (iv) crop diversification and food supplementations for the under-fives.

3 Energy sector

The energy sector primarily derives the hydro-electric power from the Shire river. The hydro-electric power generation has been negatively affected by the droughts and floods. The water flow disruptions in rivers have been exacerbated by siltation caused by poor and unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation, and noxious weeds, such as water hyacinth. The proposed interventions include: (i) diversification of energy sources, (ii) reforestation of the Upper, Middle and Lower Shire Valleys catchments, (iii) arresting siltation, (iv) reducing dependence on wood fuel, and (v) efficient use of charcoal and expanded use of ethanol stoves.

4 Fisheries sector

Droughts and floods are the major climatic hazards affecting the fisheries sector, and have been responsible for the declining, or even drying up, of water bodies resulting in low fish production and loss of biodiversity. Floods have been responsible for the destruction of fish ponds, such as in 2000/01, while droughts have been responsible for drying of lakes, such as Lake Chilwa in 1995 which resulted in

total loss of fish stocks. The proposed interventions include: (i) fish breeding to restock the lakes, rivers and dams, (ii) improving knowledge and understanding on how temperature profiles in the lake disrupt fish breeding and survival, (iii) establishing climate observations or monitoring systems on Lake Malawi, and (iv) mainstreaming climate change into fisheries strategies.

5 Wildlife sector

The major climatic hazard that affects the wildlife sector is drought. Drought affects animal reproduction systems and migratory habits. For example, the 1979/80 drought resulted in the deaths of Nyala in Lengwe National Park in Chikwawa and the migration of most animals from the game reserve. The proposed adaptation measures include: (i) improved fire management in game reserves, (ii) construction of watering points, (iii) a Nyala breeding programme in Lengwe National Park, (iv) ability to translocate animals as needed, and (v) community based ranching.

6 Water sector

Water is a critical resource for human and industrial use, and for the maintenance of ecosystems. Increasing droughts and floods seriously disrupt water availability, in both quantity and quality. The proposed interventions include: (i) demand side management through water allocation, (ii) construction of boreholes, (iii) water harvesting, (iv) water resource management, and (v) flood management.

7 Forestry sector

The major climatic hazards that threaten the forestry sector are extended droughts, which lead to land degradation and loss of soil fertility, as well as forest fires. For example, during the drought of 1995, some 5,550 ha (or 36%) of Chongoni forest were destroyed by forest fires caused by human activities such as hunting resulting in smoke haze, pollution, loss of seedlings and biodiversity. The proposed interventions include: (i) improved extension services to ensure sustainable land and forest management, (ii) forest fire management at the community level, and (iii) periodic monitoring of plant development to identify species that may be in danger of dying back or are facing serious reproductive ability with diurnal and seasonal climate changes.

8 Gender

Women bear most of the burden in activities that are most impacted by adverse climate, including collection of water, firewood and ensuring daily access to food. In addition, the changing demographics as a result of the impacts of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, are leading to women taking up greater responsibilities as sole heads of households and taking care of the sick and orphans. Several interventions are proposed that target women in highly vulnerable situations, including: (i) empowerment of women through access to microfinance to diversify earning potential, (ii) ensuring easier access to water and energy sources by drilling boreholes and planting trees in woodlots, and (iii) use of electricity provided through the rural electrification programme.

GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI INFORMATION

MALAWI GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE

National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) – March 2006 released February 2008

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/mwi01.pdf>

(See also: http://www.aiaccproject.org/working_papers/Working%20Papers/AIACC_WP48_Leary_etal.pdf)

Malawi Growth and Development Strategy

<http://www.malawi.gov.mw/News3/MGDS%20November%202006%20-%20MEPD.pdf>

MAIN MALAWIAN MINISTRIES WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

(where hyperlinks do not work, addresses, telephone and fax numbers and emails are given)

Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Environmental Affairs

P.O. Box 30048, Lilongwe 3

(265) 781-000, 781-111; fax (265) 781-487, 784-26833

Ministry of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs

<http://www.malawi.gov.mw/Povelty/Home%20Povelty.htm>

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

<http://www.malawi.gov.mw/Agriculture/Home%20%20Agriculture.htm>

Department of Irrigation and Water Development

Tikwere House, City Center, Private Bag 390, Lilongwe, Malawi, Tel: +265 1 770 447, Fax: +265 1 773 737, E-Mail: secretary@irriwater.org

