



National Climate Change and Green Economy Learning Strategy

Strategy to Advance Climate Change and Green Economy Learning, Skills Development, and Public Awareness in Ghana.



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Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI)
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Strategy Overview

Today, climate change and other environmental risks have become a major hindrance to sustained economic and social development across the world, especially in developing and least developed countries. Consequently, there has been increased awareness about the effects of climate change on economic and infrastructural development, and human existence. This development has resulted in global policy dialogues and negotiations to provide an international framework for climate action and mainstreaming of green economy principles into national development. Twenty years after the Earth Summit, which saw the establishment of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Rio +20 Conference set the stage for a new paradigm in development planning that ensures economic development for the present generation without jeopardising the development and well-being of future generations. This new development paradigm has seen a shift in emphasis from economic development to green economy in the context of sustainable development.

Capacity building, skills development and education on climate change and green economy has been identified as critical tools to ensure a sustained climate action and promotion of green economy principles for sustainable development. Article 6 of the UNFCCC therefore calls on governments to educate, empower and engage all stakeholders and the general public in the climate process.

International effort to promote climate change and green economy learning includes UNESCO's Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme which aims at promoting awareness by expanding non-formal climate change education activities through media, networking and partnerships. Through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), technical support is provided to partner countries towards capacity building to help align economic policies to greener and more inclusive action. More recently, the Paris Agreement reached at CoP 21¹ and the first forum on green economy learning provided further impetus for capacity building. Since 2009, the UN CC: Learn² project has assisted beneficiary countries including Ghana to develop result oriented and country driven strategies to promote climate change learning and capacity building.

This Climate and Green Economy Learning Strategy presents Ghana's strategic plan to promote climate change and green economy learning with the vision to *"Create a sustainable pool of human resource with the necessary technical*

¹ 21st Conference of Parties

² One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership

Strategy Vision:

"Create a sustainable pool of human resource with the necessary technical expertise and a general public equipped with basic climate change and green economy knowledge towards achieving a climate resilient and low carbon

expertise and a general public equipped with basic climate change and green economy knowledge towards achieving a climate resilient and low carbon economic growth in Ghana”

The National Climate Change and Green Economy Learning Strategy has been developed to advance the overall vision of the National Climate Change Policy through climate change and green economy learning and capacity building and will seek to achieve the following objectives - assess existing capacity to address climate change within key sectors; foster systematic and country-driven process to enhance climate and GE learning and implementation of the priority action plans; a tool to implement Ghana’s Nationally Determined Contributions; strengthen institutional capacity for good governance, institutional coordination, science and innovation, and accountable monitoring and reporting; identify and prioritise actions to enhance climate change and green economy learning through existing national education and training systems; link climate change and green economy learning to the objectives of the National Climate Change Policy and to help achieve sustainable development through capacity building and knowledge enhancement; help mobilise resources for training, education, public awareness; and capacity building from national budget and other internal and external sources; ensure the creation of a sustainable pool of human resource base with the requisite skills to address climate change and catalyse the transition to a green economy.

Strategy Priority Areas:

1. Agricultural and Food Systems
2. Disaster Preparedness and Response
3. Natural Resource Management
4. Equitable Social Development
5. Energy, Industrial and Infrastructural Development
6. General Education and capacity Building

The action plans in this strategy have been developed to address the capacity building and learning components of the National Climate Change Policy and will be a critical tool in implementing Ghana’s National Climate Change Masterplan (2015-2020) and the Nationally Determined Contributions from 2020. The priority areas of this strategy correspond with the priority areas of the National Climate Change Policy with an additional priority area for general education and capacity building and reflects Ghana’s priorities for mainstreaming climate change into development efforts identified in the National Climate Change Policy, with an additional priority area for capacity building within the formal and non-formal educational system of the country. The action plans for learning and capacity building were also informed by the skills gap identified in the Green Economy Learning Assessment. This is to ensure the strategy is relevant to the unique climate change and green economy capacity building needs of Ghana.

The priority action plans were identified through a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approach to ensure the critical and urgent capacity building needs across all sectors of

the Ghanaian economy are addressed within the learning strategy and to ensure stakeholder ownership for implementation.

The Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) will lead the implementation of the strategy by coordinating with all other relevant sector ministries, departments and agencies to ensure a cross-sectoral implementation of actions. On-going learning and capacity building actions will be monitored and reported on under this strategy with new and additional priority actions being incorporated into the annual plans and budgets of implementing institutions. Technical support for implementation will however be provided by the Environmental Protection Agency. Specifically, the National Focal Person for climate change education and awareness creation (Article 6 of UNFCCC) at the Climate Change Unit of the Environmental Protection Agency will lead the process of implementing the strategy action plans.

The Climate and Green Economy Learning Strategy will be implemented for a ten year period from 2020 to 2029³ with an estimated investment requirement of USD 103,073,000. The estimated budget needed for implementation will be sourced from the Government of Ghana and international climate financing sources. Funds needed for the pre-implementation activities will however be sourced from the UN CC: Learn Project partners. The pre-implementation activities will comprise of the critical next steps identified and the action plans needing immediate implementation.

A total investment of USD 103,073,000 is needed to implement the National Climate Change and Green Economy Learning Strategy for a ten year period from 2020 to 2029 with a pre-implementation period from 2016 to 2019.

Critical immediate next steps that will be undertaken will be a thorough institutional needs assessment to ensure that all necessary structures and support mechanisms are put in place. Through this activity, implementing and M&E institutions will be equipped with requisite capacity to successfully implement and monitor the priority action plans. A study to establish baseline data for all action plans will be done at the preliminary stages of the strategy implementation. This will ensure that all action plans are adequately tracked under the MRV activities. Additionally, a thorough gender vulnerability analysis will be undertaken at the preliminary stage.

Thirteen (13) priority action plans have been identified as needing urgent implementation to create the foundation for the implementation of the other priority action plans. Implementation of these action plans will commence soon after the official launch of the National Climate Change and Green economy Learning Strategy.

ES 1: Actions for immediate implementation

³ This is to synchronise the implementation of this strategy and Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions

Actions for Immediate Implementation

1. Train farmers and fishermen and present information on conservation agriculture, climate smart cropland management, and other climate smart agricultural and aquaculture practices in simple language for easy appreciation
2. Train on the principles for the design, management and operation of climate-resilient infrastructure
3. Institute Climate Change and Green Economy Festival / Week with programmes at the National, Regional, District, and community levels
4. Develop manuals and train on gender and social inclusion on Climate change and Green Economy
5. Initiate activities to incorporate climate change and green economy learning into the educational curricula across all disciplines at all levels of education, bearing in mind the flow of learning from pre-school to the tertiary level.
6. Establish Climate Information Centres to facilitate easy access to agro-met information and early warning system for disaster risk reduction
7. Develop and implement climate change and health training programmes for clinical health workers in order to identify and effectively manage climate change related health conditions
8. Train on implementing an efficient health surveillance system at the district level
9. Train business leaders on the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change.
10. Provide technical and financial assistance to businesses to undertake viable pilot initiatives.
11. Provide technical content and support for media campaigns and related activities designed to raise awareness among the general public
12. Train on public finance for funding the green economy transition for MoF staff
13. Provide introductory training on climate change and green economy concepts for relevant public institutions and officials