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Synthesis report on the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This report has been prepared to support the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in its annual monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries in accordance with decisions 2/CP.7 and 29/CMP.1. The report draws on information synthesized from 25 national communications, one national adaptation programme of action, 10 technology needs assessments and annual submissions from Parties for the period January 2012 to December 2012. Information is presented according to the scope of needs and priority areas for capacity-building in developing countries outlined in decision 2/CP.7. This report may assist Parties in the annual monitoring of the implementation of the framework for capacity-building in developing countries.

* This document was submitted after the due date owning to the delayed submission of views and information by Parties.

Contents

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decisions 2/CP.7 and 4/CP.12, requested the secretariat to produce a synthesis report on activities undertaken to implement the framework for capacity-building in developing countries (hereinafter referred to as the capacity-building framework). The synthesis report, to be produced annually with a view to regularly monitoring the implementation of the capacity-building framework, draws upon information contained in the following sources: submissions from Parties, national communications from developing country Parties and Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs), technology needs assessments (TNAs) and national capacity self-assessments.

2. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP), by decisions 29/CMP.1 and 6/CMP.2, requested the secretariat to take into account, in its annual synthesis report, capacity-building activities relating to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in developing countries, drawing upon information contained in submissions from Parties, reports provided by relevant multilateral and bilateral agencies and by the private sector, as well as information on activities of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) relating to the regional distribution of CDM project activities and related capacity-building activities.

3. The COP, by decision 1/CP.18, requested the secretariat to make this report available to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) at its sessions coinciding with the meetings of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building, in order to facilitate the discussions at those meetings.

B. Scope of the report

4. This report summarizes available information on the extent of the implementation of the capacity-building framework in developing countries. The information refers to activities reported between January and December 2012, and is drawn from 25 reports of activities provided by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention in their national communications, one NAPA and 10 TNAs. The 2012 annual reports of the Nairobi Framework[1] and of the Executive Board of the CDM to the CMP[2] have been considered for the preparation of the chapter on capacity-building activities undertaken under the Kyoto Protocol. National communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention were not submitted during the reporting period.

5. Five Parties made submissions on capacity-building: Algeria, China, Uzbekistan, the Republic of Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and Ireland and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States.[3] These submissions have been taken into account in the preparation of this report. Information submitted by United Nations organizations and other institutions is available in an addendum to this report.[4]

[1] <http://cdm.unfccc.int/Meetings/MeetingInfo/DB/AZNJPUB6GSW20R7/view>.
[2] FCCC/KP/CMP/2012/3 (Part I).
[3] FCCC/SBI/2013/MISC.4.
[4] FCCC/SBI/2013/2/Add.1.

6. The report presents information according to the scope of needs and priority areas for capacity-building in developing countries as outlined in the capacity-building framework, and highlights examples of good practices as reported in national communications. There may be gaps in areas where information on activities was unavailable.

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

7. The SBI may wish to consider the information contained in this report as part of the annual monitoring of the implementation of the capacity-building framework. It may also use it to facilitate discussions at the 2nd meeting of the Durban Forum on Capacity-building, to be held during the thirty-eighth session of the SBI.[5]

II. Overview of information reported and submitted by Parties

8. Information on capacity-building reported and submitted by Parties during the period from January to December 2012 covers all the needs and priority areas identified in the capacity-building framework. The reports and submissions referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 above highlight the progress made in planning and implementing capacity-building activities in developing countries. As further work may have been undertaken since the submission of the source documents, the synthesis of activities contained in this report may not convey the complete picture, and should therefore be treated as indicative.

9. Despite the progress made, lack of funding and a dearth of institutional support, technical expertise and adequate information have been identified as key obstacles to the implementation of the capacity-building framework. Relevant sections of the national communications and TNAs submitted in 2012 indicate that developing country Parties have made efforts to identify and provide a thorough description of specific capacity needs and gaps. Their reporting contains a wealth of detailed information on capacity-building elements that are yet to be properly addressed at the institutional, systemic and individual levels. The Parties ask for capacity-building support which would enable them to design, launch or enhance the implementation of adaptation and mitigation activities and of low-carbon development strategies or plans.

