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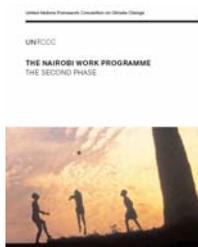
# Nairobi Work Programme eUpdate

## Featuring:

<b>Results from COP14, Poznan and on to COP 15, Copenhagen</b>	<b><u>2</u></b>
<b>Integration workshop, Cuba, 10–12 March 2009</b>	<b><u>3</u></b>
<b>Action Pledges – new pledges, more action</b>	<b><u>4</u></b>
<b>Timetable 2009 – Submissions and upcoming workshops</b>	<b><u>5</u></b>
<b>Further developing the NWP knowledge resources and webpages</b>	<b><u>6</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help provide the NWP adaptation community with experts and expertise</li><li>• Characterise your organization for the NWP</li><li>• NWP website improvement planning</li></ul>	
<b>New publications</b>	<b><u>6</u></b>
<b>Relevant information and advice for Parties that emerged from the implementation of the first phase of the NWP</b>	<b><u>7</u></b>

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## Results from COP 14, Poznan and on to COP 15, Copenhagen



The progress of the Nairobi work programme was welcomed by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), meeting at the conference of the Parties (COP 14) in Poznan, December 2008. The conclusions of the meeting are available in the document [FCCC/SBSTA/2008/13](#).

The progress of the first phase was presented to Parties in the summary report, [FCCC/SBSTA/2008/12](#). Parties expressed their appreciation to all the organizations undertaking or planning to undertake action in support of the NWP.

There is still more potential for partnerships and dialogues between information providers, users and decision-makers within the NWP. Parties encouraged increased knowledge sharing, including increasing the involvement of experts and the use by stakeholders of the information from the NWP when implementing their adaptation activities. The SBSTA invited all stakeholders to share the outcomes of activities implemented in line with the NWP with the wide adaptation community through the SBSTA. Stakeholders are invited to send all information to the NWP at [nwp@unfccc.int](mailto:nwp@unfccc.int). Information will be disseminated through the NWP webpages, NWP publications and in reports to the SBSTA.

During the meeting in Poznan, focal points from Parties and NWP partners were invited to a focal point forum, convened by Ms Helen Plume, chair of the SBSTA, to enable discussion of current and future activities.

At COP 14, the SBSTA provided the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) with information and advice emerging from the implementation of the first phase of the NWP to assist Parties in considering the implementation of adaptation under the relevant SBI agenda items (see [pp 7–9](#) or Annex 1 to [FCCC/SBSTA/2008/13](#)). This information and advice includes a summary of the gaps and needs and opportunities under all nine work areas of the NWP.

Knowledge sharing is one of the emerging elements of the negotiations under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention ([AWG-LCA](#)), and Parties have recognized the usefulness of the NWP as a hub for sharing knowledge in an enhanced future adaptation regime. Negotiators are currently meeting in Bonn (29 March – 8 April 2009) to move the process forward on all elements of the Bali Action Plan, including on enhanced action on adaptation, and are referring to the importance of the NWP in their discussions.

### Further information

- Nairobi work programme and its nine work areas – <http://unfccc.int/nwp>
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention – <http://unfccc.int/4381.php>

## Integration workshop, Cuba, 10–12 March 2009

Convened under work area 4 on adaptation planning and practices, the three-day workshop on [integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and programmes](#) was attended by over 80 experts from both developed and developing countries and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The workshop facilitated improved understanding of current practices and opportunities to enable mainstreaming of climate-related risks and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into national planning.

A range of planned and ongoing initiatives undertaken by different international, regional and national entities were shared from different perspectives. Core messages that emerged from the discussions include:

- Adaptation and DRR have common objectives
- Stakeholders need simple methods and practical tools
- It is important to build on existing experience in coping with current climate variability and risks
- Enabling environments are required to assist DRR and adaptation and the integration of them into national policies and programmes
- Strong coordination and cooperation is required at all levels
- There is a need for further attention to action at the community level

Two problem areas identified are:

1. The lack of awareness and incentive to integrate DRR and adaptation into national plans and policies;
2. The limited resources, methods and tools available for assessing risk in the context of climate change and the capacity to use these resources.

