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## Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation  
to climate change**

### **Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

**Note by the secretariat**

#### *Summary*

This report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change since the forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It concentrates on the activities undertaken to provide knowledge support to Parties and advance adaptation action through knowledge in the thematic areas of health, ecosystems and interrelated areas such as water resources, and human settlements. Such activities were undertaken in collaboration with government experts and lead institutions, including Nairobi work programme partner organizations. The report presents the progress of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative in closing knowledge gaps that are barriers to adaptation action in subregions, with a focus on the Hindu Kush Himalayas and Indian Ocean island countries. It shares preliminary reflections on opportunities to strengthen the linkages of the Nairobi work programme with the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, it highlights collaborative activities undertaken with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. Following an overview of progress in terms of stakeholder engagement, knowledge management, communication and outreach, the report concludes with a brief overview of the next steps under the Nairobi work programme.

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## I. Introduction

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to provide a report for consideration at each of its sessions, starting from SBSTA 29, on progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP).<sup>1,2</sup>

2. This report highlights the progress made under the NWP from October 2016 to March 2017. Chapter I highlights the strengthened role of the NWP, as a result of the significant new mandates from SBSTA 44 and 45. Chapter II presents actions implemented under the NWP to advance adaptation action through knowledge in key thematic areas (i.e. health, ecosystems and interrelated areas such as water resources, and human settlements), through the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI) in subregions, and in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Chapter III provides an overview of the progress made in providing knowledge support to the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG). Chapter IV introduces the latest efforts made to expand the network of partner organizations so as to strengthen the actionable knowledge base of the NWP. Chapter V provides an overview of the latest communication and outreach activities under the NWP. Finally, chapter VI addresses the next steps under the NWP in terms of the implementation of activities.

### A. Relevant mandates

3. SBSTA 44 gave significant mandates on activities to be undertaken under the NWP, which strengthened its role in advancing adaptation action through knowledge. **SBSTA 45 went further in asserting the role of the NWP as a knowledge hub that supports enhanced action on adaptation.** The subparagraphs below highlight the new mandates given at SBSTA 45 and those from SBSTA 44 that remain the most relevant to the NWP for the reporting period:

(a) Recognizing the role of the NWP in providing support in the areas of adaptation knowledge and related stakeholder engagement to other workstreams and constituted bodies under the Convention, including the AC and the LEG, and noting the potential role the NWP could play in new processes under **the Paris Agreement**,<sup>3</sup> SBSTA 44 concluded that:

(i) Activities under the NWP should integrate the consideration of vulnerable communities in addition to gender issues, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, and the role of and impacts on ecosystems, where appropriate;<sup>4</sup>

(ii) Additional technical work on **health, human settlements, ecosystems and water resources, economic diversification and indicators of adaptation and**

<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

<sup>2</sup> Information on progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 45 is contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2008/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.3, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.7, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.9, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.6, FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.7, FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.15, FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.8, FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.4 and FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.10.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 13.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 14.

**resilience** would be undertaken under the NWP to inform adaptation planning and action at the regional, national and subnational levels;<sup>5</sup>

(iii) The NWP would contribute to **closing adaptation knowledge gaps** at the **national and subnational levels** by fostering collaboration among, inter alia, policymakers, research and scientific communities, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, practitioners and financial institutions;<sup>6</sup>

(b) In addition, SBSTA 44 agreed on actions to be undertaken under the NWP to enhance the effectiveness of the **modalities of the NWP**, including ways to enhance the dissemination of knowledge generated under the NWP and to improve learning to scale up adaptation actions at all levels;<sup>7</sup>

(c) Acknowledging the knowledge support activities of the AC and the LEG undertaken since SBSTA 44 strengthened the role of the NWP, and welcoming the recommendations<sup>8</sup> of the AC and the LEG on new activities to be undertaken under the NWP,<sup>9</sup> SBSTA 45:

(i) Concluded that the activities under the NWP should be implemented in a way that enhances the role of the NWP as a knowledge hub that supports **enhanced action on adaptation**;<sup>10</sup>

(ii) Agreed to consider ways to improve the **effectiveness of the Focal Point Forum** at SBSTA 46;<sup>11</sup>

(iii) Reaffirmed the importance of exploring opportunities to strengthen the **partnerships** with regional centres and networks, local and municipal government, the private sector, scientific organizations, academia, organizations representing indigenous and traditional communities, spiritual and religious groups, gender constituencies, youth organizations and the mass media in implementing activities under the NWP;<sup>12</sup>

(d) Moreover, SBSTA 45 requested the secretariat to explore opportunities to strengthen the linkages with the **SDGs**, as appropriate, in implementing activities under the NWP.<sup>13</sup>

4. Relevant activities and deliverables for 2017 and 2018 are summarized in figures 1 and 2.

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<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 15.

