

Unpacking Sustainable Development Goal 13

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action that was adopted at the United Nations Summit held in 2015. The Agenda came up with 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets. The goals and targets are to stimulate action over a 15 year period (2016-2030) in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership are implementing this plan.

The SDGs and targets are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. They take into account different national circumstances and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities. Being guided by the global-level ambitious targets, each Government sets its own national targets, and decides how to incorporate them into national planning, policies and strategies

SDG 13

SDG 13 calls for *urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*.



The global nature of climate change calls for solutions to be coordinated at the international level and requires international cooperation to



help developing countries to move towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

Goal 13 has three main ambitious global targets as follows:

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Goal 13 is inherently linked to all the other 16 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement to limit global average

temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognising that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change. Implementation of the Agreement is essential for the achievement of Goal 13 and provides a roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

Goal 13 encourages developed countries to honour their Agreement commitment, to mobilise USD100 billion annually by 2020 to support adaptation and mitigation efforts in developing countries. More emphasis is put on the need to promote mechanisms to raise capacity for effective climate change planning and management and focus on women, youths and marginalised communities.

Climate change is now inevitable, actions must help people to adapt and become more resilient. Adequate climate change education, for example, help build safety nets against climate-related shocks and disasters.

There is need to continue engaging the international community with a view to unlock access to international finance mechanisms for implementation of actions to achieve sustainable development goal number 13 and others.

Implementation of SDG 13 in Zimbabwe

The Government of Zimbabwe is implementing all the SDGs but priority is being given to the implementation of **ten** focus goals. The prioritization was guided by the vision, the need to focus on enabling goals and resource availability. The goals have been aligned to clusters of the country's economic blueprint, Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimASSET) for ease of implementation.

Goal 13 is among the ten focus goals selected. The rationale for selecting it was that the economy of Zimbabwe is agro-based and relies heavily on the climate system hence the need to combat climate change and its negative impacts on livelihoods and the environment.

Zimbabwe is among the first countries to sign and ratify the UNFCCC in 1992. The country also ratified the Kyoto Protocol and its Doha Amendment. Recently the Government of Zimbabwe ratified the Paris Agreement and pledged to lower its energy-related emissions by 33% per capita by 2030 below the projected Business-As-Usual through interventions such as promoting the adoption of renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency improvement and Climate Smart Agriculture, among others. This was reflected in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) which the country communicated to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

In 2013, the Government established the Department of Climate Change Management with the mandate of promoting best practises in climate change adaptation and mitigation

strategies to enhance response and capacity to manage the impacts of climate change. The Department is implementing a number of projects and programmes in trying to climate-proof all socio-economic sectors of the country. The Department is under the Ministry of Water Resources Development and Climate.

The Government developed the National Climate Policy to guide climate change work in the country. The Policy is being supported by the National Climate Change Response Strategy, National Environmental Policy and Strategies. Renewable Energy Policy and the Forest Policy and other strategies aimed at achieving sustainable development.

With support from United Nations Development Programme, through a project called Scaling-up Climate Change Adaptation in Zimbabwe through Strengthening Integrated Planning Systems, the National Adaptation Plan process was initiated. The objective is to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts by building adaptive capacity and resilience and to facilitate integration of climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.

The Government has a climate change education, public awareness and outreach programme. The programme is being coordinated by the Department of Climate Change Management. The Department is also working with other Departments in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in mainstreaming climate change in the education curriculum at all levels. This is required under Article 6 of the UNFCCC and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement. A Climate Change Communication and

Outreach Strategy is being developed with support from development partners. Education is an essential tool of the global climate change agenda. It helps people to understand and address the impacts of climate change, encourages changes in their attitudes, behaviour and helps them adapt to climate change-related shocks and trends. The Government also ensures participation of women, children, youth, the disabled and other groups in climate policy formulation processes and in adaptation and mitigation activities.



Participation of Women and Children is critical in climate change management: Zimbabwe International Trade Fair, 2017

With support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), which is the technology arm of the UNFCCC, the Government developed a Climate Smart Agricultural Manual for Agricultural Training Institutions in Zimbabwe. The manual will help in promoting climate- and environmentally- friendly ways of farming. CSA practices are expected to sustainably increase productivity and resilience (adaptation), reduce GHGs (mitigation), and enhance achievement of national food security as well as SDGs.

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