

Summary of the Climate Adaptation Policy Framework

DOWN2EARTH Project

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ABOUT DOWN2EARTH

The Horn of Africa Drylands (HAD) depend on seasonal rainfall for subsistence (primarily rainfed) agriculture and pastoralism, so they are extremely vulnerable to water scarcity and food insecurity during droughts. DOWN2EARTH is examining the links between key seasonal climate, water scarcity, food insecurity, and the consequential impacts to livelihoods and well-being for rural communities in HAD. We are facilitating community-centered adaptation and resilience to climate change impacts through the delivery of community-relevant climate services that focus on water scarcity and its consequences at or near the Earth's surface (hence DOWN2EARTH).

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Summary

This Adaptation Policy Framework is aimed to guide policy development, review and updates in the Greater Horn of Africa drylands (HAD) on adaptation, food security and water security. The framework has been developed through the synthesis of multiple findings from DOWN2EARTH project activities, as well as other scientific and expert sources and is meant to complement existing policy development guidelines. In particular, the Framework draws on previous policy content and efficacy analyses, community engagements, Agent-Based Model (ABM) results, and workshops with policymakers. Research findings on adaptation, food security, and water scarcity in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia have been leveraged to provide context-specific guidance and recommendations for future policy development activities.

The policy framework is structured around nine (9) content areas namely: 1. the policy aim; 2. embedding into the existing policy environment; 3. coordination; 4. assessment of the current situation; 5. future projections for adaptation, 6. funding; 7. engagement; communication and dissemination; 8. implementation; and 9. monitoring and evaluation.

The definition of 'policy' here is relatively broad encompassing any major document outlining the governmental objectives and approaches towards a certain sector, region, or set of stakeholders. Consequently, while the precise language used in each country may vary (including Policies, Bills, Acts, Implementation Plans, etc), this Framework can be adapted to apply to all of them.

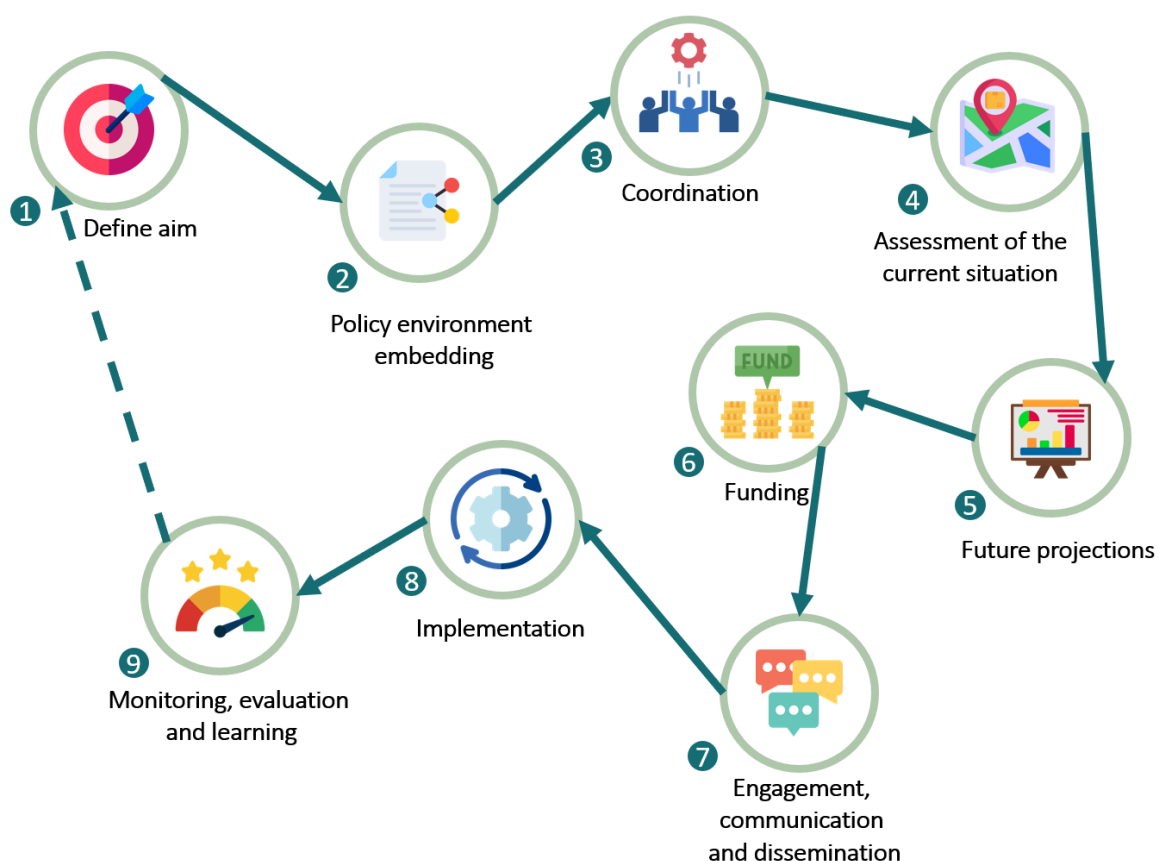


Figure 1: Adaptation Policy Framework

1. Define the main aim

The aim of the policy must be clear. This helps in clearly defining what needs to be included and this should also link to the expected objectives. It also enables better understanding of who needs to be involved/included to ensure not only an inclusive process but also successful implementation.

2. Policy environment embedding

All related policies need to be considered to see where the planned policy fits in, for example the climate laws and policies, the economic blueprint and other related sectoral policies.

3. Coordination

A coordination structure is imperative to engage everyone both vertically and horizontally. This coordination structure has to involve all key stakeholders to ensure that there is leadership and a buy-in into the process.

4. Assessment of the current situation

A situational analysis is important to determine what the new policy needs to address and also what it can build from. It can help determine what strategies previously worked and how to incorporate them in new processes.

5. Future projections to consider for adaptation

To develop future-proof adaptation plans a scientific base with the latest available projections about the expected future impact and effectiveness of adaptation measures is imperative. This has to take into account local and traditional knowledge, different contexts and vulnerabilities, different impact levels and limits to adaptation.

6. Funding

Policies involving climate change adaptation, food security, and water availability can be costly in the HAD, and often require substantial financial and technical resources to effectively implement. Robust and viable policies should include the available and necessary finances for meeting stated goals and targets.

7. Engagement, communication, and dissemination

Engagement with stakeholders at the local and the national level is paramount. Clear communication, engagement and dissemination strategies have to be put in place from the outset to ensure buy-in and ownership as well as feedback.

8. Implementation

An implementation plan which includes details of what needs to be done, by who, by when, how, with what resources and the associated milestones and indicators has to be included. This helps in having clarity on roles and timelines and contributes to accountability as well as supporting monitoring and evaluation.

9. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)

To ensure progress is tracked and documented, a plan has to be set in place to capture the different aspects. An information management platform e.g the Measurement, Review and Verification (MRV) frameworks set up by countries to align with the UNFCCC for their climate targets can be useful in ensuring that progress is monitored across the board.



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