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Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change since the thirty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The elements of the second phase of the Nairobi work programme, up to December 2010, were defined by the SBSTA at its twenty-eighth session in June 2008. This report describes progress made under the different areas of work and how organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector have been engaged in the activities of the Nairobi work programme during this reporting period. It also contains summary accounts of how the secretariat is disseminating information on outputs to stakeholders and highlights relevant activities undertaken by Nairobi work programme partners in line with the work programme's objective. The report concludes with an overview of the conclusions and recommendations made by Parties and organizations based on their consideration of the outcomes of the activities completed under the Nairobi work programme.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to provide a report for consideration at each of its sessions, starting from SBSTA 29, on progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.¹

B. Background

2. The overall objective of the Nairobi work programme is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.²

3. Upon completion of the first phase of the Nairobi work programme,³ the SBSTA, at its twenty-eighth session, agreed on further activities for inclusion in the Nairobi work programme, to be implemented by its thirty-third session,⁴ taking into account the views of Parties on further activities, the report of the meeting of representatives of Parties on the outcomes of completed activities under the Nairobi work programme,⁵ the outcomes of additional activities completed by that session, information presented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other new scientific information, as well as relevant activities of international and regional institutions.

4. Progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 32 in the different areas of work is described in the previous progress reports.⁶ In addition, the secretariat prepared a summary report on the results of the second phase of the Nairobi work programme for the period up to SBSTA 32. More details on that report and on the informal meeting of representatives of Parties, organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of the activities completed prior to that meeting are provided in chapter IV below.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

5. In accordance with its conclusions at its twenty-eighth session, the SBSTA may wish to consider this progress report at its thirty-third session.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

² Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

³ A summary of the results of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme during this first phase is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/12.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraphs 10–74.

⁵ The report of this meeting is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/5.

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.3, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.5 and FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.2.

II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

6. The activities and expected outputs of the Nairobi work programme are structured around the two thematic areas “impacts and vulnerability” and “adaptation planning, measures and actions”, as set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.11, and the nine areas of work identified at SBSTA 25.⁷ Below is an overview of the activities carried out during the concluding period of the second phase of the Nairobi work programme (June to December 2010) under the respective work areas.

A. Progress made under the areas of work of the Nairobi work programme

1. Methods and tools, data and observations, and climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

7. As noted in the previous progress report, a technical workshop cutting across three work areas (methods and tools, data and observations, and climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling) took place in Apia, Samoa, from 2 to 5 March 2010. The workshop enabled 60 representatives of Parties, relevant organizations, communities, regional centres and networks, and individual experts, to discuss the roles of regional centres and networks, current practices and lessons learned with respect to collaborative action, as well as barriers to and challenges for further collaboration among different entities at the regional level in order to assist Parties in the assessment of and planning for adaptation.

8. The report on this workshop is available in document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/8. The report includes a summary of the key issues addressed at the workshop, as well as a summary of the steps that can be taken by Parties, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to address the needs and gaps identified during the workshop. The report also includes issues for follow-up and further consideration under the Nairobi work programme. The call for action resulting from recommendations made during that workshop is given in annex I. All information relevant to the workshop is available on the workshop web page.⁸

2. Socio-economic information

9. The SBSTA, at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to organize a technical workshop, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, on the costs and benefits of adaptation options.⁹ The workshop was mandated to be held before SBSTA 32 and was initially scheduled to take place in April 2010. However, the meeting had to be postponed because of severe flight disruptions caused by the Icelandic volcanic ash cloud and was subsequently held from 22 to 24 June 2010 in Madrid, Spain. More than 60 representatives of Parties and relevant organizations, communities and individual experts engaged in a focused and productive discussion on methodologies for assessing the costs and benefits of adaptation options and how they are applied in and across sectors. Participants also considered the role of assessments in the overall adaptation planning and implementation cycle, in particular how assessments assist in identifying appropriate adaptation measures and practices and in avoiding maladaptation.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraphs 32–71.

⁸ <<http://unfccc.int/5258.php>>.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 53.

10. Based on presentations and discussions at the workshop, participants identified a range of priority activities to be carried out in order to advance the undertaking and use of assessments of the costs and benefits of adaptation options. These recommendations were centred around the following areas:

- (a) General assessments and their utilization in the overall adaptation policy cycle;
- (b) Advancement of methodologies;
- (c) Knowledge-sharing and information-sharing;
- (d) Capacity-building and awareness-raising.

