



Republic of Namibia
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

Framework for a Climate Adaptation Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning System for Namibia

Briefing Note

August 2022



Introduction

This briefing note sets out the main points of a technical report that presents a possible design for Namibia's climate adaptation Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) system and sustainable options for its implementation. The purposes of the technical report are to:

- Clarify the government's aims, objectives, and needs regarding the MEL of adaptation.
- Analyse existing MEL systems in Namibia.
- Prepare an overview and framework of an appropriate MEL system for Namibia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process.
- Set out a work plan for the government to establish the system.

The framework and the work plan set out in the technical report aim to help the government move forward to establish an adaptation MEL system that is doable and appropriate for Namibia. The MEL system will be aligned with Namibia's NAP process and will inform the preparation of Namibia's NAP document. Establishing a MEL system through a process that coincides with the preparation of the NAP document should help to ensure that Namibia has a NAP whose progress and outcomes can be monitored and evaluated.

The full technical report is available by request from the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), Government of the Republic of Namibia.

Context

Several policies and plans provide guidance to inform the development of a MEL system for adaptation in Namibia. For example, the 2011 National Policy on Climate Change and the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2013–2020 can inform the aims and objectives of a MEL system, and Namibia’s 2021 updated nationally determined contribution (NDC) provides insights on institutional arrangements. Namibia’s Fourth National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) identifies interlinkages with other systems that track progress—such as the reporting framework of the Fifth National Development Plan 2017/18–2021/22 and Sustainable Development Goal indicators—and highlights that the work on the national climate change vulnerability index could potentially be used to help assess the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

The development of the national MEL system will need to account for challenges such as an absence of MEL structures within the public sector, a lack of financial resources, and the need to build human capacity.

Content

The proposed framework for Namibia’s adaptation MEL system will be designed to achieve the following aims and objectives:

- Monitor outputs, such as tracking the delivery of agreed adaptation measures.
- Evaluate outcomes, such as assessing the effectiveness of adaptation actions in reducing vulnerability.
- Produce learning and knowledge to guide policy development and decision making and to raise awareness among stakeholders.
- Produce information for reporting at the domestic and international levels.

The adaptation MEL system will be designed to monitor and evaluate the priority adaptation measures identified in the preparation of Namibia’s NAP document, a process expected to take place in 2022 and 2023. The MEL system is expected to be applied across sectors at the national level through collaboration with the National Statistics Agency and the National Planning Commission, which have established systems for data collection, management, and analysis. Collecting data from regional governments will be a longer-term action, and short-term engagement could focus on identifying, documenting, and sharing information about adaptation success stories at the local and community levels.

Operationalisation

As recommended by stakeholders, the institutional arrangements should build on the coordination and management structures set out in the NDC, as well as the structures being established to monitor and report on mitigation actions. The NDC highlights that the National Climate Change Committee and its working groups will oversee and track the implementation of the updated NDC. The Climate Change Unit in MEFT is responsible for tracking progress on the NDC, with the Project Management Unit coordinating the day-to-day issues related to the development of reports.

MEFT will need to work with sector ministries, sub-national governments, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to develop the MEL system. This process will include establishing sector leads and working groups for priority adaptation sectors, as well as providing guidance on collecting activity data from their sectors. Engagement is needed with the Namibia Statistics Agency, which is expected to play an important role in providing key national statistics and the collection and archiving of data.

To fulfil these roles, MEFT will require a dedicated group in the Climate Change Unit responsible for overseeing the development and management of the adaptation MEL system. MEFT needs to mobilise resources and appoint a MEL coordinator to ensure that this comes to fruition.

Systems and processes are needed for data collection and management, as well as for the analysis of data. This process will include developing reporting tools with a short-term focus on tracking indicators and progress on the priority actions that will be agreed upon in Namibia's NAP.

Products

The analysis of the collected data and information on adaptation will contribute to national and international reporting—including reports required under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, such as the Adaptation Communication—and inform assessments of progress toward the Global Goal on Adaptation. In addition, the data and information will inform and improve policy, planning, and decision making; it will also interpret how and why adaptation has or has not worked as the basis for learning and knowledge materials.

Recommendations

Moving forward, the system will require adequate national and international financing and capacity building on basic MEL; data collection, management, and analysis; and reporting. The key recommendations to move forward to establish the MEL system are:

- Focusing on actions that are feasible in the short term, considering both the time to complete actions and the level of resources required.
- Ensuring that the process to develop the MEL system development process is aligned with the preparation of Namibia's NAP. This would enable MEL experts to give input into NAP objectives and actions that are measurable, advise on indicators and available baseline

information, and ensure the alignment of data collection and reporting with related national and international reporting requirements. This alignment would facilitate the identification of priority adaptation actions in the NAP whose implementation progress can be monitored in the short and medium terms, as well as impacts evaluated over the medium and long terms.

- Aligning the adaptation MEL with the development of the NDC implementation strategy; the measurement, reporting, and verification framework being established to track mitigation actions and greenhouse gas emissions reductions; and the 6th National Development Plan, which is being prepared in 2022.
- Developing a clearly defined results framework with a clear Theory of Change that informs the results. This framework will help to identify and prioritise measurable adaptation actions and results in the key documents noted above. This framework can be developed as part of the process of preparing the NAP document.
- Identifying adaptation indicators by taking into account the feasibility of data collection while also considering institutional capacity and available technical and financial resources. The selected indicators should enable institutions to track progress, report on the implementation of adaptation actions, and eventually, assess and evaluate outcomes.
- Drawing on synergies with the National Planning Commission and the Namibia Statistics Agency, which have established MEL systems. Increasing understanding of the information and data they collect that may be relevant for adaptation MEL.

Next Steps

The suggested next steps to be implemented over the next 2 years include:

1. Appointing an adaptation MEL coordinator who will oversee the development of the system.
2. Examining data that is collected by other agencies and processes that could inform the adaptation MEL system.
3. Establishing a registry of adaptation projects.
4. Reviewing reporting requirements and timelines, both domestic and international.
5. Developing a detailed MEL plan for a pilot phase in the agriculture sector (Theory of Change, information on the indicators and baselines, targets, means of verification, collection methods and frequency of updates, reporting tools, data management system, and roles and responsibilities of institutions) that is aligned with the development of the NAP and consistent with guidance in the NDC.
6. Assisting in the preparation of the NAP document by identifying and advising on indicators and data sources to track actions, as well as providing a framework for the evaluation of actions over the longer term.
7. Building capacity on MEL, including how to use the tools and systems that have been developed.

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To obtain an electronic copy of the technical report, please contact:

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