<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 19.

<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 20.

<sup>8</sup> The recommendations include the preparation of an overview of the landscape of existing platforms in support of the AC, as well as the engagement of NWP partner organizations in supporting various activities of the LEG in providing overall technical support to the least developed countries.

<sup>9</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraphs 15 and 16.

<sup>10</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraph 18.

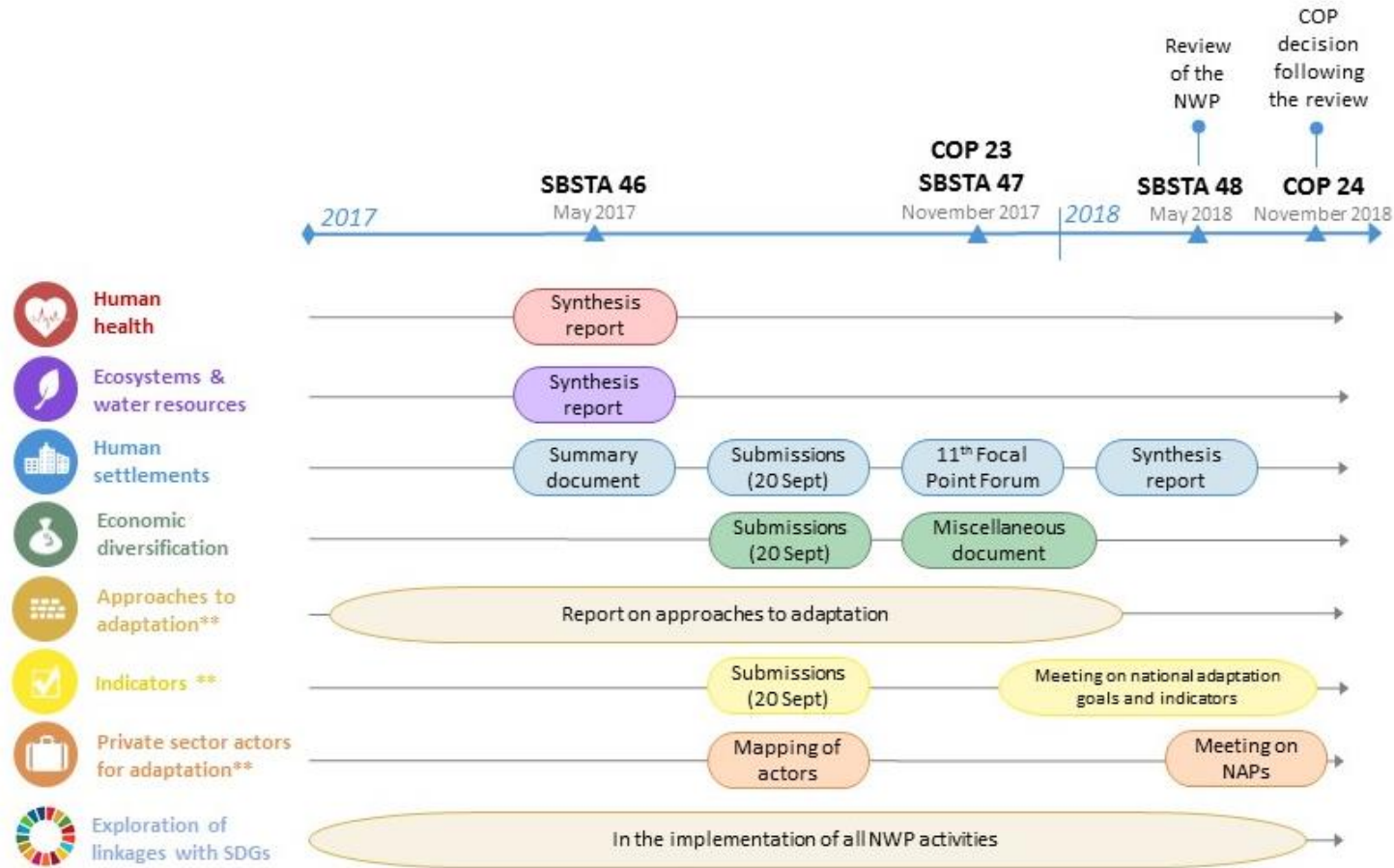
<sup>11</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraph 14.