A. Information on activities addressing needs and priority areas identified in the capacity-building framework

1. Institutional capacity-building, including the strengthening or establishment, as appropriate, of national climate change secretariats or national focal points

10. Many developing countries have institutional structures in place which provide a platform for coordinating climate change responses at the national level and cooperating with regional organizations. Training activities have been conducted to strengthen such institutions in terms of managerial competencies and adequate expertise.

11. Some Parties report the need to establish and/or strengthen specific institutional structures, and to give them clearly defined responsibilities for climate change activities. Such structures should also take the lead in coordinating climate change activities undertaken by other governmental bodies/departments, as well as in facilitating

[5] Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 74.

collaboration and information sharing among stakeholders from both the public sector and the private sector.

12. In order to improve the coordination and promote an integrated implementation of national climate change policies, Ecuador has created the Inter-Institutional Committee on Climate Change (CICC). The CICC also promotes research and collects and consolidates technical and legal information on the issues of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The Minister of the Environment serves as President and Technical Secretary of the CICC, and coordinates the work on climate change in partnership with eight other ministries.

2. Enhancement and/or creation of an enabling environment

13. Many Parties recognize the importance of developing and expanding effective legislative and regulatory systems related to climate change. Furthermore, there is an increasing tendency to formulate climate change policies in the context of sustainable development, thus recognizing that sustainable patterns of growth are linked to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions, the use of renewable energy sources, the promotion of environmentally friendly technologies and adequate natural resources management.

14. Even though mainstreaming climate change into national policies and programmes is considered essential, many Parties have not adequately addressed this issue. In particular, there is an increasing need to harmonize existing regulatory frameworks and design new sectoral policies in support of enhanced action on adaptation and mitigation.

15. Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has adopted a National Strategy on Gender and Climate Change. The objective of this strategy is to institutionalize gender mainstreaming into climate policies. Initiatives undertaken include the organization of the international forum "The Gender Dimensions of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management", jointly promoted with other institutions. The objective of this forum was, among others, to identify necessary actions for incorporating a gender and human rights perspective into public policies on climate change.

3. National communications

16. Parties report an increase in the number of activities carried out in preparing national communications. The organization of targeted workshops and fostering of a wider participation of experts and stakeholders are among the initiatives developed in this direction. National committees and offices have been established to provide technical and administrative support and to coordinate the work undertaken by various institutions.

17. The institutionalization of a specific committee in charge of the preparation of national communications would play a major role in ensuring the continuity of this work. Furthermore, Parties emphasize two issues which could help to strengthen the preparation process: a more targeted training for all experts involved, especially in the areas of climate change models, research methodologies and data collection and management, and ready access to relevant data and information. Some Parties also comment on the benefit of disseminating the content of national communications at all levels, with a view to increasing public awareness and understanding of climate change.

18. The National Climate Change Country Team established in the Cook Islands for the preparation of the first national communication has been further strengthened in view of the preparation of the second one. Among the team members are representatives of traditional leaders, the private sector and local communities. The whole team has undergone extensive

training in order to gain a solid knowledge of specific sectors and to effectively contribute to the preparation of national communications. As a result of this experience they have acquired the status of climate change experts at the national and regional levels.

4. National climate change programmes

19. Many developing countries have adopted a national climate change programme. The programmes adopted by some Parties are guided by specific national priorities and aim at addressing the short-, medium- and long-term effects of climate change. Other Parties have adopted programmes which are part of a package aimed at achieving environmental goals. In order to enhance national climate policies, Parties have started to integrate these programmes with strategies for the development of a low-carbon emissions society.

20. Some Parties still need to develop or finalize comprehensive policies and plans on climate change at the national level. Others have adopted such plans, but are not in a position to implement them because of specific capacity constraints, including: insufficient institutional arrangements; lack of political will and commitment to design and implement sustainable development and climate change strategies; scarce human and financial resources; and the lack of training in areas relating to managerial competencies, planning, research and data processing.

21. Bahrain addressed the formulation of its national strategy to implement the Convention through a synergic approach involving the consideration of other multilateral environmental agreements. This approach is effective in strengthening national objectives, targets and plans for addressing different environmental problems in a holistic fashion.

