

Effective climate action through water:

Unveiling the hidden water in national climate plans



Arab Republic of Egypt

EGYPTIAN INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

UPDATED

NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS

July 2021

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCE STRATEGY 2021 - 2025



Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation



Climate Change Risk Management in Egypt

Proposed Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the Ministry of Water Resources & Irrigation in Egypt

NDCs and NAPs are *increasingly important* as the basis for the implementation of effective climate action

NATIONAL DECARBONIZATION PLAN | GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA 2018 -2050






WATER TRACKER

FOR NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANNING

**THE WATER TRACKER IS A TOOL AND DIAGNOSTIC GUIDE
SUPPORTING ENHANCED WATER RESILIENCE IN
NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANNING**

An aerial photograph of a river delta, likely the Amazon, showing a complex network of waterways and land. A semi-transparent blue rectangular box is overlaid on the top left portion of the image, containing the title text.

Connections with the Water Convention 2022-2024 programme of work

Water Tracker supports:

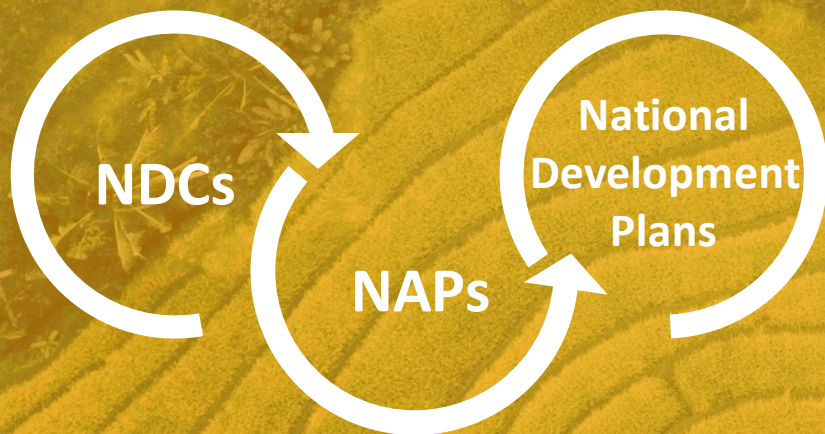
- Adaptation capacity and cooperation
- Access to finance
- Increased awareness of relevance of transboundary water management within climate planning



WATER TRACKER

• FOR NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANNING •

If climate action is to be effective, the **role of water** in must be recognized through **strategic, dynamic trade-offs**



Reveal synergies and gaps
in water resilience and
climate planning

AND

provide tools to reinforce
synergies and fill gaps.

WHY THE WATER TRACKER

- Identify how water is included/omitted in climate plans and evaluate trade-offs
- Provide guidance to strengthen water-sensitive adaptation commitments
- Connect multisector water resilience projects to climate finance institutions
- Support engagement in robust and sustained dialogue on water and climate connections

WATER TRACKER QUESTIONS



Water in National Climate Plans



Water in National Planning and Governance



Water and Climate Connections in Specific Sectors



Climate Financing and Project Implementation

WATER TRACKER FRAMEWORK

DRAFT

Section 1: Water in national climate plans

This section of the Water Tracker will explore the explicit ways in which water is included within national climate plans, policies, and related documents. The understanding of how water is included in the plan is demonstrative of broad, often implicit, country water strategies and thinking. There are three main ways in which water appears as a risk, such as in the context of drought events; water as a sector, such as in the context of economic development; and water as a resource, i.e., water availability for sanitation or input to agriculture.

The outcome of this section should give countries a strong sense in their climate planning initiatives (e.g., as a risk, sector, or resource) and can be revised in future versions of plans. A separate Guide to Water Tracker will promote the inclusion of water as a resource, provision of relevant resources, tools, and recommendations, and robust projects linked to sources of climate finance. Responses to questions should include justification and explanations that clarify to what extent a situation is included. Further information for each question is provided in the table below.

Question	Question
1. Climate impacts related to the hydrological cycle (flooding, drought, increased extreme weather events) are prioritized as levels of exposure hazard.	
2. Water-related risks are prioritized as levels of exposure hazard.	
3. Climate projections for the hydrological cycle are included in the document.	
4. Uncertainty of climate risks is acknowledged.	
5. The document includes hydromet services monitoring and forecasting.	