11. More information on the workshop, including summaries of efforts undertaken by Parties and organizations, is available on the workshop web page.¹⁰ The workshop report is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/9. The call for action resulting from recommendations made during that workshop is enclosed in annex II.

3. Research

12. Under its agenda item “Research and systematic observation”, the SBSTA has on various occasions called for enhanced efforts to support research for adaptation, including under the Nairobi work programme. It has also encouraged enhanced consideration of adaptation in dialogues between international and regional research bodies and programmes and Parties.¹¹

13. The latest meeting under the SBSTA research dialogue between Parties, regional and international climate change research programmes, organizations and the IPCC, held on 3 June 2010, during SBSTA 32, showed a strengthened interaction between Parties and the research community on matters relating to climate change research relevant to the needs of the Convention. Information provided by research programmes and organizations covered a wide range of developments in their research activities and emerging scientific findings, including updates on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation-related research. Relevant efforts by the research community include: contributing to the development of climate information systems to support informed decision-making on adaptation; undertaking vulnerability analyses in key areas, including terrestrial and marine ecosystems and related socio-economic sectors; research capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries; and regional and international research cooperation.

14. Parties noted during the research dialogue that priority issues to be addressed by the research community in the future include reducing uncertainties and gaps in scientific knowledge, regional impacts and modelling, alternative socio-economic and greenhouse gas emissions pathways, and impacts associated with different limits in global average temperature rises.

15. Participants emphasized the need to continue and strengthen the research dialogue in the future in order to inform deliberations on a wide range of issues under the UNFCCC process. The next research dialogue meeting and a related workshop is expected to take place during SBSTA 34.¹²

¹⁰ <<http://unfccc.int/5283.php>>.

¹¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 67 .

¹² For further information on the workshop and consideration of ways to strengthen the research dialogue, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraphs 48–50.

16. Information on the latest research dialogue, including presentations and the Chair's summary, is available on the UNFCCC website.¹³

B. Progress made in engaging organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector

17. The successful implementation of the Nairobi work programme depends on the active engagement of and support by organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector. To provide feedback on their experiences of engagement in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme and on possible ways to further enhance the level of support they can provide to Parties through the work programme, focal points of partner organizations were invited to participate in a short online survey. Fifty-one responses were received, which provided highly positive feedback and constructive suggestions. Partners highlighted the need to further enhance activities in the following areas: facilitating collaboration and coordination among partner organizations and Parties; catalysing targeted adaptation actions and activities relating to knowledge-sharing and learning; dissemination of knowledge and knowledge products; and the engagement and capacity-building of stakeholders. Focal points also shared views on how they could be better enabled to implement activities towards fulfilling the objective of the Nairobi work programme.¹⁴

18. As described in more detail in the summary report of the second phase of the Nairobi work programme,¹⁵ the number of partners of the Nairobi work programme has risen constantly throughout its mandated period. The following organizations and institutions have joined as partners and appointed focal points since the publication of the last progress report, bringing the total number of partner organizations to 195 as at 22 October 2010: Birdlife International, Clean Energy Nepal, the Global Climate Adaptation Partnership, the Global Risk Forum, the Instituto Torcuato Di Tella, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the International Telecommunication Union, the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute, the Overseas Development Institute, the Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Integrated Early Warning System for Africa and Asia, the Swedish Defence Research Agency, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and the University of Edinburgh.

19. Since the publication of the last progress report, two new organizations, Flo-CERT and the Halcrow group, have joined the private-sector initiative under the Nairobi work programme, bringing the total number of private-sector partners to 32. Two action pledges, the first to be submitted from the private sector, have subsequently been put forward by Flo-Cert and Corporate Social Responsibility in Asia (CSR Asia).

20. A full list of all partners to the Nairobi work programme can be found in the searchable database of partners and action pledges on the Nairobi work programme web pages.¹⁶ Figure 1 below provides an overview of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category.

