



National Adaptation Plans in focus: Lessons from Djibouti

The Republic of Djibouti (Djibouti) is a small country located in the Horn of Africa with an area of 23,200 km² and a population of 900,000 inhabitants.⁽¹⁾ More than 75 percent of the population lives in coastal areas, predominantly in the capital.⁽²⁾ Djibouti is a young nation that gained independence in 1977.

Despite the country's sub-tropical desertic climate and limited development potential in terms of agriculture, natural resources and industry⁽³⁾, it benefits from a highly strategic location having control of the Mandeb Detroit which represents a significant gateway to the Horn of Africa and the widest part of the East African region.

Transportation and logistics services are the main drivers of the rapid and sustained economic growth⁽⁴⁾ Djibouti has enjoyed over the past fifteen years. The GDP per capita has thus been increasing by 3.1 percent per annum on average in 2001-2017.⁽⁵⁾

Extreme poverty has declined in the last fifteen years but remains high. Approximately one fifth of the population continues to live below the

international poverty line.⁽⁶⁾ Rural populations suffer from recurrent droughts, particularly in the North-West and South-West regions.

In addition, Djibouti welcomes more than 27,000 people fleeing wars and droughts of surrounding countries such as Somalia, Ethiopia, and more recently Yemen. Those refugees are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance.⁽⁷⁾ Djibouti ranks 172th out of 188 countries in the Human Development Index Rating (2016).⁽⁸⁾

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“The difficult living conditions of rural populations are worsened by climate change and recurrent droughts.”

M. Dini Abdallah Omar, Secretary General
Ministry of Habitat, Urban Planning and Environment

Climate change risks

In the past three decades, increases in the average temperature and in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events (droughts and floods) have been observed.⁽⁹⁾ In Djibouti City alone, the minimum temperature recorded has risen by close to 1.3°C in 30 years. Average temperatures across Djibouti are projected to increase between 0.6°C and 2.4°C by 2050.⁽¹⁰⁾ In addition, with 88 percent of the population living in the coast, Djiboutian people are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise. These severe conditions have negative repercussions on the availability and quality of water resources for the population, livestock and agriculture.⁽¹¹⁾

Rapid desertification has already led to shrinkage of arable land and biodiversity (mangroves and endemic species notably) and will be further exacerbated by rising temperatures. In addition, more than half of the coral cover is likely to disappear in the years to come⁽¹²⁾, which could have profound repercussions on local populations that directly depend on those natural resources for their livelihood and are already in a situation of aggravated poverty.⁽¹³⁾



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Groundwork for supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs



Policy, planning and budgeting

Djibouti has undertaken several adaptation actions to tackle climate change. The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), submitted to the UNFCCC in 2006, identified the most vulnerable sectors to climate change impacts to be water resources, agriculture and livestock, forestry, coastal and marine ecosystems. A first assessment of climate change vulnerabilities of these sectors was conducted, and several urgent adaptation actions have been identified and ranked according to their level of priority.

In 2014, the government adopted a new reference framework that sets a long-term orientation: the 2035 Vision. One year later, its five-year action plan was elaborated. The first Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment (SCAPE) was adopted and serves as a medium-term version of the 2035 Vision. SCAPE's tenth goal concerns climate change adaptation and resilience building with a focus on rural communities and the integration of adaptation into sectoral policies.

In 2015, the country submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement framework. The initial contribution converted into an NDC in 2016. This document reaffirms Djibouti's commitment and sets adaptation as a national priority. It identifies the following adaptation priorities: (i) the reduction of vulnerability to drought; (ii) protection against sea level rise; (iii) improvement of access to water; (iv) protection of biodiversity; and (v) reinforcement of the resilience of rural populations.

In 2017, a National Strategy on Climate Change (SNCC) was prepared to enhance coherence between climate change actions and existing national frameworks (NDC and SCAPE), and to address climate change impacts in the various socio-economic sectors of the country. The SNCC defines six priority areas (see table below) and also indicates that implementation in these areas will be facilitated by establishing a platform for sharing techniques and knowledge on adaptation and mitigation, as well as mechanisms for measuring, monitoring and conducting environmental assessments.

