THE IGAD CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY (2023-2030)

SUMMARY

PEACE, PROSPERITY AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Intergovernmental Authority on Development
Centre of Excellence for Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection
(IGAD CAEP)

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MEMBER STATES

Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda.

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

INTRODUCTION

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) region is responsible for less than 1 per cent of historical global greenhouse gas emissions and yet remains disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change. About 70% of the IGAD region falls under Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and the region remains water scarce, with rain-fed agriculture and livestock production systems making up the backbone of the IGAD economies, making them extremely susceptible to climate change. Furthermore, recent research findings, including from the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change sixth Assessment Report (IPCC AR6), project that climate change will continue to disproportionality affect the IGAD region and exacerbate the vulnerabilities of its Member States. These impacts will result in the loss of lives and livelihoods and the destruction of properties and critical infrastructure and will further multiply and escalate the existing security and development challenges faced by the region and its Member States. Climate change-related impacts therefore continue to undermine the region's socio-economic development, stability and integration agenda and its efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals by 2030.

Due to these current and anticipated vulnerabilities, climate adaptation has been recognised as central to the climate response of the IGAD region and its Member States. As such, a new IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy (2023-2030) has been developed to display the region's concerted and renewed commitment to this key climate and development priority. This first-ever, regional-wide adaptation Strategy is a comprehensive framework for coordinated action to address climate risks and enhance the resilience and adaptive capacities of IGAD Member States. The Strategy provides a whole-of-society approach to resilience building that sets near, medium, and long-term targets that are realistic and achievable. It also presents an opportunity to chart a climate-resilient, participatory future for the IGAD region, which is peaceful, prosperous and integrated, and where all people enjoy a high quality of life.

Despite the pressing challenges that the region is facing, IGAD is endowed with substantial natural resources, human capital and vibrant economies that can be harnessed to achieve climate-resilient development. For example, the IGAD region has an enormous agriculture potential to enhance food security and to contribute to nutrition and food provision within its neighbourhood, on the continent and to the international community at large. To take advantage of this potential, IGAD Member States need to invest in locally led adaptation and resilience building mechanisms, attract new and innovative financial support to scale adaptation initiatives, as well as leverage available climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices.

This requires a truly transboundary collaborative effort and regional mechanisms and development practices for shared resource management such as water, land and pasture resources, which are compounded by the climate crisis. It is also important to note that these efforts will not be successful without ensuring that young people and women are at the centre of climate solutions and that they are sufficiently equipped with knowledge and expertise to engage in these transformative dialogues and pathways. 60% of the IGAD region is under the age of 25 years, offering numerous opportunities for youth leadership.

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In line with this, African countries are collectively calling for the adaptation agenda to be given central stage in all climate negotiations and processes. As reiterated in the African Leaders Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change – the outcome of the Africa Climate Summit in September 2023 – the continent needs to prioritise and mainstream climate adaptation and resilience building into all its Member States climate and development policies, plans and budgetary planning tools. To support this agenda, the African Union and its Member States, including those from IGAD, request the immediate operationalisation of the Global Goal on Adaptation and for early contributions to the Loss and Damage Fund, as well as for the doubling of climate adaptation finance by 2025. Africa cannot achieve this immense adaptation agenda alone and it calls on the international community for financial, technical and capacity support to accomplishment these goals, as well as the development of strategic partnerships to enhance adaptation implementation.

IGAD recognises the lack of ambitious global climate action, noting that the current emissions pathways and trajectories are insufficient to meet the temperature target of 1.5°C under the Paris Agreement, meaning further detrimental impacts for vulnerable countries. IGAD Member States therefore request the developed countries to rapidly reduce their emissions aligned with that is required by science. In addition, IGAD and its Member States are taking their fair share of responsibility and are contributing through nationally appropriate and context-specific mitigation and adaptation actions, as evidenced by their revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submissions.

