

NAI Newsletter

Another significant milestone in the climate change process has passed; 23 March 2004 was the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). To commemorate the event, the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a statement that has been widely circulated.*

Non-Annex I Parties have responded to the Convention as about three quarters of them have submitted their initial national communication (INC) to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. And, more than half of the rest have reported that they are in advanced stages of the preparation of their INC.

Many non-Annex I Parties have indicated that they are now focusing their attention on the preparation of second national communication (SNC) based on the revised guidelines adopted at COP 8 in New Delhi, India (decision 17/CP.8). The new expedited procedures prepared by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in response to the revised guidelines for national communications of non-Annex I Parties and the decision of the COP on funding, has helped this process. Two non-Annex I Parties have already submitted their SNC.

This second edition of the NAI Newsletter focuses on the available and planned support for SNCs including activities of the secretariat, the GEF and its implementing agencies, and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE).

We hope you find this information useful for your ongoing or planned activities.

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* The message of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the UNFCCC is available on the UNFCCC secretariat web site at: http://unfccc.int/wnew/conv_10.html

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SUBPROGRAMME NEWS

SNC: NAI Parties raring to go

Fifty non-Annex I Parties have expressed their interest in initiating the preparation of SNC. After the adoption of new UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties at COP 8 the GEF made available operational procedures for the expedited financing of national communications in November 2003. Eighteen Parties have already requested funds from UNDP under the new GEF operational procedures.

To date, 112 INC have been submitted to the secretariat. The first one was submitted in March 1997, by Jordan, and the latest in February 2004, by Madagascar. Mexico and the Republic of Korea have already submitted their SNC and Argentina, Costa Rica and Uruguay are preparing their SNC.

The GEF operational procedures for the expedited financing of national communications from non-Annex I Parties are available from the GEF and its implementing agencies and can be found on the GEF web site: http://www.gefweb.org/Documents/enabling_activity_project/enabling_activity_projects.html

User manual goes online

The user manual for the guidelines on national communications from non-Annex I Parties launched by the secretariat at COP 8 is now available for download from the secretariat web site (http://unfccc.int/resource/userman_nc.pdf). The purpose of this manual is to provide for an effective and efficient use of the UNFCCC guidelines, as contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8, in the preparation of a national communication, based on the best information currently available in the country.

French and Spanish translations of the manual will be made available by the secretariat soon.



UPCOMING EVENTS ON NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Workshop: preparation of national communications

The UNFCCC secretariat is organizing a global workshop on the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties to be held in Manila, Philippines, from 26 to 30 April 2004.

Objectives

The workshop is intended to inform non-Annex I Parties on the use of the UNFCCC guidelines and the user manual for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties. In addition, it will facilitate the exchange of information on financial and technical support, for example, on the procedures for accessing the funds for the preparation of national communications from the GEF and the support to be provided by its implementing agencies. It will also facilitate the development of project proposals for the preparation of SNC from non-Annex I Parties, and will serve to identify other specific needs and concerns relating to the preparation of national communications and recommend ways to satisfy these needs.

Participation

The workshop will bring together about 45 participants from non-Annex I Parties involved in preparing SNC, as well as representatives from the GEF and its implementing agencies and other multilateral and bilateral support programmes.

CGE: 2nd meeting

The 2nd meeting of the reconstituted Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) will be held from 3 to 4 May 2004 in Manila, Philippines. The meeting will follow the UNFCCC global workshop on the preparation of national communications (see above).

Objectives

CGE members intend to finalize the group's work programme for the biennium 2004–2005 in the light of the conclusions adopted at the 19th session of the SBI. They will discuss ways in which the CGE task groups will work and modalities of cooperation with other expert groups under the Convention, i.e. the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) and the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG), and with the NCSP of the UNDP-UNEP-GEF. In addition, the CGE will consider arrangements for thematic hands-on training workshops and recommendations that may arise from the UNFCCC global workshop.

