

NATIONAL ADAPTATION STRATEGIES: BURUNDIAN PERSPECTIVES

by

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INTRODUCTION

Burundi is obviously subjected to the adverse effects of climate change. Several areas witnessed clear rupture of rainfall and hydrometric series. The rainfall deficit resulted notably into aggravated aridity and significant reduction of the principal wetlands and the drying up of several rivers and lakes. The torrential rains and extreme temperatures are other climate phenomena that today reveal the evergrowing vulnerability of Burundi. The fall in production, losses in human lives, repetitive floods, landslides, increased risks of diseases, loss of biodiversity, etc.

In this context, the preparation of a climate change National Adaptation Plan (NAPA) is essential in order to evaluate the vulnerability of the country and put forward priority measures and activities aiming at reducing the adverse effects of climate change.

In Burundi, there are sectors which are impacted by climate change.

Those are:

- Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security
- Water Resources
- Energy
- Transport and Communication
- Health
- Aviation
- Industry
- Building and Construction
- Industry
- Forestry

Impacts: Agriculture, Livestock and Food Security





Water Resources

- Energy



Picture n°7: Damming level in 2004



Picturen °9: Damming level in 2008

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Building and Construction





In order to address the climate change impacts in Burundi, some actions will be undertaken namely:

- **Adaptation and management of climate risks**

The climate change will worsen food insecurity for the whole population of Burundi especially the population living in strong water deficit with serious consequences on vulnerable people. In order to address that issue, Burundi is committed to:

Initiate ground breaking techniques in the agricultural system by building hydraulic infrastructure and by harnessing irrigated areas in regions facing water deficit , by disseminating and popularizing in rural households the techniques of harvesting rainwater and their utilization in agriculture and at home , and by enhancing the small irrigation in hills

Mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and sober development of carbon

Although Burundi is not among polluters of the atmosphere, it will join other countries in mitigating the emission of greenhouse gas. Therefore, the following strategic actions of Burundi will be implemented:

Upgrading the national hydroelectric potential to increase the rate of access to electricity by the population and then ensuring the socioeconomic development of sectors

Promoting and disseminating adequate energies for rural and urban dwellers

Promoting the carbonization techniques of peat so as to use it in households instead of firewood and charcoal

Promoting the decentralized rural electrification by means of hydroelectric pico- stations , wind and solar energy

Knowledge and communication management

The reduction of climate change impacts in Burundi requires the capacity building of the actors including the population, public institutions, private sector, NGOs and the civil society organizations.

The management of knowledge and communication is paramount for a contribution of all stakeholders in the fight against climate change. Burundi has undertaken to do the following:

Developing and implementing training and sensitization programs on climate change and its impacts

The access of the population to information related to climate change and its impacts

The involvement of the population in the review of climate change and its impacts and in the establishment of adequate measures just to address them , and the training of scientific , technical and management staff

Involvement of the gender, youth and vulnerable people

Here the strategy aims at:

Mainstreaming the gender considerations in the assessment of vulnerability ,impacts and climate change risks at the local and national level

Strengthening the role of women and youth in the implementation of adaptation measures

Promoting programs of social protection for vulnerable people including women, youth , children, etc.

- **Funding**

Burundi is committed to adopt strategies for the improvement of the environment supporting the fundraising in order to fight the climate change in the following areas : i) legal and regulations framework, ii) capacity building institutions in charge of fighting climate change and iii) securing financial resources at the national and international level.

Research , development and technology transfer

The strategic actions that Burundi will carry out are :

Adopting, disseminating and popularizing existing products, techniques and technologies which are appropriate for Burundi in order to address the impacts of the climate change (malnutrition, hunger, diseases, energy shortage,..)

Setting up and coordination a national program of research aiming at developing products, techniques and technologies which help to adequately address the challenges caused by climate change (drought, floods, land degradation ,.....)



BURUNDIAN PERSPECTIVES

It is within that context that the preparation of the National Plan of Adaptation to climate change complies with the objectives of the Poverty Reduction Framework.

The adaptation is a key factor in order to achieve the objectives set for 2015.

- ✘ The National Plan for Adaptation is therefore a useful instrument which allows to plan actions of adaptations to climate change.

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- ✘ The transversality between the 4 areas namely the reduction of risks of disasters , the poverty reduction framework , the national plan of adaptation and the MDGs seems to be evident in so far as the objectives of either one or other area of intervention aims basically at the global sustainable development of the EAC.

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- ✘ For example, the planning and the territory harnessing in the EAC member States must mainstream natural risks of disasters which are mainly associated with climate change.
 - ✘ That is one of the major concerns for the regional strategy of EAC for the reduction of risks of disasters which affect essentially the most vulnerable people

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- ✘ As a matter of fact, the EAC Member States would undertake definitely the way of political, economic and social standardization in order to put an end to lingering crises and to guarantee peace, security and sustainable development for all .
 - ✘ That vision of EAC complies with the objectives of the subregional strategy which is mainly based on the planning of adaptation to climate change which brings about serious problems to EAC Member States at several levels.

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- ✘ Also, the objectives of the international strategy for the prevention of risks of disasters and the regional African strategy contribute mainly through the international and regional support for the adaptation to climate change.
 - ✘ In fact, the mitigation strategies are greatly supported by the UN Organizations whose major objective is the reduction of poverty among the most vulnerable people .

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- × Finally, the perspectives of EAC Member States converge on the following basic orientations :
 - + The increased political commitment of Countries in the reduction of risks of disasters for resilient Nations and communities ;
 - + The strengthening of institutional and professional competences within the framework of adaptation to climate change;
 - + The strengthening of the community dynamics ;
 - + The growth restoration;
 - + The affirmation of the role of women in development .

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THE END

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THANK YOU