BACKGROUND

IGAD was established in 1986 to mitigate the effects of recurrent droughts, famine, and ecological degradation and contribute to sustainable environmental and natural resource management. Within its region, IGAD strengthens cooperation among its Member States in key priority areas, such as food security, environmental protection, climate change, peace and security, and it works to contribute towards achieving sustainable development, resilience building, and stability. Today IGAD comprises eight Member States, namely Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea, Uganda, Sudan and South Sudan.

Among numerous other IGAD specialised institutions, the IGAD Centre of Excellence for Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection (IGAD CEAP) was established in December 2021 in Mogadishu, Somalia, and is mandated to coordinate the climate adaptation and environmental protection efforts of its Member countries. As an integral step towards achieving its mandate, the Centre has led the development of this unique Strategy, specifically designed to address and respond to the region's adaptation needs and priorities and to accelerate actions to build resilience and capacity to the climate crisis. Besides the central role that IGAD CAEP plays in supporting the region in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate-related shocks, it also serves as the regional focal institution for knowledge management and capacity development to analyse, replicate and scale up sustainable land and water management practices and appropriate adaptive solutions to climate change in the region.

The design, development and validation of the IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy involved inclusive and consultative multi-stakeholder dialogue processes, including the engagement of all IGAD Member States' climate adaptation relevant institutions, development and humanitarian partners, civil society organisations, academia, local communities, indigenous groups, women and youth, to inform the holistic approach of developing a people-centred, gender-responsive climate adaptation strategy for the region. In addition, it involved a thorough review and scoping process to assess all relevant international, regional and national adaptation literature, scientific reports and policy frameworks, including a deep assessment of the findings of IPCC's AR6 which highlights climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation aspects of the region. Through this process, there was a synthesis of peer-reviewed and grey literature which identified clear themes and informed the emphasis apportioned to key sectors and cross-cutting issues. This was followed by virtual consultations with international and regional climate adaptation experts and relevant stakeholders to gather key insights, best practices and emerging issues and trends. A hybrid of physical and virtual Member State consultative workshops were also hosted by IGAD CAEP to identify the diverse and common national adaptation priorities, challenges and opportunities to inform the development of the Strategy.

STRATEGIC OVERALL FRAMING OF THE STRATEGY

The IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy (2023-2030) sets out a **rationale** and **long-term adaptation vision** for the region. It clearly articulates the **goal and the strategic objectives** of the Strategy and describes the **principles** on which the Strategy is based. It also provides a **strong scientific basis** for this Strategy, describing in detail the observed and projected regional climate change impacts related to temperature, precipitation, cyclones and other compound climate events that will increasingly lead to mounting losses and damages in the IGAD region with substantial challenges to adaptation.

RATIONALE

The people, communities, and countries in the IGAD region are on the frontlines of the climate crisis in one of the most vulnerable regions in the world. These communities are among the least resourced to prepare for and to cope with the mounting impacts of climate-related shocks and stresses. About 70% of the IGAD region falls under Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and remains water scarce, while rain-fed agriculture and livestock production systems are the backbone of the economies of IGAD Member States, making them extremely susceptible to climate change.

IGAD's extreme vulnerability and exposure to climate risks requires a comprehensive regional adaptation framework to collectively respond to climate adaptation and to build consolidated resilience. In line with this, IGAD recognises the need for a dedicated adaptation strategy that complements existing national and regional strategies and action plans, as well as international adaptation processes under the Paris Agreement. This adaptation-focused strategy recognises that inclusive climate adaptation and resilience building can offer significant opportunities for regional sustainable development and peace. This Strategy provides a strategic and integrated framework for regional cooperation as it pertains to climate adaptation and resilience building.

VISION

A climate-resilient, peaceful, prosperous and integrated region where all people enjoy a high quality of life.