CGE membership following its reconstitution



African region:

Ms. Emily Ojoo-Massawa (Kenya), Mr. Mohamed Etayari (Libya), Ms. Marília Manjate (Mozambique), Mr. Samuel Adejuwon (Nigeria), Ms. Madeleine Diouf (Senegal) (also LEG member)

Asian region:

Mr. Mahendra Kumar (Fiji), Mr. Subodh Kumar Sharma (India), Mr. Jaekyu Lim (Republic of Korea), Mr. Vute Wangwacharakul (Thailand) (also EGTT member), Ms. Tatyana Ososkova (Uzbekistan)

Latin America and the Caribbean region:

Mr. Brian Challenger (Antigua and Barbuda), Mr. Arthur Rolle (Bahamas), Mr. Luis Paz Castro (Cuba), Ms. Julia Martínez (Mexico), Mr. Luis Santos (Uruguay)

Annex I Parties:

Ms. Riitta Kristiina Pipatti (Finland), Mr. Klaus Broersma (Netherlands) (also LEG member), Mr. Othmar Schwank (Switzerland), Mr. Alexander Pisarenko (Ukraine), Mr. Jack Fitzgerald (United States of America), Mr. Satender Singh (Canada)

Organizations:

Ms. Bo Lim (NCSU/UNDP), Mr. Taka Hiraishi (IPCC/GHG Inventory Task Force), Mr. Ravi Sharma (Climate Change Enabling Activities/UNEP)

SB 20 side events: NC submissions, support

All Parties that have recently submitted their national communication (NC) or will submit it soon are most welcome to make a presentation at a UNFCCC secretariat side event at the 20th session of the subsidiary bodies (SB 20) to be held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 25 June 2004. Interested Parties should contact Ms. Martha Perdomo.

The secretariat will also hold a CC:FORUM side event on financial and technical support for the preparation of national communications.

The 20th sessions of the subsidiary bodies will be held from 16 to 25 June 2004 in Bonn, Germany



Delegates at SB 20 may wish to look out for a planned side event on India's initial national communications.



SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SPOTLIGHT ON NCSP & UNEP



Support for national communications is provided by the GEF/UNDP/UNEP National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) and UNEP. In this section, the efforts to provide support for SNC are highlighted.

The web site of the UNDP/GEF NCSP has been updated to include guidance on how to apply for the new phase of climate change enabling activities in support of national communications (www.undp.org/cc/ccea.htm). The web site provides, inter alia, information on how to apply for funding for self-assessment.

To initiate support, an official letter of request should be sent through the GEF national focal point, accompanied by a brief concept paper outlining the expected activities for the stocktaking and stakeholder consultations, to one of the three GEF implementing agencies.

Under the new GEF operational procedures for the expedited financing of national communications from non-Annex I Parties, countries are expected to conduct a stakeholders' consultation and a self-assessment of the activities that they have already completed. The GEF will soon be providing up to US\$ 15,000 funding through the implementing agencies for undertaking the assessment.

The climate change enabling activity programme at UNEP has issued the first part of a technical guidebook on how best to utilize these funds. The guidebook is available in English and French to all countries.

NCSP's role in preparing for national communications

The NCSP was initially established in October 1998 to provide technical support to non-Annex I Parties as they implemented GEF climate change enabling activities to prepare national communications. It worked with about 130 participating countries from West, South and East Africa, the Arab States, Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. It was launched by UNDP and UNEP, in cooperation with the UNFCCC secretariat. The first phase was completed in December 2000.

The second phase of the NCSP, funded by the GEF, will be based at UNDP New York, and be jointly managed by UNEP and UNDP. The UNFCCC and GEF secretariats will be members of the NCSP Advisory Committee, which will focus on coordination issues. The secretariat will, inter alia, report to this committee on the activities of the CGE to ensure full coordination and no duplication of activities.

A second phase of the GEF/UNDP/UNEP NCSP will be launched in mid-2004. The main objective will be to sustain capacity-building efforts through knowledge management, best practices, communications and outreach, while promoting the quality, comprehensiveness, and timeliness of national communications.