5. Greenhouse gas inventories, emission database management, and systems for collecting, managing and utilizing activity data and emission factors

22. Many Parties report on a wide range of activities undertaken to enhance the preparation of the GHG inventories, starting from the planning approach to sharing with the public the results of this exercise. Such activities include: better coordination among the institutions involved at the national and international levels; the development of a quality assurance/quality control plan; and the organization of training sessions, for example on methodologies of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and on the use of specific and localized model analysis and assessment tools. These activities contribute to reducing uncertainties and ensuring the production of authoritative and reliable data.

23. The lack of a dedicated institution/team in charge of the preparation of GHG inventories and the inadequacy or even the absence of statistical data or a reliable information system continue to be a problem in developing countries. Training is widely recognized to be a critical component in this area. Parties highlight the need for a more integrated, rather than sectoral, training in order to strengthen the technical capacity of a broader range of staff to carry out specific data collection tasks.

24. One of the priorities of Indonesia's National GHG Inventory System is to strengthen the capacity of local governments to improve the quality of the GHG inventory. Initiatives are being taken to increase their awareness of the importance of this exercise to develop mitigation strategies and shift towards building a low-carbon society.

6. Vulnerability and adaptation assessment

25. There appears to be a broad understanding among Parties that technical training in the form of workshops, symposiums or courses is crucial to enable the identification of key vulnerabilities, undertake impact assessments and elaborate corresponding adaptation strategies. Parties report a vast number of training activities which have been carried out, including training on facilitation skills and communication techniques. The latter is aimed at defining the correct approach for consultations with key stakeholders, including policymakers, resources managers, local authorities and representatives of community villages, to be consulted in the process of vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

26. One of the relevant components in conducting vulnerability and adaptation assessments is the identification of climate change risks. On this issue Parties report fragmentation of information, insufficient coordination of experts and research institutions, and lack of training in assessment approaches and methodologies. As vulnerability and adaptation assessments are often undertaken through a participatory multi-stakeholder process, the need emerges for training courses with the objective of increasing the level of scientific and technical skills within government institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and local communities.

27. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has developed a regional approach to achieving resilience to climate change. In this context, the project Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Climate Change has been designed to build capacity in the Caribbean region for adaptation to climate change impacts, particularly sea level rise. This was accomplished through capacity-building activities enabling the completion of vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning.

7. Capacity-building for implementation of adaptation measures

28. Many Parties report on the assistance lent by the international community in implementing adaptation measures. Bilateral and multilateral agencies, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and NGOs play a major role in building, strengthening or enhancing the adaptive capacity of Parties which are particularly affected by the negative impacts of climate change. The process of formulating adaptation-related policy decisions generally envisages a comprehensive participatory approach where local communities are also involved. Many Parties credit the work of NGOs and community-based organizations as being critical to facilitating the understanding of climate change at the local level and to helping communities to put into practice adaptation measures across vulnerable sectors.

29. Capacity-building is mentioned by many sources as being a crucial component in the plans for the implementation of adaptation measures. Examples of capacity-building needs include: the development of institutional arrangements, in particular of a multi-level governance approach embracing regional, national and local communities; the acquisition of scientific and technical skills; enlarging and expanding the network of meteorological and agrometeorological stations; and the preparation and distribution in local languages of information kits on adaptation.

30. In Rwanda, districts authorities make the commitment in the presence of the President of the Republic to undertake annual actions addressing water resource management in the context of adaptation policies. Such actions are determined through consultations with local communities and authorities at the village level.

8. Assessment for implementation of mitigation options

31. As is the case for adaptation, the implementation of mitigation options in developing countries benefit from the support provided by bilateral and multilateral agencies, IGOs and NGOs. Many Parties have established and reinforced institutions and mechanisms for climate change mitigation, identified country-specific mitigation options, developed baseline scenarios, long-term plans and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), and launched low-carbon development and REDD-plus[6] strategies. Targeted workshops and forums have been organized to ensure the coverage of a wide range of thematic issues of political, strategic, technical and scientific relevance. In addition, great emphasis has been placed on awareness-raising campaigns and the dissemination of relevant information.

