

COUNTRY PROFILE

ENTRY POINTS for the FORMULATION of a NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN for NIGER



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Lead Researchers: Vositha Wijenayake and Dennis Mombauer

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i. Table of Contents

i.	Table of Contents.....	3
ii.	Table of Abbreviations.....	5
iii.	Executive Summary.....	7
1.	Methodology.....	9
2.	Country Context.....	11
2.1	Key Climate Hazards and Vulnerabilities	12
2.1.1	Droughts and Water Scarcity	12
2.1.2	Other Climate-Related Hazards	13
2.2	Key Economic Sectors	14
2.2.1	Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry	14
2.2.2	Mining and Extractive Industries	16
2.3	Key Development Priorities	16
3.	Climate Change Adaptation in Niger.....	18
3.1	Institutional Framework.....	18
3.2	Key Policies, Plans, and Strategies	18
3.3	Adaptation Sectors.....	20
3.4	Climate Finance.....	21
3.5	Gender and Climate Change	23
4.	NAP Entry Points for Niger.....	25
4.1	Development Status of NAP and NDC Review	25
4.2	Key Adaptation Gaps, Needs, & Priorities	26
4.2.1	Finance	26
4.2.2	Coordination and Communication.....	27
4.2.3	Technical and Institutional Capacities	27
4.2.4	Laws and Policies	28
4.2.5	Social, Cultural, and Political Factors	28
4.2.6	Monitoring and Evaluation	28
4.2.7	Data, Research, and Knowledge Products	28
4.2.8	Inclusive and Participatory Adaptation Action	29
4.3	NAP Entry Points	31
4.3.1	NDC Review Process.....	31

4.3.2	Readiness Support Projects under the GCF	31
4.3.3	Existing Climate Change Adaptation Projects	32
4.3.4	Key National Policies and Plans related to Sustainable Development	32
5.	Conclusion.....	34
6.	Table of References	35

ii. Table of Abbreviations

AEZ	Agro-Ecological Zone	INDCs	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
AFDB	African Development Bank	IPM	Integrated Pest Management
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Uses	JPA	Joint Principles for Adaptation
AR5	IPCC Fifth Assessment Report	LDCs	Least Developed Countries
BAU	Business as Usual	LEDS	Low Emission Development Strategies
CAPCR	Community Action Project	LGA	Local Government Authority
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
CIF	Climate Investment Fund(s)	MESUDD	Ministry of Environment, Urban Hygiene and Sustainable Development
CIP-RS	Climate Investment Plan for the Sahel Region	MIE	Multilateral Implementing Entity
CNEDD	National Council on Environment for Sustainable Development	MP/AT/PC	Ministry of Planning, Regional Development and Community Development
CSO	Civil Society Organization	MRV	Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification
DMN	National Directorate for Meteorology	NAP	National Adaptation Plan
DNA	Designated National Authority	NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
DPM	Disaster Preparedness and Management	NDA	National Designated Authority
DWPGCCA	National Mechanism for Disaster and Food Crises Prevention and Management	NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
EITI	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative	NIE	National Implementing Agency
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment	PDES	Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	PDIPC	Climate Information Development and Forecasting Project
GCF	Green Climate Fund	PNCC	National Climate Change Policy
GEF	Global Environmental Facility	PNG	National Policy on the Issue of Gender
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms	PPCR	Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience
HDI	Human Development Index	SCF	Strategic Climate Fund
I3N	Nigeriens Nourish the Nigeriens Initiative	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
IAS	Invasive Alien Species	SDIGS	Sustainable Development and
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development		
INC	Initial National Communication		

	Inclusive Growth Strategy Niger 2035	STI	Science, Technology, and Innovation
SE/CNEDD	Executive Secretariat of the CNEDD	UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
SF/SLM	Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
SNC	Second National Communication to the UNFCCC	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
SPNA/CVC	National Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate and Variability	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Conventions for Climate Change

iii. Executive Summary

The research paper on the Entry Points for the Formulation of a National Adaptation Plan for Niger is developed with the aim to support an inclusive, participatory, evidence-based, and gender-responsive National Adaptation Plan process in Niger. It further envisages to contribute and facilitate multiple actors to gain knowledge and insights to ensure that the NAP takes into consideration the climate risks, economic priorities, climate vulnerabilities, and other key factors.

Niger is a landlocked Least Developed Country (LDC) in West Africa with an estimated population of 24.207 million people mid-year 2020 and a total land area of 1,2607,000 km².¹ With a density of only nineteen people per square kilometre, Niger is among the least densely populated countries in the world.

Niger's economy is concentrated mainly on the primary sector which revolves around agriculture and livestock. 42.8% of Niger's GDP comes from agriculture, forestry, and the livestock sectors, and 80% of the workforce is employed in these sectors. Niger's GDP remains low and stands at USD 7,976 million in 2017, or USD 330 per inhabitant.

Niger is highly vulnerable to natural hazards caused or exacerbated by climate change. Among the key climate hazards faced by Niger are floods, recurring droughts, strong and weak precipitation, climate-sensitive health impacts, and unequal distribution of rains.

The development planning of Niger envisions the country to embrace sustainable development, fight poverty, and provide food security. To put the country on a pathway of

sustainable development, the Government of Niger has developed several strategies, policies, and action plans, including the 2012-2015 Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) and the "Nigeriens Nourish the Nigeriens" Initiative (I3N). The current key development document of Niger is the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy Niger 2035 (SDIGS).

Niger's institutional framework for climate change is led by the National Council for the Environment for Sustainable Development under the Prime Minister's office. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment, Urban Hygiene and Sustainable Development as well as the Ministry for Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management and the National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises are coordinating bodies related to climate change, climate risk management, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

The climate change adaptation process of Niger is mandated through different policies, plans and strategies. The National Climate Change Policy supplies the current overarching mid-term framework for climate change adaptation and intends to integrate climate change into medium- and long-term development planning and budgeting through the National Adaptation Plan process.

The NAP provides human-driven adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems or policy processes in response to actual or expected climate stimuli.² It is envisaged to be continuous, progressive, and iterative, and to follow a country-driven, participatory, gender-

¹ (UN Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2020)

² (LDC Expert Group, 2012)

sensitive, and fully transparent approach. It is based on nationally identified priorities, national sustainable development planning, and the adaptation component of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

There are several gaps and needs with regard to climate change adaptation activities in Niger. Among these are capacity gaps and needs related to finance; coordination and communication; technical and institutional capacities; laws and policies; social, cultural, and political factors; monitoring and evaluation; data, research, and knowledge products; and inclusive and participatory adaptation action.

To ensure that Niger's NAP process is participatory, inclusive and integrated to the country's development process, four entry

points for mainstreaming adaptation and integrating it into national processes have been identified by this brief. These entry points are as follows:

1. NDC review process
2. Readiness support projects under the Green Climate Fund
3. Existing climate change adaptation projects
4. Key national policies and plans related to sustainable development

These entry points present the opportunity to support an inclusive and participatory NAP process, aligned with economic priorities and risks for adaptation actions, and avoid duplication of efforts and streamline climate finance which facilitate the integration of climate and development planning of the country into a multi-stakeholder driven process.

1. Methodology

The research aims to identify entry points to inform the development of Niger's National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

To determine priority sectors as well as existing gaps, needs, and opportunities, the country's National Communications to the UNFCCC, its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, and any other public document validated by the government or reputed international organizations have been analysed in depth in respect to the following aspects:

- Key climate hazards, risks, and vulnerabilities
- Key economic sectors based on GDP contribution, employment numbers, growth rate, and their importance for communities and livelihoods
- Key development priorities and their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Institutional framework, coordination mechanisms, institutional capacities, engagement of local government authorities, CSOs, and other stakeholders
- Key policies, plans, strategies, and laws, the way and degree to which they address climate change, and their alignment with international and national processes like the UNFCCC and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate finance and funding sources on a domestic, regional, and international scale, including private sector engagement and private-public partnerships
- Monitoring and evaluation as well as reporting mechanisms
- Gender and inclusivity, the degree to

which climate change adaptation in Niger is multi-stakeholder driven and participatory, including vulnerable communities.