The current US\$ 60 million GEF programme for national communications includes funding for 130 climate change enabling activities and a US\$ 4 million global support programme. The programme will run for six years, from 2004 to 2009, to ensure that any country commencing enabling activities as late as 2006 will have full support through 2009 when its enabling activities project ends. All non-Annex I Parties receiving GEF support for the preparation of national communications are eligible to receive NCSP assistance.

Lessons learned from NCSP's first phase

An independent evaluation of the NCSP recognized the programme as being both cost-effective and significantly contributing to improving the quality and timeliness of initial national communication submissions. However, the evaluation also recommended more tailored technical support from a wider group of experts. This technical support should be provided in a flexible package of options, which could be targeted to address the specific needs and conditions of countries. These findings support UNDP's and UNEP's internal analysis of the deficiencies in the "one size fits all" approach.

A GEF review of climate change enabling activities also recommended that global programmes, such as the NCSP, focus on information exchange and network support, training, and development of methodologies. The new NCSP builds on these recommendations and lessons learned from the first phase.

Services available under NCSP's second phase

The second phase of the NCSP will customize its assistance so that countries can select the services that best suit their circumstances at any given time. For example, rather than holding regional workshops, efforts will be made to link "like" groups of countries, e.g. at the subregional level where common issues are identified, for targeted training workshops.

Other technical support options include:

- Online technical assistance forums for adaptation, inventories, mainstreaming, technology needs assessments, mitigation, and systematic observation; these forums will enhance South-South exchange of expertise;
- Distillation and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned from these forums;
- Enlarged library of web resources;
- Web-based training;
- Strategic development of tools and methods, where resource gaps are identified;
- Technical feedback on national communications;
- Newsletter and email listserv;
- Site visits, where needed.

A "client satisfaction" survey will be sent annually to project coordinators to ensure that the programme is responding to demands.





UNEP's role in preparing for national communications

The UNEP-GEF has currently received requests from 36 non-Annex I Parties seeking assistance in the preparation of their SNC. Recognizing the detailed guidelines provided by the COP, the UNEP-GEF has strengthened its technical team at Nairobi headquarters to support non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their national communications. In addition to direct support for a Party's national communications project, UNEP is undertaking several activities to respond to specific needs for increased capacity development, knowledge and information to contribute to the preparation of comprehensive national communications.

Sustainable development and climate change

This project involves six developing countries and seven international organizations working to elaborate links between sustainable development and climate change. The project looks at how to structure environmental and climate policy around development priorities appropriate to national circumstances (www.developmentfirst.org).

Vulnerability assessment and cost-effective adaptation

Several projects are underway to increase capacity for vulnerability and adaptation assessments towards the preparation of NCs:

- The Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC) project (www.aiaccproject.org/) is a partnership between UNEP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training (START) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) to increase scientific capacity in the area of impacts and adaptation in 40 developing countries. Upcoming AIACC workshops on climate impacts and adaptation: [Second AIACC Regional Workshop for Africa and Indian Ocean Islands](#), 24–27 March, 2004, Hotel Ngor-Diarama, Dakar, Senegal; [Second AIACC Regional Workshop for Latin America and Caribbean](#), August 2004, Buenos Aires, Argentina (exact date to be determined); [Second AIACC Regional Workshop for Asia and the Pacific](#), Manila, Philippines, October 2004 (exact date to be determined).
- In partnership with the National Centre for Agricultural Economic and Policy Research (New Delhi, India) and the Stockholm Environment Institute a project was launched to support development of decision-making tools for developing countries to help mainstream adaptation to climate change in national sustainable development planning. This project is specifically testing vulnerability indices for the agriculture sector in the context of climate change.
- A project to strengthen vulnerability assessment and mainstreaming of adaptation in the East and Southern Africa region is under development. This project will raise awareness with decision makers and stakeholders and is expected to assist countries to strengthen their national communication process. A workshop is being planned for mid-September 2004.

- Sustainable Enterprise Network for Climate Change (SENCE) is a web-based resource being developed to disseminate information specific to vulnerability and adaptation in small island developing States.

