

## **The Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

### **1. Aim**

The aim of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) is twofold:

- To assist countries, 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; and
- To assist countries 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. Rationale**

Why have a work programme?

- Because adaptation to climate change and its adverse effects is of high priority for all countries, and developing countries are particularly vulnerable;
- Because the scientific knowledge on impacts is increasing all the time, as are practical experiences in responding to adaptation needs. This knowledge needs to be exploited;
- Because responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter; and
- To recognize and make the most of, activities relating to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change that have already been undertaken by Parties and organizations (including through local and indigenous knowledge) and to encourage further work.

### **3. Expected Outcomes**

The expected outcomes of the NWP are as follows:

- Enhanced capacity at international, regional, national, sectoral and local levels to further identify and understand impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation responses, and to select and implement practical, effective and high priority adaptation actions;
- Improved information and advice to the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, including facilitating the implementation of decision 1/CP.10, where relevant;
- Enhanced development, dissemination and use of knowledge from practical adaptation activities;
- Enhanced cooperation among Parties, relevant organizations, business, civil society and decision makers, aimed at enhancing their ability to manage climate change risks;
- Enhanced integration of actions to adapt to climate change with those to achieve sustainable development.

#### **4. Areas of work**

The NWP is structured around nine areas of work, each of them key to increasing our ability to successfully adapt. These areas of work address the overall objectives of the work programme. Table 1 below lists the nine areas of work and the general needs to which they respond.

#### **5. How organizations can contribute to the work programme**

The most significant activities of the NWP will be those undertaken by organizations, institutions, experts and communities, at their own initiative, in support of the objectives of the NWP and catalyzed by the work of the NWP.

In some cases this will involve organizations aligning their current work with the objectives of the NWP. In other cases it will involve organizations rethinking and adapting their work so that adaptation to climate change is taken into consideration.

In addition, the UNFCCC secretariat will organize workshops and expert meetings, mandated by the Parties, to share information and will request submissions from relevant organizations and stakeholders to collect information, experiences and ideas on different aspects of adaptation. This information will then be summarized, analyzed and disseminated to relevant stakeholders.

#### **6. Participation**

Relevant organizations, institutions, experts and communities can take part in the activities of the NWP, even if they have never before been engaged in the UNFCCC process. Organizations can also use the NWP, its activities and outcomes to help incorporate adaptation into their own activities.

Many organizations have already expressed their willingness to cooperate on the NWP and have formulated detailed plans on how they intend to contribute to the work programme. Listed below are some suggestions on how the NWP could be incorporated into the work of an organization. The list is meant to encourage further thinking and is not exhaustive.

- Adopt some of the objectives of the NWP as objectives of the organization and share the outcomes/experiences of trying to advance those goals.
- Use the nine areas of work to help the organization choose the most useful activities for increasing adaptation.
- Make use of outputs from the NWP when deciding on the direction of future work, e.g. reports which highlight gaps and needs within a field such as systematic observation.
- Contribute to UNFCCC secretariat activities by submitting relevant information on views and experiences under the different areas of work (see 'Contributing to secretariat work on the NWP').
- Start incorporating adaptation into the organization's work, e.g. by climate proofing development projects, using the activities and outputs of the work programme as sources of information and experience, etc.
- Fund research that supports the objectives of the work programme.

## 7. Deliverables and timing

Work will be carried out under nine focus areas (described on the following page), and among the activities will be submissions from relevant stakeholders and workshops and expert meetings (by invitation), and progress reports on the implementation of the NWP. Activities will also include the implementation of concrete adaptation on the ground.

Deliverables will take the following form: synthesis reports summarizing insights gained from submissions; reports presenting the outcomes of workshops and expert meetings; and summary reports of the progress of the NWP. Some organizations may report back to other participants on the outcomes of their activities. A highly desired, but less easy to measure deliverable will be an increase in adaptation planning and activities on the ground.

Approximate and tentative workshop dates are given below:

- Climate related risks and extreme events workshop - June 2007
- Adaptation planning and practices workshop - September 2007
- Methods and tools expert meeting - February 2008
- Climate modeling, scenarios and downscaling workshop - June 2008
- Socio-economic information expert meeting - March 2008

Initial activities will take place throughout 2007 and 2008, with a second phase of the NWP beginning in 2009, taking into account the outcomes from the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report.

## 8. First step towards contributing to the work programme

If the work of your organisation is relevant under one of the areas of work, or if the aims and objectives of your organisation are synergetic with those of the NWP, your organisation may be able to contribute to the programme of work by submitting information or views on one or more of the topics described below.