Based on the study of these aspects, key entry points to inform the country's NAP have been identified and the aspects to focus on for building resilience highlighted. The research also includes recommendations on which sectors and key aspects to include as part of the adaptation component of the NDCs during the NDC review process and enhancing the existing NDCs on adaptation.

The Joint Principles for Adaptation (JPA)³ have been used as a main reference tool during the research while analysing documents and developing recommendations for the NAP entry points based the following principles: C (Mainstreaming and coordination), D (Local level adaptation), and E (Vulnerability and diversity including gender considerations).

In order to ensure relevance and ownership of the study, the research has been conducted in close cooperation with the National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development, the national-level Southern Voices partner in Niger which coordinated the country level action such as the small group consultation, and the validation workshop, as well as contributed to in country data collection from key experts, as well as provide assistance in linking with the experts to facilitate the research team in gathering information and including the most updated.

The output from the study is available to all stakeholders in the NAP process, primarily policy makers, government officers, and CSOs working to influence the process. It is designed

³ (Southern Voices on Adaptation, 2015)

to provide priority areas and evidence-based advice points to highlight key sectors,

communities, and ecosystems vulnerable to climate change.

2. Country Context

With a population of approximately 24 million people,⁴ a total land area of 1,267,000 km², and a population density of only nineteen people per square kilometre, the Republic of the Niger is among the least densely populated countries in the world. It is landlocked and borders on Libya and Algeria to the North, Nigeria and Benin to the South, and Chad and Burkina Faso to the South and West. It is the largest country in West Africa, but close to 75% of it is covered by desert, with the capital city Niamey situated in the Niger River basin.

Niger is among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the world and is ranked 189th out of 189 countries on the Human Development Index⁵ and one of the countries. It has one of the fastest growing populations in the world that is set to almost triple by 2050.⁶ Of the country's total population of 24.207 million inhabitants, 84% lives in rural areas with a population growth rate of 3,82%. Niger's GDP remains low and stands at USD 7,976 million in 2017.⁷

Country Overview

Total Land Area (km ²)	1,267,000
Total Population (mid-year 2020, in million)	24.21
Estimated Population (2050, in million)	65.59
Total GDP (in million USD, 2017)	7,976
Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry	39.7%
Industry	15.9%
Services	39.0%
% of Labour Force in Agriculture Sector	76%
% of Rural Population	84%
% of Population in (Severe) Multidimensional Poverty	90.5 (74.8%)
Ratified UNFCCC / Kyoto / Paris Agreement	1995/2007/2016
Submitted First NDCs/INDCS	2015/2016
First/Second/Third National Communication	2000/2009/2017

Figure 1: Country Overview⁸

Niger's economy is concentrated mainly on the primary sector which revolves around agriculture and livestock.⁹ 42.8% of Niger's GDP comes from agriculture, forestry, and the livestock sectors, and 80% of the workforce is employed in these sectors. With increased impacts of climate change, such as droughts, and floods, the sectors are predicted to face a

decrease in agricultural production, lack of feed due to an increase in grazing pressure on pastoral ecosystems, as well as soil erosion on a mass scale. Additionally, Niger is a Sahelian landlocked country, making it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate impacts, with threats to food security heightened. The sectors considered as most

⁴ (UN Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2020)

⁵ (UNDP, 2019)

⁶ (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2019)

⁷ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁸ (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2019), (United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2018)

⁹ Global Climate Services (2015)

affected sectors due to climate impacts are agriculture, livestock, forestry, water resources, health, transportation, fishing and wildlife.¹⁰

Niger faces many losses and damages due to climate impacts, which includes an average of USD 70 million losses due to drought, and USD 18 million damages to the economy from floods during the 2000's.¹¹ Recognizing climate change as one of the key stressors of food insecurity, and poverty, the Government of Niger has set up institutional arrangements to take actions to address climate impacts. Among institutional arrangements that have been set up to address these needs are the National Technical Commission on Climate Change and Variability (CNCVC); as well as the National Council on Environment for Sustainable Development (CNEDD) and the

National Mechanism for Disaster and Food Crises Prevention and Management (DNPGCCA).

The country is also party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Kyoto Protocol, and the Paris Agreements. The Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement for Niger has as its objectives to assure food security, combat poverty and contribute to the reduction of world greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions so that they will not increase in excess of 2°C in the 2050 horizon thanks to green growth and a low-carbon development strategy, the purpose of which is to assure resilience of the population and ecosystems,¹² and also has as its priority in implementing NDCs to focus first of all on strategies for adaptation and resilience to climate change.¹³

2.1 Key Climate Hazards and Vulnerabilities

Niger is highly vulnerable to natural hazards. Among the key climate hazards faced by Niger are floods, recurring droughts, strong and weak precipitation, climate-sensitive health impacts, and unequal distribution of rains.¹⁴

Niger has faced severe losses and damages due to floods, which have resulted in deaths, injuries and losses and damages to infrastructure and property. Extreme

experiences such as the floods of 2012 flooding, resulted in approximately 300 deaths, and injuring over 6,000 people. Each year, Niger experiences USD 183 million in damages from flooding. USD 114 million of these damages are in the education sector, while USD 26 million in road infrastructure. Additionally, water scarcity and droughts are major threats as well.¹⁵

2.1.1 Droughts and Water Scarcity

Droughts and water scarcity are among the key threats that Niger experiences as climate and disaster risks and hazards. With 80% of the country covered by the Sahara Desert, the transition into the Sahara contributes to the risk to water resources, which includes water scarcity and drought resulting in an average

annual impact of USD 7 billion.¹⁶

Water resources are a highly vulnerable resource, and the water supply is unevenly distributed, as well as poorly accessible. Niger's surface water is a limited and seasonal resource, resulting in groundwater being a

¹⁰ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

¹¹ (Government of Niger, 2015)

¹² (Government of Niger, 2015)

¹³ (Government of Niger, 2015)

¹⁴ National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development / Focus Group Discussions

¹⁵ (GFDRR, 2020)

¹⁶ (GFDRR, 2020)

primary water source for many communities.¹⁷

Additionally, climate models point to a temperature increase from between 1.6°C to 2.9°C between 2020 and 2065, for Niger, compared to 1961-1990.¹⁸

Climate impacts, such as irregular rainfall and rising temperatures, cause adverse impacts on Niger's economy, and have affected the agriculture sector, and the food security. There is also a lack of drinking water supplies, caused by the depletion of ponds and natural lakes and the reduced flow of the River Niger.¹⁹ Further, climate analysis for the period from 1961 to 2010 indicates a significant decrease in

rainfall compared to 1970.²⁰

Since 2000, Niger has faced four major droughts which were in the years 2005, 2008, 2010, and 2012. Additionally, the drought in 2009 affected approximately 7.9 million people, led to the loss of 2.7 million head of livestock by starvation, and affected an additional 357,000 animals, resulting in an estimated loss of USD 805 million and a 4% decrease in per capita GDP.²¹ In 2011, due to a 21% reduction in rainfall, and the drought that ensued resulted in a 28% reduction in the cereal production, 8% reduction in stock of animals.²²

2.1.2 Other Climate-Related Hazards

Other hazards faced by Niger include heightened intensity in rainfall which has led to an increase in the frequency of flash flooding and topsoil erosion. This has adverse impacts such as soil fertility erosion as well as land degradation.²³ Additionally, the country also experiences increasing variability of precipitation and a trend of increased temperatures; increased frequency and intensity of extreme climate risks; the silting of watercourses and oases.²⁴

The climate impacts faced also have resulted in vulnerabilities to Niger's food security. Two million people of Niger's population are chronically food-insecure, while 4.5 million face the risk of food insecurity or are affected by transitory food insecurity during the lean season.²⁵ In 2015, the data recorded over 20 million of Niger's population as food insecure, with six million children being malnourished.

This situation is expected to further deteriorate with the increase in the country's population as well as the recurring challenges compounded by climate change, environment, poverty, and political instability.²⁶

Furthermore, the impacts of climate change in Niger have also contributed to threats from diseases such as malaria, meningitis, and measles, which are envisaged as being subject to change associated with climate impacts such as increased temperatures, variability in rainfall patterns, floods, and more frequent droughts.²⁷

Another key threat faced by Niger are sandstorms that are a frequent extreme event in Niger with severe impacts on key sectors such as agriculture, livestock, water resources public health, as well as threaten human lives.

