

POLICY BRIEF ON THE NATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY OF ZIMBABWE



Editors

Regis Mafuratidze and Simba Gwati

Funded by

Bread For the World -Germany

Copyright © 2020 Community Technology Development Trust

Citation: Policy Brief on the National Climate Policy of Zimbabwe

This Policy Brief gives an overview of the priority issues highlighted in the National Climate Policy of Zimbabwe. The document may be reproduced for educational or non-profit purposes without special permission from the copyright holders, provided acknowledgement of the sources is made.

Published by CTD T Policy and Advocacy Department
Community Technology Development Trust
286 Northway, Prospect
Waterfalls, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: 0242 589242/382

Email: rmafuratidze@ctdt.co.zw/simbagwati@ctdt.co.zw

Brot
für die Welt

Bread for the World -
Protestant
Development Service



Table of Contents

Acronyms	3
Acknowledgement	4
Executive Summary	4
Introduction	5
Part 1	6
Understanding the National Climate Policy.....	6
Rationale and Scope of the National Climate Policy	6
The Policy Framework	7
<i>The Policy Goals</i>	7
<i>Objective of the policy</i>	7
<i>Guiding Principles</i>	7
Part 2	8
Climate Change Adaptation	8
Key Adaptation Issues in some of the key sectors of the economy	8
<i>Water sector issues</i>	8
Agriculture sector issues	8
<i>Health sector issues</i>	9
<i>Forestry and biodiversity</i>	9
<i>Human settlement issues</i>	9
Part 3	9
Climate Change Mitigation	9
<i>Land use and land-use-change and forestry (LULUCF)</i>	10
Agriculture	10
Part 4	10
Education, Training and Awareness	10
Part 5	11
Technology Transfer	11
Part 6	11
Governance and Institutional Framework	11
Part 7	11
Implementation	11
Part 8	12
Monitoring and Evaluation	12

Acronyms

CCRS	Climate Change Response Strategy
CTDT	Community Technology Development Trust
GHG	Green House Gases
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LULUCF	Land Use and land-use- change forestry
NDC	National Determined Contribution
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDC	Sustainable Development Goals
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Acknowledgement

Community Technology Development Trust (CTDT) wishes to express immense gratitude to Bread for the World who provided the requisite financial resources that enabled the publication of this Policy Brief.

Executive Summary

Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing global development for both developed and the developing countries. Developing countries, Zimbabwe included, are more vulnerable due to their low adaptive capacity. The impacts of global climate change and variability are more evident with increased incidences of droughts and floods. Climate change has become a reality and it poses serious problems with far reaching social, political, economic and environmental consequences.

In an effort to address the impacts of climate change in Zimbabwe, the country adopted the National Climate Change Response Strategy (CCRS) (2014) in order to reduce and mitigate the diverse and complex impact of climate change. Furthermore, in 2017, Zimbabwe adopted its National Climate Policy which seeks to create a pathway towards a climate resilient and low carbon development economy in which the people have enough adaptive capacity and continue to develop in harmony with the environment.

By adopting the National Climate Policy, Zimbabwe joins the rest of the world in addressing the causes and impacts of climate change in line with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

This Policy Brief on the National Climate Change Policy seeks to analyse/ gives an overview of the priority issues highlighted in the policy which include the following:

- Vulnerability and Adaptation
- Mitigation and low carbon development
- Education Training and Awareness
- Weather Climate Modelling and change
- Gender and Social inclusion

The analysis will assist in providing an in-depth understanding of the country's climate vision 2030 that is "a climate resilient and low carbon Zimbabwe."

This policy brief analysis also examines the roles of various actors at different scales and also provide insight on how enhanced stakeholders engagement contribute towards sustainable development.

Introduction

The 1992 United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as “a change which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”

Zimbabwe’s economy is very much dependent on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, tourism and health. There has been an increased variability in the seasonal distribution of rainfall and an increase on average temperatures in the country for the past three decades and this has affected mostly women small holder farmers who are highly dependent on rain-fed agriculture.

The Zimbabwe National Climate Policy borrowed so much from the IPCC 5th Assessment Report (2014) which highlighted the continued impacts of climate change beyond 2020. This assessment Report guided Zimbabwe in its development of a National Climate Policy (2017) so as to provide measures that translate the challenges into business opportunities which will transform Zimbabwe’s socio-economic situation. The Report further guided Zimbabwe to come up with a national policy framework which creates the basis of developing Action Plans for national efforts on adaptation and mitigation and further creating a platform for the implementation of Zimbabwe’s National Determined Contribution (NDC) with the main goal of limiting temperature rise to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The National Climate Policy fits well with the other regional and international initiatives such as the African Union Agenda 2063, SADC Industrialisation Strategy, the Post 2015 Global Development Agenda particularly SDG 13 which calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impact. It is the result of active participation of Zimbabwe in these international fora and organisations such as the UNFCCC that Zimbabwe drew huge lessons from and reflect on expected country commitments emanating therefrom and finally leading the country to adopt a national climate policy which provides an overarching framework giving the country basic principles and guidance under which the national climate change response strategy would be implemented.