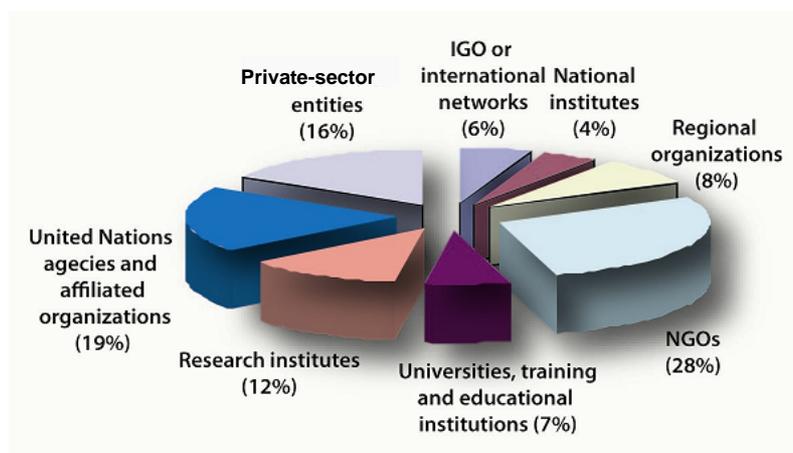
¹³ <<http://unfccc.int/5609.php>>.

¹⁴ More information on this survey can be found in the background paper referred to in paragraph 0 below.

¹⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/10, paragraph 49.

¹⁶ <<http://unfccc.int/5005.php>>.

Figure 1
Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category



NGO = Non-governmental organization, IGO = Inter-governmental organization

21. The database of partners and action pledges also contains updated information on adaptation experts nominated by partner organizations. The information was obtained as a result of an ongoing call by the secretariat that requests partner organizations and associated experts to provide relevant information in order to complete their profiles in the Nairobi work programme database. The respective forms for organizations¹⁷ and experts¹⁸ to complete their profiles are available on the Nairobi work programme web pages. In addition, Parties are also invited to nominate experts through the UNFCCC roster of experts.¹⁹

22. The SBSTA, at its thirty-second session, welcomed the direct engagement of, and the contributions provided by, a wide range of organizations in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. It encouraged these organizations to further enhance their efforts, including through action pledges and the provision of information to the SBSTA on the implementation of these pledges, to assist Parties in improving their understanding and assessment of the impacts of and their vulnerability to climate change and in making informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures.²⁰ Action pledges provide an easy way for all partners to identify and commit publicly to undertaking activities towards the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme.

23. The number of action pledges by partners of the Nairobi work programme has also been steadily increasing. Between 26 April and 22 October, the secretariat received an additional 37 action pledges, with the total number of pledges received to date being 133 from 51 organizations. The following partner organizations have submitted pledges since the publication of the last progress report: CSR Asia, Flo-Cert, the Global Water Partnership, the Instituto Torcuato Di Tella, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the Tearfund, the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), the University of the Sunshine Coast and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

¹⁷ <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nwp_organizations_form>.

¹⁸ <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nwp_experts_form>.

¹⁹ <<http://unfccc.int/534.php>>.

²⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 14.

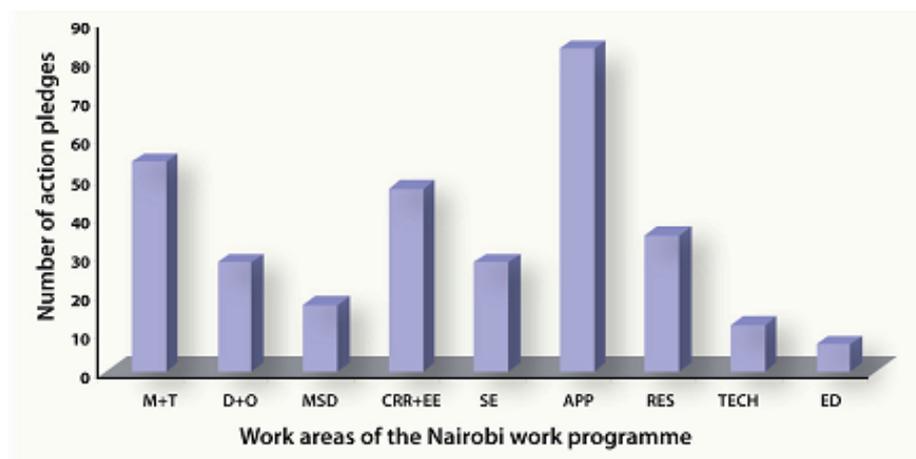
24. As an example, the WMO together with its partners, has launched a comprehensive set of initiatives in response to calls for action by Parties in relation to the provision, dissemination and application of climate data and observations and climate projections and scenarios.²¹ Activities included in WMO’s 15 new action pledges include climate data modernization and application, coordinated regional climate downscaling experiments, impact assessments on marine systems and fisheries, regional climate outlook forums, a help desk for integrated flood management, and capacity-building for enhanced climate change science and policy interactions.