Six priority areas for adaptation defined by the 2017 SNCC:

-  Ensure access to water for all
-  Promote best practices in the agricultural, forestry, fishery and tourism sectors and eliminate harmful practices
-  Reduce vulnerability to the effects of climate change and increase the resilience of the most exposed social-economic or geographical sectors
-  Protect and enhance ecosystems and maintain the services they provide
-  Ensure the development of sustainable and resilient cities in the context of climate change
-  Ensure the resilience and sustainability of the country's key strategic infrastructure

At the sectoral level, the National Programme for Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security (PNIASAN) 2016-2020, provides opportunities for integration of adaptation into sectoral policies, agriculture, livestock and fishery in particular. This planning framework document for the Agriculture, Water, Livestock and Fishery sectors touches upon adaptation needs focusing on the water-agriculture nexus and the support to vulnerable fishing and farming communities.

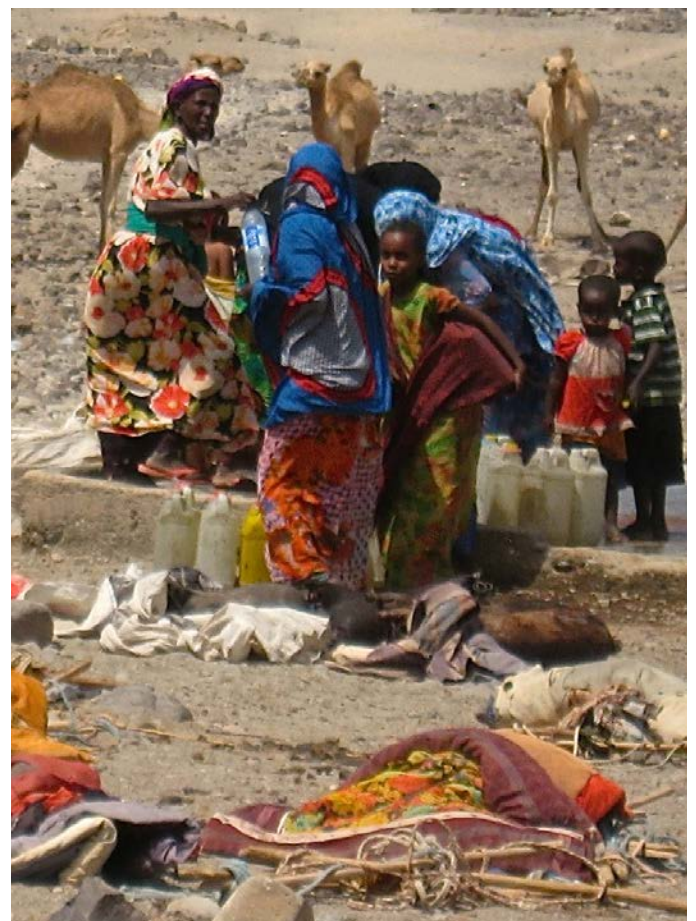
Preparing for adaptation planning

As part of the preparation of the first and second national communications, in-depth vulnerability assessments were conducted in the following sectors: water, coastal zone, and marine and terrestrial ecosystems. However, not all geographical zones were covered and vulnerabilities of key sectors such as agriculture and livestock were not assessed.

Implementation of adaptation actions

A range of adaptation projects have been carried out in Djibouti, including the following key initiatives:

- Supporting rural community adaptation to climate change in mountainous regions of Djibouti, 2014-2018, funded by the GEF/LDCF
- Implementing adaptation technologies in fragile ecosystems of Djibouti's central plains, 2014-2018, funded by the GEF/LDCF
- Coastal Fisheries Vulnerability Reduction Support Program, 2014-2020, funded by IFAD



The process to formulate and implement NAPs in Djibouti

Institutional arrangements

The process to formulate and implement NAPs builds on existing institutional arrangements for addressing climate change in Djibouti. In 1999, a National Climate Change Committee (CNCC) was established but has not been effectively functional due to a lack of financial and technical resources.

Its role is currently being redefined and sub-groups are being established, including an adaptation group through GEG/LDCF support. The secretariat of the CNCC is hosted by the Department of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Environment (MHUE).

Support programmes

The NAP process in Djibouti is supported by a range of partners including: the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded joint UNDP-UN Environment National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP), the LDC Expert Group (LEG), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through its support to National Agricultural Investment and Food Security Plans, and the European Union (EU) through the Global Climate Change Alliance.