GOAL

To provide a framework for the coordinated implementation of actions, informed by the latest data and evidence, that will enhance IGAD Member States resilience and adaptive capacities, while addressing the causes of vulnerability to climate risks and the impacts of climate change in the IGAD region. The Strategy will enhance the technical and institutional capacities of Member States, mobilise additional financial resources, and improve data and knowledge management, with a particular focus on meaningful engagement, participation and the co-implementation with local communities and vulnerable groupings.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Aligned with the IGAD overall climate strategy, the following strategic objectives will guide this Strategy:

1. To support the development, revision and implementation of Member States climate adaptation policies, strategies, and plans at the regional, national, and sub-national levels.
2. To strengthen the adaptive capacity and resilience of vulnerable populations and to manage climate change-related risks.
3. To strengthen climate adaptation knowledge management and capacity development of relevant institutions to allow replication and scale-up of locally led adaptation solutions and best practices.
4. To promote the harmonisation of adaptation policies, cooperation, peaceful co-existence and inclusive sustainable development.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Aligning plans and priorities;
- People-centred approach;
- Gender-responsive;
- Africa-led and Africa owned;
- Science, Knowledge, and Practice;
- Sustainability;
- Long-term vision, complemented with immediate impact;
- Common but differentiated responsibilities; and,
- Leave no one behind / a just transition

THE STRATEGY'S 10 FOCUS SECTORS

The Strategy describes the **current status, challenges and opportunities in ten key sectors**. Particular focus has been awarded to the themes that are fundamentally grounded in the adaptation realities of the IGAD region and particularly important for adaptation effectiveness. In addition, the Strategy identifies 7 **other cross-cutting issues** and the adaptation challenges and opportunities of each.

Food systems

Climate change is beginning to outpace adaptation in agricultural systems in the IGAD region. The challenges include the degradation of farmland soils, reduced genetic diversity in crops, and the reduction in agricultural yields. Nature-based solutions (NbS) and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) practices are some of the intervention opportunities proposed in the Strategy that will improve food production and ensure sustainable livelihoods for millions of people in the IGAD region.

Water

Water insecurity, associated with drought, flood and cyclone events, is widespread across the IGAD region. This has resulted in reduced crop production, migration and displacement, food insecurity and extensive livestock deaths, electricity outages, increased incidence of cholera, dengue fever, and other water borne diseases, and increased groundwater abstraction amplifying the risk of saline intrusion from sea level rise. Despite these challenges, adaptation investments can leap-frog conventional development approaches to achieve water-sensitive cities, reaping benefits such as improved liveability, reduced flooding impacts, safe water and overall lower net energy requirements.

Health

The IGAD region is predicted to suffer disproportionately from higher temperature-related mortalityChanging temperature and precipitation patterns are increasing the conditions for the transmission of mosquito-borne, tick-borne, and rodent-borne diseases. Proposed adaptation actions identified in this Strategy include building resilient health systems, preparing responses to health impacts of extreme weather events and reducing the effects of increasing temperatures in residential and occupational settings.

Human settlements and infrastructure

There is rapid urbanisation taking place across the IGAD region. Heavy rains, flooding, erosion, landslides, droughts, water scarcity, and poor water quality directly affect cities. Higher temperatures, urban heat islands, and heat waves worsen air quality and exacerbate climate impacts. NbS and EbA are crucial for building climate resilience in cities and peri-urban areas, where more than half of the human population resides. These are often more cost-effective and provide innovative financing opportunities for risk management.

Human mobility and displacement

Displacement and migration is a complex and multifaceted issue of high importance for people-centred adaptation within the IGAD region and is pertinent to strengthen transboundary cooperation. Extreme weather events, along with the slow onset impacts of climate change, are combining with other drivers of crisis that result in forced displacement, such as conflict, poverty and weak governance, and amplifying displacement trends related to both disasters and conflict. In 2022 alone, weather-related hazards resulted in 3.1 million new internal displacements of people. At the same time, climate impacts are contributing to the drivers of cross-border movements, including through disaster displacement and refugee movements, as seen in the border areas between severely drought-affected countries and communities between 2021-2023. Inclusive development choices and investments in adaptation measures that strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities can significantly reduce the number of people displaced from their homes and support safe and dignified mobility. In addition, investing in the preparedness of authorities and communities at high risk of becoming displaced, as well as authorities and communities in potential hosting areas, should be part of adaptive measures. To be fully inclusive, such development and climate adaptation should adequately address climate-related exposure, vulnerability and response capabilities of displaced populations and their hosts and ensure meaningful engagement, participation, and co-implementation.