<sup>12</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraph 19.

<sup>13</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraph 19.

Figure 1

**Overview of activities and deliverables in relation to thematic areas and specific topics for 2017 and 2018 under the Nairobi work programme**



*Abbreviations:* COP = Conference of the Parties, NAPs = National Adaptation Plans, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals.

\*\* In support of the Adaptation Committee.

Figure 2  
Cross-cutting activities and deliverables under the Nairobi work programme

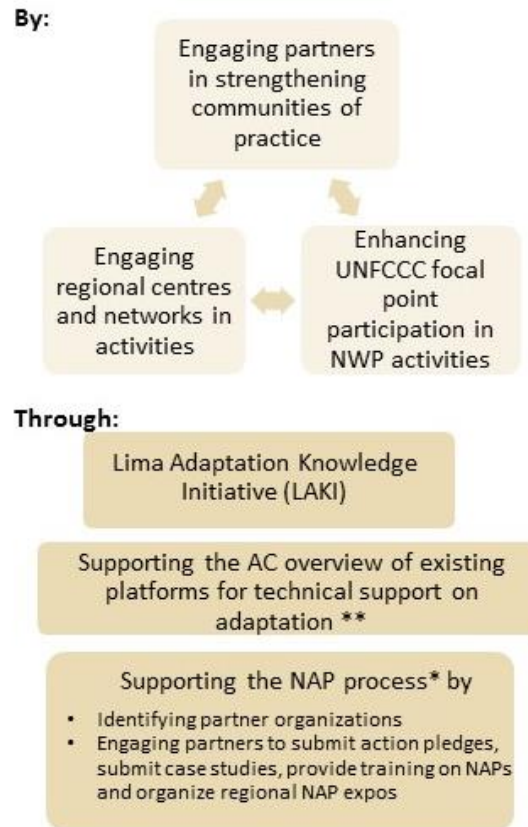
**Strengthening engagement and engaging new partners**



\*In support of the LEG

\*\*In support of the AC

**Fostering science – policy – practice dialogue and collaboration**



**Disseminating information and knowledge worldwide**



*Abbreviations:* AC = Adaptation Committee, LEG = Least Developed Countries Expert Group, NAP = national adaptation plan, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

## **B. The Nairobi work programme as a knowledge-for-action network for climate resilience**

5. In order to support enhanced action on adaptation through the NWP, the secretariat, under the overall guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, has striven to design and implement activities that provide relevant and technically robust knowledge support to countries by strengthening non-Party stakeholder engagement in a strategic manner. By doing so, the secretariat has been able to support the implementation of activities despite limited financial and human resources. These actions also aim to catalyse new and innovative adaptation actions for the achievement of the SDGs.

6. This knowledge-for-action strategic approach resulted in the implementation of the activities that are presented in chapters II–V below. In relation to the four complementary functions of the NWP,<sup>14</sup> and over the reporting period, this strategic approach included the following:

**(a) Engaging a growing network of non-Party stakeholders in sharing their experience and expertise:**

- (i) Engaging new relevant NWP partner organizations through thematic activities on health, ecosystems and water resources, and human settlements;
- (ii) Strengthening partnerships with expert organizations in the areas of health, ecosystems and water resources, and human settlements through collaboration on activities addressing these thematic areas;
- (iii) Communicating on activities undertaken under the NWP to increase the number of applications to join the NWP through the adaptation knowledge portal;<sup>15</sup>

**(b) Capturing and synthesizing the latest information and knowledge on key adaptation issues:**

- (i) Enhancing the dissemination of the calls for submissions on ecosystems and water resources, and human settlements through social media and dedicated mailing lists such as the Climate-L list, at global and regional events and with the support of key NWP partner organizations in the field;
- (ii) Preparing synthesis documents on health, and ecosystems and water resources, and a summary report on existing initiatives on human settlements in collaboration with and/or with inputs from government experts, NWP partner organizations and other relevant experts, including via an online collaborative space;<sup>16</sup>
- (iii) Developing user-friendly online templates on the adaptation knowledge portal to facilitate information-sharing on the latest case studies, tools/methods and other knowledge resources by NWP partner organizations and any other relevant organization;

<sup>14</sup> For a graphical representation of the four functions of the NWP, see annex I.