25. Similarly, UNISDR has recently submitted six new action pledges in response to the call for action²² focusing on adaptation planning and practices in relation to climate-related risks and extreme events. These pledges include: convening regional ‘writeshops’ in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute, a Nairobi work programme partner; preparing the 2011 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*; undertaking regional mapping of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation institutions; and launching a global campaign to promote disaster-resilient cities.

26. More details on all action pledges received to date can be found in the searchable database mentioned in paragraph 20 above. Figure 2 provides an overview of the action pledges across the programme’s nine areas of work.²³

Figure 2

Action pledges under the Nairobi work programme by area of work



M+T: Methods and tools
 D+O: Data and observations
 MSD: Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling
 CRR+EE: Climate-related risks and extreme events
 SE: Socio-economic information
 APP: Adaptation planning and practices
 RES: Research
 TECH: Technologies for adaptation
 ED: Economic diversification

27. Between 26 April and 22 October 2010 the following organizations informed the secretariat of updates on activities undertaken and results achieved under their previously submitted action pledges, including information on outputs and impacts of their pledged activities, emerging good practices and lessons learned from their implementation: the Asian Development Bank, the Institute of Development Studies, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Practical Action and the World Federation of Engineering Organisations.

²¹ Calls for action numbers 2, 3, 7 and 8, available on <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.
²² Call for action number 8, available on <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.
²³ One action pledge can cover more than one work area.

28. All information submitted by partner organizations on the implementation of their action pledges is available on the Nairobi work programme web pages.²⁴

29. As requested by the SBSTA at its twenty-eighth session, the secretariat has regularly organized meetings of focal points of organizations and institutions engaged in the Nairobi work programme with representatives of interested Parties during the sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), with a view to taking stock of activities undertaken by organizations and institutions in support of the objective of the Nairobi work programme and to promoting a periodic dialogue between Parties and partner organizations and institutions.²⁵

30. The third focal point forum, chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA, was held on 4 June 2010 in conjunction with SBSTA 32, having been postponed from COP 15 owing to the heavy workload of delegates at that session. It was attended by more than 80 representatives of Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations. The following key messages on the implementation of the Nairobi work programme emerged from the discussions at this meeting:

(a) The Nairobi work programme has been effective in engaging stakeholders and has catalysed action on adaptation and facilitated the sharing of information, knowledge, experience and practices on adaptation among partner organizations and Parties;

(b) Numerous innovative methods for disseminating and communicating knowledge are emerging and being used by partner organizations;

(c) Partner organizations are carrying out an increasing number of community- and ecosystem-based adaptation actions;

(d) A number of areas of work need to be enhanced under the Nairobi work programme, including: capacity-building and training, adaptation in cities and urban areas, further engagement of the private sector, and engineering and infrastructure resilience;

(e) There is a need for enhanced coordination and collaboration, given the large amount of activities that are already under way, including those that are multithematic and cross-sectoral. The Nairobi work programme could play a more active role in fostering partnerships and in facilitating collaboration among organizations and Parties to ensure synergy and complementarity of efforts;

(f) A multitude of knowledge products have been generated through the Nairobi work programme, and these need to be better disseminated and utilized in the future, including through the facilitative role of the Nairobi work programme.

31. The summary note on the meeting is available on the Nairobi work programme web pages.²⁶

32. The fourth focal point forum is scheduled to take place on 6 December 2010, in conjunction with COP 16 in Cancun. Party delegates and focal points from partner organizations will be invited to consider and share views on the appropriate approach and perspectives on further strengthening adaptation knowledge management and learning under the SBSTA in support of enhanced action on adaptation.

²⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/5005.php>>.

²⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 29.

²⁶ <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/fpf_summary_note.pdf>.

C. Dissemination of outputs

33. Throughout the five-year period of the Nairobi work programme, the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, has developed a range of user-friendly knowledge products and publications to inform stakeholders of the outputs from implementing the work programme and to further catalyse relevant action at all levels and across the various sectors.