Department of Agricultural Research & Technical Services (DARTS)

<http://www.agricresearch.gov.mw/>

The National Statistics Office of Malawi

<http://www.nso.malawi.net/>

INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONS OR NGOs IN MALAWI

The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM)

Founded in 1997, NASFAM is a farmer-directed business system based on the individual participation of close to 100,000 Malawian smallholders, most of them farming on less than a hectare of land.

www.nasfam.org/

The Wildlife & Environmental Society of Malawi

The Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi is dedicated to conservation of nature's resources, including land, forestry, animals, bird-life, flora and fauna, rivers and lakes. The society creates and assists with educational projects, especially with the young in order to bring about a greater and deeper understanding of the importance of the environment in which we live.

<http://www.wildlifemalawi.org/>

RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS WORKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN MALAWI

University of Malawi, Bunda College, Faculty of Environmental Sciences, PO Box 219, Lilongwe.

Malawi. Email: Mkwambisi@bunda.unima.mw

University of Malawi, Centre for Agriculture Research and Development (CARD), Bunda College, PO

Box 219, Lilongwe, Malawi. Email: gommc2000@yahoo.com

WORLD BANK RESEARCH PAPERS

Investigating the Impact of climate change on the robustness of index-based microinsurance in Malawi

<http://tinyurl.com/mexdrl>

HIV/AIDS, climate change and disaster management: challenges for institutions in Malawi

<http://tinyurl.com/nuza6a>

ADAPTATION

Climate Change adaptation by design, A guide for sustainable communities

http://www.tcpa.org.uk/downloads/20070523_CCA_lowres.pdf

Climate Change adaptation

This dossier is intended to provide a summary of current thinking on climate adaptation issues with access to relevant and up to date resources and publications for researchers, practitioners, and policy formers. The guide is divided into four sections:

- An introduction to climate change adaptation
- Organisations working on climate adaptation issues
- Documents and publications related to seven themes in climate adaptation
- Adaptation resources organised by region of focus

<http://www.eldis.org/climate/index.htm>

UNDP REPORT National Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change Impacts: A Case Study of Malawi

http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/global/hdr2007-2008/papers/Nangoma_Everhart_Malawi.pdf

Adaptation to Climate Change by Mphunga Villagers

Red Cross video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PcVn4oy3NI&feature=related>

Adaptation to Climate Change and variabilities in Malawi

Various NGOs: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVdf8Glg-yo&feature=related>

SCOTTISH AND INTERNATIONAL NGOs WORKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN MALAWI

- Oxfam Malawi <http://www.oxfamnovib.nl/>
- ActionAid Malawi <http://www.actionaid.org.uk/655/malawi.html>
- Christian Aid www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/africa/malawi.aspx
- International Institute for Environment and Development www.iied.org
- Link Community Development www.lcd.org.uk
- Scotland Malawi Partnership www.scotland-malawipartnership.org

NIDOS MEMBERS WORKING ON CLIMATE CHANGE IN MALAWI

Organisation	Contact email address
IIED	simon.anderson@iied.org
Islamic Relief UK	iruk@islamic-relief.org.uk
The Chesney Trust for Education in Malawi	dunmorecot@tiscali.co.uk
Concern Worldwide	mhairi.owens@concern.net
Books Abroad	booksabroad@aol.com
Link Community Development	catherine@lcd.org.uk
VSO	sally.halsey@vso.org.uk
SCIAF	rangrove@sciaf.org.uk
Tearfund	peter.chirnside@tearfund.org
Christian Aid	ubartley@christian-aid.org.uk
International Network of Street Papers	l.maclean@street-papers.org
Scotland Malawi Partnership	davidhopejones@scotland-malawipartnership.org
Orskov Foundation	contact@orskovfoundation.org
Oxfam GB	khopper@oxfam.org.uk
Challenges Worldwide	Lucy@challengesworldwide.com