<sup>15</sup> <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwp/pages/Join.aspx>.

<sup>16</sup> A platform that enables a group of users selected by the secretariat to work simultaneously on a document.

(c) **Fostering science–policy–practice collaboration to close the identified knowledge gap:**

- (i) Using LAKI as an innovative modality to prioritize and close knowledge gaps in subregions, in collaboration with regional centres and networks;
- (ii) Employing new techniques during the Focal Point Forum on health and adaptation to facilitate dialogue on collaborative actions that address the identified challenges;

(d) **Disseminating knowledge and fostering learning to boost adaptation action at all levels:**

- (i) Sharing information about the LAKI results, including in relevant side events at COP 22;
- (ii) Collaborating with the regional centres and networks that co-organized the LAKI priority-setting workshop to disseminate results through their networks at the regional level;
- (iii) Disseminating the findings from the synthesis documents on health and on ecosystems and water resources through UNFCCC social media channels;
- (iv) Exploring communication modalities on the work of the NWP network in relation to the SDGs, with a focus on goal 13 on climate action.

## **II. Advancing adaptation action through knowledge in key thematic areas and in subregions**

7. In order to execute parallel work on the thematic areas of human health, ecosystems and interrelated areas such as water resources, and human settlements, the secretariat strengthened partnerships with NWP partner organizations and relevant expert organizations, enhanced the technical robustness of synthesis documents and their dissemination, and laid the groundwork for science–policy–practice collaboration in addressing knowledge challenges that are barriers to adaptation action.

8. Furthermore, the secretariat applied a systematic methodology to prioritizing and closing adaptation knowledge gaps when executing the LAKI workshops for the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion and the subregion formed by Indian Ocean island countries.

### **A. Health**

#### **1. Five-step approach**

9. During the reporting period, the secretariat organized the 10<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum<sup>17</sup> on health and adaptation, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, and prepared a synthesis paper in collaboration with interested Focal Point Forum participants, including Parties and NWP partner organizations.<sup>18</sup>

10. Those activities form part of the five-step approach illustrated in figure 3. The approach aims at providing better knowledge support to Parties and at fostering science–policy–practice collaboration in order to address the knowledge challenges

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<sup>17</sup> See <http://unfccc.int/9926>.

<sup>18</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2017/2.



identified in the synthesis paper. SBSTA 46 will provide a space for Parties to discuss the key findings and opportunities for action identified in the synthesis paper for any follow-up actions. Further opportunities under the NWP could involve actions to foster science–policy–practice collaboration that would reduce climate risks on health and enhance the overall resilience of health systems.

Figure 3

### Five-step approach on health and adaptation under the Nairobi work programme



*Abbreviations:* SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, WHO = World Health Organization

## 2. Organization of the 10<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum

11. The 10<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum on health and adaptation was held under the overall guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA on 9 November 2016 in conjunction with SBSTA 45. The forum provided an opportunity for Parties, NWP partner organizations and relevant health experts to discuss the results of the submissions and emerging issues on health and adaptation. Particular focus was placed on identifying actions to respond to identified gaps and needs in order to scale up adaptation actions addressing health.

12. The Chair of the SBSTA provided the overall context for and objective of the forum. He underscored that the forum provided an excellent opportunity for policymakers, researchers, scientific communities, practitioners and financial institutions not just to exchange information on actions that they are engaged in, but also to identify areas of strategic collaboration in order to close critical gaps that will help to inform adaptation actions addressing the topic of health.

13. In his keynote presentation, the representative of the World Health Organization provided an overview of the interlinkages between climate change and health, and elucidated a global landscape of climate change impacts on human health and of adaptation actions to address health impacts, including actions undertaken by the World Health Organization. The secretariat provided an overview of the submissions received on health and adaptation. Emphasizing the insufficient understanding of climate change impacts on health, the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) highlighted LAKI, which aims to identify key adaptation knowledge gaps and facilitate action to address them, and provided an update on the outcomes of the workshops for the Hindu Kush Himalayas and Indian Ocean island countries with specific reference to health-related knowledge gaps.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Further details on the outcomes of the LAKI workshops are available at

14. The representative of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre facilitated an interactive dialogue among the participants in small working groups. During the discussion, participants identified health problems related to climate change and engaged in finding/designing innovative actions to address them, including the possible agents to perform those actions.

