



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations*

National Climate Change Management Policy 2016

Policy Brief

January 2017



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Malawi is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change because its economy is predominantly agro-based and largely rain-dependent. It has experienced droughts, prolonged dry spells, intense rainfall and floods among others resulting in acute crop failure, hunger, malnutrition, loss of human life and property. These extreme weather related events have shown an upward trend since the 1970s.

The National Climate Change Management Policy seeks to guide programming of interventions for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, as well as adapting to the adverse effects and impacts of climatic change and climate variability. The development of this Policy is in line with national aspirations including the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II), as well as regional and international obligations. The Policy will also guide and coordinate implementation of the obligations under United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Policy was developed after extensive consultations with key stakeholders.

2.0 POLICY OVERALL GOAL

To promote climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer and capacity building for sustainable livelihoods through green economy measures for Malawi.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- To effectively manage the impacts of climate change through interventions that build and sustain the social and ecological resilience of all Malawians;
- To contribute towards the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous human-induced interference with the climate system within a timeframe that enables social, economic and environmental

- development to proceed in a sustainable manner;
- To Integrate climate change into planning, development, coordination and monitoring of key relevant sectors in a gender responsive manner; and
- To integrate cross-cutting issues into climate change management through an appropriate institutional framework.

4.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Policy will be guided by twelve principles among others as set out in the Malawi Constitution, the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, Paris Agreement and 2030 SDGs. The principles are Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms; Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities; Gender Equality, Sustainable Development; Equitable development; Polluter pays principle; Precautionary principle; Informed participation; Intra- and Inter-generational sustainability; Uplifting the poor and vulnerable; Special needs and circumstances and Economic; and social and ecological pillars of sustainable development.

5.0 POLICY OUTCOMES

- Reduced vulnerability to climate change impacts through improved social, economic and ecological resilience;
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions;
- Increased awareness of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation measures;
- Research, technology development and transfer and systematic observations enhanced and strengthened;
- Increased funding in the national budget, improved access to external funding and prudent use of resources for climate change adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer and capacity building; and
- Climate change and its cross cutting issues mainstreamed in development policies and in planning, development, coordination and monitoring of key relevant sectors.

6.0 POLICY PRIORITY AREAS (PPAS)

6.1 Climate Change Adaptation

Adaptation to climate change in Malawi is hampered by the country's heavy dependence on natural resources, endemicity to climate sensitive diseases, high poverty and weak technical and financial resources.

The Policy will reduce vulnerabilities of populations in Malawi and promote community and ecosystem resilience to the impacts of climate change; ensure that women, girls and vulnerable groups are engaged and involved in planning and implementing climate change adaptation interventions; and ensure that communities are able to adapt to climate change while promoting climate compatible development in the long term.

6.2 Climate Change Mitigation

Climate change mitigation is any action to decrease the intensity of radiative forces in order to reduce the effects of global warming which result in extreme weather events. Removal of carbon sinks through deforestation, biomass energy dependence and land use changes increase the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

The Policy will promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; and enhance the capacity of carbon sinks through re-afforestation and sustainable utilization of forest resources.

6.3 Capacity Building, Education, Training and Awareness

Education is a catalyst for socio-economic development, industrial growth and for empowering the poor, the weak and voiceless. Inadequate capacity and skills in climate change management may be a hindrance to effective implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation activities.

The Policy will build capacity in all sectors and at all levels, on climate change to attain socio economic development utilizing the principles of green economy; and address capacity gaps on investment in skills and capabilities for negotiations, mechanisms for reducing emissions while supporting prudent environmental management and sustainable economic growth.

6.4 Research, Technology Development and Transfer, and Systematic Observation

Malawi recognizes and appreciates the need for technology development and transfer as well as research in climate change management. To this effect, Malawi has already produced and identified technology transfer needs.