Security and peacebuilding

Climate change and conflict have a compounding impact in the IGAD region. Climate change impacts exacerbate the risk of violence, conflict, and insecurity, while the occurrence of conflict and violence disrupts social systems, hampers sustainable resource management, and undermines the resilience of communities and individuals, reducing their capacity to adapt and augmenting their vulnerability. There is great opportunity to prevent future conflict by nurturing community cohesion or through encouraging regional climate change adaptation as an integral part of peacebuilding strategies in the IGAD region. Ameliorating ethnic tensions, improving political institutions and investing in economic diversification and household resilience could mitigate future impacts of climate change on conflict and contribute towards durable solutions for peacebuilding.

Economy, poverty and livelihoods

Over 80 per cent of the region's population live in rural areas and derive their livelihoods primarily from semi-subsistence, rainfed, agriculture, pastoral, and agro-pastoral activities which are highly exposed to climate change and climate variability. Poor households may reduce risk or aid recovery by cooperating with other households in their community to adapt collectively to climate change, for example, through informal insurance networks.

Prioritising poor households for interventions including social protection, EbA, universal healthcare, climate-smart buildings and agriculture, flexible work hours under extreme heat and early warning systems will increase adaptation to climate shocks. In addition, protecting and restoring mangrove ecosystems will provide direct benefits to communities, enhance biodiversity and strengthen climate resilience, particularly for the Blue Economy. The development of climate-resilient cities and coastal infrastructure creates opportunities for investment, job creation and the revitalisation of coastal zones.

Environment, ecosystems and biodiversity

State fragility is closely interlinked with vulnerability to climate and environmental impacts, as these affect the availability and quality of natural resources, undermining livelihoods. As populations in fragile contexts often lack alternative income sources and government support, they often turn to maladaptation practices. Entry points to address the impacts of environmental degradation include supporting livelihood diversification, implementing rapid post-disaster support for establishing climate, environment and peace-positive alternative livelihoods, and actively engaging local and indigenous populations in a consultative role prior to programme implementation. Maintaining existing indigenous forest and indigenous forest restoration is a win–win, maximising benefits to biodiversity, adaptation and mitigation.

Education

The IGAD region has particularly low levels of climate literacy meaning its populations are responding to the impacts of climate change without an informed understanding of climate risk to their livelihoods. There is opportunity to mainstream comprehensive climate literacy for policymakers, critical climate-reliant industries, and particularly vulnerable groups in society like women and the youth to boost public understanding of climate risk that includes education on effective adaptation options.

THE STRATEGY'S 7 KEY CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Loss and Damage

Climate change related losses and damages are already being experienced in the IGAD region and will likely escalate with increased global warming. Some of the projected economic and non-economic losses and damages include risks to food security, risk of malnutrition, displacement and loss of livelihoods due to reduced food production from crops, livestock and fisheries. There is an opportunity for climate finance to addressing loss and damage in the IGAD region. For this to be a success, there is a need for a broader consultative approach where the relevant stakeholders including the project developers, governments, local communities, indigenous people, refugees and migrants, financial institutions, relevant carbon bodies, buyers, among others discuss freely and share suggestions on how to tackle loss and damage.

Gender and Youth

Gender- and youth-sensitive approaches are central to driving climate action on the ground, as well as supporting the strengthening of social protection programmes. This includes job training, retraining and education initiatives that assist people to develop livelihoods and adapt to climate change. To promote a people-centred approach, the climate change response strategies must be owned and driven by the inclusion of stakeholders and partners, particularly women and youth.

