

## CALL FOR ACTION



### **NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **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.

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## 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;
- 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.

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/4430.php>>.

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