



Deutsches Komitee Katastrophenvorsorge e.V. (DKKV)
German Committee for Disaster Reduction
within the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Bonn, 16.08.2010

Subject: Submission on views and information on the effectiveness of the Nairobi Work Programme in fulfilling its objective, expected outcome, scope of work and modalities as stated in decision 2/CP.11.

Background

The German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV) contributed to the Nairobi Work Programme's (NWP) development, contributed expertise and text to NWP technical papers and reports, and participated with presentations at NWP workshops. NWP has served as an important forum to promote the recognition among the Parties to the UNFCCC that disaster risk reduction measures form a core component of adaptation to climate change—they provide the “first line of defense” against the harmful impacts of climate change.

The NWP's nine areas of work correspond closely with the five priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). Almost all of the UNFCCC Parties have also signed HFA. The NWP has facilitated collaboration between the ISDR and UNFCCC secretariats and provided a single efficient medium through which Parties can access information on disaster risk reduction technologies and best practices and understand their relevance for adaptation.

Fulfilling its objective, outcome, and scope of work

The NWP has succeeded in fulfilling its objective:

[T]o 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, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound, scientific, technical and socioeconomic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.¹

The experience of DKKV is that by integrating the different stakeholders the NWP has helped enhance capacity at multiple levels to identify and understand impacts of climate change—particularly climate extremes. By publishing a technical paper on “Potential costs and benefits of adaptation options: A review of existing literature”² and convening a workshop on this topic, the NWP has illustrated the research, methodological and data-collection needs that would help Parties identify high-priority, no-regrets adaptation actions.

¹ Decision 2/CP.11, Report of the Conference of the Parties on its eleventh session, held at Montreal from 28 November to 10 December 2005: Addendum. Part Two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session. FCCC/CP/2005/5/Add.1 <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/cop11/eng/05a01.pdf#page=5>>

² UNFCCC, 2010. “Potential costs and benefits of adaptation options: A review of existing literature.” FCCC/TP/2009/2/Rev.1 <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2009/tp/02r01.pdf>>

From the size of the NWP's online "Compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change" and the number of organizations that have contributed to it, there is ample empirical evidence that the NWP has successfully improved information to the Parties and helped disseminate knowledge about practical adaptation activities. As indicated above in the Background, the NWP has proven to be an effective process for enhancing cooperation among relevant organizations and stakeholders.

The way ahead

In June and July 2010, Focal Points from the NWP's partner organizations participated in a NWP-survey to support the review process. DKKV contributed to this survey. A preliminary analysis of the partners' responses indicates a clearly stated desire that the NWP's mandate is extended beyond 2010—and that such an extension would benefit their organizations. DKKV strongly supports this request.

The current AWG-LCA negotiating text underscores both the need for supporting Parties' implementation of climate change adaptation measures and the importance of disaster risk reduction within this field of activity. The Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund has begun approving project proposals, and the scale of adaptation activities and financing for them is expected to increase in a dramatic fashion in the short and medium term. In order to support developing countries as they ramp up their adaptation activities, UNFCCC Parties should ensure the existence of appropriate mechanisms and support structures.

The NWP is precisely such a mechanism and an accurate measure of its effectiveness will be possible after adaptation has become more "operational"—i.e., after the Parties have had the opportunity to see if the NWP sufficiently meets their adaptation needs. Therefore, the mandate of the NWP should be extended by a minimum of one year at which point a more inclusive and robust review process would be possible.

To enhance its role under changing framework conditions coordination between the nine different working areas of the NWP will be important in order to explore and build on existing synergies.

To further the integration of disaster risk reduction, possibilities for partnering between UNFCCC Focal Points and ISDR National Platforms and HFA Focal Points on the country level should be implemented systematically.

Responses to the recent NWP-survey reveal that enhanced coordination and collaboration among themselves and with the Parties is essential for catalyzing targeted adaptation activities. In order to accomplish this objective, Parties should make use of effective existing institutions of which the NWP is clearly one.