¹⁷ (USAID, 2019)

¹⁸ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

¹⁹ (GFDRR, 2020)

²⁰ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

²¹ (Merrey & Sally, 2014)

²² (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

²³ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

²⁴ (Government of Niger, 2015)

²⁵ (World Food Programme, 2018)

²⁶ (World Bank Group, 2020)

²⁷ (World Bank Group, 2020)

2.2 Key Economic Sectors

Based on Niger's development and climate change policies and plans, the country's key economic sectors could be identified as agriculture, livestock, fisheries and forestry. Additionally, through the consultative process which was applied in this research, the key stakeholders have further identified the tourism sector as a potential key sector to be focused on, as well as water resources and energy.

Given the potential offered by the country's resources, the national concerns are focused on issues related to adaptation, particularly in

the AFOLU (agriculture/animal husbandry and land use) sector, and on issues related to mitigation.²⁸

Key economic sectors identified for further elaboration, based on employment and GDP contribution are:²⁹

- Agriculture
- Livestock
- Fisheries
- Mining and extractive industries

2.2.1 Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, and Forestry

With a total contribution of almost 40% of the GDP and around 80% of the population working in it, the agriculture sector (including livestock, fisheries, and forestry) is by far the most important and also most vulnerable economic sector of Niger.³⁰

Sector	GDP Contribution
Agriculture	27.7
Livestock	8.7
Fisheries	1.4
Forestry	1.9

Figure 2: Agriculture Economic Sector

Agriculture is the most important sector of Niger's economy and accounted for around 40% of the country's GDP as well as employing the majority of the working population. In rural areas, 85% of employment depends on rainfed agriculture, livestock, fishing, and forestry. The major crops produced across the rainy season and dry season include millet, sorghum, cowpea, groundnut, maize, chufa, rice, sesame, Bambara groundnut, common sorrel,

sweet potato, Irish potato, onion, tomatoes, sweet pepper, squash, melon, carrot, eggplant, okra, and lettuce. Major agricultural exports include onions and live animals, but also cotton, peanuts, cassava, legumes and high-quality rice.³¹

In some parts of the country, agricultural production can be expanded beyond the rainy season between June and September, but vast areas suffer from aridity and water scarcity, limiting its viability as agricultural land. Climate risks and weather-related factors will increasingly have negative impacts on agricultural production with increasing temperatures, early dry seasons, and shorter rainy seasons, and a number of major droughts and floods in recent years that have affected large parts of the population and caused serious losses and damages.³² Around 35% of Niger's land resources (including pastureland) are or can be used for productive purposes.³³

Niger's rural people have a long history of

²⁸ (Government of Niger, 2015)

²⁹ National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development.

³⁰ (FAO, 2020)

³¹ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

³² (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

³³ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

confronting serious crises, including droughts, locusts, and famine, with limited capacity to adapt. Unstable commodity prices, policy and institutional constraints, government capacity to deal with climate shocks, and low levels of investment in infrastructure further increase the vulnerability of rural populations and their livelihoods.³⁴ Climate change poses a threat to the agricultural sector in Niger and has been identified as a growing cause of forced migration, especially for rural millennials.³⁵

Water remains the most critical constraint on agricultural production and less than 100,000 hectares are currently under irrigation, with the majority of irrigation coming from the Komadougou river, smaller seasonal rivers, groundwater from dry riverbeds, oasis basins, and pumped groundwater.³⁶ This is exacerbated by unsustainable agricultural practices. Prolonged and regular periods of drought increase the pest population, such as locusts, which greatly reduce the yields of key crops. In addition, higher temperatures lead to lower yields and less fodder and pasture for livestock, which puts animals at risk.

Studies conducted under the NAPA has revealed that the priority economic sector of the country which is most vulnerable to climate change is the livestock sector. While Sahel region is the African continent's key regions for livestock and pastoral activities, impacts of climate change threaten the sector through environmental constraints, including water scarcity and extreme weather events. Changes in temperature, rainfall, and the occurrence of droughts and floods all negatively affect forage and fodder production, water availability, and livestock productivity.³⁷

Niger's INDCs points to climate-smart agriculture (CSA) as a priority to the country, and focuses on consistent strengthening grassroots development. Climate-smart agriculture takes into account weather information, early warning, the management of risks and disasters and index-based agricultural weather insurance.³⁸

Barriers for the agriculture sector linked to climate change include:

- Limited knowledge of climate change impacts on smallholder agricultural value chains and landscapes and effective adaptation interventions, especially for in the southern part of the country where irregular increase of rainfall results in floods from the high discharge levels of the Niger River.³⁹
- Limited or non-existent special lines of credit to promote low emission and climate resilient agriculture, ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) and sustainable energy for agriculture.
- Limited productive investments in low emission and climate resilient agriculture, forest management and energy for agriculture
- Policy, regulatory and capacity constraints to adopting renewable energy in the agricultural sector
- Limited capacity and coordination mechanisms in the government and local communities on implementing EbA and climate-resilient and low emission agriculture. Key sector ministries in charge of agriculture, energy and forestry have limited technical and institutional capacity to implement EbA and energy for adaptation and climate-resilient agriculture.⁴⁰

³⁴ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

³⁵ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

³⁶ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

³⁷ (USAID, 2019)

³⁸ (Government of Niger, 2015)

³⁹ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

⁴⁰ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

2.2.2 Mining and Extractive Industries

While agriculture and services employ the vast majority of Nigeriens and are the primary sources of livelihoods, the mining sector is responsible for a huge part of export earnings. Niger is rich in natural resources including uranium, gold, iron, coal, and oil, and the extractive sector contributes 23% of total state revenues. The country is the world's fifth largest producer of uranium and has continually invested in uranium extraction.⁴¹

Since 2011, Niger also produces oil, and the

recent adoption of a new petroleum policy aims to intensify oil production and turn it into a key driver for development. In addition to these larger enterprises, the mining sector also provides a source of employment through artisanal and small-scale gold mining, which is not accurately captured in official statistics but makes up the vast majority of gold production. It is even projected that artisanal gold mining could potentially overtake uranium as the second largest export earner in the near future.⁴²

2.3 Key Development Priorities

The Republic of Niger has a great need to develop its economy and lift large parts of its population out of poverty. The national energy consumption is expected to increase threefold until 2030, mainly driven by strong growth in the residential, transportation, industry, and mining sectors.⁴³

However, Niger's development is hindered by a number of factors, including the lowest human development index in the world, 44.5% of the population living below the poverty line, low life expectancy, a high maternal mortality rate of 553 deaths per 100,000 live births, high gender inequality, only two mean years of schooling, and widespread child labour.⁴⁴ The impacts of climate change further compound these issues and disproportionately affect the poorest and most vulnerable parts of the population, especially in the weakly diversified and climate-dependent agriculture and livestock sector.

To address this and put the country on a pathway of sustainable development, the

Government of Niger has developed several strategies, policies, and action plans, including the 2012-2015 Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) and the "Nigeriens Nourish the Nigeriens" Initiative (I3N), which is integrated with the PDES. The current key development document of Niger is the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy Niger 2035 (SDIGS), which aims to transform Niger into a "united, democratic, and modern country, peaceful, prosperous and proud of its cultural values, supported by sustainable, fair and balanced development in a united and solidary Africa" by 2035.⁴⁵

This development strategy is organized around six strategic axes: security of the territory, development of a dynamic private sector, demographic transition to control demographic growth, revitalization and modernization of rural areas, human capital development, and the modernization of government institutions.⁴⁶

⁴¹ (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2020)

⁴² (Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, 2020)

⁴³ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁴⁴ (UNDP, 2019)

⁴⁵ (Government of Niger, 2017)

⁴⁶ (Government of Niger, 2017)

Climate change is addressed in only one of these axes: revitalization and modernization of rural areas. The SDIGS focuses on the reduction of climate vulnerabilities in agriculture and livestock farming and resilience to climate change and natural disasters, but only if it allows for simultaneous increases in food security, farming incomes, and diversification of the rural economy. Balancing sustainable developments and climate change adaptation presents a complex challenge for the Republic of Niger, who has to lift millions out of poverty and end hunger. However, in the end, these goals will only be achievable if the impacts of climate change are addressed and the vulnerability of especially the rural population greatly reduced.