Existing modalities that can be successfully used for integration of adaptation and DRR into national planning were found to be unevenly distributed and used. However, there are existing initiatives upon which further action can be built. Participants highlighted the need for information to be delivered to policymakers in a form that they can easily understand and act upon.

A number of [action pledges](#) were made at the workshop (see [p 4](#)), most of which seek to bridge the work areas of climate related risks and extreme events (work area 4) and of adaptation planning and practices (work area 6).

The summary by the chair and the conclusion of the workshop are available from the [workshop webpage](#).

### Further reading

- Technical paper: Integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management and Disaster Risk Reduction strategies into national policies and programmes ([FCCC/TP/2008/4](#))
- [Workshop on climate-related risks and extreme events](#), Cairo, Egypt, June 2007
- [Workshop on adaptation planning and practices](#), Rome, Italy, September 2007

## Action Pledges – new pledges, more action

Action pledges provide the way for partners and Parties to commit to working towards the objective of the Nairobi work programme and to commit to implementing adaptation action.

Action pledges enable you as a partner to identify the adaptation activities you are taking towards the goals and objectives of the NWP and align your work with the NWP. Adaptation action is required in all nine NWP work areas. You can identify the action required that is relevant to your activities via:

- [Calls for action](#)
- [The action-orientated subthemes of Decision 2/CP.11](#)
- [NWP workshops, expert meetings and focal point forums](#)
- Information and advice emerging from the implementation of the first phase of the NWP (See [pp 7–9](#) or Annex 1 of [FCCC/SBSTA/2008/13](#))

You are asked to periodically report on your pledged action(s), to share knowledge on its implementation to other partners and Parties worldwide. The secretariat reports on the outcomes of all action pledges directly to Parties via the NWP progress reports and to stakeholders via the NWP webpages and the eUpdate. The next progress report will be issued in early May 2009; any new pledges or progress you would like to see reported should be sent to [nwp@unfccc.int](mailto:nwp@unfccc.int) by **10 April 2009**.

**New** action pledges and updates received since the last eUpdate in Nov 2008 include:

- [Environmental Development Action in the Third World](#) (ENDA) action pledge and update
- [United Nations Convention on Biological Diversification](#) (CBD) action pledge
- [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP) action pledge
- [United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction](#) (UN ISDR) action pledge
- [Munich Climate Insurance Initiative](#) (MCII) action pledge
- [LI-BIRD](#) update

Action pledges and updates expected in the near future:

- Action pledge from Denmark (the first action pledge by a Party)
- Action pledge from the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO)
- Update from the World Health Organization (WHO)

As the number of action pledges is increasing, the secretariat is reviewing its webpages to enable better access to the action pledges as well as linking them to the work areas with which they are associated.

### Further information

- Information to help submit a pledge is available from the Action Pledges webpage – <http://unfccc.int/3996.php>
- Or contact the Nairobi work programme directly – [nwp@unfccc.int](mailto:nwp@unfccc.int)

## **Timetable 2009 – including Submissions and upcoming workshops**

### **28–30 April 2009, Cairo, Egypt**

Workshop on increasing economic resilience to climate change and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors

See [workshop webpage](#) for further information

### **1–12 June 2009, Bonn**

*Thirtieth sessions of the UNFCCC Convention subsidiary bodies – SBSTA and SBI, sixth session of the AWG-LCA and eighth session of the AWG-KP*

NWP side event on updates on the implementation of the NWP (title and date to be confirmed)

### **By 18 September 2009**

**Invitation from the SBSTA for Parties and relevant organizations to provide submissions on:**

Efforts undertaken, including methods used, to assess the costs and benefits of adaptation options, as well as their views on lessons learned, good practices, gaps and needs (work area: socio-economic information).

Efforts undertaken to monitor and evaluate the implementation of adaptation projects, policies and programmes and the costs and effectiveness of completed projects, policies and programmes as well as views on lessons learned, good practices, gaps and needs (work area: adaptation planning and practices).