34. The SBSTA, at its thirty-second session, noted the work of the secretariat in disseminating the outputs of the Nairobi work programme to relevant stakeholders. It also noted the importance of developing targeted information, and products to disseminate such information, through appropriate means in countries where Internet access is limited.²⁷

35. Between SBSTA 32 and SBSTA 33 the secretariat facilitated, and made available, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, three new publications as described below. In addition, the latest issue of the eUpdate, which is the Nairobi work programme's electronic newsletter, was sent out to all partner organizations in July. The next issue is scheduled for November 2010.

Publications

36. A publication entitled *Adaptation Assessment, Planning and Practice: An Overview from the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change* was made available in June 2010.²⁸ Drawing on the work carried out under the Nairobi work programme since its inception, this publication outlines the provision of data, information, methods and tools for climate risk assessments and adaptation decision-making. It summarizes a wide range of ongoing adaptation activities and case studies and highlights good practices, gaps and needs, and opportunities to address these gaps. This publication complements a previous publication entitled *Climate Change: Impacts, Vulnerabilities and Adaptation in Developing Countries*, which drew on information provided at the workshops and expert meeting mandated by decision 1/CP.10.

37. In line with a request to the secretariat by the SBSTA at its twenty-eighth session to continue efforts in engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including those undertaking education, training and awareness-raising, another synthesis publication was made available in October 2010, entitled *Action on the Ground: A Synthesis of Activities in the Areas of Education, Training and Awareness-raising for Adaptation*.²⁹ The secretariat invited all partner organizations to make voluntary contributions to this publication by providing synthesis information on the key outcomes of, and lessons learned from, the implementation of relevant actions in these areas. Based on 37 sets of voluntary contributions from 25 partner organizations,³⁰ the secretariat facilitated the development of this second synthesis publication under the Nairobi work programme.³¹

²⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 13.

²⁸ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/4628.php>>.

²⁹ Also available at <<http://unfccc.int/4628.php>>.

³⁰ Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies; Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training; Global Climate Observing System; Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University; Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC); Institute for Global Environmental Strategies; International Council for the Exploration of the Sea; International Trade Union Confederation; International Union of Forest Research Organizations; Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development; Munich Climate Insurance Initiative; Sahara and Sahel Observatory; Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Stockholm Environment Institute; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific; United Nations Environment Programme/Global Resource Information Database Arenal; UNISDR; United Nations University Institute for Environment and

38. The contributions of partner organizations showcase a wide range of awareness-raising activities (e.g. policy dialogues, campaigns and the provision and dissemination of web-based resources) and capacity-building initiatives (e.g. training, workshops, and the development and dissemination of assessment tools and methods). These actions have generated practical results on the ground and useful lessons relating to promoting the understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and improving the ability of Parties to make informed decisions on adaptation planning, measures and actions.

39. Activities undertaken during the second phase of the Nairobi work programme have highlighted the importance of community-based adaptation. Although Parties and partner organizations are carrying out an increasing number of community-based adaptation actions, it has been suggested that there is a need to enhance focus on community-based adaptation in the future. The secretariat is developing a calendar to increase awareness of community-based adaptation and to showcase some of the work being undertaken by Nairobi work programme partner organizations. The calendar will be made available at COP 16.

Information package

40. In response to a request from Parties to the secretariat to develop user-friendly outputs and accessible forms of disseminating the results from the implementation of the Nairobi work programme, aimed at reaching adaptation practitioners at the national and subnational levels, in particular in developing countries,³² an information package containing knowledge products developed under the work programme was made available in Spanish on a USB disk. Recipients of this information package can access, through a user-friendly “navigation” document, all information and knowledge products made available through the Nairobi work programme. This provides easy access to Nairobi work programme outputs for stakeholders, particularly those in developing countries and working at remote locations with no, or limited, Internet connection. Other language versions of the information package will be made available at COP 16.

III. Other relevant information relating to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

41. Nairobi work programme partners have continued their efforts to carry out relevant activities towards the objective of the Nairobi work programme. As an example, the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC) dedicated one day at its seventh annual meeting³³ to discuss a pilot modality to enhance its support for adaptation in the

Human Security; Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean; Wetlands International; World Federation of Engineering Organisations; World Health Organization; WMO; World Resources Institute; and a joint submission from the World Climate Research Programme, WMO and the Climate Prediction and Application Centre of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

³¹ The first synthesis publication, entitled *Action Pledges: Making a Difference on the Ground. A Synthesis of Outcomes, Good Practices, Lessons Learned, and Future Challenges and Opportunities*, is available at <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/publications/09_nwp_action_pledges_en.pdf>.

³² FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 34.

