

Building Back Better:
Planning Workshop for Climate Resilient Investment in Reconstruction and Development in
SADC Member States Informed by the Experiences from Cyclone Affected Regions of
Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe

29-31 July 2019
Maputo, Mozambique

Concept Note

1. Introduction

p. 2/5

Climate change is unequivocal and one of the most visible consequences of climate change is an increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events (IPCC, 2014). The frequency and magnitude of extreme events triggered by climate change has been increasing globally, leading to USD 1.5 trillion in economic damages from 2003 to 2013 (FAO, 2015). These climate hazards have resulted in major disasters with losses of infrastructures, economy, natural resources and human lives and livelihoods. Reports also confirm the intensification and increasing frequency of extreme events, with nearly 12,000 weather related disasters having been recorded between 1970 and 2014 affecting more than 22 million people every year. Storms and floods contribute 64 percent of these disasters.¹ However, the magnitude of the climate hazards and subsequent disasters are not uniformly distributed across the world. The highest death toll, losses and damages are concentrated in developing countries.

To be able to definitively ascribe cyclone Idai to climate change would require a huge amount of modelling the climate system around the southern parts of the Indian Ocean. That amount of modelling has not been done for these parts, the resources simply are not made available. In total, the 2018-19 Southwest Indian Ocean Tropical Cyclones Season set a new record of Ten Intense Tropical Cyclones, the largest number since the start of reliable satellite coverage in 1967, surpassing the 2006-07 season. According to most climate projections, extreme weather events will disproportionately affect the African continent. It is projected that under 1.5/2.0 degrees warming, Africa will warm faster than any other continent and attain 2.0 degrees warming by 2050.² There is evidence that this will increase the intensity of extreme precipitation events over Southern Africa³.

The IPCC further concludes that Africa will continue to experience increased temperature and variable rainfall with yield losses of staple crops. The formulation of actionable policies geared towards adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of 1.5°C and 2°C warming on key sectors such as agriculture, water, energy and health sectors is thus inevitable. Clearly, the threat of floods and other weather extremes will only increase in the foreseeable future. Because the threat of floods will only be amplified with increasing climate variability, the best response strategy is one that improves the resilience of economies, infrastructure, ecosystems and societies to climate variability and change. Such a strategy is necessarily pivoted around an overall development approach which seeks to mitigate the risks posed by climate change and variability to the attainment of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Africa has experienced an inordinate amount of extreme weather events and resulting to significant material losses and human casualties. For instance, the year 2017 was noted as a significant year for flooding in West Africa. In July 2017 Greater Accra, Central Region, Western Region and Eastern Region of Ghana were declared as “flood emergency” areas. In August 2017, floods and landslides that led to the deaths of more than a thousand people and buried hundreds of houses in Freetown, Sierra Leone. In Cote d’Ivoire, heavy rainfall flooded the southwestern areas around San Pedro, threatening the cocoa plantations. Also in August 2017, intense storms hit Lagos and Port Harcourt, triggering massive floods that resulted in the deaths of many people and washed away houses. In neighbouring Niger, continuous heavy rainfall resulted in extensive flooding, destruction of houses and loss of property in several areas including Niamey. Flooding also extended to Guinea and Mali. Southern Africa sub region has also experienced extreme weather events with ever increasing frequency.⁴ Between 2018 and 2019, devastating floods, including those spawned by Cyclone Desmond, Idai and Kenneth, affected the whole sub region from Angola to Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

¹ IDMC (2015)

² Osima et al. 2018.

³ IPCC 2018)

⁴ <http://floodlist.com/africa>

p.3/5

Africa's economies, ecosystems and societies are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and variability and have the least capacity to cope and adapt to climate impacts. The example of Beira port below highlights the levels of vulnerability. As argued by many analysts, disaster marks the interface between an extreme physical phenomenon and the exposure of a vulnerable human population to these. The underlying causes of vulnerability include high levels of poverty and national indebtedness, poor infrastructure, unemployment and low levels of capacity to generate and use climate information, including early warning systems. Housing and infrastructure are of poor quality and there are low levels of economic diversification and access to social services. Beyond impacts on households and communities, extreme weather and climate events as well as slow onset events such as droughts have significant implications for the ability of African countries to meet any of the SDG's. Floods and droughts stifle development efforts at every level and exert huge costs and strains on African economies. They affect many sectors from agriculture to sanitation, environment and education. For example, in Malawi, the combined effects of floods and droughts cause losses of at least 1.7 percent of the country's GDP annually. Food shortages and higher domestic prices caused by flooding further increase the national poverty headcount rate by almost 1 percent each year. But with some science and evidence based planning, the damage could be limited. It is therefore incumbent on member States to take urgent steps in order to keep the damage of the next, inevitable catastrophes in check.

2. Background

Cyclones Idai and Kenneth have left the three countries with devastating impacts. In Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, more than 1 000 lost their lives, whilst hundreds of thousands remained in need of aid, following the devastating battering by Cyclone Idai. The World Bank estimates the affected countries will need over US\$2 billion to recover. The following table presents a summary of the magnitude of the disaster according to government and UN officials.

Table 1. Cyclone Impact

| Country | Mozambique | Malawi | Zimbabwe |
|--------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Affected area | Beira Port | Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts | Chimanimani and Chipinge districts |
| Deaths | 602 | 60 | 344 |
| Injuries | 1641 | 672 | 200 |
| Displacements | 239 682 | 19 328 | 16 000 |
| Affected Pop. | 1.85 mil | 868 895 | 250 000 |
| Crops damaged (ha) | 715 378 | | |
| Cholera cases | 4 979 | | |
| Cholera deaths | 8 | | |

In Mozambique, the World Bank estimates the direct economic losses from Cyclone Idai to range from US\$656 million - US\$773 million, covering damage to buildings, infrastructure and agriculture. These estimates do not capture indirect losses such as reduced productivity or business interruptions.

