



# Private Sector Initiative

Managing risks and adapting to climate change

## Overview

Climate change presents the private sector with unique risks and opportunities, which may significantly affect business operations, supply, competitiveness, and profits. Opportunities include the possibility of developing new sustainable, profitable and climate proof strategies.

The UNFCCC Nairobi work programme *Private Sector Initiative* (NWP PSI) aims to catalyze private sector engagement in climate change adaptation efforts. It provides a platform for the private sector to showcase and exchange best practices and experiences. The PSI also presents organizations with the opportunity to develop knowledge on climate change adaptation, build adaptive capacity and be part of a growing network of organizations taking measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

## Benefits of joining the PSI

- Accessing a suite of adaptation tools, and publications;
- Participating in and contributing to UNFCCC events;
- Participating in a diverse network facilitating learning and collaboration on adaptation across sectors, regions and stakeholder groups;
- Staying informed about a wide range of adaptation activities pledged and implemented by adaptation stakeholders;
- Making NWP Action Pledges and raising awareness of adaptation activities undertaken by private sector organizations among decision makers and other stakeholders engaged with the UNFCCC;
- Connecting with others adaptation leaders by joining the NWP PSI and supporting risk and vulnerability assessment, the development of adaptation strategies, facilitating the integration of adaptation into corporate planning and identifying new opportunities.

## The Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

Established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the objective of the NWP 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;
- 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.

The NWP is implemented by Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders.



**Private Sector organizations are also developing products and services that assist communities to adapt to climate change, examples below**



**Siemens**

Siemens' adaptation initiative on water helps the UN achieve its goal of reducing the number of people without access to clean water to one half of today's level by 2015. Siemens has developed a system known as SkyHydrant for portable water-purification to provide access to continuous, safe drinking water for thousands of people. The company's Skyjuice Foundation has installed about 450 water purification units in a number of developing countries that are likely to be adversely affected by climate change including in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, East Timor, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Oman, Kenya, South and Central America and India. The systems are installed in schools, hospitals, clinics, internally displaced persons camps and villages.



**Swiss Re Group**

As climate change drives an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural hazards, the challenges faced by food-insecure communities struggling to improve their lives and livelihoods also increase. In response to these challenges, Swiss Re Group, a leader in reinsurance, insurance and other forms of risk transfer, together with Oxfam America, developed the Horn of Africa Risk Transfer for Adaptation (HARITA) project. It is anticipated that this project will enable poor farmers in Ethiopia to strengthen their food and income security through a combination of community climate resilience projects, insurance, microcredit, and savings.



**GlaxoSmithKline (GSK)**

Fruit farmers will need to use more resilient and adaptable varieties of crops that are disease resistant in order to ensure livelihoods in the face of climate change. Responding to this need in the UK, GSK, a science-led global healthcare company and the producer of the popular soft drink brand Ribena, is collaborating with The Scottish Crop Research Institute in developing new varieties of blackcurrant that will be suitable for the changing climate over the next 70 years.

The NWP PSI database features more than 100 business cases on adaptation. For more information about the above examples and to see other business cases, visit [unfccc.int/6547](http://unfccc.int/6547)

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**Disclaimer:** These business cases have been cited to raise awareness about the engagement of the private sector in climate change adaptation. The information in the business cases has been provided either directly by the organization or obtained from a public source. The UNFCCC secretariat has not verified this information, and takes no responsibility for it. Users are therefore advised to verify the information before they take any action relying on the information provided in the business cases. The UNFCCC secretariat selected the above case studies to feature in this leaflet with a view to showcase public-private partnerships and also activities undertaken in developed countries and in developing countries.

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Joining the Private Sector Initiative:

[unfccc.int/4623](http://unfccc.int/4623)