### **Before December 2009** (date and location to be confirmed)

*Workshop on how to advance the integration of various approaches to adaptation planning, including scaling up of local and community-based adaptation*

### **7–18 December 2009**

**Copenhagen Climate Change Conference**

NWP Focal point forum to be held at these sessions

## Further developing the NWP knowledge resources and webpages

### Help provide the NWP adaptation community with experts and expertise

The Nairobi work programme is fast becoming a hub for knowledge sharing on all issues relating to adaptation. The secretariat is developing an **expert database** containing the details of adaptation experts from around the world. If there are experts, including yourself, in your organisations, who are involved in any aspect of adaptation and can provide proven expertise in this field, then the NWP wants your experts to be part of the database.

A form is available at <http://unfccc.int/nwp> for you to complete and return, along with at least one example of a peer-reviewed publication, to [nwp@unfccc.int](mailto:nwp@unfccc.int).

**Current partners are requested to return forms by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2009.**

### Characterise your organization for the NWP

As part of ongoing improvements of the NWP webpage, the NWP wishes to better represent its partners, including you and your organization. Please help this improvement by characterising your organization.

A form is available at <http://unfccc.int/nwp> for you to complete and return to [nwp@unfccc.int](mailto:nwp@unfccc.int).

**Current partners are requested to return forms by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2009.**

### NWP website improvement planning

We are currently working on the improvement of the NWP webpages, including access to information on NWP partners and Action Pledges. Partners will be invited to review and comment once a beta version of the new aspects of the webpages becomes available.

### New Publications

**NWP leaflet series** including the NWP overview leaflet and a leaflet on each of the nine NWP work areas

These leaflets are available from the [publications webpage](#) and in printed copy from [dpeiris@unfccc.int](mailto:dpeiris@unfccc.int). They are useful sources of easy-to-read information on the work areas, and are helpful as quick reference guides for not only NWP partners, but all stakeholders.

## Relevant information and advice for Parties that emerged from the implementation of the first phase of the NWP

Available from Annex 1 of [FCCC/SBSTA/2008/13](#)

### Methods and tools

- Integrated assessments are viewed as a useful way to comprehensively assess social, economic and environmental impacts of climate change, accounting for the interaction between climate change and other processes.
- The existence of numerous gaps and needs prevents methods and tools from being widely disseminated and applied. Gaps include lack of sufficient data, capacity, proper information and guidance on available methods and tools, including the associated uncertainties and limitations.
- The identified needs include improved capacity for local and sectoral assessments; integrated assessments at the subnational and national levels; integration of bottom-up and top-down approaches; better quantification of the costs and benefits of adaptation; and user-specific guidance on the application of the many available methods and tools.
- Means for enhancing the dissemination of methods and tools include establishing and strengthening existing user networks to share expertise and experiences in the application of methods and tools; and establishing mechanisms to enable the comparison of methods and tools.

### Data and observations

- There is a general understanding that the major challenge with regard to data and observations is not necessarily establishing an observation network, but rather maintaining it on a long-term and sustained basis after external funding ceases, and sharing the resulting data.
- Identified data needs, particularly in developing countries, include the need for support for data collection and recovery of historical data, the need to improve the collection, management and use of data at the regional level, and the need for enhanced access to global, regional and national data.
- In terms of observations, there is a need to improve systematic observation and monitoring systems in order to better understand the impacts of climate change, including by expanding coverage and increasing density, and for raising awareness among policymakers of the need for strengthened national meteorological and hydrological services.
- Human capacity for analysing and generating data also needs to be built through training and education programmes, including improving understanding of uncertainties associated with the use of data and models.
- Means for improving the capacity for collecting, managing and using observational data include undertaking a comprehensive stocktaking of the climatic and non-climatic data holdings at the national level and, based on this assessment, developing integrated management and collection systems capable of providing the information required for adaptation.

### Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

- Advances have been made in the methods for downscaling, model resolution, the simulation of processes of importance for regional change and in expanding the set of available simulations.
- Gaps remain with respect to spatial and temporal resolution and uncertainties of scenarios and model outputs. These gaps have put constraints on the development of regional/subregional climate scenarios aiming at supporting policy-relevant impact and vulnerability assessments. Capacity-building is needed to understand the context and limitations of climate model outputs given the variety of assumptions on which models are based. There is also a need for a dialogue

between the climate science community and adaptation practitioners, including policymakers, with a view to determining requirements and parameters for modelling activities so that model outputs become more policy-relevant.