Zimbabwe has appealed for US\$613 million in aid from local and foreign donors to cover food imports and assist with the humanitarian crisis. The government is seeking about \$300 million in food aid whilst the rest would fund emergency shelters, logistics and telecommunications among other needs.

3. Workshop Rationale

The ECA and partners the Department for International Development (DFID) and United Kingdom's Met Office are convening a workshop for SADC to formulate actionable strategies for climate resilient reconstruction of infrastructure post cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The workshop will elaborate “Building Back Better” strategies based on:

- i. Improving resilience through improved weather and climate forecasting;
- ii. Integration of climate information into infrastructure, ecosystems and settlement plans;
- iii. Capacity building for the use of Socio-Economic Benefits (SEB) models for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); and
- iv. Innovative financing for reconstruction and climate sensitive infrastructure planning.

Extreme weather and climate events will become more regular throughout most of Africa. This will necessitate the elaboration of appropriate policies for better disaster preparedness plans as well as the integration of climate resilience into all aspects of development planning and programming. The catastrophic effects of the cyclones compel all stakeholders to refocus on proactive risk reduction approaches as opposed to post disaster responses. Proactive approaches require, *inter alia*, improved climate and weather forecasting, complemented by proactive disaster risk reduction capacities, including policies and tools, undergirded by contingency planning and early warning systems. The recent tragic events from Tropical Cyclones Idai and Kenneth underscore the need for a high-level policy dialogue for stakeholders to interrogate these adverse effects taking into cognizance, the nexus between climate variability and change and public budgeting for resilient economies. The purpose of this dialogue is to provide a platform for stakeholders to interrogate these adverse effects taking into cognizance, the nexus between climate variability and change and public budgeting for resilient economies. The dialogue will therefore facilitate the elaboration of appropriate policies for better disaster preparedness plans as well as the integration of climate resilience into all aspects of development planning and programming.

The scientific advances in climate forecasting increases the lead times of hydro-meteorological hazard warnings. In this regard, utilization of seasonal climate outlooks helps governments and the community to manage climate risks and disasters. Without improving resilience through improved forecasting, sustainable development continues to be at risk especially as most member States’ core economic sectors are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change. It is, therefore, imperative that appropriate strategies/programmes/projects are conceptualized and developed to make the necessary investments required for optimum Climate Information Services (CIS).

Since the construction of protection infrastructure – like robust dikes, roads and railways and community shelters etc. – need to take into account the historical, short and long-term climate projections on board, the integration of CIS into development policy and planning is essential to address infrastructure and other long-term investments in key development sectors. Hence, this workshop shall identify the institutional and human capacities needs and gaps to better integrate CIS into future infrastructure, ecosystems, settlement and into other key sectoral strategies and plans.

The workshop will also seek to demonstrate the utility of Socio-Economic Benefits (SEB) of Climate Information Services in the planning, management and investments of climate-induced risks. The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) has developed a framework and model to compare the economic and social benefits of CIS compared to the costs of investments. The model details the steps required for the effective identification and use of indicators to support a sectoral and integrated analysis. It also allows for the development of an integrated Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) which takes account social, economic and environmental impacts as well as policy outcomes. The assessment of SEBs of CIS is based on the amount of avoided costs and added benefits that investments generate over time, meaning that cumulative benefits and costs are compared to determine the benefit to cost ratio of CIS implementation. Hence, building the capacity of different stakeholders in the sub region on the utility of SEB model is helpful to make appropriate infrastructural investment by using the best possible weather and climate information and prediction services in decision-making process.

4. Objectives

The workshop is geared towards provision of support to affected countries through ‘building back better’ by integrating climate information for resilience by way of policies and improved access to climate information and prediction services. The planning workshop will also elaborate strategies and approaches to obtain verifiable estimates of the economic impact of Idai and Kenneth in addition to lives lost and missing persons. The broad objective of this workshop is to develop a regional actionable programme that builds the capacity of the SADC member States for climate resilient development planning. Specifically, the workshop will:

- obtain key inputs for developing appropriate strategies/programmes/projects briefs to inform appropriate investments in improved weather and climate forecasting and their applications in sustainable socioeconomic development;
- demonstrate the utility of SEB model in planning, investments, preparation for and management of weather- and climate-induced risks and disasters;
- identify the institutional and human capacities needs and gaps for better integration of CIS into future infrastructure, ecosystems, settlement and other key development sectors;
- document experiences and lesson learned from Idai and explore the empirical estimate of its economic impact; and
- explore innovative strategies to mobilize resource for mainstreaming CIS in climate sensitive infrastructure planning.

5. Duration/participants

The workshop is planned for 3 days, from 29 to 31 July 2019 and will be attended by 40-50 stakeholders from the three affected countries, other SADC member States, the SADC Climate Services Centre, representatives of Regional Economic Communities, regional and international development partners including the UN family and ECA relevant divisions and sections.

6. Expected Outputs

The main outputs will include:

- A regional actionable programme document that enhances the capacity and resilience of the SADC member States against the impacts of weather and climate risks and disasters developed;
- Participants trained on (exposed to) the utility of SEB framework, tools and methods for making evidence-based decision on climate resilient investments;
- Community of practitioners on economic utility of weather and climate forecasts in the DRR decision making established; and
- A comprehensive workshop report developed.

7. Agenda/programme

To be circulated in due course.

8. Contacts

Enquiries and queries on the workshop and any other related matters should be addressed to:

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