32. Notwithstanding the progress made, Parties face several obstacles with respect to the design and implementation of mitigation options. Examples of capacity-building needs include the development and implementation of an effective regulatory framework supplemented by trained and qualified personnel in the sectors where mitigation occurs. Furthermore, training is required to enable the selection of appropriate renewable energy technologies and to conduct systems analysis and computer simulation and modelling. Parties also mention the need to build capacity in order to establish an efficient data and information repository that would house and store the GHG inventory, mitigation assessments, information sources and methodologies.

33. In Guyana, the Forestry Training Centre has been offering regular training sessions in reduced impact logging practices, resulting in enhanced livelihoods for forest operators and Amerindian communities.

9. Research and systematic observation, including meteorological, hydrological and climatological services

34. Some Parties have produced or are in the process of developing national climate observation plans addressing the atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains. Parties confirm that some national research institutions engaged in climate change studies have the capacity to undertake systematic data collection and documentation activities, with a view to improving the understanding of the climate system and of the impacts of climate change, and to supporting the development of appropriate responses, including early warning systems. Recognizing the importance of scientific and technical cooperation in earth observations and sciences, Parties have increased networking, coordination and partnerships in climate research at the international level. The access to advanced technology and monitoring tools promotes the generation of valuable and more accurate information.

35. Many Parties indicate a number of factors hindering climate change research and systematic observation. These include: weak institutional capacity resulting in insufficient central coordination of information sharing; limited financial resources; a low level of expertise; and the scarcity of valuable data and literature on climate change research. Another major need identified by Parties is the translation of scientific data and information into a language accessible to policymakers and the general public.

[6] Policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

36. The National Meteorological Service of Belize has sought to enhance its staff capacity by promoting opportunities for higher education. During the period of the preparation of the second national communication, two staff members were enrolled in the University of the West Indies in Barbados, where they pursued undergraduate programmes in meteorology.

10. Development and transfer of technology

37. Parties recognize that multi-stakeholder collaboration in this area is a key capacity-building activity, as it promotes the sharing of information on the development and transfer of technologies in developing countries, thus enabling them to pursue their objectives for sustainable development in a climate-friendly manner. Regional and international networks further contribute to enhancing cooperation and research in this area. These networks also provide targeted training to manage and operate new technologies. Some Parties, such as the Cook Islands, Guyana and Kuwait, have commented on the usefulness of undertaking TNAs to identify and prioritize technologies, including related practices and policy plans that can match specific needs at the national level.

38. One of the explicit messages that has emerged from national communications and TNAs is the necessity to create an enabling environment for the transfer of technologies and practices. This implies strengthening environmental policy and regulatory frameworks, enhancing the legal system, defining clear roles and responsibilities for the institutions/organizations concerned and designating a focal point in charge of coordinating the sectoral activities undertaken by various governmental institutions. One of the barriers is the lack of information on the benefits of new technologies among the stakeholders involved. To overcome knowledge and technical capacity gaps, strengthening educational modules and technical skills is considered a priority.

39. Tonga has conducted consultative meetings and workshops on technology transfer. Target groups that were invited to attend included ministries and government departments, district and town officers, NGOs, civil society groups, women and youth groups, school teachers and church leaders and representatives. These meetings and workshops contributed to the identification of technologies for climate change mitigation, mainly focusing on sectors such as energy, land-use change and forestry and waste. To promote adaptation, technologies for coastal management, water resources and agriculture were identified.

11. Improved decision-making, including assistance for participation in international negotiations

40. In order to enhance awareness of climate change issues and informed decision-making, Parties create learning and training opportunities for policymakers which aim at increasing their understanding of climate change and their ability to articulate adequate policies. Ad hoc training sessions with members of the scientific community enabled government representatives to absorb the scientific basis of climate change. These learning activities enable policymakers to actively contribute to international negotiations on climate change, develop common negotiating positions among Parties and build strategic partnerships.

41. Despite some progress made in building the capacity of policymakers to address climate change issues in key sectors and thematic areas, Parties recognize the need for undertaking continuous capacity-building efforts to improve the decision-making and policymaking process. This includes strengthening the capacity of decision makers to ensure their effective and efficient participation in international negotiations.