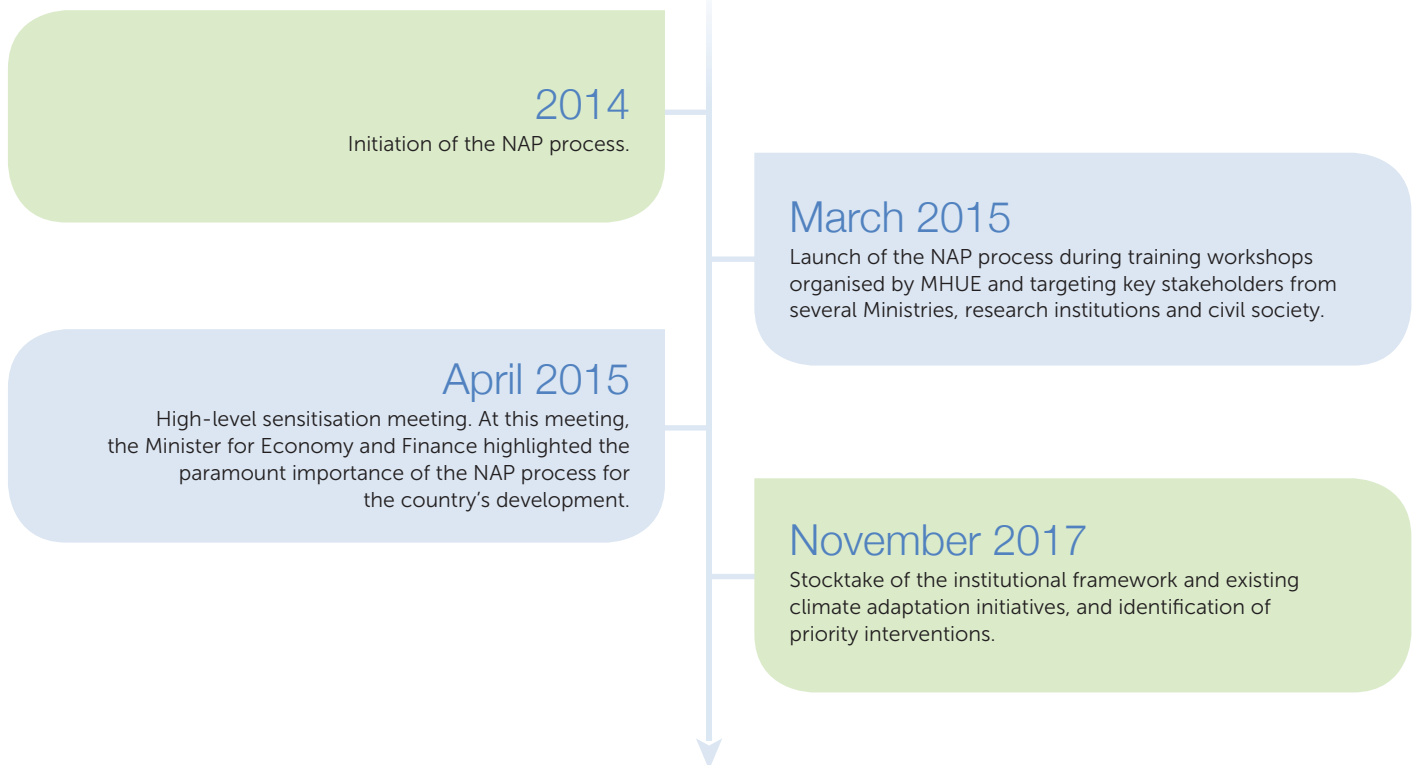
Challenges

Climate scenarios in Djibouti have not been updated for more than a decade and vulnerabilities in several key sectors (including agriculture, livestock and tourism) have not yet been analysed. There is also a lack of information and understanding of the long-term impacts of climate change.

Gender aspects have not been sufficiently taken into account in vulnerability assessments and are not sufficiently reflected in the NAPA and the NDC. The 2011-2020 National Gender Policy does not include climate change considerations. The lack of sustained climate change coordination and platforms for sharing knowledge has limited the full participation and engagement of key stakeholders in adaptation planning and implementation. Recognising this challenge, the SNCC recommends the establishment of a knowledge-sharing platform on mitigation and adaptation.

