

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION REASONING TO SUPPORT
PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSING BROADER
VULNERABILITIES
– EXPERIENCES BY MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
IN UGANDA**

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Overview

- The Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda is the National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Adaptation Fund since 2019.
- So far 2 projects (**EURECCCA and DRESS EA**) funded by the Adaptation Fund are under implementation by the ministry while 2 are still under preparation.
- Our experiences with adaptation reasoning and how COVID - 19 pandemic has impacted on the conceptualization of adaptation reasoning are therefore based on the above 4 projects.

Experience with the process of devising climate change adaptation rationale

- An important criterion of the Adaptation Fund is that the project should **target the most vulnerable areas and address problems in those areas caused by climate change or problems** which become more severe due to the impact of climate change
- The description of the context and the problem in the project proposal had to focus on **the problem to be addressed by the project and the most vulnerable areas** as well as outlining the **social and economic benefits**.
- Justification of the **choice of the project sites** had to be made by pointing out the **people and the livelihoods** in those areas that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, on the one hand **due to the exposure to the impacts** and on the other hand due to the **high sensitivity and the reduced adaptive capacity** of the people and livelihoods.

Experience with the process of devising climate change adaptation rationale (cont.)

- In Uganda the most evident water related impacts of climate changes are **droughts, decrease of water levels, floods, landslides and increased erosive power of rivers** due to melting of glaciers.
- Project areas (**catchments**) that are most exposed to these impacts therefore had to be chosen.
- The **target number of beneficiaries** for the different activities as well as the **gender aspects** also had to be taken into consideration
- Similarly indicative figures on the **economic, social and environmental benefit** had to be presented

Generating information needed to justify the adaptation rationale

- A lot of information was needed to justify the adaptation rationale. This includes **climate change vulnerability assessments using various scenarios, climate change impact and adaptation strategies, local knowledge, national and local development priorities etc**
- The information was gathered from **available documents, experiences from ongoing projects, interviews with the different stakeholders and the local people.**
- **Advantage:** We already have **Catchment Management Plans** that contain most of the above information and so had to analyze them and pick out key information needed to justify the adaptation rationale.

Process used in designing and developing the proposed adaptation interventions/ approaches as an appropriate response to climate risks

- It had to be ensured that the project proposals contain **concrete adaptation actions and build climate resilience** to assist the country in addressing the adverse effects of climate change
- The **linkages of the activities** related to climate change needed to be clearly described and **concrete adaptation activities** highlighted.
- Initial tasks involved **understanding the climate variables and projected changes**, followed by presenting **climate impact and vulnerabilities** (on ecosystem and communities), choosing the **required solutions** and finally determining how **interventions align** with national priorities/ strategies.
- The **Catchment Management Plans** prepared for various parts of the country contain most of the above information and so had to analyze them and select those activities in the catchment plans, which can be presented as adaptation activities.

Key resources that would have aided the development of the project and key remaining challenges

- **Catchment Management Plans** were a good resource that have aided the development of the project proposals
- However, these plans were found **not to have effectively addressed climate change issues** and so the plans had to be revised as part of the project implementation to fully integrated climate change issues

Lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and context for conceptualization of adaptation reasoning

- Food security should be ensured all the time
 - Water and sanitation are a necessity
 - People can die of any other diseases and hunger
 - Income and livelihood options should be diversified
 - A saving culture needs to be promoted among the people
 - Social security should be enhanced
 - People suffering from floods and landslides are more prone to getting infected by the Corona virus
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- Building resilience is imperative if people are to survive any pandemic
 - Chances of surviving a pandemic are greatly increased through enhancing resilience of ecosystems, agricultural landscapes, community livelihood systems, income generating activities with credit and market access, and building capacity of communities