



# Alignment to Advance Climate-Resilient Development

## COUNTRY CASE STUDY: Kenya

This case study is part of a series of briefs focusing on alignment of country efforts under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The case studies explore early experiences in efforts to align national-level policy processes under these global agendas, highlighting the context-specific nature of the alignment process. This case study focuses on the efforts of the Government of Kenya to link planning for sustainable development, climate change adaptation and disaster management.



### Key Messages

- The Government of Kenya has taken significant action to align efforts under the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This alignment is driven by the recognition that climate change is a threat to national sustainable development in Kenya, and disaster risk management is a top priority in climate change programming.
- Kenya's national adaptation plan (NAP) 2015–2030 and nationally determined contribution (NDC) are implemented through the National Climate Change Action Plan, 2018–2022 (NCCAP). The action plan purposefully aligns with the SDGs and disaster risk reduction agendas, demonstrating systemic alignment through a shared vision for climate-resilient development. The NAP and NDC demonstrate systemic alignment because the NAP is the basis for the adaptation information in the NDC.
- Much of the adaptation, disaster risk management and SDGs alignment is through the identification of synergies in key policy and strategy documents. Opportunities exist to enhance this alignment through improved coordination mechanisms, climate risk information sharing, harmonized financing strategies, and coordinated monitoring and evaluation systems.
- The Kenyan experience provides lessons for alignment of the three policy processes, including that NDC implementation plans offer opportunity to create synergies; multistakeholder adaptation processes offer a starting point for coordination and harmonization; and common reporting using SDG indicators can link the three policy processes.

## 1. Introduction

Kenya adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 and ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016. A concerted effort has been made within the NAP process to align these policy processes to help advance climate-resilient development.

The Kenya National Adaptation Plan, 2015–2030 promotes sustainable development and enhances the resilience of vulnerable populations to climate shocks through adaptation and disaster risk management strategies (Government of Kenya, 2016c). This identification of synergies with disaster risk reduction and the SDG policy processes has been driven by the recognition that climate change is a threat to national sustainable development in Kenya, and disaster risk management is a top priority in climate change programming.

This case study explores how the NAP process at the national level in Kenya converges with the SDGs and disaster risk reduction agendas. It explores the alignment between Kenya's NAP and NDC; the NAP linkages with the SDGs and disaster risk reduction planning and programs; and the alignment in national planning processes. The brief then discusses opportunities to improve alignment, looking at possible next steps and the benefits of alignment; and concludes with lessons to inform next steps.

## 2. Country Context

Kenya has the largest and most diverse economy in East Africa and is a commercial, transportation and communications hub for the region. Kenya is a lower middle-income country with a per capita gross national income of USD 1,460 in 2017 (World Bank, 2019). The country's economy is very dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture, water, energy, tourism and wildlife, and health.