Successes

Important lessons are drawn from NAPA projects, which have proved very useful as the NAP process is formulated and implemented. Capacity to implement adaptation projects has increased steadily over the years. The formation of the SNCC and the country's plan to strengthen the NCC testify to the political will to address climate change comprehensively, by integrating adaptation into development planning processes.



What is the process to formulate and implement NAPs?

The Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process in 2010, to enhance country-led planning and preparedness for climate change adaptation (CCA) in the medium and long-term. The objectives of the NAPs are to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and to facilitate the integration of adaptation into all levels of development planning. The NAP process is multi-sectoral, involving Ministries of Environment as well as Planning and Finance, in addition to other key ministries. By bringing greater institutional integration and coordination to adaptation planning, NAPs can enhance ongoing national development planning processes, safeguard development gains, and build resilience.



Opportunities

The following aspects represent opportunities to advance the process to formulate and implement NAPs in Djibouti:

- Revitalisation of the NCC promises to strengthen adaptation efforts at the national level.
- SCAPE has included the reduction of vulnerability to climate change as part of its strategic orientations, with a focus on the development of a NAP. The SCAPE Mid-Term Review and sectoral documents (2018-2020) will offer opportunities for better integration of adaptation into development plans.
- Djibouti intends to establish a planning, monitoring and evaluation system at the ministerial level. This will provide an additional opportunity to integrate adaptation into existing development planning processes.
- Adaptation measures implemented by the government on a pilot scale, such as the drought-resilient project in Grand Bara, have begun to show tangible results. These have the potential to be scaled up.
- Revision of the National Gender Policy in 2021 could be an opportunity to better link gender equality and climate actions.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) NAP Readiness proposal is under preparation with the support of UNDP.

- Second National Communication, 2014
- Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Promotion of Employment (SCAPE), 2015
- Vision Djibouti 2035
- Stratégie Nationale sur le Changement Climatique (SNCC), 2017

Notes

- ⁽¹⁾ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Reports Djibouti Country Profile. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/DJI>
- ⁽²⁾ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Report 2016. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/2016-report/download>.
- ^{(3), (4)} United Nations. Djibouti Country Facts. Available at: <https://www.un.int/djibouti/djibouti/country-facts>.
- ^{(5), (6), (6a)} The World Bank. Djibouti Overview. Available at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/djibouti/overview>
- ⁽⁷⁾ UNHCR. Comprehensive refugee response framework (CRRF) global digital portal. Available at: <http://crrf.unhcr.org/en/country/dji>
- ⁽⁸⁾ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Human Development Index. Available at: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI>
- ⁽⁹⁾ Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction Database. Available at: <https://www.gfdr.org/djibouti>.
- ⁽¹⁰⁾ Government of Djibouti, 2001. First National Communication.
- ^{(11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16)} Government of Djibouti, 2015. Nationally Determined Contributions of the Republic of Djibouti (NDC).
- OECD/DAC. External Development Finance Statistics. Available at: https://public.tableau.com/views/Climate-relateddevelopmentfinance-RP/CRDF-Recipient?:embed=y&:display_count=no&%3AshowVizHome=no%20#3
- ⁽¹⁶⁾ GCF Draft Readiness Project Proposal Djibout

Key documents

- Nationally Determined Contributions of the Republic of Djibouti (NDC), 2015
- First National Communication, 2002

0,005%
of total global
emissions ⁽¹⁴⁾

5
adaptation
priorities in the
NDC ⁽¹⁵⁾

9 Govt
governmental and
non-governmental
institutions
represented at the
NAP workshop ⁽¹⁶⁾

Less than
1.000 km²
of arable land ⁽¹⁷⁾

EUR 100m
A 100M budget for
the implementation
of adaptation
projects in 2015 ⁽¹⁸⁾

About the NAP-GSP

The joint UNDP-UN Environment National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), assists least developed and developing countries to identify technical, institutional and financial needs to integrate climate change adaptation into medium and long-term national planning and financing. The programme supports the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In doing so, the NAP-GSP works with development partners to implement the Nationally Determined Contributions and promotes ambitious climate action in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals.



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