Kenya has made significant gains in recent years toward its objective to become a prosperous country with a high quality of life for all its citizens. However, climate change is expected to exacerbate existing climate-related challenges facing the country where close to 80% of the population is rural and dependent on agriculture for basic livelihoods.

Climate change is expected to have multifaceted impacts on Kenya. Overall, the country is expected to be warmer and experience a large degree of rainfall variability with extreme weather events such as severe droughts and floods, which will have far-reaching impacts on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture and tourism that underpin the country’s economy. The combination of poverty in rural and low income urban areas and the expected impacts of climate change will require careful planning for adaptation and mitigation.

To address the challenges posed by climate change in a systematic manner, the Government of Kenya formulated and published a National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS, 2010). To operationalise the NCCRS, the Government of Kenya, through the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, has initiated an ambitious process to develop a National Climate Change Action Plan.

The Action Planning process is being supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Climate and Development Knowledge and Network (CDKN), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) through the Natural Resource Management Programme (NRMP) and the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP that is funded by the Government of Japan through UNDP), among other development partners.

**KEY MESSAGES**

1. There is a close link between development and climate change adaptation and mitigation actions.
2. Both adaptation and mitigation response options need to be implemented by a variety of actors at local, national, regional and global levels.
3. The effective planning and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions require engagement and support of climate-related line ministries, private sector, civil society organizations and development partners.

The Action Planning process is intended to be completed by June 2012.

**ELEMENTS OF THE ACTION PLAN**

The Action Plan has nine distinct subcomponents which are closely linked and interrelated. These are:

- **Subcomponent 1: Long-term National Low Carbon Development Strategy**, intended to facilitate reflection and mainstreaming of climate change aspects in the country’s long term development planning and budgeting. It also seeks to identify key elements of the country’s low-carbon and climate resilient growth.

- **Subcomponent 2: Enabling Policy and Regulatory Framework** is reviewing international, regional and national policy and legislative instruments relating to climate change with a view to developing a policy and/or legislative framework that promotes coherence, coordination and cooperative governance of climate change issues at various levels.

- **Subcomponent 3: National Adaptation Plan** is intended to identify and prioritize immediate, medium, and long-term adaptation actions for implementation.
Subcomponent 4: Nationally Appropriate Mitigations Actions (NAMAs), is intended to identify and prioritize internationally and domestically supported NAMAs that will enhance sustainable development and also identify priority reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) activities.

Subcomponent 5: National Technology Action Plan is intended to identify the technology development and transfer required to enhance implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions.

Subcomponent 6: National Performance and Benefit Measurement will develop a national climate change measuring, reporting and verification system and performance indicators.

Subcomponent 7: Knowledge Management and Capacity Development is intended to design appropriate knowledge management systems as well as comprehensively address the institutional and technical capacity needs of the various actors.

Subcomponent 8: Finance is designed to position the country to access finances from various sources by developing an innovative financial mechanism that includes a climate fund, investment strategy/ framework and carbon trading platform.

Subcomponent 9: Coordination brings additional support to achieve the desired levels of coordination and integration as shown in the diagram.

COORDINATION OF THE ACTION PLAN PROCESS

1. The National Climate Change Committee is chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister with membership from line ministries. This Committee ensures policy coherence and complementarity.

2. The National Climate Change Task Force, which is Inter-Ministerial under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, has representatives from Government Ministries, the National Assembly, the Private Sector and Civil Society Organizations. The Task Force provides leadership and guidance on the Action Planning process, and is facilitated by the National Climate Change Secretariat in the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources.

3. Thematic Working Groups that bring together expertise from different fields to provide support and ensure quality on the content of the specific elements of the Action Plan.

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