Question	Water Governance and Institutional Frameworks		
	Strongly Supported	Somewhat Supported	Not Included
20. There are existing legal and institutional frameworks to support the integration of objectives from the document into sector and sub-national policies and programs.			
21. The document references and describes adequately flexible mechanisms for revising existing laws, regulations, policies, and institutional structures in the face of new climate evidence.			
22. The document recognizes adaptive planning and management approaches are considered as key future water management challenges instead of a traditional 'predict and design' approach.			
23. The document describes relevant institutional mechanisms in the country which facilitate the interface between bottom-up and top-down processes for adaptation planning.			
24. The document acknowledges connection to and/or alignment of objectives with water resource management, river-basin, WASH, or other integrated resource plans in the country.			
25. The document acknowledges connection to and/or alignment with disaster risk management plans in the country.			
26. The document recognizes formal mechanisms for non-national institutions (civil society, cities, provinces and priorities established in the document) to align with climate adaptation objectives.			
27. The document identifies applicable international obligations (e.g., from regional or global treaties and agreements) that are relevant to the water-related measures and actions within the document.			
28. The document identifies non-binding regional and/or international principles or guidance relevant to the water-related measures in the document.			

Adaptation Action Coalition
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office UK
DRAFT Water Tracker Framework – v4 | August 2022

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Section	Question	Yes	No	Remarks
Section 1: Water in national climate plans	1. Are changes to the hydrological cycle mentioned in terms of climate hazards? (Flooding, drought, changes in water availability, etc.) Note that this includes both negative (Increased drought) and positive (Increased precipitation) impacts.			
	2. Do climate projections for the hydrological cycle include uncertainty? (e.g., range of projections)			
	3. Are water-related risks (e.g., flooding, drought, increased extreme weather events) prioritized as levels of exposure hazard?			
	4. Are hydromet services (monitoring and forecasting) mentioned in the document?			
Section 2: Water as a resource	5. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	6. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	7. Are specific mitigation activities mentioned in the document to address water-related risks (e.g., improved water efficiency, drought-resistant crops, etc.)?			
	8. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
Section 3: Water as a risk	9. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	10. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	11. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	12. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
Section 4: Water as a sector	13. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	14. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	15. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	16. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
Section 5: Water as a risk	17. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	18. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	19. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			
	20. Is there identification and justification of water needs for agricultural, industrial, domestic, and other uses?			

OUTCOMES

- Baseline of how water is explicitly and implicitly included in national climate plans
- Recommendations for improving plans with an emphasis on water resilience
- Focus on multi- and cross- sector initiatives
- Improve adaptation outcomes and avoid maladaptation

Why consider transboundary water agreements in climate plans?

- To support the **alignment of the plans with the national priorities** for climate change mitigation and adaptation
- **Reduces the potential for conflict** over shared water resources that are essential for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- To **achieve benefits and reduce costs** for national adaptation and mitigation through transboundary cooperation namely by coordinating measures and joint development and implementation of transboundary adaptation strategies and plans



Country examples:

- NDC, Republic of Moldova: *“Support foundational capacity building and targeted research needs for joint, ecosystem-based management of trans-boundary water systems; to ensure international collaboration in climate change and environmental protection”*
- NDC, Republic of Viet Nam: *“Strengthen international cooperation in addressing transboundary water issues; enhance cooperation in scientific research, in information exchange on the formulation and implementation of policies and in the basic content of climate change strategies and policies”*

KEY FINDINGS

- Some climate plans acknowledge international water treaties (NAPs, NDCs, National Climate Change strategies, etc.).
- Water Policies are much more likely to identify international water-related obligations, as opposed to climate documents
- NDCs tend to focus only on the Paris Agreement
- Other international agreements recognized include the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for DRR



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



Plans should include a list and description of existing binding international/regional water-related treaties



Description of the relationship between the climate planning document and the treaties.



Identification of treaties relevant to climate mitigation and adaptation actions.