³³ The meeting was held from 21 to 23 September in Montevideo, Uruguay. The agenda is available in Spanish at <http://www.lariocc.net/riocc_principal/es/calendario/archivos/vii_encuentro_riocc_2010.pdf>.

Latin American region by utilizing the wealth of knowledge generated by the Nairobi work programme.³⁴

42. This proposed modus operandi was well received by participants at the meeting, and it was decided, as part of RIOCC activities, to designate Nairobi work programme disseminators/promoters for the region – one from each of its member States – who will continue similar exercises and provide capacity-building aimed at strengthening the dissemination and use of technical documents and information products, including web-based resources, made available through the Nairobi work programme. This potential regional mechanism could elucidate valuable lessons on how to bring the vast amount of knowledge generated under the Nairobi work programme to the level where it is most needed and could enhance the role of the Nairobi work programme as a possible clearing house mechanism.

IV. Conclusion of the second phase of the Nairobi work programme and next steps

43. The second phase of the Nairobi work programme will come to an end at SBSTA 33. In accordance with decision 2/CP.11, paragraph 6 (e), the SBSTA is requested to review the work programme and to report on the outcomes of its consideration to the COP at its sixteenth session. To enable Parties to consider the outcomes of the activities carried out until then, the SBSTA, at its twenty-eighth session,³⁵ requested the secretariat to carry out the following activities:

(a) Prepare a summary report on the results of the second phase of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme for the period up to SBSTA 32, for consideration at SBSTA 33 (FCCC/SBSTA/2010/10);

(b) Organize, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and before SBSTA 33, an informal meeting of representatives of Parties and organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of the activities completed prior to this meeting, taking into account the summary report on the first phase of the Nairobi work programme and the expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme outlined in paragraph 2 of the annex to decision 2/CP.11;

(c) Prepare a report on the meeting mentioned in subparagraph (b) above for consideration at SBSTA 33 (FCCC/SBSTA/2010/12).

44. Within this context, the SBSTA, at its thirty-second session, recognized the work being carried out under the Nairobi work programme and noted the importance of the continuity of such activities as the Nairobi work programme is reviewed and its future considered.³⁶ It invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 16 August 2010, views and information on the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme in fulfilling its objective, expected outcome, scope of work and modalities as stated in decision 2/CP.11.³⁷ These submissions are contained in document

³⁴ Nationally identified adaptation needs of member States were analysed and clustered thematically. They were then presented with an indication of where the relevant information can be found in the technical documents developed under the Nairobi work programme. Nairobi work programme partner organizations that could potentially address those specific needs (e.g. those with relevant expertise and resources and/or that have pledged action to respond to similar gaps and needs) were also identified.

³⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraphs 20 and 24.

³⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 16.

³⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/6, paragraph 20.

FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.8 and Add.1 and were used as a basis to inform discussions at the informal meeting mentioned in paragraph 43 (b) above.

45. In addition, in line with the conclusions of SBSTA 32, the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, prepared a background paper as input to the informal meeting.³⁸ Supplementing information contained in the summary report as mentioned in paragraph 43 (a) above, this background paper draws upon several sources of information, including the outcomes of completed activities, the survey of focal points of Nairobi work programme partners referred to in paragraph 17 above, and views and information submitted by Parties and organizations on the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme in fulfilling its objective, expected outcome, scope of work and modalities as mentioned in paragraph 44 above.

46. The informal meeting took place in Manila, the Philippines, from 28 to 30 September 2010 and was chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA, with representatives of Parties and organizations facilitating some sessions. Forty-three representatives of Parties and organizations and experts attended the meeting. Participants shared views on and experiences with the implementation of the Nairobi work programme and shared ideas and recommendations for further activities beyond 2010, both in plenary and breakout group settings. The main conclusions and suggestions for the next steps include the following:

(a) The Nairobi work programme has been successful in creating significant momentum for adaptation through engaging a large number of organizations representing a wide range of adaptation stakeholders. It has catalysed action by partner organizations in response to the gaps and needs identified through deliberations under the work programme and has developed and disseminated a wealth of information and knowledge outputs and products;

(b) Parties and organizations acknowledged that their engagement in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme has benefited countries and organizations through, inter alia:

(i) Enhanced partnerships and opportunities for collaboration between Parties and organizations and enabling an effective platform for knowledge sharing and learning;

(ii) Additional knowledge inputs that lead to the consideration and incorporation of climate change adaptation in relevant programmes/projects;