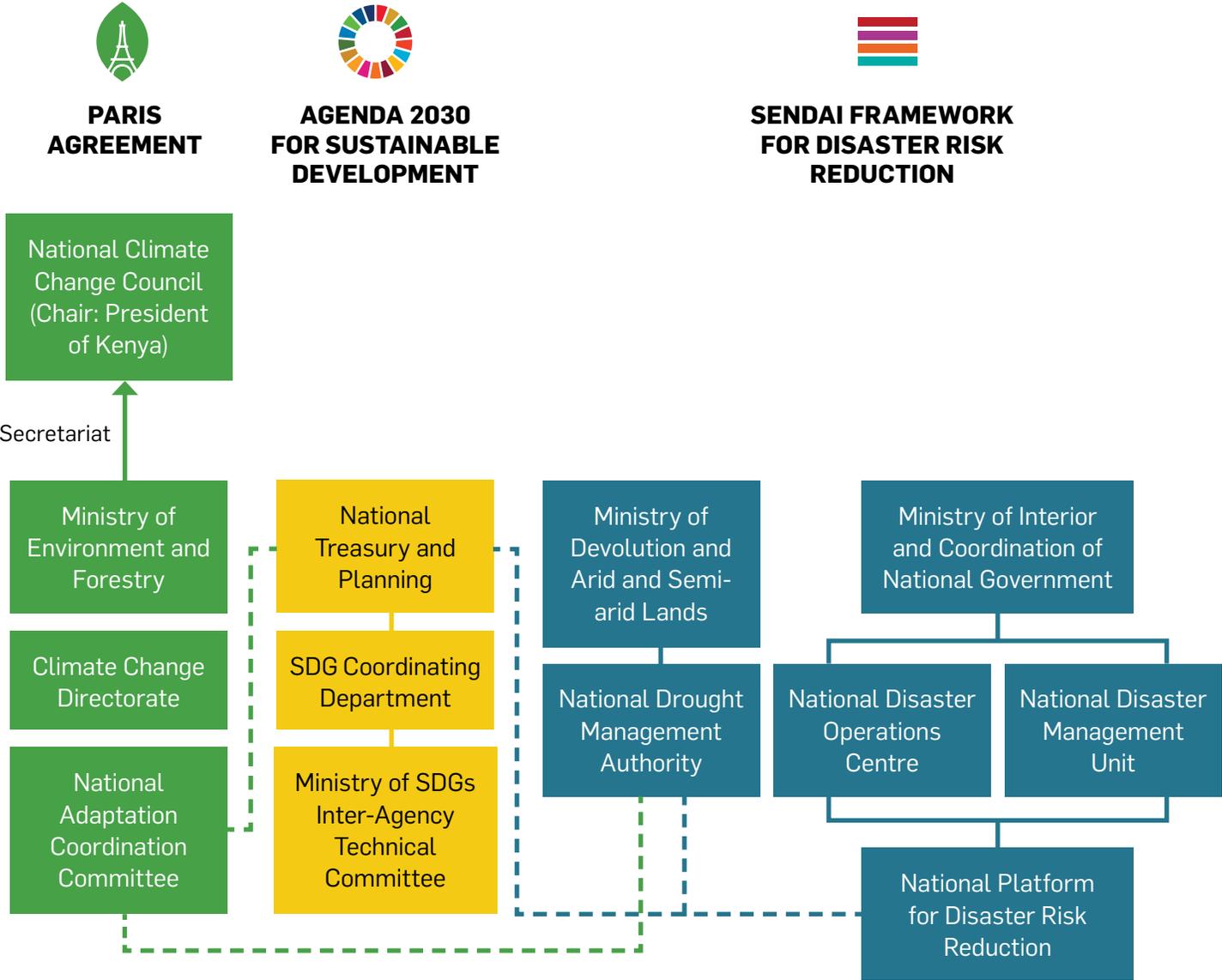
Climate change has increased the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events in Kenya that have led to loss of lives, diminished livelihoods, reduced crop and livestock production, and damaged infrastructure, among other adverse impacts. One example is the torrential rains and severe flooding in the 2018 long rainy season (March to May) that claimed over 150 lives; displaced as many as 310,000 people; destroyed at least 30,000 acres of crops; damaged schools, health facilities and roads; and contributed to an increase in Rift Valley fever (Kenya Food Security Steering Group, 2018). Many of the devastated communities were already struggling to recover from a prolonged drought that left 3.4 million people severely food insecure and an estimated 500,000 people without access to water (United Nations Children's Fund, 2018).

## 3. Key Institutional Arrangements for Climate-Resilient Development

Kenya takes climate change seriously, recognizing its potential to negatively affect the achievement of Kenya Vision 2030, the country's long-term economic development blueprint, and the government's Big Four Agenda for 2018–2022 that prioritizes food and nutrition security, affordable housing, enhanced manufacturing and universal health care (Executive Office of the President, 2019). The Third Medium Term Plan, 2018–2022 of Vision 2030 has mainstreamed and will implement the SDGs, and includes climate change and disaster risk management as thematic areas.

At the national level, various institutions are responsible for the coordination and implementation of the different policy processes under the three global agendas. A robust framework of policies, plans and institutions is being progressively established to address climate change, disaster risk reduction and the SDGs. An overview of the institutional arrangements related to the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework is presented in Figure 1, while Table 1 provides a summary of the related policy processes.