15. The Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and a member of the LEG provided remarks on relevant activities in the context of their respective constituted bodies before the Chair of the SBSTA closed the forum.

16. Following the 10<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum, SBSTA 45 acknowledged the receipt of submissions from Parties, NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations on their recent work in the area of climate impacts on human health and noted that they provided a useful basis for the organization of the forum. In addition, it welcomed the rich and constructive dialogue that took place among Parties, NWP partner organizations, other relevant organizations and health experts during the forum on climate change impacts on human health. Finally, SBSTA 45 noted with appreciation the extensive work that is being undertaken by Parties and organizations in response to the current and future impacts of climate change on health, and welcomed the dialogue on innovative actions to address such impacts.<sup>20</sup>

### **3. Innovative collaboration in the preparation of the synthesis paper**

17. Via an online collaborative space, interested Parties and relevant organizations were invited to provide inputs to the draft synthesis paper that was prepared on the basis of the submissions and discussions during the forum. This collaborative action thus contributed to enhancing the technical robustness of the synthesis paper, while strengthening collaboration with key partner organizations, such as the World Health Organization. The key points of the summary of the paper have been reproduced in box 1.

18. In order to complement the synthesis paper, the adaptation knowledge portal allows easy access to all case studies, tools/methods, technical reports, educational/training material, policy briefs and online portals that were indicated in the submissions referred to in paragraph 11 above. The multi-criteria search engine of the advanced search page helps users to quickly find the adaptation knowledge resources that they need.

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<http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/LAKI-Asia.aspx>.

<sup>20</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraphs 12 and 13.

Box 1

**Key points of the summary of the synthesis paper on human health and adaptation: understanding climate impacts on health and opportunities for action**

Climate change presents a risk to health in a variety of ways. The health risks resulting from climate change impacts in countries are changing and the interlinkages between health, climate change and other drivers of global environmental changes are complex and need to be better understood. A large number of activities ranging from policies that are planned and implemented by governments, to various actions undertaken by intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and communities are already under way in order to address climate change impacts on health. However, a number of challenges, particularly with regard to awareness and education, as well as planning, capacity and financial mechanisms continue to limit action on the ground.

In order to better protect human health from the impacts of climate change, numerous collaborative actions need to be implemented. During the 10th Focal Point Forum on health and adaptation, Parties, partner organizations and experts discussed a range of collaborative actions to protect health from the impacts of climate change and to develop resilient health systems.

This document provides a synthesis of information on the impacts of climate change on human health, and on emerging activities, challenges and opportunities for collaborative climate action under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

*Source: FCCC/SBSTA/2017/2.*

## **B. Ecosystems and interrelated areas such as water resources**

### **1. Five-step approach**

19. In response to the mandate from the SBSTA,<sup>21</sup> the secretariat carried out a mapping exercise to identify experts and expert institutions, and invited them, as well as Parties and NWP partner organizations, to share relevant experience and expertise through submissions. The secretariat established a partnership with key experts (in this case, members of Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA))<sup>22</sup> to collaborate in the preparation of the synthesis report.<sup>23</sup> A joint side event is planned for SBSTA 46 in order to disseminate the key findings from the report and foster dialogue among Parties, experts and relevant organizations on collaborative actions to address countries' needs (see figure 4).

<sup>21</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 15.

<sup>22</sup> See <https://www.iucn.org/theme/ecosystem-management/our-work/ecosystem-based-adaptation-and-climate-change/feba-%E2%80%93-friends-eba>.

<sup>23</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2017/3.

Figure 4

**Five-step approach on ecosystems, interrelated areas such as water resources and adaptation under the Nairobi work programme**



Abbreviation: SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

**2. Developing and strengthening partnerships**

20. FEBA is an informal network of over 30 organizations with an interest in promoting collaboration and knowledge-sharing on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) through joint events and initiatives, as well as the development of position papers and technical documents on EbA. Coordinated by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, FEBA played a critical role in reaching out to relevant organizations so that they sent submissions to the secretariat and in helping with the drafting of the report.