42. Malawi recently approved a restructuring programme aimed at strengthening its climate change coordination mechanism. This includes: capacity-building for staff in identifying key vulnerabilities; monitoring and evaluating the impact of policy interventions and the actions of other stakeholders; participating in sessions of the COP, the CMP and the subsidiary bodies; supporting efforts to integrate climate change considerations into the planning of the various ministries; and promoting outreach, education and public awareness on climate change.

12. Clean development mechanism

43. Many developing countries have promoted institutional capacity-building for CDM activities through the establishment of designated national authorities (DNAs). The adoption of procedures and guidelines has enabled the evaluation and approval of submitted CDM projects, thus enhancing environmental and sustainable development benefits. There is a growing interest among Parties in developing CDM projects. Through cooperation with a wide spectrum of national and international stakeholders, Parties can benefit from the introduction of technologies promoting low-carbon development at the national level. Parties are also appreciative of the role played by NGOs as implementers and facilitators of CDM projects and of voluntary carbon projects involving local communities.

44. Notwithstanding the progress made, some Parties report that their national DNAs are not yet operational, and that regulations to guide the formulation of CDM projects have not yet been adopted. This is because of severe capacity constraints, including the lack of an institutional structure with knowledgeable staff able to set up appropriate regulations and guidelines for processing CDM projects. Training programmes are identified as a priority need to efficiently address this issue. Parties also call for support in the establishment of outreach programmes to attract CDM project developers.

45. Sierra Leone has organized several training workshops addressing CDM issues targeting government entities, civil society, NGOs and the private sector. The outcome of this initiative is the identification of potential CDM projects.

13. Needs arising out of the implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention

46. Through the capacity-building support provided by the international community, many Parties recognize some advancement in complying with their commitments under the Convention. They also report the adoption of national policies and strategies embedding climate change components and sustainable development principles. Besides addressing, among other areas, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, some of the adopted policies contribute to empowering local communities to effectively manage their natural resources.

47. Some Parties invite developed countries to fulfil their commitments of providing capacity-building, technical and financial support to developing countries; this is the prerequisite to enable developing countries to effectively cope with climate change. Parties also recognize the need to integrate poverty alleviation and food security objectives into national climate change agendas.

48. China and the Republic of Korea have actively promoted South–South cooperation in addressing climate change. In particular, China supports the implementation of a significant amount of projects, including on clean energy, agricultural drought-resistance techniques, use and management of water resources, sustainable forest management, grain cropping and meteorological information services. The Republic of Korea promotes the

improvement of adaptation measures in Asia, provides financial assistance and technology transfer in the form of bilateral and multilateral assistance, and offers solutions for green growth.

14. Education, training and public awareness

49. Parties attach great importance to the development and implementation of public awareness, educational and training programmes on climate change. There is also a broad understanding of the importance of an active and effective participation of civil society in climate change decision-making at the international, national and local levels. Many examples are provided of initiatives undertaken under this priority area in terms of capacity-building at the institutional, systemic and individual levels. Some examples refer to actions targeting specific groups such as children and youth and to youth-led initiatives related to mitigation and adaptation actions.

50. Many Parties have stressed the need for a monitoring scheme and the development of indicators to measure the effectiveness of education, training and public awareness programmes. Some Parties have identified the lack of a national strategy for environmental education and of appropriate teaching materials and training courses on climate change. Furthermore, the scarcity of educational materials for governmental institutions, civil society, private businesses and NGOs can weaken the broad-based support for action on climate change and hamper the success of public awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives. Adequate support is also needed to translate information and key documents on climate change into the main local languages and to organize specific training programmes for those working in the media.

51. Among the initiatives undertaken in Bangladesh for increasing awareness on climate change among stakeholders, from the grass-roots level to policymakers, a total of 13 booklets in Bengali and English, 17 fact sheets and two comic books were developed for dissemination at the local and national levels.

15. Information and networking, including the establishment of databases

52. Many Parties report having developed and participated in a number of networks built to facilitate information sharing at the regional and international levels. Furthermore, the organization of training sessions and workshops, the use of online services and, in particular, the creation of dedicated websites are significantly contributing to the dissemination of information on climate change.

53. Some Parties have recorded a lack of cooperation and coordination among institutions in sharing information and data. Other Parties emphasize the importance of building capacity in managing national databanks and archives and in developing a comprehensive system of data storage for systematic observation. A major handicap reported by a Party is the lack of available information networks in the country as well as the difficulties encountered by climate change practitioners in accessing the latest developments in research on climate change.