Community-based, participatory climate action

Improving the flow of information between governments and local communities is paramount to achieving effective climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. There are numerous actions that can be taken to deepen participation and improve community-based climate action, this includes participation in decision-making processes, participatory budgeting and planning, environmental civic service, and education and curriculum development. These pathways contribute to improving governance by incorporating community views and priorities, while simultaneously giving communities the tools and knowledge needed to become active contributors to climate change adaptation implementation.

Disaster risk management

The high levels of vulnerability compound to undermine the coping and adaptive capacity of communities and households in the region. This situation calls for the strengthening of disaster risk management strategies by enhancing knowledge, improving the understanding of disaster risks in a changing climate, strengthening hazard monitoring and early warning systems capabilities and increased investment for resilience.

Adaptation Finance

IGAD countries face a significant gap between the estimated needs for international adaptation finance and the actual flows received, which are 5-10 times lower than required. This gap is further exacerbated for contexts that are fragile and conflict-affected in the region. The implementation of adaptation actions is not keeping up with the pace of climate impacts, resulting in a widening adaptation implementation gap. There is possibility to utilize revenue from carbon markets to finance curative and preventive aspects of the loss and damage experienced by IGAD Member States. The discussion on utility of debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps is also advancing, and IGAD should play a key role to ensure final outcomes are favourable for its Member States. Many IGAD countries face significant sovereign debt stress and therefore a fair and equitable debt-swaps framework can deliver relief from debt stress, while availing much needed climate finance.

Cross-sectoral approaches to climate adaptation and climate risk management

Placing cross-sectoral approaches at the core of adaptation provides significant opportunities to deliver large benefits and/or avoided damages across multiple sectors, including water, health, ecosystems and economies. They can also prevent adaptation or mitigation action in one sector exacerbating risks in other sectors and resulting in maladaptation, for example, from large-scale dam construction or large-scale afforestation (e.g., water– energy–food nexus and large-scale tree planting efforts).

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can aid weather forecasters monitor weather changes, heavy rainfall, and tropical cyclones with an increased accuracy. AI can analyse satellite imagery far faster than humans, and this expanded processing power can quickly provide important conclusions, like the rate of deforestation. With greater access to information, governments can more easily monitor environmental protection efforts and consumers can better understand how their investments contribute to climate change.

Together these themes covered in this IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy provide a comprehensive view on adaptation for the region and will guide adaptation planning and investments to target sectors and themes that are most urgent, and which would lead to the greatest improvements in adaptation effectiveness. Adaptation feasibility is highlighted in cases where highly contextual challenges demand hyper-local understandings of how vulnerability or fragility affect adaptation. The Strategy also recognises the differential burden of climate change for certain groups of people. It highlights that reducing vulnerability in IGAD requires recognition of factors that affect differential and intersectional dimensions of vulnerability such as low-income communities, women and children, migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, elderly people, indigenous communities, the informal sector, infrastructure and housing, borderlands, smallholder farmers, pastoralists, fishers, fragility and insecurity.

THE 11 PRIORITY ACTIONS AREAS OF THE STRATEGY FOR INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE-POSITIVE ADAPTATION

Numerous priority areas have been identified in this Strategy as the key investment areas for adaptation action. The prioritisation of these areas will catalyse IGAD's climate-resilient, sustainable development agenda of the region.

- **Action 1:** Increase risk assessments to determine exposure, vulnerability and adaptation feasibility
- **Action 2:** Enhance new and innovative financing mechanisms
- **Action 3:** Adopt an integrated, cross-sectoral, transboundary and long-term planning approach

- **Action 4:** Improve climate information services to enhance climate literacy, early warning and preparedness
- **Action 5:** Strengthen coordination and collaboration between Member States
- **Action 6:** Implement nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation
- **Action 7:** Scale climate-resilient infrastructure
- **Action 8:** Strengthen adaptation capacity
- **Action 9:** Promote research, data sharing and dissemination
- **Action 10:** Enhance climate change adaptation law and governance

