Towards Integrating Climate Security in the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2023-2027

Date: 24th — 25th July 2023
Venue: Panari Hotel, Mombasa Road, Nairobi.

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Suggested Citation

Benson Kenduiywo, Victor Korir, Brenda Chepngetich. 2023. *Towards Integrating Climate Security in the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2023-2027.* CGIAR Focus Climate Security

Cover photo: Leonard Langat, Group photo of the participants, Panari Hotel

Acknowledgments

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1. Introduction

The UNDP & Life Peace Institute (LPI) report on mapping climate security adaptations highlights that the link between climate and conflict depends on the interplay of exposure to climate hazards, vulnerability, and coping capacity of states and communities. Therefore, due increasing impacts of Climate Change (CC), it is crucial for the Kenyan governments to identify and mitigate climate security[1] risks both at national and county levels. The National Climate Action Plan (NCCAP) outlines the Kenyan government's strategy on mitigation and adaptation to climate change and its effects. With the expiry of the 2017–2022 NCCAP, preparation of a new plan is underway based on the current climate change challenges and lessons learnt from the previous NCCAP phase. One of the issues that stood out in the 2017–2022 NCCAP was the omission of climate security strategies. In this regard, a workshop was co-organized by the Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (ABC) and Kenya Red Cross Society at Panari Hotel, Nairobi from 24th — 25th July 2023 to integrate Climate Security. The workshop participants comprised of stakeholders drawn from various sectors including government ministries, research organizations, humanitarian organizations, and local and regional economic blocs.

Opening remarks were given by a representative from Ministry of Environment who discussed the overview of NCCAP and its objectives. Following that, stakeholders gave presentations, and the team divided into groups to discuss NCCAP III objectives and actions in the afternoon of the first day. Discussions continued the second day with the output being a document detailing NCCAP III objectives, assumptions, priority actions and leading organizations for both climate security and disaster management. The workshop was adjourned by ABC by highlighting the achievements of the workshop.

2. Climate Security in Kenya

Kenya is vulnerable to climate change (CC) and extreme weather events are increasing in frequency and severity. So far Kenya has experienced five consecutive failed rainy seasons that have led to loss of livestock, destroyed crops, and displacement of people in search of food and water. IGAD estimates that 23 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia are already highly food insecure. Compounding this vulnerability is the prevalence of multiple forms of conflict, including disputes over natural resources, inter-ethnic violence, cattle rustling, border and land conflicts, drug trafficking, and terrorism. These conflicts are deeply entrenched in the region's history of marginalization, ethnic tensions, and overall instability, further hindering Kenya's capacity to effectively cope with and recover from the escalating climate shocks and disasters it faces.

While climate change continues to exert a destabilizing influence on societies and communities throughout Kenya, the intricate linkages by which it exacerbates conflict risks remain partially unresolved. Some pathways shed light on how climate impacts environmental, social, economic, and political processes, ultimately contributing to conflict and insecurity. These pathways include competition over scarce natural resources, weakening of livelihoods, displacement, and mobility/migration, amongst

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[1] UNDP & LPI report defines climate security as to the interplay of changes in climate patterns and their interactions with environmental impacts, socio-economic fragility, and other macro contextual trends. These complex interactions can directly or indirectly influence human security and community conflict risks.

others. In view of these linkages, it is crucial to integrate climate-related security considerations into policy frameworks to address these complex and interconnected challenges.

3. Objectives of stakeholder engagement

The workshop was conducted with the following objectives:

1. Evaluate the current climate security situation in Kenya and the neighbouring countries.
2. Collect stakeholder perspectives on the climate change and human security nexus.
3. Define objectives, assumptions, and priority actions to mitigate climate security in Kenya.

4. Stakeholder perspectives

Government

The representative from the Ministry of Environment and Climate change, officially opened the workshop and highlighted the government's commitment to combat climate change and adapt to its impact. The role of NCCAP as a guiding tool to resource allocation of climate related activities in both national and county level was highlighted. Further, the participants were encouraged to come up with a globally applicable strategies since the impacts of climate change are no longer felt only in the global north but also in the global south in the form of seasonal flooding, droughts and the anticipated El Nino phenomenon. The existence of climate change caucuses working on implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies was revealed. The need to fast track the NCCAP process was emphasized following the upcoming African Climate Summit (ACS) in September 2023.

The Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) presented the current outlook of the climate situation in Kenya based on meteorological observations. The most recent climate impacts experienced in Kenya include: - flash floods, landslides, rising level of waterbodies e.g., lake Baringo, pest infestation such as locusts, resource-based conflicts, infrastructural damages like cut off roads and drought. Lifestyle and ecosystems must be modified to cope with climate change. Meteorological disasters caused by extreme climate events contribute to 70%-80% of natural disasters experienced in Kenya. Global warming is mainly due to increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases, land use changes and aerosol emissions. Major sources of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in Kenya are industrial and agricultural sectors. Some of impacts of climate change in Kenya include: food insecurity, water shortage, conflicts, flooding, forest fires, damage to ecosystems, biodiversity loss etc. Kenya's temperature has risen by 3–4 °C. KMD indicated plans to roll out county climate profile maps by early September in order to support climate action

Regional Blocs – Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

IGAD representative presented the regional perspective on climate security citing various challenges that include governance issues e.g., politicization of climate issues, climate terrorism, uneven disarmament, and illegal fishing. Therefore, suggestion for alternative solution like inclusion of indigenous early warning systems in modern early warning systems were made. Other solutions include development and strengthening of regional climate financing programmes to supplement the nationally focused programs. This requires development of regional policies that conform to international climate laws.

Disaster Response Organizations - Kenya Red Cross Society

The Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) presented an overview of the disaster situation in the country and demonstrated its commitment in responding to disasters such as the recent drought in the horn of Africa. For instance. it is estimated that since August 2021 the Kenya Red Cross has reached up to 40 million people with humanitarian aid. The importance of the climate research unit (International Center for Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA)) developed in 2021, in gathering robust evidence and experiences hence providing vital information that can be used to enhance humanitarian response was emphasized. The representative also presented on several strategies that can be used to enhance climate security actions which include risk informed planning to understand context within communities and the tools available, capacity building to improve knowledge on climate security and improved operational response and policies and strengthened synergies such as common initiatives.

Climate Security Actors, CGIAR and CEMIRIDE

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT gave a summary of what CGIAR has done concerning climate security which included ClimBeR initiative and the Climate Security Observatory (CSO). ClimBeR initiative focus areas were indicated as evidence for peace, policy for peace, programming for peace and financing for peace. The anticipated role of CSO is to produce scientific knowledge to address relevant policy gaps.

The Centre for Minority Rights Development (CEMIRIDE), CEO, highlighted the community voices from minority groups including the Yaaku, Endorois and Bunyala fisher community. Community voices highlighted how climate change has affected the indigenous people livelihoods and therefore the need to include them in national climate change actions.

5. Key outcomes

The summary of 2023–2027 NCCAP priority actions, objectives, and the teams in charge are shown in the table below. The NCCAP actions excel sheet contains comprehensive information on the actions.

Objective	Assumptions	Priority actions	Led by	Supported by
To increase financial investment related to integrated climate adaptation and peacebuilding	Climate resilience investments do not account for the impact of climate as a potential risk multiplier	Increase climate-resilient investment programmes with a conflict sensitive lens	Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Defence; Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Interior, Finance, Water, Energy	CSOs, Humanitarian and development actors
Expand, consolidate and Share knowledge on climate security in Kenya	Nexus of Climate security and conflict is new; therefore research, policy development, and integration of indigenous knowledge is key.	Document indigenous knowledge and use it to co-produce research	Ministry of sports and culture.	CEMIRIDE, CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security, other CSOs.

Enhance climate security into early warning AI decision support tools (DSST) to strengthen climate resilience of local communities	Traditional knowledge, community voices, historical peace building information will be integrated into DSST systems	Research and documentation of traditional generational early warning mechanism integrated into at least one conventional early warning and DSST systems	Ministry of interior, Ministry of Environment.	CSOs, Research organizations, Academia.
Strengthen interstate and intrastate collaboration on trans-boundary climate security	A coordination mechanism involving regional, national, and county governments.	Implement regional ratified transhumance protocols	Ministry of interior	Ministry of Foreign of Affairs, Office AG, RECs, COPs, Refugee Forums, and AU, County regional Blocs.
Facilitate inter-ethnic engagement and dependence through collaboration for natural resource management	Robust government acknowledged and supported Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms in place.	Incorporation of climate security into Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) policies.	Judiciary	AG, COG, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Environment