**Figure 1. Kenya’s Institutional Arrangements related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**



NOTE: Solid lines indicate direct responsibility, while dotted lines indicate a coordination relationship

Kenya's **climate change** response is guided by the Climate Change Act (2016) and the National Climate Change Policy (2018). The Climate Change Act establishes the legal basis for mainstreaming climate change considerations and actions in government functions. It also sets out institutional structures and responsibilities for climate change. The act establishes the National Climate Change Council, chaired by the President of Kenya, which is responsible for overall coordination and advisory functions. The act also establishes the Climate Change Directorate (currently housed in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) to coordinate and report on climate change action, while also supporting the development of five-year climate change action plans that set out measures to move Kenya toward a low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathway. NCCAP 2018–2022 is the implementation plan for Kenya's NAP and NDC.

Kenya has improved **disaster risk reduction** programming as an important response to its adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The National Disaster Risk Management Policy was adopted in 2018. The principal disaster risk management institutions include the National Disaster Management Unit and National Disaster Operation Centre, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, and the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), and the Ministry of Devolution and Arid and Semi-Arid Lands. The National Treasury and Planning department implements the Disaster Risk Financing Strategy (2018) that aims to improve the government's response to the impact of natural disasters and improve efficiency and effectiveness of spending on disaster preparedness and response. The National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction plays a critical role in coordination, prioritization and generating coherence between disaster risk reduction, adaptation and development issues (World Bank, 2018). The National Disaster Management Authority Bill, 2019, if enacted into law, will establish an entity to coordinate the response to and management of disasters, and would subsume the National Disaster Management Unit and National Disaster Operation Centre (Government of Kenya, 2019c).

Kenya is addressing climate change and disaster risk reduction priorities within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that was adopted in 2015 by world leaders, including the President of the Republic of Kenya. The government, led by the SDG coordinating department in the National Treasury and Planning department, has developed an **SDGs Road Map** and is aligning its National Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation System with the SDGs to enable tracking and review of progress at the national level (Ministry of Devolution and Planning, 2017).

**Table 1. Kenya’s Response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

Policy process	Kenya Vision 2030	National Policies on Sustainable Development	National Climate Change Policies and Strategies	National Policies on Disaster Risk Management
<b>Kenya National Policy Process</b>	Kenya Vision 2030: A Globally Competitive and Prosperous Kenya, 2008–2030 Third Medium Term Plan 2018–2022 (MTP III)	SDGs Road Map, 2016	Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), 2015–2030 National Adaptation Plan (NAP), 2015–2030 National Climate Change Action Plan 2018–2022 (NCCAP) National Climate Change Policy, 2018 National Climate Finance Policy, 2018	National Disaster Risk Management Policy, 2018 National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy, 2018 National Drought Management Authority Strategic Plan, 2018–2022 National Disaster Risk Management Strategy, 2016
<b>Lead institution</b>	Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat National Treasury and Planning	SDG Coordinating Department National Treasury and Planning	Climate Change Directorate Ministry of Environment and Forestry	National Treasury and Planning National Drought Management Authority National Disaster Management Unit, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government
<b>Institutional coordination mechanism</b>	Vision 2030 Delivery Board	SDGs Inter-Agency Technical Committee	National Climate Change Council National Adaptation Coordination Committee	National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>Objectives related to climate-resilient development</b>	MTP III has mainstreamed the SDGs and includes climate change and disaster risk management as thematic areas. <b>Climate Change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote low-carbon climate-resilient and green growth development</li> <li>Strengthen climate change governance and coordination</li> <li>Climate change monitoring, reporting and verification; capacity building and public awareness</li> </ul>	<b>SDG 1</b> – End poverty <b>SDG 13</b> – Address climate change Disaster risk reduction is a core development strategy	<b>NDC</b> – Adaptation contribution to enhance resilience to climate change toward the attainment of Vision 2030 by mainstreaming climate change in the Medium Term Plans and implementing adaptation actions <b>NAP</b> – Enhance climate resilience toward the attainment of Vision 2030, which includes economic growth, resilient ecosystems, and sustainable livelihoods.	<b>National Disaster Risk Management Policy</b> – Build a safe and disaster-resilient nation <b>National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy</b> – Support key programs to protect the most vulnerable populations from the impacts of disasters and contribute to building resilience