In addition to the Vision 2035, the National Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate and Variability (SNPA-CVC) aims to climate-proof Niger's development options while the 2014-2023 Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production focuses on the enabling environment for sustainable development. Furthermore, the Government of Niger has also developed a Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management (2015-2029) in 2014, the "Nigeriens Nourishing Nigeriens" initiative" in 2011/12, and a National Plan on Environment for Sustainable Development in 2000.⁴⁷

⁴⁷ (NAP-GSP, 2018)

3. Climate Change Adaptation in Niger

3.1 Institutional Framework

The institutional framework for climate change adaptation in Niger is led by the National Council for the Environment for Sustainable Development (CNEDD) and its Executive Secretariat (SE-CNEDD) under the Prime Minister's office. It was established in 1996 and currently serves the focal point for the UNFCCC and the national designated authority for the Green Climate Fund.

In addition, the Ministry of the Environment, Urban Hygiene and Sustainable Development (MESUDD) as well as the National Mechanism for the Prevention and Management of Disasters and Food Crises (DWPGCCA) under the Prime Minister's office are coordinating bodies when it comes to climate change, climate risk management, environmental protection, and sustainable development.⁴⁸

The SE-CNEDD is in charge of overseeing and implementing the National Climate Change Policy of 2013 (PNEDD), the Nationally Determined Contributions, other projects related to climate change, and the work of technical commissions including the Commission on Climate Change and Climate Variability (chaired by the Meteorological Office). To facilitate this, the MESUDD prepares and implements policies, plans,

programmes and projects related to environment protection and natural resources management and is in charge of sustainable development coordination. As a central member of the CNEDD, the MESUDD chairs the commissions on biological diversity, fight against desertification, and sustainable development.

Under the Office of the President, advisors are appointed to take part in CNEDD commissions and committees and to coordinate the integration of cross-cutting development initiatives such as the 3N Initiative via the High Commission of the 3N Initiative.

The above-mentioned institutions are supported by the relevant line ministries which play important roles for climate change adaptation as well, including the Ministry of Planning, Regional Development and Community Development (MP/AT/DC), the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Livestock, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Transport. The National Directorate for Meteorology (DMN) is part of the Ministry of Transport and provides meteorological data.⁴⁹

3.2 Key Policies, Plans, and Strategies

Niger has developed a number of key documents, policies, plans, and strategies related to climate change adaptation and sustainable development in the last two

decades, including the following:

- National Plan on Environment for Sustainable Development 2000 (Niger's

⁴⁸ (Government of Niger, 2015), (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁴⁹ (NAP-GSP, 2018)

Agenda 21)

- Poverty Reduction Strategy 2002
- National Strategy and Plan of Action for Climate and Variability 2003
- National Adaptation Programme of Action 2006
- Accelerated Poverty Reduction Strategy 2007
- Nigeriens Nourish the Nigeriens Initiative 2011
- National Programme on Access to Water and Sanitation 2011-2015
- Livestock Sustainable Development Strategy 2012-2035
- National Climate Change Policy 2013
- Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2014-2023
- Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management 2015-2029
- National Learning Strategy on Climate Change 2016
- Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2021
- Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy Niger 2020-2035
- Strategy for Disaster Risk Prevention and Management
- Health and Climate Change Strategy

As elaborated in section 2.3, Niger's development framework consists of a number of key documents. The 2012-2015 Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES) identifies climate change as a major challenge and addresses it in regard to the preservation and sustainable management of environmental resources as well as food security. The "Nigeriens Nourish the Nigeriens" Initiative (I3N) is integrated into the PDES to enhance resilience to food crises by diversifying the agriculture, livestock, and forestry sector, increasing yields, improving irrigation, and strengthening disaster response.⁵⁰

The 2020-2035 Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDIGS) is the

newest iteration of Niger's development planning and the current long-term strategy. It is oriented around six strategic axes: security of the territory, development of a dynamic private sector, demographic transition to control demographic growth, revitalization and modernization of rural areas, human capital development, and the modernization of government institutions. It aims to strengthen the rule of law and to advance sustainable and inclusive development, food security, economic diversification, and social development and refers to climate change and adaptation. However, for other sectors, climate change has not been integrated into all policies, plans, and strategies; for example, the 2008-2012 Mining Development Strategy does not mention climate change.

Regarding dedicated climate change policies, the key documents include the National Plan on the Environment for Sustainable Development of 2000, which includes climate change, energy, biodiversity, desertification, natural resources management, human and urban environment, and water as main areas. This was further worked out by the Climate Change and Variability Strategy and Action Plan of 2003 and the National Adaptation Programme of Action in 2006, which identified seven vulnerable sectors and fourteen priority areas focused on the agriculture, livestock, water, and health sectors.

This was followed by a National Climate Change Policy and a plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production 2014-2023, which further analyses constraints, gaps, needs, and priority measures. Both of these documents aim to connect climate change adaptation and sustainable development by reducing the adverse impacts of climate change, building resilience, and expanding as well as preserving options for sustainable development. The National Climate Change Policy supplies the current overarching mid-term framework for climate change adaptation

⁵⁰ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

and intends to integrate climate change into medium- and long-term development planning and budgeting through the NAP process.^{51, 52}

The Nationally Determined Contributions of Niger, which have been submitted to the UNFCCC in 2016, outline the long-term goals for climate change adaptation in Niger and aim to connect them with the existing national development frameworks, strategies, and plans listed above.⁵³ Among the key objectives of policies, plans, and strategies connected to climate change in Niger are assuring food security, combating poverty, reducing GHG emissions, promoting sustainable management of natural resources, embracing a low-carbon, green growth development pathway, and enhancing the resilience of people, agriculture, forestry, livestock, and natural ecosystems. It is highlighted that adaptation is essential for the country, and the policies and climate commitments priorities adaptation actions with strong co-benefits.⁵⁴

In addition to these government policies, plans, and strategies, Niger is part of a regional programme for integrated development and adaptation to climate change in the Niger basin from 2018-2023 funded by the Green Climate Fund, which focuses on forests, land use, health, food and water security, and ecosystems services in nine countries including Niger.⁵⁵ It is supposed to complement a project funded by the GEF-LDCF on “Planning and financing adaptation in Niger” as well as further the overall adaptation plans and build on the climate-related knowledge base that has been developed for the formulation of the Third National Communication, the 2008-2012 African Adaptation Programme, the EU-GCCA PARC-DAD Project, and West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). The project objectives also contain mutual exchange and learning opportunities in the form of study visits to selected countries.⁵⁶

3.3 Adaptation Sectors

Niger has set itself the overarching goal of ensuring that all stakeholders address both the causes and impacts of climate change through appropriate measures while also promoting sustainable development and green growth.

Niger’s key sectors and priority areas have been mapped out based on the following

documents: National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Third National Communication (TNC), Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy - Niger 2035 (SDDCI), and the National Climate Change Policy (PNCC).

NAPA	(I)NDCs	TNC	SDDCI	PNCC
Agriculture	Agriculture and Forestry	Agriculture	Agriculture	Agriculture
Cattle Breeding	Animal Husbandry	Livestock	Livestock	
Forestry	Forestry	Forestry	Natural Resources & Land Management	

⁵¹ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁵² National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development / Focus Group Discussions

⁵³ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁵⁴ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁵⁵ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

⁵⁶ GCF NAP Readiness Proposal

Water Resources	Water Resources	Water Resources	Irrigation	Water
Wildlife	Fauna			
Health	Health	Health	Health	
Wetlands				
	Fisheries			

The most important and most vulnerable sectors have been identified by all of the key documents as agriculture, livestock, and water resources. Adaptation options for these sectors are integrated into existing strategic frameworks such as the PDES, the SDDCI, I3N, PNCC, SF-SLM, and the SNPA-CVC.⁵⁷

As the main document for climate action under the UNFCCC process, the NDCs are a crucial part to the adaptation infrastructure of Niger, with a particular focus on adaptation options that permit higher co-benefits with respect to mitigation and the reduction of GHG emissions. Among the key areas of adaptation for Niger, the NDCs have identified the following measures:

- Application of all Strategic Framework for Sustainable Land Management (SF-SLM) techniques
- Restoration of agricultural, forestry, pastoral lands: 1,030 000 ha
- Assisted natural regeneration: 1,100,000