The Policy will enhance research, technology development and transfer, and systematic observation for climate change management, supported by appropriate capacity development and dedicated financing; and encourage resource mobilization and commitment of government for the prioritized technologies.

6.5 Climate Change Financing

Considering Malawi socio-economic status and her vulnerability to climate shocks, there is need for more predictable and reliable financing mechanisms from local and international sources. Investment to address its impacts and to allow industry to adopt principles of green economy is likely to pay off through improved development indicators such as poverty reduction and improved wellbeing.

The Policy will prioritize enhanced financing for implementation and coordination of climate change management activities through increased national budgetary allocation, establishment of a Climate Change Management Fund, improved access to international climate financing (both multilateral and bilateral) and private sector investments.

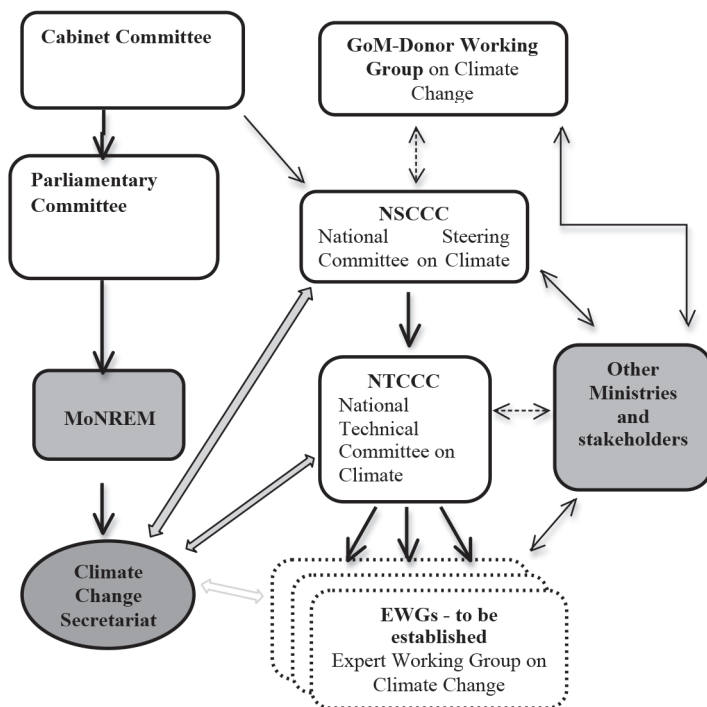
6.6 Cross-Cutting Issues

Vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly and the physically and mentally challenged are particularly affected by adverse impacts of climate change. Involving these vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of climate change management programmes is essential for effective management of the impacts.

The Policy will mainstream gender and issues affecting the disadvantaged groups into all climate change strategies, plans and programmes; integrate population issues into climate change management in the development agenda through an integrated approach which would reduce poverty,

protect natural resources and reduce inequality and incorporate HIV and AIDS as well as gender considerations in all climate change interventions including adaptation, mitigation, capacity building and technology development and transfer.

7.0 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS



Institutional Framework for Climate Change Management in Malawi

8.0 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION STRATEGY

An Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy (IMES) has been developed to ensure that NCCMP is effectively implemented. The IMES spells out the objectives and strategies that need to be implemented and further outlines stakeholders that are relevant for implementation of specific strategies.

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

This Policy Brief was compiled with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the National Climate Change Programme (NCCP)

For more information contact:

The Director,
Environmental Affairs Department,
Private Bag 394, Lilongwe 3, Malawi.
Tel (265) 1 771 111, Fax (265) 1 773 379
Email: eadinfo@nccpmw.org
www.nccpmw.org

Or

Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy (CEPA)
Plot LK 388, Namiwawa, Along Glyn Jones Road
P. O. Box 1057, Blantyre, Malawi.
Telephone: +265 212 700 104
Website: www.cepa.org.mw
Email: cepa@cepa.org.mw

Enquiries should be addressed to Dorothy Tembo-Nhlema

Printed with support from