54. The Department of Meteorology in Sri Lanka is linked to the network of the Global Telecommunication System via the Internet. This network enables the dissemination and the acquisition of meteorological and climatic data/information round the clock.

B. Summary of issues raised in submissions from Parties

55. Parties raised the following issues in their submissions[7] listed in paragraph 5 above.

56. A group of Parties emphasized a need to establish a well-defined and focused work programme on capacity-building with the objective of translating the needs and lessons learned identified through the Durban Forum on Capacity-building into action.

57. One Party considered that a two-year work programme on capacity-building should be developed under the SBI with a view to further strengthening the monitoring and review of the effectiveness of capacity-building, developing a comprehensive, integrated and balanced set of evaluation indicators and assessing the activities undertaken by developed countries in support of capacity-building in developing countries.

58. A group of Parties regarded capacity-building as fundamental to enabling the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. Capacity-building is by nature a cross-cutting issue; therefore, a strong capacity-building element is a substantial and integral part of development activities in the area of mitigation, adaptation and climate financing in developing countries.

59. A group of Parties further considered that monitoring the impact of capacity-building support by developed countries is a real challenge which cannot be addressed though global or standard approaches alone, but also requires efforts from developing countries to provide information on their experiences, lessons learned and opportunities to enhance capacity to address climate change.

60. One Party stressed that, pursuant to paragraph 5 of decision 1/CP.17, capacity-building is one of the elements in the Durban Platform process which requires equal treatment with the other elements.

III. Capacity-building activities under the Kyoto Protocol

61. The Executive Board of the CDM, in its role as the regulatory body of the CDM, continues to undertake measures to enhance the geographical distribution of CDM project activities and to widen stakeholder participation.

62. The Nairobi Framework, initiated by the United Nations Secretary-General at the second session of the CMP in 2006, supports the development of CDM projects worldwide, with a special focus on Africa, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with fewer than 10 registered project activities as at 31 December 2010.

63. Partners and cooperating organizations of the Nairobi Framework, presently composed of United Nations agencies and IGOs, and supported by bilateral and multilateral agencies, carried out in 2012 a significant number of capacity-building activities, including: training, hands-on workshops, online courses, ‘webinars’ and forums; direct support to DNAs to implement national host country approval procedures, prepare proposed standardized baselines and calculate grid emission factors; direct support to project developers for financing, development and validation of a project design document; communication and awareness-raising among stakeholders, including DNAs, designated operational entities and project developers; and the elaboration of new tools to facilitate project development, such as programme of activities templates and Global Environment Facility calculation tools.

[7] As contained in document FCCC/SBI/2013/MISC.4.

IV. Capacity-building activities undertaken by United Nations organizations and other institutions

64. The capacity needs identified in the capacity-building framework are being addressed by various United Nations organizations and other institutions. In particular, the distribution of these efforts covers all 15 needs and priority areas of the framework. Information received shows a clear tendency to direct efforts mainly towards adaptation and mitigation related issues, and towards education, training and public awareness.

65. As regards adaptation, efforts mainly cover strengthening institutional and technical capacities. Key activities relate to building the capacity to implement NAPAs and national adaptation plans; to perform the assessment of climate change vulnerability and the risk of loss and damage associated with climate change impacts; and to mobilize and share knowledge by means of tools such as technical guidelines, networks and databases, workshops and technical papers. Efforts are also being made to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities in the design and implementation of adaptation projects, with gender considerations being taken into account.

66. As regards mitigation, efforts are mainly directed towards building public- and private-sector capacities in the design and implementation of low-emission development strategies, measuring, reporting and verification tools, NAMAs, REDD-plus activities and CDM projects in the context of national sustainable development needs.

67. Regarding education, training and public awareness, new methods of increasing the knowledge and the capacity of stakeholders go beyond the organization of workshops, training sessions and publications to embrace the online approach. A considerable amount of activities takes place through the Internet in the form of courses, forums, networks, databases and web platforms. However, in order to reach out to areas with scarce or no access to the Internet, other communication tools still serve the purpose of spreading climate change related information, such as radio reporting on CDM in Africa.