WATER AS THE CORE OF RESILIENCE

The Water Tracker facilitates the work of the Task Force on Water and Climate Action by ensuring that national climate plans recognize and actively engage with transboundary water commitments

Ensures that national climate planning instruments are meaningful, effective, and ambitious

Promotes water-centric adaptation and resilience across, between, and within countries and ministries to ensure coherence in programs and projects



WATER TRACKER

• FOR NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANNING •

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EXAMPLE RESULTS: MALAWI

Climate Change Planning Documents	NDC (2021)	Water Policy (2021)	Strategy on Climate Change Learning	National Adaptation Plan Framework	National Climate Change Management Policy	Draft National Climate Change Policy	National Resilience Strategy (2018-2030)	Malawi 2063
Questions	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No	Yes/No
2. Water Governance								
Do existing institutional frameworks facilitate the integration of national climate planning objectives in into sector and sub-national policies and programs?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are there institutional mechanisms established and functional for the interface between bottom-up and top-down processes for adaptation planning?	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Are national climate plans aligned with integrated water resource management, river-basin, or other integrated resource plans in the country?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Are national climate plans aligned with disaster risk management plans in the country?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are there formal mechanisms for non-national institutions (civil society, cities, provinces and states, RBOs, business, etc.) to align with national climate plan priorities?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Do the national climate plans identify applicable international obligations (e.g. from regional or global treaties and agreements) that are relevant to the water-related measures within the national plans?	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Do the national climate plans identify any non-binding regional or international principles or guidance that the country observes which are relevant to the water-related measures in the plans?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Are capacity building initiatives included in national climate plans to prioritize building local institutional capabilities and governance structures supporting local leadership?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Are there mechanisms in place to support adjustment of adaptation approaches reflecting real-time learning during implementation?	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
Are local users and beneficiaries of ecosystem services recognized as critical stakeholders in ecosystem resilience and associated planning and management?	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Does the Ministry of Finance (or equivalent government body) have an explicit role in approving allocation and governance arrangements in the national climate planning process?	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