It is our considered view that this Policy Brief will be used by the policy makers, the local authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

Part 1

Understanding the National Climate Policy

Introduction

The basis of a climate change governance framework stems from the provisions of the UNFCCC. The UNFCCC commits all parties to which Zimbabwe is a signatory to integrate climate change in their respective development planning. It is in this context that the Government of Zimbabwe developed the National Climate Policy. The National Climate Policy provide guidance and directions in addressing the problem of climate change while enabling the country to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. Projections of climate change suggest that countries will continue experiencing unpredictable but increasingly visible effects of climate change. Zimbabwe's economy is highly dependent on climate sensitive natural resources which are already experiencing negative impact of the adverse climate. Rains are becoming more unpredictable and unreliable. Therefore, the increasing climate change related negative impacts are a big threat to all the drivers of Zimbabwe's economic development especially in the agricultural sector.

Rationale and Scope of the National Climate Policy

The Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013) gives every person environmental rights that include the right:

- (a) to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and
- (b) to have the environment protected for the benefits of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that:
 - (i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;
 - (ii) promote conservation; and
 - (iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting economic and social development.

The Constitution further stipulates that the "State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realisation of the rights set out in this section".

In view of the above, Zimbabwe enacted various policies and strategies which include the National Climate Policy and the National Climate Change Response Strategy. It is critical to highlight that prior to the enactment of the National Climate Policy, actions on climate change undertaken in the country tended to be scattered and uncoordinated with inappropriate institutional framework. The national Climate Policy is therefore crucial for it promotes a coordinated approach in reducing the country's vulnerability to climate change. This Policy provides direction for key sectors and stakeholders to facilitate adaptation, mitigation and strengthen efforts towards building and over-arching, more resilient national development process. The policy document will be the guiding

document behind the development of a national costed implementation strategy that will detail actions by sector and designate tools to be prioritised.

The Policy Framework

The Policy Goals

The national climate policy has a number of policy primary goals. They include the following:

- (a) Reduce vulnerability to climate variability and climate related disasters by strengthening adaptive capacity.
- (b) Accelerate mitigation measures by developing and adopting low carbon development pathways.
- (c) Strengthen governance structures for the climate policy to increase Zimbabwe's resilience to climate variability and climate change.
- (d) Strengthen education and awareness to climate variability and change.
- (e) Promote technology development and transfer, capacity building and information sharing.

Objective of the policy

The objective of this policy is to guide climate change management in the country, enhance the national adaptation capacity, scale up mitigation actions, facilitate domestication of climate related global policies and ensure compliance to the global mechanisms.

Guiding Principles

A number of guiding principles are highlighted in this policy and these have underpinned the development of this policy. These are highlighted/discussed briefly below.

Base climate related decisions on actions on sound data based, modelling, robust scientific findings including IKS and rigorous analysis but also on integrated, participatory approach.

This policy should be based on, and be guided by the best available science and this science should include experience and knowledge of indigenous people with a view to integrating adaptation and mitigation into socio-economic and environmental policies and actions.

Ensure Zimbabwe's resilience to climate related challenges by cross-sectoral engagement inclusive of public -private sector involvement in the implementation.

This policy provides framework for the harmonization and coordination of various actors private and public sector included. At the core of this policy is the recognition that

climate change is a multi-sectoral issue and that all sectors and categories of stakeholders must therefore be actively involved for the implementation of the policy to be a success.

Adopt new and emerging technologies and innovations that are relevant and dynamic in offering adaptation and mitigation solutions.

Technology development and transfer are crucial components for addressing climate change adaptation and mitigation challenges in various sectors. Zimbabwe has a low level of technology development thus the country could benefit from technologies transferred from developed countries to address adaptation and mitigation at national level.

Part 2

Climate Change Adaptation

Key sectors of Zimbabwe's economy (water, agriculture, energy, industry, health, forestry and biodiversity, infrastructural sector and human settlement) are greatly affected by climate variability and climate change. The Government is therefore required to act upon a number of sector specific priorities to increase the resilience of the country's development path to the impact of climate change. Climate change adaptation concerns within the various sectors need to be mainstreamed when developing the sectors.

Key Adaptation Issues in some of the key sectors of the economy

Water sector issues

Water resources availability and management

There is need to promote water use efficiency in all sectors of the economy. There is also need to develop, rehabilitate, maintain and protect surface and ground water resources. It is also critical that Government strengthen stakeholder structures in water resources management.

Agriculture sector issues

80% of the rural population livelihood depend on rain-fed agriculture making them vulnerable to climate change induced weather extremes. There is therefore need to develop frameworks for sustainable intensification and commercialization of agriculture at different scales across agro-ecologies. The

Government need to strengthen early warning systems on cropping season in order to enhance farmer preparedness.