Policy process	Kenya Vision 2030	National Policies on Sustainable Development	National Climate Change Policies and Strategies	National Policies on Disaster Risk Management
	<p><b>Disaster Risk Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement an integrated Disaster Risk Management System focusing on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of disasters, enhancing preparedness</li> </ul> <p><b>Ending drought emergencies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen integrated early warning system, National Drought Emergency Fund, implement Hunger Net Safety Programme and introduce an integrated knowledge management system.</li> </ul>		<p><b>NCCAP</b> – Lays out the implementation plan for NDC and NAP</p> <p><b>National Climate Change Policy</b> – Enhance adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change for the sustainable development of Kenya</p> <p><b>National Climate Finance Policy</b> – Improve the mobilization of resources to address adaptation</p>	<p><b>National Drought Management Authority Strategic Plan</b> – Promote an integrated approach to addressing climate change and disaster risk impact</p> <p><b>National Disaster Risk Management Strategy</b> – Strengthen government coordination for and generate coherence between climate resilience, disaster risk management, and socioeconomic development</p>
<b>Priority Sectors</b>	<p>MTP III prioritizes implementation of the “Big Four” initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Food and nutrition security</b></li> <li><b>Health</b></li> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Affordable housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Disaster risk reduction</b></li> <li><b>Conservation and management of forests</b></li> <li>Education</li> <li>Tourism</li> </ul>	<p>NCCAP 2018–2022 identifies seven priority climate action areas to deliver on the NDC and NAP for the five-year period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Disaster risk management</b></li> <li><b>Food and nutrition security</b></li> <li><b>Health, sanitation and human settlements</b></li> <li><b>Forestry, wildlife and tourism</b></li> <li>Manufacturing</li> <li>Water and the blue economy</li> <li>Energy and transport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Disaster risk management</b></li> <li><b>Public health</b></li> </ul>
<b>Source</b>	Government of Kenya, 2007, 2018c	Ministry of Devolution and Planning, 2017	Government of Kenya, 2015, 2016, 2018a, 2018b, 2019a	World Bank, 2018; National Drought Management Authority, 2019

## 4. Synergies and Linkages Among the Policy Processes in Kenya

The Government of Kenya is taking systematic steps toward a comprehensive approach to climate adaptation, disaster risk management and the SDGs, discussed below.



### **Strategic alignment between the three policy processes is encouraged in the Climate Change Policy, 2018 and the Climate Change Act, 2016.**



- The National Climate Change Policy (2018) has an objective of “reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity, enhancing climate change resilience and strengthening capacities for disaster risk reduction” (Government of Kenya, 2018a). The policy indicates that the government will aim to mainstream climate change into disaster risk reduction and management programs.
- The Climate Change Act establishes the legal basis for mainstreaming climate change and notes the objective of mainstreaming the principle of sustainable development into planning and decision making on climate change. It also sets out the goal of mainstreaming and reinforcing climate change disaster risk reduction into strategies and actions of public and private entities. The act establishes the National Climate Change Council, which includes the Cabinet Secretaries responsible for climate change affairs, disaster risk reduction and the SDGs (Government of Kenya, 2016a).



### **Policy alignment is evident in Kenya’s NCCAP 2018–2022, which was developed to purposefully align with the SDGs and disaster risk reduction programs, demonstrating systemic alignment through a shared vision for climate-resilient development.**



- NCCAP 2018–2022 identifies disaster risk management as one of seven climate change priority action areas that are expected to promote climate-resilient development and deliver on the long-term goals of the NAP 2015–2030.
- The seven priority areas in NCCAP 2018–2022 indicate how action will contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and include appropriate SDG indicators to help measure progress on adaptation and SDGs at the national level. For example, the disaster risk management priority action area includes SDG indicators as proxy indicators for progress on adaptation, including: number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population; and proportion of local governments that adapt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (Government of Kenya, 2019a).



### **NCCAP 2018–2022 is the five-year implementation plan for the NAP and NDC, and the two processes demonstrate systemic alignment.**

- The NAP is the basis of the adaptation priorities in Kenya's NDC, which establishes adaptation as Kenya's priority response to climate change and sets a goal of mainstreaming adaptation actions into the five-year development plans of Kenya Vision 2030 (Government of Kenya, 2015). The two processes share common adaptation objectives and high-level actions in 20 planning sectors: they are also implemented through NCCAP 2018–2022.