3.4 Climate Finance

The World Bank has estimated that the costs for adaptation to climate change in the entirety of Sub-Saharan Africa will be at least USD 18 billion per year between 2010 and 2050, without including funding for low-carbon development. To address this need, the

ha

- Fixation of dunes: 550,000 ha
- Management of natural forests: 2,220,000 ha
- Hedgerows: 145,000 km
- Planting of multiuse species: 750,000 ha
- Planting of *Moringa oleifera*: 125 000 ha
- Seeding of roadways: 304,500 ha
- Private forestry: 75,000 ha⁵⁸

In general, the national priorities for adaptation relate to improving the resilience of the agriculture, livestock, and forestry sectors as well as water resources, fisheries, wildlife, health, and capacity-building. Sustainable land management, renewable energy, and energy efficiency have been identified as additional challenges.⁵⁹ These priorities connect to the national development goals of food security, poverty reduction, assuring resilience of people and ecosystems, decreasing global warming, and promoting low carbon development and green growth.⁶⁰

World Bank's Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) serves as the largest fund for supporting adaptation in the region and works with a number of countries, including Niger, with the African Development Bank as the regional implementing entity.⁶¹

⁵⁷ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁵⁸ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁵⁹ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁶⁰ Presentation by Moussa Bachir, Validation Workshop, 28th January 2020, (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁶¹ (Heinrich Böll Stiftung North America, 2011)

For Niger, projects under the PPCR focus on climate information development and forecasting, community action for resilience, irrigation, and water resources mobilization and development, with a total funding of USD 109.12 million as well as an additional USD 8.84 million in co-financing. The World Bank also funds the HC-13N five-year Climate-Smart Agriculture Support Project, which started in 2016 across 20 departments. Inside the Nigerien Government, the focal point for the PPCR is the Ministry of Planning and Community Development, while the focal point for the Green Climate Fund is the SE/CNEDD under the Prime Minister's Office.⁶²

The Green Climate Fund is currently funding three projects with a total GCF financing amount of USD 29 million in Niger as well as approved readiness funding of USD 3 million (USD 1.6 million of which have been disbursed). Out of these, project SAP012: Inclusive Green Financing for Climate Resilient and Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture focuses exclusively on Niger, while the other two regional projects target scaling up solar energy investment (FP105) and improving the resilience of populations and ecosystems in the Niger Basin through sustainable management of natural resources (FP092).⁶³

Project SAP012 has been approved in November 2019 and is planned for five years and USD 13 million of funding, with the International Fund for Agricultural Development as the accredited entity that also provides co-financing. It aims to increase the resilience of smallholder farmers to adverse impacts of climate change by removing barriers to accessing green financial and non-financial services and adopt adaptation measures such as water capture, borehole irrigation, introduction of resistant breeds and crop varieties, land management, ecosystem-based adaptation, capacity building, and

awareness creation.⁶⁴

Other bi- and multi-lateral investment projects in climate change adaptation in Niger include the following:

- The Adapt'action project with the French Development Agency (AFD), which will run from 2020-2035 and aims to jointly develop a strategy and a national plan for adaptation to climate change in the agricultural sector. So far, the project has identified 17 agrarian zones and 142 climate-smart agriculture technologies as well as a needs assessment among agricultural producers.
- A USD 437 million compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation/USAID to address access to water for agriculture and livestock as well as physical and regulatory barriers to trade.
- The Maradi region Food Security Support Project (PASADEM) to build rural resilience.
- Projects funded by the French Development Agency (AFD), for example supporting household food security, watershed management, natural forest management, and socioeconomic development of different regions and cities inside the country.
- The PANA Resilience/FEM/ACDI project to enhance food production, climate-smart agriculture, and economic diversification in seven regions, started in 2010.
- The African Climate Change Adaptation Programme (P2AA) for a pilot project on drought-focused index insurance.
- The PNUD/FED Community-Based Adaptation project in the departments of Dakoro and Bermo, started in 2015.

The Nationally Determined Contributions of Niger estimate a total investment need of USD 8.667 billion to reach its objectives, with

⁶² (African Development Bank, 2020)

⁶³ (Green Climate Fund, 2020)

⁶⁴ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

around 13% of the costs (USD 1.167 billion) being provided as unconditional financing from the government's resources and public development aid.⁶⁵ Of the total amount of USD 8.667 billion, around USD 1.607 billion are required for adaptation actions in the period between 2020 and 2030, with 337 million already mobilized.⁶⁶

There is a need for large-scale investment in climate change adaptation in Niger that is not

currently met. Financial institutions within the country still face obstacles such as lack of awareness on green financing and sustainable development benefits, lack of technical knowledge, and lack of access to funding, especially from concessional funds. For these reasons, the private sector currently is not sufficiently involved in financing transformational change and adaptation action.⁶⁷

3.5 Gender and Climate Change

Women are particularly vulnerable when it comes to the impacts of climate change in Niger. In cases of food scarcity or food insecurity, they are often the first to reduce their food intake while at the same time having special needs while being pregnant or breastfeeding. Women and girls have to walk longer distances to collect water and fuelwood due to environmental degradation, putting them at risk of violence and affecting their health. During droughts and other climate-induced disasters, women and girls often face additional burdens of childcare and household duties and are exposed to greater risks of waterborne diseases due to their role in managing household water supply and domestic chores.

Women's access to financial, technological, awareness, and production capacities remains limited, and they still shoulder the main burden of household management. However, recent years have seen a change in the roles and responsibilities of women that could be further built upon.⁶⁸ The Government of Niger has formulated a Female Promotion Policy in 1996 and revised in 2009 and a National Policy on the Issue of Gender (PNG) in 2008, which includes a ten-year plan (2009-2018) to

monitor and follow-up on its effective implementation. The five main goals of the policy are the promotion of equity on the situation of male and female in society, the promotion of gender equity in the economic system, the enhancement of effective application of female rights and equal access, the reduction of gender-based violence, and the enhancement of institutional capacities for implementation of the gender policy.⁶⁹

Despite this, the gender-responsiveness of Niger's policies and plans related to climate change adaptation has not been comprehensively analysed. However, both the projects implemented under the World Bank's Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and the Green Climate Fund indicate gender as a key element and could be used as entry points for implementing gender-responsive adaptation measures across the country.

The World Bank, through the African Development Bank and the Climate Investment Funds, is providing funds for a number of pilot projects to increase climate resilience. For all of these projects, the CIF Gender Action Plan has just been extended for a third phase from 2021 to 2024, superseding

⁶⁵ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁶⁶ Presentation by Moussa Bachir, Validation Workshop

⁶⁷ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

⁶⁸ (Green Climate Fund, 2019)

⁶⁹ (JICA, 2010)

phase 2 that started in 2017 and is ending in 2020.⁷⁰

It commits to “a gender-responsive approach” that requires “inclusive and embedded approaches to women’s participation in climate and development planning across different scales” as well as “gender equality efforts that combine analysis and needs identification with attention to institutional and policy processes” to “ensure that the CIF effectively supports transformational change and climate-smart development for women and men in CIF pilot countries.”⁷¹

GCF Project FP092: Programme for integrated development and adaptation to climate change in the Niger Basin contains the formulation of a Gender Action Plan that focuses on the needs to improve livelihoods and build resilience of women and girls to the adverse impacts of climate change. Reducing the exposure and increasing the adaptative capacities of these vulnerable groups will be covered under the programme and could serve as a pilot project to further upscale and mainstream into other projects and development activities.⁷² The main outputs of the Gender Action Plan are expected to be:

- Equal access for women to adopt diversified, climate-resilient livelihood options
- Gender-responsive and participatory institutions, coordination mechanisms, and regulatory frameworks
- Improved capacity of gender-mainstreaming regarding climate change and resilience at a national and regional level

Major issues and action areas identified for gender-responsiveness include land certification/titling, gender-responsive climate-smart agriculture technologies and extension packages on good practices, establishment of platforms for women’s groups, support for women’s groups already working on natural resources management, training for male and female farmers on gender-responsive CSA technologies and climate adaptation techniques, participation of women in data management and forecasting, equal access to adoption of diversified livelihood options, institutions, coordination mechanisms, and regulatory frameworks, and capacity building especially of women farmers.