OTHER KEY ELEMENTS AND PILLARS OF THE IGAD CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

THEORY OF CHANGE

This section sets out the change pathway that successful implementation of adaptation actions in this Strategy should follow, to overcome the challenge of vulnerability, and debilitating damage that this exposure brings to the IGAD region. It highlights the role of this Strategy as a tool for coordination and coherence of adaptation planning by providing a regional perspective of common challenges and opportunities for investments in adaptation. Importantly, the priority areas and implementation plan are informed by and align with the desired outcomes of improving understanding of climate changes and variability, reducing exposure and vulnerability and supporting increased adaptation capabilities for the region. Inaction, or implementing weak, incoherent interventions could deliver the undesired impact of continued vulnerability, and exposure to climate risks, maladaptation, and the resulting loss and damage. This Theory of Change adopts a coordinated and participatory action approach that frames clear and responsible adaptation actions with implementation plan that is aligned with priority areas, includes suggested actions, responsibilities and timeframes highlighting the need for adaptation feasibility costs estimates.

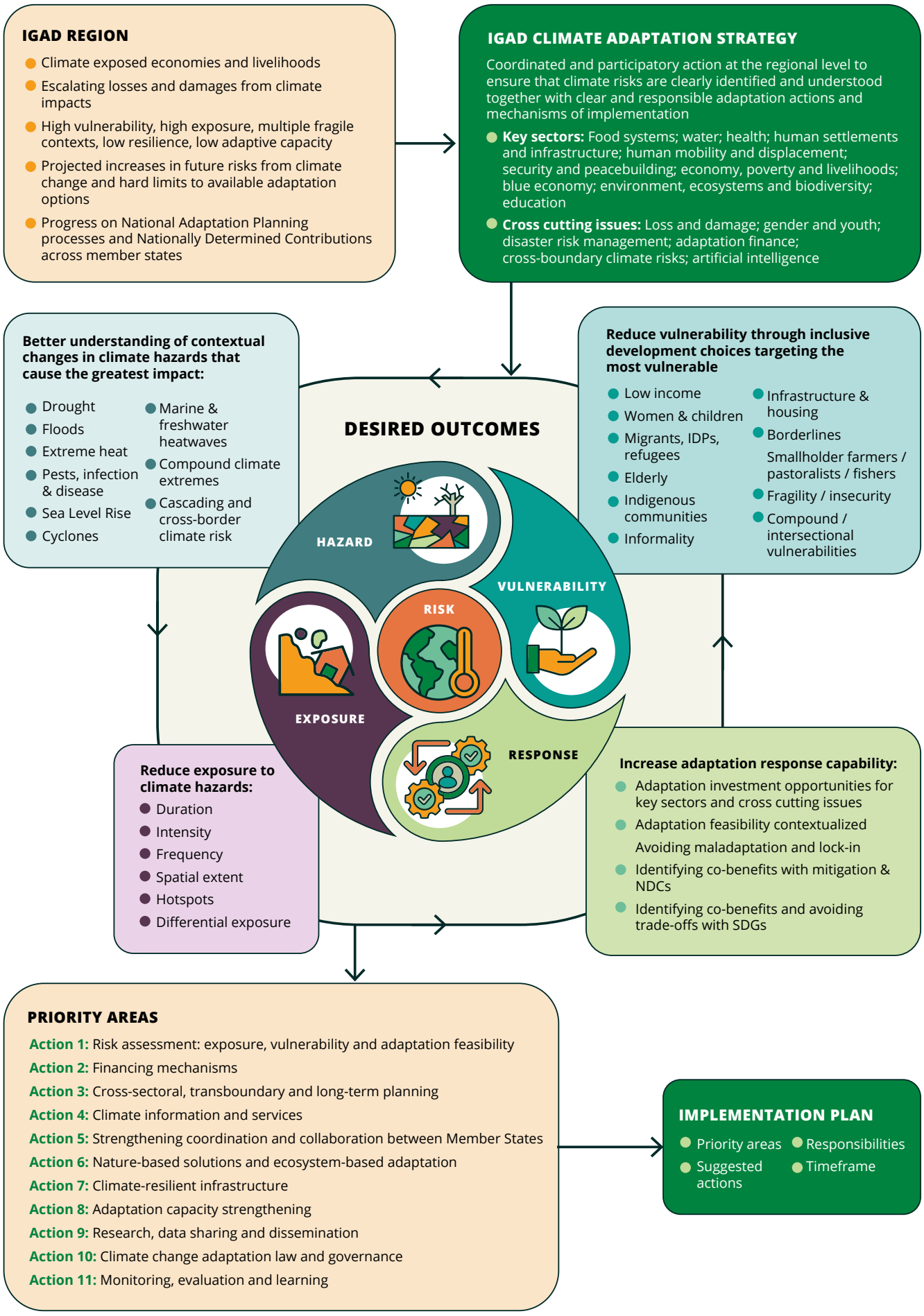

Figure 1: Adaptation Strategy Theory of Change

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANNING

This section aims to enhance coherence and the integration of specific climate risk areas related to climate adaptation. Adaptation planning in the IGAD region necessitates long-term planning, all-of-government approaches, transboundary cooperation and benefit-sharing, development pathways that increase adaptation and mitigation and reduce inequality, and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and NDCs. Currently, all countries in the region have published NDCs, while many countries have finalised their NAPs. However, these climate policies currently need to be strengthened to include important dimensions affecting the implementation of adaptation and climate-resilient development. For example, NAPAs and NAPs do not explicitly address the climate-security nexus, which highlights the role of climate change in exacerbating existing risks and insecurities that could also affect peace and security in the region.