- The National Adaptation Coordination Committee is responsible for oversight and direction on adaptation issues; review of the NCCAP, NAP and adaptation NDC; and assessment of mainstreaming adaptation in planning documents. The coordination committee is chaired by the Climate Change Directorate and includes representation from NDMA and the National Treasury and Planning department, which is responsible for the SDGs and disaster risk finance (Ministry of Environment and Forestry, 2019b).



**Integrated climate risk management is promoted as a central part of disaster risk and drought management policy and planning, demonstrating strategic alignment with the climate adaptation agenda.**



- The National Disaster Risk Management Policy notes the need to enhance resilience to the impacts of disaster risk and climate, and the National Disaster Risk Management Strategy aims to strengthen government coordination for climate resilience and disaster risk management, including strengthening institutional, planning and policy frameworks (World Bank, 2018).
- The mission of the NDMA is “to provide leadership and coordination of Kenya’s efforts in the management of drought risks and enhancing adaptation to climate change” (NDMA, 2019). NDMA worked with the Climate Change Directorate to develop the Climate Risk Management Framework for Kenya, 2016 that aims to pursue disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and sustainable development as mutually supportive rather than stand-alone goals; and promotes an integrated climate risk management approach as a central part of policy and planning (Government of Kenya, 2016b).



**Kenya’s approach to climate finance demonstrates informal alignment between the climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and SDG processes.**



- The Disaster Risk Financing Strategy 2018 aims to strengthen institutional, technical and financial capacity to manage the impacts of climate and disaster risks while building financial capacity to advance climate adaptation and respond to the impacts of natural hazards. Key programs are expected to protect the most vulnerable populations from the impacts of disasters and contribute to building resilience; many of these programs contribute to the SDGs and expected results of the NCCAP 2018–2022 (World Bank, 2018).
- The National Policy on Climate Finance aims to enhance national financial systems and institutional capacity to effectively access, manage, monitor and report on climate finance in support of national SDGs. The establishment of a Climate Change Fund to support actions that achieve climate change goals could include funding for aspects of disaster risk management and other NCCAP 2018–2022 priority actions such as food security and water that help to achieve the SDGs (Government of Kenya, 2018b).



**Kenya's commitment to the three international policy processes is reflected in national planning documents, including the Third Medium Term Plan, 2018–2022 of Vision 2030, Kenya's long-term economic development blueprint.**



- Climate change, disaster risk reduction and the SDGs have been mainstreamed in the Third Medium Term Plan. The plan, for the first time, takes an integrated approach to addressing climate change and disaster risk impacts, and identifies climate change as a threat to Kenya's sustainable development (National Treasury in World Bank, 2018, p. 44). The Third Medium Term Plan highlights climate change as a thematic crosscutting area, noting that climate change actions are expected to contribute to achieving sustainable development benefits. The medium-term plan includes a sector plan for disaster risk management and notes that the SDGs are to be integrated in the disaster risk management plan.

## 5. Entry Points and Opportunities for Enhanced Alignment

Much of the alignment of the Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Kenya is through the identification of synergies in key policy and strategy documents. Four areas that present opportunity for enhanced alignment, potential next steps and the benefits of alignment are discussed below.

**Coordination Mechanisms:** Effective coordination of the three policy processes could build on existing structures:

- The National Adaptation Coordination Committee that oversees implementation of the NAP and adaptation elements of the NDC and NCCAP 2018–2022 presents an opportunity for information sharing on and improved coordination on adaptation, disaster risk reduction and the SDGs.
- The Climate Change Directorate will create a multistakeholder advisory group to report on the implementation of the NCCAP 2018–2022 (including progress on the NAP and NDC) and identify opportunities to increase the ambition of the country's NDC. The advisory group could include the SDG coordinating department and disaster risk management actors to generate coherence between the policy processes.

The Climate Change Directorate could request membership on the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction to facilitate coordination between the climate change and disaster risk management agendas.

- The National Climate Change Council, which is chaired by the president, offers opportunity to have high-level direction on a coordinated approach that identifies the disaster risk reduction and SDG co-benefits of climate adaptation action.

**Potential next steps:** The Climate Change Directorate will identify and lead a review of opportunities to increase ambition of its NDC, which could include a focused examination of alignment between the three international agendas and their respective national policy processes. Critical actors in the SDG and Sendai processes will need to be members of the National Adaptation Coordination Committee and the NCCAP multistakeholder advisory group.