⁷⁰ (African Development Bank, 2020)

⁷¹ (African Development Bank, 2020)

⁷² [Gender Action Plan – GCF Project FP092](#)

4. NAP Entry Points for Niger

4.1 Development Status of NAP and NDC Review

The National Adaptation Plan process of Niger was launched in 2014. As part of this, a stocktake which focused on the baseline related to climate adaptation policies and other relevant activities was conducted, and in the same year, the government of Niger developed a roadmap for the NAP process, consisting of a 3- to 5-year timeline for activities on climate change adaptation and referring to policies and plans that interlink with Niger's economic priorities.⁷³

The Roadmap has been further updated in 2015 and 2016 with new information being incorporated to align with the key policy documents related to the development priorities of the country, which include the "Nigeriens Nourish the Nigeriens" Initiative, the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDDCI), the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PDES), and the National Climate Learning Strategy.⁷⁴

Additionally, Niger has applied for Readiness Funding from the GCF. The GCF readiness proposal for adaptation actions was developed from 2016-2017, and the Readiness Funding was received for a period of 4 years (2018 – 2021).⁷⁵ It addresses the key challenges in integrating climate change adaptation into planning and budgeting, through an integrated strategy.⁷⁶ The activities under the Readiness Funding comprise five outputs and have a total budget of around USD 3 million in GCF NAP Readiness support.⁷⁷

The five outputs to be delivered as part of the NAP Readiness support include ensuring that:

(a) National mandate, strategy and steering mechanisms are in place and gaps are assessed and addressed: These activities are with the objectives of strengthening the coordination mechanism related to climate change adaptation in Niger, including the coordination for the NAP process in the country which includes stakeholder engagement, as well as a long term mechanism for capacity building for climate change adaptation at national level in Niger.⁷⁸

(b) Preparatory work for the NAP undertaken to develop a knowledge base and compile a NAP: This output focuses on ensuring that adaptation planning is based on the best available climate and socio-economic information through the establishment of a mechanism for ensuring that the existing information is allocated a knowledge base, as well as facilitating the gaps and needs identified related to ensuring that adaptation planning is evidence-based in the country are filled.⁷⁹

(c) NAP implementation facilitated: This output focuses integrating climate change adaptation activities of Niger are integrated into national development planning, as well as the budgeting processes. This includes aligning the NAP with the developmental priorities of the country, as well as the relevant strategic

⁷³ National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development

⁷⁴ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

⁷⁵ National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development

⁷⁶ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

⁷⁷ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

⁷⁸ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

⁷⁹ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

frameworks.⁸⁰

(d) Putting in place the Mechanisms for Reporting, Monitoring and Review of NAPs and adaptation progress: The output focuses on reinforcing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms related to climate change adaptation in Niger, and facilitating the assessing and sharing of results of the adaptation initiatives in the country. It also focuses on contributing to the development of a national platform that supports data management related to reporting, monitoring and review activities.

(e) Establishing a funding strategy for the NAP and CCA: The output focuses on addressing the existing financial constraints related to climate change adaptation. This includes costing of adaptation needs, identifying existing and suitable finance opportunities (which includes engaging the private sector).

The activities related to NAP Readiness Support of the GCF to Niger are implemented

with the leadership of the Executive Secretariat of the National Council of Environment for Sustainable Development (SE/CNEDD), and with the engagement of the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Finance, and other key sectoral ministries. The stakeholders include also the national training and research institutions and civil society, and the private sector.

The activities related to GCF Readiness support are interlinked with existing projects relevant to climate change adaptation such as the water sector project of GEF-LDCF adaptation planning, the PARC-DAD project funded by the EU, and the World Bank Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience.⁸¹

At present, Niger is reviewing its NDCs including revising financial aspects and actions related to climate commitments. The NDC review process in Niger is supported by the NDC Partnership, the World Bank, and a number of additional partners.⁸²

4.2 Key Adaptation Gaps, Needs, & Priorities

There are several gaps and needs with regard to climate change adaptation activities in Niger. Among these are capacity gaps and needs related to finance; coordination and communication; technical and institutional capacities; laws and policies; social, cultural, and political factors; monitoring and evaluation; data, research, and knowledge products; and inclusive and participatory adaptation action.⁸³

4.2.1 Finance

Niger's NDCs are estimated as needing a total investment of US \$8.667 billion to meet the

targets indicated. However, the country is not able to finance the overall amount as unconditional targets under the NDCs, and looks toward mobilizing finance through different donors for the implementation of these actions.⁸⁴

The country faces financial constraints⁸⁵ and challenges related to climate change adaptation finance, which includes a low level of climate finance mobilisation for adaptation actions in the country. This can be attributed to the complexity and difficulty in the processes, as well as the lack of capacity to mobilise finance and resources. Further, the organized stakeholder consultations

⁸⁰ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

⁸¹ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

⁸² National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development

⁸³ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁸⁴ (Government of Niger, 2015)

⁸⁵ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

highlighted a lack of climate finance mobilisation from the private sector.⁸⁶

The gaps and needs related to climate adaptation finance also include difficulties and gaps in coordination for mobilising finance and in dealing with the complexity of synergies in climate finance mobilisation at national and sub-national level.⁸⁷ In addition, challenges faced in accessing climate finance for adaptation action have also led to difficulties in ensuring the availability of suitable technology and technical equipment for adaptation actions, including a lack of equipment for data collection and evidence needed for the generation of climate products.⁸⁸

4.2.2 Coordination and Communication

Climate change adaptation actions in Niger are faced with challenges and gaps related to coordination. This includes internal and external coordination and communication among key institutions on climate change adaptation as well as multiple stakeholders working on climate change adaptation in Niger.

Additionally, key gaps and needs related to coordination include lack of synergies and complementarity in ongoing initiatives related to climate change adaptation in Niger;⁸⁹ lack of an adequate communications channel, and low human capacity training on climate communication.⁹⁰ The existing gaps and needs related to communication are reinforced due to the lack of a communications strategy and training on communication related to climate services and⁹¹ the limited infrastructure for

communications and feedback structure.⁹²

There exists the need for building synergies⁹³ and improved coordination, while advancing institutional and technical capacity as well as enhanced management.⁹⁴

4.2.3 Technical and Institutional Capacities

Among the capacity gaps and needs for climate change adaptation actions in Niger are the need for human and material resources⁹⁵ as well as lack of transfer of technology, and awareness related to NDC and NAP processes among the multiple stakeholders working at national and sub-national level on adaptation related activities.⁹⁶ The identified gaps related to capacity include also the gaps and needs linked to limited institutional, functional, and technical capacity.⁹⁷

Additionally, the NDCs of Niger refer to the need for technical capacity building to develop bankable projects, which also includes evaluation of adaptation projects, among the stakeholders connected to the implementation of the NDCs of Niger including representatives of the civil society and NGOs.

Existing gaps and needs for CCA in Niger pose barriers for implementing adaptation activities as well. This includes the need for comprehensive risk assessments for climate change actions, and the lack of capacity to conduct such activities hinder the implementation process of CCA in the country. This includes but is not limited to the need for building capacity related to comprehensive risk management, and mainstreaming of CCA into planning and budgetary process in Niger.⁹⁸

⁸⁶ Presentation by Moussa Bachir, Validation Workshop

⁸⁷ Presentation by Moussa Bachir, Validation Workshop

⁸⁸ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

⁸⁹ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

⁹⁰ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

⁹¹ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

⁹² (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

⁹³ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁹⁴ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁹⁵ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁹⁶ Presentation by Moussa Bachir, Validation Workshop

⁹⁷ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

⁹⁸ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

Additional difficulties are faced due to delays in implementation⁹⁹ and existing actions also present the need for being scaled up.¹⁰⁰

4.2.4 Laws and Policies

Climate change adaptation actions in Niger faces challenges due to gaps and needed related to legislations related to certain areas such as lack of legislation on climate services.¹⁰¹ While there are several relevant laws and policies, which connect at sectoral level the activities which would overlap with the climate commitments, and national and sub-national level adaptation activities, there is still scope for enhancing the legal and policy coordination, as well as their application in an comprehensive and integrated manner which aligns the climate adaptation actions with the sectoral and integrated manner to the national legal and policy structures.