(iii) Improved internal communication and coordination within countries and organizations;

(c) With adaptation activities gathering pace, Parties and organizations called for the continuation of the Nairobi work programme in order that it play a key convening role and provide the essential knowledge and information support for enhanced implementation of adaptation actions;

(d) To fully realize the potential of the Nairobi work programme in supporting enhanced adaptation action, the following two broad areas of work have been identified as critical:

(i) The establishment of a two-way knowledge development and delivery system to ensure effective flow of information and knowledge between the Convention and stakeholders at all levels of intervention (e.g. the regional, national, subnational and local levels) and across all sectors;

³⁸ The background paper and more information on this meeting, including presentations made and the report referred to in paragraph 43 (c) above, is available at <<http://unfccc.int/5706.php>>.

- (ii) The development of a mechanism to better align the needs of Parties and the resources and expertise of organizations and experts.

Annex I

Call for action number 10 under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change¹

Promoting the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments, such as rapid assessments and bottom-up approaches, including as they apply to sustainable development

Improving the collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on the current and historical climate and its impacts and promoting improvement of observations, including the monitoring of climate variability

Promoting the development of, access to and use of information and data on projected climate change

GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING

With similar geophysical conditions and sometimes socio-economic circumstances, countries in the same region often share similar adaptation challenges. Therefore, enhanced collaboration among relevant centres and networks at the regional level is needed for, inter alia, better knowledge management, including the sharing and standardization of data and information. In addition, there is currently an absence of a viable framework to feed knowledge from the ground upwards to the regional and global level, and for the information available at the global level to trickle down to the local level. Hence, there is a need to further develop regional cooperation mechanisms to bridge the knowledge gap between stakeholders at different levels.

Gaps also remain in the capability to adapt and apply existing methods and tools. Planning for adaptation is a social process that requires the application of knowledge from multiple disciplines, from natural science to socio-economics. This gives rise to an urgent need to enhance the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned from the application of methods, tools and interdisciplinary approaches in order that conceptual strategies lead to practicable adaptation activities.

In spite of the recognition that enhanced collaboration among regional centres and networks would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of support for adaptation, challenges remain with regard to an effective mechanism to bring about synergies and avoid duplication of effort with a minimum level of coordination.

Among other factors, the lack of information on existing technical resources in a region has been a barrier in this regard. Practical ways to create linkages among regional entities need to be explored and scaled up, including by making and updating an inventory of entities and networks with specialized technical capacities.

¹ The secretariat prepares calls for action following guidance from the Chair of the SBSTA. Calls for action aim to facilitate the implementation of recommendations resulting from the Nairobi work programme workshops and expert meetings by a wide range of stakeholders. This call for action is derived from the report of the technical workshop on collaboration among regional centres and networks held in Apia, Samoa, from 2 to 5 March 2010. Details of related work are available at <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.

ACTIVITIES²

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) requested the secretariat to strive to engage a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. The SBSTA encouraged relevant organizations and other stakeholders to develop specific activities at the national and regional level in support of the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme identified in decision 2/CP.11, and to share outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate.³

Actions are called for to enhance collaboration among regional centres and networks, with a view to:

Improving knowledge management through the

- Development of a regional clearing house of knowledge resources, including knowledge and information on current research, to facilitate interaction among collaborating centres and to accumulate relevant information that could contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment process;
- Organization of regular face-to-face meetings to facilitate the sharing of good practices and lessons learned;
- Linking up of regional centres and networks with ongoing climate service networks and initiatives to ensure that the development and implementation of climate information services and products are informed by the needs of adaptation ‘customers’;
- Facilitation of sharing of knowledge and lessons learned with the private sector.

Enhancing the effectiveness of technical support through the

- Analysis of region-specific technical support needs in support of adaptation;
- Development and maintenance of region-specific directories of expertise/competences available within regional centres with a view to identifying their comparative advantages;
- Clearly defined vision, goals, scope of work, outcomes and modes of operation for any collaborative action at the regional level aimed at the provision of technical support;
- Identification of practical ways to create links among existing networks. This may entail:
 - Mandating a group of resource people, such as an expert group, to liaise on specific activities among networks and centres;
 - Establishing working groups of experts, together with a steering group or committee, to respond to specific calls for assistance through joint programmes and collective efforts for resource mobilization;
- Piloting of technical support projects and mandating experts from centres with concrete tasks to address region-specific gaps and needs;
- Exploration of opportunities to use virtual centre models that build on existing regional organizations to provide technical backstopping services;
- Engagement of university networks and research centres in order to scale up and sustain capacity-building efforts and the knowledge base.