**Potential benefits:** Such coordination could facilitate the prioritization of actions that meet multiple objectives, such as the disaster risk management actions in NCCAP 2018–2022 that help to meet climate adaptation, disaster risk management and SDG goals. This may increase access to financial resources for these actions, and could help overcome separate implementation—and enable the more efficient use—of international resources to meet the objectives of all three policy areas (e.g., resources from the Green Climate Fund could also be used to meet objectives of disaster risk management).

**Climate Risk Information Sharing.** Access to climate and disaster risk information is critical for implementation. Effective drought management, disaster management and climate change adaptation activities require accurate and timely climate risk information along with analysis of this data.

**Potential next steps:** The National Climate Change Resource Centre managed by the Climate Change Directorate could position itself as the repository of climate risk information by compiling and organizing climate risk assessments as well as making them publicly available. Cooperation agreements with NDMA, the National Disaster Management Unit and the Kenya Meteorological Department could enable the resource centre to link to or make available existing climate risk assessments.

**Potential benefits:** Access to climate risk information could help inform decision making and ensure that disaster risk reduction activities integrate observed and projected climate change.

**Harmonized Financing Strategies:** The National Treasury and Planning department has taken steps to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of financing for disaster risk management and climate change that includes operationalization of the Climate Change Fund.

**Potential next steps:** The Climate Change Directorate, which is the Secretariat for the National Climate Change Council, could work closely with the National Treasury and Planning department to design and operationalize the Climate Change Fund, ensuring that it promotes climate-resilient development and is aligned with NCCAP priority actions, including disaster risk management.

**Potential benefits:** A harmonized approach to financing for the three processes could reduce duplication of effort and improve reporting on financial flows. A coordinated approach in the design and implementation of the Climate Change Fund could help to ensure that climate adaptation actions are complementary to those actions supported by the National Drought Emergency Fund.

**Coordinated Monitoring and Evaluation Systems.** Monitoring and evaluation of climate change, disaster risk management and the relevant SDGs could be undertaken in a coordinated manner, bringing together the various actors that have responsibility for reporting on the three processes. These actors include:

- The Climate Change Directorate, which is responsible for international reporting to the UNFCCC on progress toward achievement of the country's NDC. It is also responsible for domestic reporting to the National Climate Change Council on the implementation and achievement of results of NCCAP 2018–2022, which includes SDG indicators for tracking national progress on adaptation and disaster risk management.

- The SDG Coordinating Department, within the National Treasury and Planning, is responsible for reporting to the United Nations Division for Sustainable Development on Kenya's progress in achieving the SDGs, which includes reporting on SDG indicators that provide information on progress on climate adaptation and disaster risk management.
- The National Treasury and Planning department is responsible for reporting to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on implementation of and achievements under the Sendai Framework.

**Potential next steps:** The National Adaptation Coordination Committee that oversees and advises on the establishment of Kenya's adaptation monitoring and evaluation system could bring together the various groups to identify opportunities for harmonized national reporting on adaptation, disaster risk reduction and the SDGs.

**Potential benefits:** Sharing of data and harmonized reporting could introduce efficiency and consistency in the information being reported under the three processes.

## 6. Conclusion

The Kenyan experience provides lessons for alignment of the three policy processes through the NAP process, as discussed below.

- **NAP and NDC implementation plans offer opportunity to create synergies with the disaster risk reduction and SDG agendas.** Kenya's NCCAP 2018–2022 is the implementation plan for its NAP and NDC and establishes robust linkages with the disaster risk management and SDG policy processes.
- **Multistakeholder adaptation groups offer a starting point for coordination and harmonization.** These groups are often formed to develop, review or update NAPs or NDCs. A multistakeholder participatory approach that includes the relevant stakeholders responsible for disaster risk management and SDGs can encourage purposeful alignment of—and synergies between—the three policy processes.
- **Common reporting using the SDG indicators as a starting point can be a way to link the three policy processes at the national level.** The monitoring of and reporting on SDG indicators represents the compilation of valuable data and information for reporting on disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. SDG indicators potentially could be used as proxy indicators to track progress on adaptation priorities at the national level.

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