### Methods and tools

**Who?** UNFCCC Parties and relevant organizations

**Deadline:** 15 May 2007

**What are we looking for?**

Information on existing and emerging assessment methodologies and tools; and views on lessons learned from their application; opportunities, gaps, needs, constraints and barriers; possible ways to develop and better disseminate methods and tools; and training opportunities.

### Data and observations

**Who?** The WMO and its Member States, the secretariat of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and other relevant organizations

**Deadline:** 21 September 2007

**What are we looking for?**

Information and views on how the work of relevant organizations could contribute to improved understanding of current and historical climate and its impacts including the identification of gaps and deficiencies in data and observations, stakeholder data and capacity needs, especially at regional and national levels, and ways to improve technical infrastructure.

### **Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling**

**Who?** The IPCC, other relevant international, regional and national organizations, modelling centres and agencies

**Deadline:** 21 September 2007

**What are we looking for?**

Ways in which experts and organizations contribute to the following:

- a) Development, availability and use of climate models, and development of, access to, and use of climate change scenarios, especially those that provide subregional and regional specificity, including data downscaled from general circulation models;
- b) Enhanced capacity and experience with the use of these different models, statistical approaches and outputs, and any available training opportunities;
- c) Identification and reduction of uncertainties.

### **Climate related risks and extreme events**

**Who?** UNFCCC Parties and relevant organizations

**Deadline:** 23 February 2007

**What are we looking for?**

Information on relevant programmes, activities and views on the following issues:

- a) Experience with assessment and management of current and future climate-related risks and impacts, including those related to extreme events and in specific sectors;
- b) Ability, gaps, needs, opportunities, barriers and constraints to predicting climate variability, impacts and extreme events across regions and hazards;
- c) Contribution of traditional knowledge to understanding and managing climate-related risks;
- d) Implications for sustainable development in relation to (a) to (c) above;
- e) Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change.

### **Socio-economic information**

**Who?** UNFCCC Parties and relevant organizations

**Deadline:** 21 September 2007

**What are we looking for?**

Information and views on matters relating to the availability of information on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and improving the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments, including information on the development of socio-economic scenarios and for understanding adaptive capacity, including:

- a) Existing approaches and available data;
- b) Needs, gaps, barriers and constraints;
- c) Ways and means to improve availability and access to relevant information, including information on costs and benefits, as well as its better integration into impact and vulnerability assessments.

### **Adaptation planning and practices**

**Who?** UNFCCC Parties and relevant organizations

**Deadline:** 15 May 2007

**What are we looking for?**

Structured submissions on adaptation approaches, strategies, practices and technologies for adaptation at the regional, national and local levels in different sectors, as well as on experiences, needs and concerns. Please email for structured submission form.

### **Economic diversification**

**Who?** UNFCCC Parties and relevant organizations

**Deadline:** 17 August 2007

**What are we looking for?**

Information on examples of measures, methodologies and tools to increase the economic resilience of, and reduce reliance on, vulnerable sectors.

## 9. Scope and themes of the NWP

The scope of the NWP covers two different sub-themes: Impacts and vulnerability and Adaptation planning, measures and actions.

### a) Impacts and vulnerability:

- Promoting 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 collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on 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;
- Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development;
- Promoting the availability of information on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and improving the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments.

### b) Adaptation planning, measures and actions:

- Collecting, analysing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including adaptation projects, short- and long-term adaptation strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge;
- Promoting the development and dissemination of methods and tools for assessment and improvement of adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration with sustainable development;
- Promoting research on adaptation options and the development and diffusion of technologies, know-how and practices for adaptation, particularly addressing identified adaptation priorities and building on lessons learned from current adaptation projects and strategies;
- Facilitating communication and cooperation among and between Parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society and decision makers, and other stakeholders;
- Promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools including for economic diversification aimed at increasing economic resilience and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors.

TABLE 1: Areas of work within the NWP

**Methods and tools**

Developing and disseminating methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

**Data and observations**

Improving collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate variability and change.

**Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling**

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

**Climate related risks and extreme events**

Promoting understanding of impacts and vulnerability, emphasising current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development.

**Socio-economic information**

Improving knowledge of the socio-economic aspects of climate change and promoting the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments.

**Adaptation planning and practices**

Collecting, analysing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including projects, short- and long-term strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge. This will be done through facilitating communication and cooperation between stakeholders.

**Research and Technologies for adaptation**

Promoting research on adaptation options and the development and diffusion of technologies and know-how, particularly addressing identified adaptation priorities and building on lessons learned from current adaptation projects and strategies.

**Economic diversification**

Promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of ways to increase economic resilience and decrease reliance on vulnerable economic sectors.