² Activities referred to in this call for action link to those aimed at promoting collaboration among regional centres and networks working on issues relating to the Nairobi work programme work areas on methods and tools, data and observations, and climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraph 17.

Annex II

Call for Action number 11 under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change¹

Promoting the availability of information on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and improving the integration of it into impact and vulnerability assessments

GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING

Evaluating the costs and the benefits of adaptation options constitutes an important part of the adaptation policy cycle as it can facilitate the identification of appropriate adaptation practices and measures and the avoidance of maladaptation.

Gaps and challenges remain regarding methods, techniques and approaches for evaluating adaptation options. While some of these gaps, such as dealing with non-market values, are common to most economic assessments, other challenges are unique to assessing adaptation options, including: dealing with the large range of uncertainties in climate and socio-economic scenarios; quantifying and monetizing adaptation benefits; the lack of adequate climate-related and socio-economic data; and linking climate and socio-economic modelling in order to identify climate change signals and to distinguish them from non-climate signals.

In order to increase the capacity for undertaking assessments, there is a need for: reducing the complexity of the assessment process; supplying financial and technical support and assistance; and providing information and guidance in languages other than English.

Challenges also need to be overcome in making use of the process of and results from assessing the costs and benefits of adaptation options, including challenges in ensuring consistency and comparability when adaptation options from different sectors are being assessed and common metrics are lacking; in presenting the results of assessments in a format that can be understood and used by decision makers; and in better understanding the role of economic assessments in the overall decision-making process.

ACTIVITIES

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) requested the secretariat to strive to engage a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. The SBSTA encouraged relevant organizations and other stakeholders to develop specific activities at the national and regional level in support of the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme identified in decision 2/CP.11 and to share outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate.

Actions are called for to advance the undertaking and use of assessments of the costs and benefits of adaptation options through:

Enhancing assessments and their use in the overall adaptation policy cycle

- Undertaking stakeholder-led analyses of the costs and benefits of adaptation options using methods and approaches tailored to national and local circumstances;

¹ The secretariat prepares calls for action following guidance from the Chair of the SBSTA. Calls for action aim to facilitate the implementation of recommendations resulting from the Nairobi work programme workshops and expert meetings by a wide range of stakeholders. This call for action is derived from the report of the technical workshop on costs and benefits of adaptation options held in Madrid, Spain, from 22 to 24 June 2010. Details of related work are available at <<http://unfccc.int/5283.php>>.

- Identifying and improving methodologies pragmatically, taking into account the need to ensure the practicality, relevance and robustness of the methodology as well as the compatibility with other relevant decision-supporting methodologies employed;
- Reviewing previously undertaken economic assessments, including as to how they influenced policy outcomes, in order to take stock of technical attributes and policy impacts and to identify lessons learned and good practices, which can be shared with other stakeholders;

Advancing methodologies

- Building up data sets, including of downscaled social, economic and climate data and locally collected data, in order to validate global models and data;
- Advancing the development of common definitions, concepts and methodologies to the extent feasible in order to ensure comparability of processes and results and to provide guidance;
- Analysing how to address the issues of uncertainty and flexibility (i.e. by considering the timing of implementing measures and how such timing can influence the costs and benefits). Other areas in need of further research include co-benefits, trade-offs and cross-sectoral linkages;
- Investigating how to take more advantage of the strengths of the different appraisal techniques and how multi-criteria analysis and cost-benefit analysis and others could be used more effectively;

Sharing of knowledge and information

- Enhancing web-based information tools, including clearing houses such as the planned Adaptation Clearing House Mechanism of the European Union and other databases;
- Increasing regional networking, including through regional organizations or topical centres, in order to share good practices and create communities of practice in areas where a regional approach to adaptation is needed, such as in relation to water resources and fisheries;
- Promoting traditional and local knowledge and decision-support tools.

Capacity-building and awareness-raising

- Preparing guidelines, toolkits or handbooks on assessing the costs and benefits of adaptation options, building upon existing work;
- Developing training programmes in developing countries on using and applying economic assessments;
- Building awareness of the value of undertaking economic analyses using a variety of communication tools;
- Providing financial and technical support and assistance.