Building scientific capacity

UNEP's Global Resource Information Database programme provides timely and reliable geo-referenced environmental data and information to help address environmental issues at global, regional and national levels. Climate change specific information can be found on the following web site: <http://www.unep.org/newdraft/unep/eia/ein/grid/home.htm>

- The IPCC (www.ipcc.ch) assesses, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. UNEP has organized three training workshops on impacts and adaptation to train 100 developing country scientists with a view to increased participation in the work of the IPCC.

Integrating land-use change and forestry

UNEP has developed, together with partners such as IUCN–The World Conservation Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a programme focusing on cross-sectoral capacity-building for the implementation of clean development mechanism (CDM) forestry projects in support of environmentally and socio-economically sound sinks projects. Activities include regional capacity-building through information dissemination (e.g. www.iucn.org/themes/carbon), publications and technical workshops for experts from more than 60 developing countries. Other projects under development include linking agriculture and climate change data through a CGIAR information database as well as regional projects in Asia and Africa on linking adaptation and carbon sinks components.

Capacity development for the clean development mechanism

The programme for capacity development for the CDM is funded by the Netherlands and implemented by UNEP-Risoe Centre (cd4cdm.org). It seeks to ensure the early success and efficacy of the CDM through creating national capacity to implement the CDM in 12 developing countries.

Technology transfer, finance and insurance

UNEP seeks to enhance the effort to *green the finance sector*. This particularly focuses on promoting investment opportunities in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sectors. UNEP's Sustainable Energy Programme includes various activities in the area of sustainable energy finance, including enterprise development (*seed finance*) programmes, energy efficiency finance activities with the World Bank, concessional loan programmes for solar photovoltaic, advisory support to financiers considering clean energy investments, workshops and round-table discussions on sustainable energy finance, investment forums, capacity-building for financial institutions in developing countries for the CDM, knowledge enhancement, and outreach.



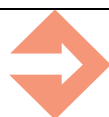
More information on the UNEP programme for financing sustainable energy can be found at www.uneptie.org/energy.

UNEP contact details

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Other relevant UNEP web sites

www.unep.org
www.unep.org/gef/content/index.htm
www.grida.no/climate/
www.grid.unep.ch/
www.unep.ch/conventions/index.htm



For information on UNDP's role in supporting the preparation of national communications please see the **first edition of this Newsletter** (<http://unfccc.int/program/nai/nainews1.pdf>).

TOOLS

Compendium: tools to evaluate adaptation strategies

The secretariat has undertaken a number of activities to assist Parties in applying the best available methods to assess their impacts of, and vulnerability to climate change and their adaptation options, including producing a report in 1999 entitled "Compendium of decision tools to evaluate strategies for adaptation to climate change". The aim of

that report was to understand the use and availability of such decision tools. This work of the secretariat has been noted and supported by the COP and its subsidiary bodies. The COP, by its decision 17/CP.8, encouraged non-Annex I Parties to use the UNFCCC compendium for the evaluation of adaptation strategies and measures.

The UNFCCC secretariat has subsequently worked to update the original compendium to respond to the above requirements, to include comments and information provided by Parties and organizations, to broaden its scope to reflect recent developments in the field of vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and to take into account requirements of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention.

The challenge of this effort was to expand the structure of the compendium to include new tools that have come into use; to modify it to include tools applicable to the entire process of vulnerability and adaptation assessment (not simply decision-making); and to reorganize the document to capture the range of thinking reflected in the different recent approaches to the assessment process. To assist this process, an expert meeting on methods and tools to assess impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change will be held in Manila, Philippines from 25 to 26 April 2004 (in conjunction with the UNFCCC workshop on NAI NCs) to review the compendium and discuss further development of the work on methods and tools. A presentation of the revised document will be made at SBSTA 20.

The following web page includes links to a final draft of this document (now entitled "Compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change"): <http://unfccc.int/program/mis/meth/>

The secretariat continues to solicit comments from Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and experts, on the content and structure of the presented draft. Comments on the overall document or on information on specific methods or sectors, are welcome.

Please send your comment by e-mail to opilifosova@unfccc.int by 15 May 2004. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can send your submissions by fax or mail.

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