



# Submission by BirdLife International on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi Work Programme

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*BirdLife International is a global Partnership of national non-governmental conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. The Partnership operates in over one hundred countries and territories worldwide and is supported by over 10 million people.*

Referring to Decision 6/CP.17 paragraph 2, BirdLife International, as a Partner of the Nairobi Work Programme, is pleased to submit its proposal for a potential future area of work of the Nairobi Work Programme.

Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change are defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as ‘the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change’<sup>1</sup>. This definition was elaborated on by the CBD Decision X/33: ‘that may include sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems, as part of an overall adaptation strategy that takes into account the multiple social, economic and cultural co-benefits for local communities’. The Cancun Adaptation Framework (1/CP.16) noted building resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems including through sustainable management of natural resources in the inter alia list of actions that could be undertaken as part of the invitation to all Parties to enhance action on adaptation.

More than 20 Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) Partners, including BirdLife International, are working on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation research, tools, and/or implementation (planning and practice). NWP Partners have a great deal of experience that should be shared to enhance understanding on the science, planning and implementation of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation. Moreover, NWP Partners have a good understanding of how this experience can be communicated to best support and inform national and local level adaptation planning and implementation<sup>2</sup>. In addition, ensuring ecosystems remain healthy is already an integral part of many adaptation strategies – for example, of 485 National Adaptation Programmes of Action priority projects submitted to the secretariat as of September 2011, 15.5 per cent focused

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<sup>1</sup> CBD (2009) Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation: Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change. Technical Series No. 41. Secretariat of the CBD, Montreal. <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-41-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Outcome from NWP Informal meeting of Parties and Partners to the NWP, Bonn, 7 June 2011, [http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/nairobi\\_work\\_programme/application/pdf/meetingreportnwp.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/application/pdf/meetingreportnwp.pdf)

on terrestrial ecosystems<sup>3</sup>. This is significant but not sufficient. Additionally, BirdLife International's experience of working with Parties on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation has revealed that further work is needed to meet the needs of Parties to integrate ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation into adaptation policies and strategies, and to implement such approaches.

The Nairobi Work Programme is an important forum for furthering work on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation given the programme's aim to improve Parties' understanding and assessment of the impacts of climate change and to make informed decisions on practice adaptation actions and measures. BirdLife International believes that the momentum of efforts to further the knowledge base on ecosystem-based approaches, as reflected in the report<sup>4</sup> produced by the Secretariat for Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) 35, should be capitalised on by the Nairobi Work Programme through the establishment of an ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change Work Area and/or Call to Action/component of a Call to Action<sup>5</sup>.

A Call to Action could be launched to address knowledge gaps on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation as identified by a recent review of the evidence base for ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation conducted by BirdLife International, United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, International Institute for Environment and Development and University of Cambridge. Further information on this review can be found in BirdLife International's Nairobi Work Programme Action Pledge Update<sup>6</sup> and in a peer-reviewed paper in preparation<sup>7</sup>.

Detail on content of such a Work Area/Call to Action and any accompanying workshops should be furthered by the outcomes of the technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change to take place before the thirty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, taking into account the role of ecosystems, including forests, in adaptation; vulnerability and impacts in ecosystems; the implementation and benefits of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation; and lessons learned, including through the three Rio Conventions. BirdLife welcomes this workshop that should help, in particular, to establish Parties' needs on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation. The outcomes of the workshop should inform the discussion at SBSTA 38 on the future work areas of the Nairobi Work Programme.

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<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.8 *Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation: compilation of information. Note by the secretariat.* <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/sbsta/eng/inf08.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> A Call to Action would perhaps be most appropriately placed under the existing Work Area 'Adaptation planning and practices (in and across sectors)'

<sup>6</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/birdlife\\_international\\_ap\\_update\\_170112.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/birdlife_international_ap_update_170112.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Doswald, N., Munroe, R., Roe, D., Giuliani, A., Castelli, I., Stephens, J., Möller, I., Spencer, T., Vira, B., Kontoleon, A., Reid, H: **Effectiveness of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation: review of the evidence base.** *Global Environmental Change*. IN REVIEW