4.2.5 Social, Cultural, and Political Factors

Niger's NDCs indicate the country's high illiteracy rate among the rural population as a key gap to build climate resilience. This includes gaps and challenges caused by the socio-economic factors, creating difficulties to capacity build communities, disseminate suitable technologies for adaptation actions, as well as interventions for sustainable land management.¹⁰²

Further, there are social and political challenges faced as well, which includes lack of political will¹⁰³ and lack of political endorsement relevant to certain adaptation interventions, and limited coherence between development processes and adaptation actions in Niger.

⁹⁹ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

¹⁰⁰ (NAP-GSP, 2016)

¹⁰¹ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

¹⁰² (NAP-GSP, 2016)

4.2.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

Niger's NDCs includes a component which focuses on the monitoring and evaluation of climate action in Niger, which includes elements such as gender, measurement, notification and verification (MNV) procedures which will be considered in the monitoring and evaluation process of Niger. The NDC monitoring process will examine the inter-sector coordination, of the decision-making process and follow up the evaluation of NDC actions based on appropriate indicators and criteria.

However, the institutional structure, coordination mechanisms, and the technical capacity for the implementation of effective evaluation of the adaptation actions, and climate change related activities in Niger remain scarce, and a need that requires support through a systematic approach for addressing.

In particular, there is a need to integrate youth and women perspectives, take youth-specific challenges into account, and make policies youth- and gender-responsive. In addition, stronger CSO and CBO integration, the acknowledgement of their contributions, and reporting and indicators that take their work into account could strengthen the overall NAP process and make it more holistic and multi-stakeholder driven.¹⁰⁴

4.2.7 Data, Research, and Knowledge Products

Research, data and knowledge management also remain among areas that present gaps and needs, which require to be addressed. Key challenges to be address include existing climate knowledge research not being guided by country priorities, and being conducted in

¹⁰³ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

¹⁰⁴ National Platform for CSO on CC and Sustainable Development

as isolated initiatives. This also includes the lack research in general on different aspects related to climate change adaptation in Niger, insufficiency of data that is available¹⁰⁵ and also limited access to data and information.¹⁰⁶

Niger's NDCs also highlight the need for the transfer of knowledge and technology for scaling up climate action in different sectors, which includes also the upscaling of the good practices of climate-smart agriculture, to renewable energy technologies, integrated water resources management (IWRM), as well as fauna, fishing, social and health protection.¹⁰⁷

Data gaps and needs are high in climate services, and the lack of regularity in climate services presents challenges to adaptation actions in the country. This also includes poor adaptation of climate services to the different stakeholders using them in CCA at national and sub-national levels.¹⁰⁸ Other gaps and needs include weaknesses in the observation network, and human capacity gaps that exist to provide access to data and information, and generation of climate data.¹⁰⁹

There is an also an opportunity to distribute

research findings to benefit from them as an advocacy tool for the promotion of NDC review process and the NAP process.

4.2.8 Inclusive and Participatory Adaptation Action

Climate change adaptation actions in Niger also face challenges related to gender responsiveness, and integration of gender and social equality. This has been highlighted in research related to climate services.¹¹⁰ Additionally, section 3.5 highlights the information related to climate change adaptation and gender in Niger.

Further gaps and needs linked to inclusivity and participation of multiple actors in decision making and implementation of adaptation action include the difficulties faced by different stakeholders in accessing information on the decision-making processes, as well as the low participation of civil society organisations in the decision-making processes on climate change adaptation.¹¹¹

Summary Table of Gaps, Needs, and Priorities

Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necessary finance for NDC targets cannot be mobilised from national budget alone; need to include NDCs into the national investment plan • Low level of climate finance mobilisation for adaptation actions • Lack of capacity to mobilise finance and resources • Lack of private sector contribution to climate finance • Challenges in accessing climate finance lead to unavailability of suitable technology and equipment
Coordination and Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in internal and external coordination and communication among key institutions • Lack of synergies and complementarity in ongoing initiatives related to adaptation • Lack of a communication strategy and adequate communications channel between stakeholders

¹⁰⁵ Country stocktake, NAP-GSP

¹⁰⁶ Data collected through Multi-stakeholder Consultation

¹⁰⁷ NDCs of Niger (2016)

¹⁰⁸ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

¹⁰⁹ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

¹¹⁰ (World Meteorological Organization, 2015)

¹¹¹ Stakeholder consultation on climate change adaptation in Niger (2019), JVE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low human capacity training on climate communication, climate services, and feedback • Need to reinforce review committee and NDC review process for efficient participation of stakeholders
Technical and Institutional Capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of technology transfer and human and material resources • Lack of awareness related to NDC and NAP processes among the relevant stakeholders • Need for technical capacity building to develop bankable projects • Need for comprehensive risk assessments and risk management for climate actions, including risk and vulnerability mapping • Need for further mainstreaming of climate change adaptation into planning and budgetary processes • Need to scale up existing adaptation actions
Laws and Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of legislation on climate services • Need to enhance legal and policy coordination and application to align with adaptation actions • Need for stronger coherence between development processes and adaptation actions
Social, Cultural, and Political Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High illiteracy rate among the rural population is a key gap to build resilience • Socio-economic difficulties to capacity-build communities, disseminate suitable technologies, and promote sustainable land management • Lack of political endorsement for certain adaptation interventions
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in institutional structure and coordination mechanisms for the implementation of effective evaluation of adaptation actions • Gaps in technical capacity of monitoring
Data, Research, and Knowledge Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing climate research is not being guided by country priorities and conducted in isolation • Lack of research in general on climate change adaptation • Insufficient data availability and access • Need for knowledge and technology transfer to scale up climate action • Gaps in data and regularity of climate services • Weaknesses in the observation network • Gaps in human capacity to generate and access data and information
Inclusive and Participatory Adaptation Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaps in gender responsiveness and social equality need to be addressed • Lack of inclusion and participation of multiple actors and stakeholders in decision-making and implementation of adaptation action, in particular youth and women • Difficulties for stakeholders to access information on decision-making processes • Lack of participation of civil society organisations in decision-making on adaptation

4.3 NAP Entry Points

To address the existing gaps and needs related to climate change adaptation in Niger, and to ensure that there is an effective national adaptation process at national and sub-national, there are several opportunities as well as key NAP entry points that have been identified and could be built on. Among these are:

4.3.1 NDC Review Process

The NDC review process in Niger is ongoing and is conducted with the support of the World Bank, as the work conducted as part of the NDC Partnership's activities. Stakeholder consultations conducted for the purpose of developing this profile have pointed to technical support needed to conduct the NDC review process due to gaps and needs related to climate change adaptation global activities in Niger, which requires external support to fulfil the climate commitments of Niger.

The ongoing NDC review process, and the prioritisation of sectors and actions based on stakeholder input could contribute to identify the key priorities for the NAP process in Niger. The integration of the NDCs and NAP or the alignment of focus and actions will contribute to avoid duplication of CCA finance, as well as to ensure that the adaptation actions in Niger could be scaled up. Additionally, the alignment of processes could provide avenues for higher level of participation and inclusion, developing evidence-based actions, and enhanced stakeholder participation at national climate change adaptation processes.

4.3.2 Readiness Support Projects under the GCF

Niger received NAP Readiness Support for a period of 4 years, from 2018-2021. The

ongoing activities of the NAP Readiness based funding, focuses on 5 key areas which will ensure that the NAP of Niger would be a comprehensive exercise. As elaborated in section 4.1 of this report, the NAP Readiness activities in Niger focuses on ensuring that the national mandate, strategy and steering mechanisms related to the NAP process in Niger are in place, as well as the existing gaps and needs relevant to these elements are addressed.¹¹²

Additionally, it focuses on conducting preparatory work needed developing a knowledge base related to the NAP, as well as a mechanism for monitoring and reviewing the activities relevant to the NAP. The process also aims to facilitate the implementation of the NAP as well as the integration of CCA activities of Niger into the national development planning as well as budgetary processes.¹¹³ NAP Readiness activities also have as their objective to address the gaps and needs existing related to climate finance, and the key areas of focus includes as an outcome the establishment of a funding strategy for the NAP and CCA.

In addition to the NAP Readiness Support, Niger has also received NDA Readiness Support which focuses on institutional capacity building for the implementation of climate action, as well as accessing climate finance needed for national and sub-national level climate activities. The NDA capacity building support contributes to enhancing institutional and coordination enhancement capacities, and provides the opportunity to address existing institutional, coordination and other human resources capacity gaps and needs which needs to be addressed to ensure that a holistic and comprehensive NAP is developed for Niger.