EXAMPLE RESULTS: COSTA RICA

	I	II	III	IV	V
	Question	NDC	ENCC	Action Plan	PNACC
1	Is a section on the Water Sector explicitly included in the document? (ie as an essential common good, water and sanitation, water as an input to economic development, or goal towards water security)	"Oceans and water resources" is a priority thematic area and there is a section dedicated to it.	In the National Agenda there is a water section both in the mitigation axis and in the adaptation axis.	This section is part of the adaptation interventions.	Table 3 is where the theme of water resources is further developed. It is also included in PILLAR 3. Management of biodiversity, ecosystems, hydrographic basins and marine and coastal spaces for adaptation. GUIDELINE 3.3. Promotion of water security and sustainability in the face of climate change. AREA 4. Adapted public services and resilient infrastructure. GUIDELINE 4.2 Management of public assets that ensures the robustness of infrastructure works and redundancy between vital
7	Are specific adaptation activities mentioned in the Water Sector?	One of the contributions is: "By 2030, water security and sustainability will have been promoted in the face of climate change, as well as the adequate and integrated management of hydrographic basins, through the protection and monitoring of sources considering both surface water and groundwater. " Some can also be found in the Guidelines section.	"calculate the water balance by hydrographic basin (supply), which is a basic instrument for the allocation of water (demand) in the integrated management of water resources; improve the coverage, scope and reliability of the hydrometeorological network necessary for monitoring the meteorological variables required for the water balance; encourage	Increased adaptability in the HR sector of populations and ecosystems to CC by: - improving the resilience of ecosystems that protect surface and groundwater sources - Water Security Plans for Water Users in the local level - Consolidation of an early warning system for climate-related threats	Although there is no section on the water sector, management indicators are presented at the end of the document for each of the axes of the Policy. Some are related to adaptation activities. "If of water sources for human consumption monitored and protected", "If of prioritized basins with updated water balance", etc.
8	Are specific mitigation activities mentioned in the Water and Sanitation Sector? (ie reduction of GHG associated with water treatment and delivery)	No mitigation activities are specified for the water and sanitation sector. In the infrastructure section it is mentioned that: "In the year 2030, 100% of new buildings will be designed and built adopting low emission and resilience systems and technologies under bioclimatic parameters. In the waste management section it is mentioned that: " in the year 2030, at least 50% of wastewater in areas of high population density will receive	"mitigation options should not be based solely on improving energy efficiency but also looking for "water efficiency" as the main source of clean energy." "This requires the most efficient management of the existing water supply in the country and the protection of its sources..." "This implies the need to create plans, policies and projects that ensure the protection of water resources."	There is no Water Resources section in the mitigation interventions.	"The document is focused on adaptation. Table 3 mentions that "the new guidelines for the design of constructions and public buildings can be used to favor not only adaptation, but also energy efficiency and the mitigation of greenhouse gases." GUIDELINE 4.3 Continuity of vital public services (health, education, water and sanitation, energy, transportation).
9	Is the water sector explicitly linked to the rest of areas/components/sectors of the document?	Costa Rica is committed to having healthy, adapted and resilient marine and coastal ecosystems that allow the sustainable use of natural resources and whose management is focused on the well-being of people and nature. In addition, it is committed to making water resource use systems more resilient both in terms of caring for surface and underground water sources and for the recovery, treatment and storage of rain, including through water harvesting techniques. Contribution 9.2 By 2030, water security and sustainability will have been promoted in the face of climate change, as well as the adequate and integrated management of hydrographic basins, through the protection and	It is explicitly linked to the energy, infrastructure, health and land use change sectors.	"Water governance is a complex issue, with multiple edges and interactions between sectors." Its relationship with the energy sector is explicitly mentioned.	In recent years, vulnerability assessments have also been carried out in the sectors of water resources, agriculture, biodiversity, infrastructure, food security, resources and coastal zones, and the supply of drinking water and the situation of the environment have been identified as areas of special concern, agricultural sector. In the latter case, it is considered a great challenge to increase knowledge and agricultural research on the effects of climate change in the different climatic regions of the country, in order to improve their adaptation capacity. In addition, efforts have been dedicated to the development of adaptation measures in water resources and the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC)
10	Are there specific connections to SDG 6? If so, are there mitigation opportunities and/or adaptation needs related to the specific targets from SDG 6 that are included?	An icon is used to indicate those contributions that are specifically linked to SDG 6 but the specific target is not indicated.	No mention is made of SDG 6 but there is a relationship.	SDG 6 is not explicitly mentioned, but there is a relationship between the targets of SDG 6 and the adaptation actions of the plan.	SDG 6 is not mentioned but axes 3 and 4 are related to this objective and its targets. AXIS 3. Management of biodiversity, ecosystems, hydrographic basins and marine and coastal spaces for adaptation. AXIS 4. Adapted public services and resilient infrastructure
11	Are the adaptation needs of water and sanitation infrastructure and services identified to ensure climate resilient provision of those basic social services?	In priority area 4. Infrastructure and construction, it is indicated in a somewhat general way that "By 2030, applications of guidelines with adaptation criteria, institutional articulation efforts and improvements in response capacity, among others, will have been developed to guarantee the protection of infrastructure and the continuity of vital	It is briefly and ambiguously mentioned: "Improvement of the infrastructure of drinking water systems to provide it in greater quantity and quality"	"A series of actions must be taken to ensure the supply of water for the population and its different uses, and to reduce vulnerability. Among the main challenges to be addressed are: how to improve the interconnection of water systems, increase the capacity of water storage; how to reduce pollution of the resource, how to protect forests	PILLAR 4. Adapted public services and resilient infrastructure. Mainly guidelines 4.1 and 4.2 "Climate change will contribute to an increase in loss and damage to infrastructure and the interruption of vital public services (health, education, energy, water)." In table 3: "Public infrastructure [roads, energy, drinking water and irrigation] currently
12		narrative	narrative	narrative	narrative
13	Is water mentioned as an opportunity? (ie, as a connecting point between and across sectors, or acknowledging the need for awareness of climate-related water consumption and management)	It is not specified in the document.	It is not specified in the document.	"The case of Water Resources was a little different because it is a sector whose real stewardship, not so much legal, is more diffuse, and where there are several key entities within the so-called "Water Fund", therefore more diverse entities participated, such as: Water Directorate, AyA, SENARA, IMN, ASADAS, NGOs linked to the issue of adaptation and Water Resources."	In the prologue, it is mentioned that "we have placed water as a determining, transversal and priority management axis". Table 3 lists some opportunities arising from climate change related to the water sector.