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Strategy's implementation plan, and its associated matrix, elaborates how the eleven priority areas can be operationalised. It also defines the institutional responsibilities and timeframes for execution. This Strategy has an 8-year timeframe (2023-2030) and has been specifically synchronised with the operationalisation of policies such as the IGAD Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, the SDGs, the NDCs, the Paris Agreement, the AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy, and other similar regional and international commitments of IGAD Member States running until 2030. Over its life cycle, a phased approach to implementation will be adopted that includes readiness, a pilot implementation phase, and lessons sharing and scaling phase. This Strategy has identified many strategic interventions that require large efforts in resources mobilisation, institutional reforms, partnership development, and active participation of all relevant stakeholders, including communities, women and young people.

There are vast resources needed for the implementation of this Strategy, both technical and financial, as well as support to create an enabling environment for enhanced climate action and to promote multi-sector and multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation. The Strategy clearly highlights the substantial quantum of adaptation finance and technical support needed to implement regional activities. The Strategy, in its immediate priorities, sets out to undertake bottom-up

costing for adaptation, as well an adaptation feasibility assessment for the implementation of actions associated with the priority areas listed. The budget presented in the Strategy is a high-level overview of the financing requirements contained in IGAD Member States NDCs to 2030. About US$195 807 billion in total investment is estimated to be required (although it must be noted that adaptation is very hard to quantified). However, there is a lot of uncertainty about the amount of adaptation finance needed, as a lot depends on the success of multilateral efforts to reduce overall global GHG emissions and limit negative climate projections and trajectories.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

This Plan illustrates how the document will be reviewed and assessed to ensure its effective and timely implementation. This framework will be co-developed with the participation of all stakeholders and partners for enhanced ownership, better implementation traction, synergy, and value for money. Baselines will be established in a participatory manner during the design of interventions to set realistic targets that can be readily assessed and measured. This Strategy is designed as a 'living document' that will be updated regularly and undergo a mid-term review. The overall responsibility for the implementation and reporting on the progress of the Adaptation Strategy lies with the IGAD CEAP.