¹¹² (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

¹¹³ (Green Climate Fund, 2018)

4.3.3 Existing Climate Change Adaptation Projects

Niger has several CCA project which focus on building climate resilience and addressing existing vulnerabilities and risks due to climate impacts in Niger. These projects are funded by multi-lateral donors such as GCF, World Bank, and other related entities.

Among projects that present the opportunity to integrate activities related to the NAP for the country, as well as addressing adaptation and gaps and needs in Niger. Among these projects are projects such as the Inclusive Green Financing for Climate Resilient and Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture – SAP012 funded by the GCF which focuses on Niger's agriculture sector and addressing climate risks and vulnerabilities caused by impacts hazards such as droughts, delayed rainy seasons and short rainfall. The project will further focus on diversification of production, as well as increasing yields and enhancing adaptation to external shocks, particularly climatic shocks faced by rural producers (including young people). The project also focuses on thematic areas such as health, as well as nutritional security. The project activities which spread across a period of 20 years provide the opportunity to focus on adaptation needs in the agriculture sector, build resilience, as well as to implement gender responsive and inclusive measures through the inclusion of women, men and youth in the activities.

Other projects that could be taken as entry points for NAP activities are other GCF projects such as Programme for integrated development and adaptation to climate change in the Niger Basin – FP092, and the AF-Niger Disaster Risk Management and Urban Development funded by the World Bank.

Niger is also part of the Climate Commission for the Sahel Region that was launched in 2016 in Morocco. In 2019, the Commission's Climate Investment Plan for the Sahel Region (CIP-RS) was validated by the heads of state and

government of 17 countries, allocating USD 400 billion to an ambitious twelve-year plan from 2019 to 2030.

Further, as a key activity to identify the baselines to addressing gender responsiveness in climate change adaptation actions, the Gender Action Plans developed as a component of the GCF projects, and other projects that are related to climate change adaptation which consist of gender evaluations could be referred to.

4.3.4 Key National Policies and Plans related to Sustainable Development

For the NAP of Niger to be a comprehensive, and to have application which would be receiving political will and ownership of different sectors and actions related to them, it is important that the NAP aligns with the country's key policies and plans. Among these a few that could be considered as entry points are the 'Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy' (2035) or '2035 Vision'.

The NAP process could build on this strategy to enhance the adaptation actions at national and sub-national level in Niger, which includes the integration of key aspects such as climate risks, vulnerabilities, as well as relevant adaptation measures to address country's vulnerabilities which hinder its sustainable development. In parallel, the integration of the two processes will contribute to eliminate the risks caused by climate change impacts to negatively impact the development process, and to achieve the targets of the 2035 Vision for Niger.

Additionally, linking with the existing policy processes which connect with Niger's development priorities, and building synergies which would facilitate to scale up actions, improve coordination among different processes, would be beneficial for enhancing the actions of the NAP for Niger. It will also

contribute to capacity build at institutional level, as well as engage the key stakeholders in the development and climate processes to build technical capacity on inclusive and participatory climate adaptation action, which could contribute to productive climate action

leading to resilience building of the vulnerable communities and ecosystems, as well as contribute to mainstreaming climate change adaptation into country's political and developmental processes.

Overview: Entry Points and Actions

Entry Point 1: NDC Review Process	Identify key priorities for the NAP process in Niger through NDC stakeholder input
	Integrate NDCs and NAP and align focus and actions to avoid duplication of finance and ensure that adaptation actions can be scaled up
	Align processes to provide avenues for higher level of participation and inclusion, developing evidence-based actions, and enhanced stakeholder participation
Entry Point 2: Readiness Support Projects under the GCF	Build on knowledge base and funding strategy developed during preparatory work under NAP readiness support
	Integrate with institutional capacity-building for the implementation of climate action under NDA readiness support
	Utilize NDA capacity building support to contribute to enhancing institutional and coordination capacities
	Address institutional, coordination, and other human resources capacity gaps and needs to ensure development of a holistic and comprehensive NAP for Niger
Entry Point 3: Existing Climate Change Adaptation Projects	Integrate NAP activities with GCF-funded projects such as SAP012: Inclusive Green Financing for Climate Resilient and Low Emission Smallholder Agriculture
	Focus on adaptation needs in the agriculture sector, build resilience, and implement gender-responsive and -inclusive measures into activities
	Use other projects such as the Adaptation Fund: Niger Disaster Risk Management and Urban Development project as an entry point to integrate with the NAP process, apply lessons learnt, avoid duplication of efforts
	Scale up local and regional adaptation pilot projects and build a database of case studies, best practices, and experiences
Entry Point 4: Key National Plans and Policies Related to Sustainable Development	Identify the baselines to addressing gender responsiveness in climate change adaptation actions by linking up with Gender Action Plans developed under GCF projects and other projects that are related to climate change adaptation
	Align with key development policies and plans including 2035 Vision to increase political will and ownership of different sectors
	Enhance adaptation actions at national and sub-national level by integrating key aspects such as climate risks, vulnerabilities, and adaptation measures into sustainable development
	Integrate adaptation with sustainable development to address climate risks that will negatively impact the development process
	Link existing policy processes with Niger's development priorities
	Build synergies to scale up actions, improve coordination across processes, and enhance adaptation actions
	Engage key stakeholders in both development and climate processes to build technical capacity on inclusive and participatory adaptation action
	Build resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems
Contribute to mainstreaming climate change adaptation into Niger's political and developmental processes	

5. Conclusion

Niger is taking proactive measures to address climate change impacts and achieve sustainable development to uplift millions from poverty, strengthen the rural sector, and guarantee food security for the entire population. These actions aim to address the country's social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities, taking into consideration the challenges posed by the climate risks and impacts. To ensure that sustainable development is achieved, climate change adaptation planning is a key element for Niger.

There are a number of different challenges, gaps, and needs to be addressed to ensure the implementation of effective and efficient adaptation planning in the country. Among these are gaps and needs related to finance; coordination and communication; technical and institutional capacities; laws and policies; social, cultural, and political factors; monitoring and evaluation; data, research, and knowledge products; and inclusive and participatory adaptation action.

To ensure that Niger's population, infrastructure, economy, and ecosystems are resilient to climate change impacts, a holistic National Adaptation Plan for the country is vital. Efforts to formulate a NAP are ongoing and try to bring together the multiple actions on overall climate change planning and donor aided processes. It will be important to integrate the ongoing activities related to climate change adaptation planning, and implementation of adaptation actions in Niger with the NAP process, which provides an opportunity to strengthen communication and coordination. It will also avoid duplication of efforts or an isolated NAP process that restarts an all new activity list on climate change adaptation which does not take into

consideration the efforts toward climate resilience already made by the country.

The findings of this research indicate that 2020 is a key year for ensuring that the different processes on climate change adaptation in Niger are integrated and coordinated to ensure a participatory, inclusive, and efficient NAP process. To achieve these, the key entry points recommended to multiple stakeholders to build on are the review process of the NDCs, the readiness support projects under the Green Climate Fund, the existing climate change adaptation projects, both funded by the Nigerien government and by entities such as the World Bank or African Development Bank, and key national policies and plans related to sustainable development, such as the vision for 2035.

With many of these listing the year 2020 as a key moment for review and update of the identified actions and measures, and the overlaps with global processes which focus on climate change and specifically on NAPs development for LDC countries.

A national NAP vision and mandate are an important first step for Niger but will need to be further developed to establish the National Climate Change Commission as the NAP coordination lead, develop a steering and monitoring mechanism, and define the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. Additionally, it is pivotal that the NAP process of Niger builds on these processes to ensure that the NAP of Niger is holistic, inclusive, evidence-based, and multi-stakeholder driven with an ultimate objective to achieve climate resilience for all and reduce vulnerabilities among communities and ecosystems, while facilitating sustainable development of Niger.

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Contact Point:

Obed Koringo
Civil Society Advocacy Coordinator
CARE Denmark
okoringo@careclimatechange.org

Technical Partner:

Vositha Wijenayake
Executive Director
SLYCAN Trust
vositha@slycantrust.org

Country Partner:

Issa Garba Tahirou
Coordinator
Niger CSO Platform
issagne@gmail.com