- Means for enhancing the development of regional and subregional climate scenarios include promoting regional centres and networks to ensure smooth knowledge sharing and transfer, collaboration on scenario development using various models, and capacity-building at regional and national levels.
- Efforts to quantify and reduce uncertainty within and across models should be continued in order to increase the accuracy of future projections and the representation and communication of uncertainties should be improved to ensure credibility of model outputs and climate data.

#### Climate-related risks and extreme events

- A disaster risk reduction approach to risk assessment should be adopted, as it focuses on the prediction and reduction of impacts.
- Traditional knowledge can complement other scientific sources of knowledge. Greater integration and use of such knowledge is needed in the assessment and management of climate-related risks, particularly through partnerships with grass-roots organizations.
- Gaps remain relating to the assessment, prediction and management of climate-related risks and impacts, including uncertainties in the prediction of climate variability and extreme events and a lack of response systems for identified risks. Needs identified include better integration of disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change into national sustainable development policies and plans, and better methods and tools to predict, manage and reduce impacts. Another gap is the limited availability and accessibility of risk-sharing mechanisms, such as insurance, in the most vulnerable countries.
- Means for enhancing the assessment and prediction of climate-related risks and impacts include better provision of data at the national, regional and global levels, and continuous access for users to relevant data archives and databases.

#### Socio-economic information

- Socio-economic information can highlight the different exposures to climate threats and the adaptive capacities of regions, countries and communities.
- Socio-economic information lags behind biophysical and meteorological information in terms of quality, availability and accessibility. A major gap is the lack of spatially differentiated socio-economic information, especially at the subnational scale. Even when socio-economic information is available, its applicability for adaptation planning is limited. Data are often collected in inconsistent formats, disseminated on aggregate scales, dispersed in terms of their location, and not available in formats usable for vulnerability and impact assessments and adaptation planning. Further efforts are needed to improve the integration of qualitative socio-economic information into assessments.
- Means for integrating socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments include developing an open dialogue between providers and users of information in order to tailor information to specific data needs, developing guidance on the use of existing data and packaging the information so that it is of relevance to the decision-making processes, and developing information on costs and benefits of adaptation options.

#### Adaptation planning and practices

- Lessons learned include using current exposure to natural hazards and climate variability as an entry point for adaptation; using case studies and guidelines to engage stakeholders; and the importance of understanding, valuating and incorporating indigenous and local knowledge and technologies.
- Despite some advances many gaps and needs remain. For example, there is a gap between adaptation assessment and planning, on the one hand, and implementation on the other. This is due to a number of constraints including lack

of capacity, data, information and resources. Uncoordinated sectoral responses can be ineffective or even counterproductive because responses in one sector can increase the vulnerability of another sector and/or reduce the effectiveness of adaptation responses taken in that sector. Hence there is a need to adopt a cross-sectoral approach to adaptation as part of an overall sustainable development strategy.

- Conceptual frameworks for adaptation could assist in identifying the range of available adaptation options while at the same time providing for flexibility and redesign of options as more clarity emerges regarding the level of change or impacts to which different sectors and levels need to adapt.

#### Research

- Needs identified regarding understanding impacts and vulnerabilities include reducing uncertainty in the sensitivity of the climate system, enhancing the connections between General Circulation Models and regional models to improve the performance of regional climate change models, and enhancing the validation of climate models with observations of essential climate variables.
- In terms of facilitating adaptation planning and implementation, research needs include understanding and reducing economic, technical, social and institutional barriers to adaptation as well as better understanding of various adaptation options, including through identifying and assessing costs, benefits and potential trade-offs. Efforts also need to be made to develop adaptation scenarios for different greenhouse gas stabilization levels and assumptions.

#### Technologies for adaptation

- Technologies for adaptation include hard technologies, such as drought-resistant crop varieties, seawalls and irrigation technologies, or soft technologies, such as crop rotation patterns. Many technologies have both hard and soft characteristics, and successful adaptation action would typically combine the two.