IMPORTANT ADAPTATION PRIORITIES THAT ARE ADDRESSED AND INTEGRATED IN THE STRATEGY

A SOUND SCIENTIFIC BASIS UPON WHICH THE STRATEGY IS BUILT

The development of this Strategy has been informed by research and analyses of observed and projected climate change impacts and the key risks to the region. Temperature change and increasing variability in precipitation characterise the state of the climate in IGAD, continuously impacting community livelihoods and increasing food and water insecurity. Crop and livestock performance, which are predominately rainfed, are highly sensitive to temperature and precipitation variations. This results in a negative impact on countries' economies and livelihoods as agriculture contributes to a significant portion of the GDP of the IGAD Member States and provides a major source of employment. This Strategy identifies these and other climate risks that face the IGAD region, along with appropriate adaptation strategies to strengthen the collective response to resilience building of countries in the region, and their economic, social, and environmental systems and ensure the most vulnerable communities are not left behind.

ALIGNMENT

This Strategy is designed to complement existing regional, continental and global climate efforts. This includes alignment and synergy with the identified development objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the AU's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032). It also aligns with the objectives of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as well as the United Nation's Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, which emphasises the commitment to 'leave no one behind'.

This Strategy's overall rationale, vision and objectives are aligned with, and complement the IGAD Regional Strategy (2021-2025), the IGAD Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2023-2030), as well as the IGAD Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management (2019-2030). This Strategy also seeks to support and operationalise its Member States climate adaptation priorities identified in their National Adaptation Programmes of Actions, the NAPS and their NDCs.

INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

It should be highlighted that age, gender and diversity, participatory and intersectional approaches will be mainstreamed across all these action areas, and conflict sensitivity standards and peace responsiveness will also be embedded across all areas. Leadership by, and empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, youth, people of determination, stateless persons, refugees and other displaced populations, and migrants, among other affected groups, will be ensured, supported by formal and informal education and training, to enhance the impact and sustainability of climate action.

BEST ADAPTATION PRACTICES BY SECTOR

Throughout the Strategy there is attention brought to adaptation best practices that can lend experiences and lessons to IGAD countries. The case studies originate from both IGAD Member States as well as from the region at large and offer valuable information and lesson sharing to enhance the scaling and effectiveness of adaptation projects.

CONCLUSION

The 8-year IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy provides concrete steps to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations and manage climate change-related risks, to improve climate adaptation knowledge management and build the capacity of relevant institutions to allow the replication and scale-up of locally led adaptation solutions and best practices, and to promote the harmonisation of adaptation policies among IGAD Member States, to further enhance cooperation, peaceful co-existence and sustainable development. Furthermore, this Strategy aims to support the development and implementation of IGAD Member States climate adaptation policies, strategies, and plans. These actions will improve long-term adaptation coordination at multiple scales, taking into account the impact of climate on the people, their livelihoods and the ecosystem in IGAD region. For the first time, this regional adaptation-only living document will guide a local, national and regional climate change adaptation and resilience building agenda to chart a commonclimate-resilient development future for IGAD.

This Strategy charts out the actions needed to enhance climate adaptation in the IGAD region. It provides a robust all-inclusive approach to building resilience to climate change, in line

with other global and Africa-centred climate and development frameworks. There are opportunities identified with respect to key sectoral and transboundary challenges and cooperation that, if seized and implemented, ensuring inclusion of the most vulnerable populations, will enhance adaptive capacity and resilience to climate impacts, with important co-benefits for mitigation and for social cohesion, peacebuilding and stability in the region.

The effectiveness and efficiency of the IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy will heavily depend on the coordination role of the IGAD climate sensitive sectors, national implementing agencies, climate finance, technology transfer, and contextual feasibility of effective adaptation options- their ability to ensure the effective and timely implementation of the Strategy. This will require close communication and cooperation among all sectors and stakeholders when implementing regional and national sub-actions on climate adaptation, given that climate impacts are experienced across all the sectors. Climate impact assessment, management and communication will be a shared responsibility of all stakeholders within the impacted sectors. This will be particularly important in building the knowledge base on adaptation costs, effectiveness and feasibility for IGAD.

In addition, the implementation of this Strategy will require substantial leadership and a significant increase in both adaptation financing, capacity and technical support from the international community.

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