Health sector issues

Zimbabwe's health policy is geared towards improving the health and wellbeing of its citizens, including reductions of child mortality and improved maternal health. Changing climate and weather pattern influence diseases spread. Effective adaptation to climate change in the health sector requires government to strengthen surveillance programmes for monitoring human health under a changing climate. Government also need to build resilience against diseases that occur because of impacts of climate change.

Forestry and biodiversity

The forestry sector provides options for adaptation through non-carbon benefits. Tourism which also leverages on forestry and biodiversity sectors is one of the fastest growing pillars of Zimbabwe's economy. There is need for Government to strengthen afforestation programmes that promote drought and heat tolerant tree species. Government also need to support research to enhance understanding of climate change impacts on wildlife and adaptive management planning for key wildlife species.

Human settlement issues

Both urban and rural areas are vulnerable to climate variability and change. Government need to promote the urban planning and development of human settlement that are resilient and robust enough to withstand climate change related risks and hazards. Government need to strengthen housing development policies. There is also need to strengthen capacities of local authorities to manage demographic challenges associated with migration as an adaptation practice.

Part 3

Climate Change Mitigation

Like adaptation to climate change, the National Climate Policy, proposes a number of coordinated policy responses that are either sector specific or cross-cutting in nature to

mitigate sectoral climate change issues. The key sector -specific and cross cutting priorities on climate change mitigation include the following:

Land use and land-use-change and forestry (LULUCF)

An increasing population and demand for food are affecting land use and land use -change in Zimbabwe. The amount of human activity carried out per unit of land has also increased. These changes in use affect the amount of biomass in existing biomass stocks and soil carbon stocks. Government need to control and monitor land development and other land use changes in a sustainable manner so as to better manage GHG sources and sinks. To achieve that, Government need to strengthen law enforcement and regulation of activities on land.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the most vulnerable to climate change since most of its activities rely on climate change. The growing population also require food. To address the challenges, Government need to mainstream climate mitigation strategies in its effort to promote and improve management of natural resources in order to ensure resilient, productive and sustainable agricultural systems.

Part 4

Education, Training and Awareness

Article 6, of the UNFCCC provides guidance for implementing programmes for education, awareness and training on climate change. As part of the fulfillment of the international instrument, Government introduced climate change education at primary and Secondary levels to create the sustainable behavior change needed to adapt to and mitigate climate change. Curriculum review at both primary and secondary level has taken place to strengthen existing teaching material and incorporate issues on climate change and to also make the curriculum in line with global trends. In service training for teachers need to be carried out to strengthen their understanding of climate issues. There is also need to develop materials on climate change in indigenous local languages for the benefit of local communities particularly women and youth.

Part 5

Technology Transfer

Technological processes in industry are mainly responsible for increased GHG emissions. Efforts towards adoption of efficient technologies with reduced impact to the climate are encouraged/required. Government need to promote, facilitate and finance environmentally sound technologies, and know-how for the critical sectors of the country's economy particularly the energy sector which drives the country's economy. There is need also to identify alternative technologies that can be adopted at various levels of the society to enable communities to cope with climate change challenges. The country is encouraged to interact with the national and international players to ensure there is sufficient development of technologies for climate forecasting and development of climate models.

Part 6

Governance and Institutional Framework

Climate change impacts at global, regional national and local levels. At national level, its governance should be mainstreamed at all levels which include provincial, district and local authorities' levels. Several institutions at national, provincial, district and local authorities' levels are directly involved in the management of climate change. Government has come up with various sectoral laws and policies at national level that inform climate change governance. At local authorities' level, the local authorities have also come up with local by-laws which put emphasis on local community participation in decision making processes on issues related to climate change. Emphasis currently is now on institutionalizing climate change into budgets of climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, forestry environment management, settlement, health and food security.

Part 7

Implementation

The National Climate Policy is multisectoral in nature thus there is need to mainstream a number of cross-cutting issues. Government need to support integration of climate change issues into planning, decision making and investments in all sectors of the

economy through involvement of multiple structures and mechanism. The issue of Climate funding becomes therefore critical with 10% of the government budget now being earmarked towards contributing to climate change initiatives on adaptation and mitigation of climate change

Effective collaboration and coordination at the national level will be essential for efficient implementation of the policy and this also requires multi-stakeholder mechanisms. The implementation of the policy will be guided by the national implementation strategy (The Zimbabwe National Climate Change Response Strategy) which will be used for more effective planning and coordination.

Part 8

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of the National Climate Policy will be built on the Zimbabwe National Climate Change Response Strategy and the M&E framework will be linked to the planned outcomes and outputs and will be critical in ensuring the full implementation of the policy by various stakeholders involved. Each Ministry, department and agency for which specific accountabilities are identified, will have to ensure enforcement of the relevant policy priorities and measures, using means and mechanism at its disposal.