21. The call for submissions was announced through e-mails to UNFCCC national focal points, NWP partner organizations and relevant expert organizations identified by the secretariat, as well as through the Climate-L mailing list and on the Adaptation Exchange Facebook page.<sup>24</sup> The secretariat also participated in the FEBA meeting at COP 22 to share information on the NWP activities on ecosystems with a view to engaging relevant organizations in implementing the activities. The secretariat’s participation as a member of a technical reference group on ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) also led to strengthened partnership with the CBD secretariat among other key organizations working on this thematic area. The technical reference group contributed to the preparation of a synthesis report on experiences with ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.<sup>25</sup> Following the recommendations based on the findings in the synthesis report, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, at its thirteenth session, requested its Executive Secretary to prepare, in collaboration with relevant organizations, in particular the UNFCCC and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of EbA and eco disaster risk reduction.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/The.Adaptation.Exchange/>.

<sup>25</sup> CBD document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/20/INF/2. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/kb/record/meetingDocument/107178?Event=SBSTTA-20>.

<sup>26</sup> See <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-04-en.pdf>.

### 3. Collaboration with the Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation network in the preparation of the synthesis report

22. FEBA members disseminated the call for submissions through their networks. A total of 45 submissions were received, including 7 from Parties, 1 from a group of Parties and 37 from 33 organizations.<sup>27</sup>

23. On the basis of the submissions, a draft report was prepared by the secretariat and shared with FEBA members with targeted questions for them to address some of the mandated topics that were not adequately covered in the submissions. As a result, the FEBA members provided useful inputs in developing the synthesis report that helped the NWP to better address the knowledge needs of Parties, as laid out in the SBSTA 44 mandate, as well as ensured that the report adequately captured the latest experience and research related to the topic (see box 2 for the key points of the summary of the report).

24. To complement the synthesis report, the adaptation knowledge portal allows easy access to all case studies, tools/methods, technical reports, educational/training material, policy briefs and online portals that were indicated in the submissions referred to in paragraph 22 above.

#### Box 2

#### **Key points of the summary of the synthesis report on adaptation planning, implementation and evaluation addressing ecosystems and areas such as water resources**

Healthy ecosystems play an essential role in increasing the resilience of people to climate change. Climate change, however, can damage the ability of ecosystems to provide life-supporting services and to protect society from climate-related stressors. Adaptation to climate change therefore needs to strengthen the resilience of both communities and ecosystems. Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) – the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change – provides such adaptation solutions. EbA initiatives also contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing net emissions from ecosystem degradation and by enhancing carbon sequestration.

Countries should consider EbA in their approach to adaptation, including in national adaptation plans. EbA has demonstrated potential to increase social and ecological resilience to climate change and adaptive capacity in the long term and in an economically viable way. The evidence of the effectiveness and economic viability of EbA, although largely anecdotal and project-derived, is promising. Quality data and tools are essential for determining the economic viability of EbA measures. Institutional arrangements, finance and capacity-building also play a critical role in ensuring the effectiveness of EbA.

*Source:* FCCC/SBSTA/2017/3.

### 4. Next step

25. A joint side event is planned for SBSTA 46 to disseminate the key findings of the synthesis report and foster dialogue among Parties, experts and relevant organizations on collaborative actions to address countries' needs, with a specific focus on national adaptation plans.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>27</sup> See annex I to document FCCC/SBSTA/2017/3 for more details on the submissions.

<sup>28</sup> See [https://seors.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events\\_list.html?session\\_id=SB46](https://seors.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events_list.html?session_id=SB46).

## C. Human settlements

### 1. Seven-step approach

26. During the reporting period, the secretariat initiated activities to foster interest and support from relevant non-Party stakeholders in the implementation of the mandate on human settlements under the NWP. Such activities included the organization of events at international conferences and developing partnerships with relevant NWP partner organizations. As a result, recognized organizations in the field of human settlements, including the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)<sup>29</sup> and the ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)<sup>30</sup> and the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRN)<sup>31</sup> actively contributed to the drafting of the summary document on existing initiatives in the area of human settlements and adaptation (hereinafter referred to as the summary document).<sup>32</sup>

27. Those activities are part of a seven-step approach, which includes the organization of a Focal Point Forum on human settlements and adaptation to be held at COP 23 and the preparation of a synthesis report to be considered at SBSTA 48 (April–May 2018), as illustrated in figure 5. This approach is proving particularly conducive to expanding the network of NWP partner organizations in the area of human settlements, strengthening partnerships with NWP partner organizations that play a key role in the field, and exploring innovative modalities of collaboration to increase the impact of NWP work.

Figure 5

#### Seven-step approach on human settlements and adaptation under the Nairobi work programme



*Abbreviations:* NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

### 2. Developing and strengthening partnerships

28. The secretariat participated in Habitat III in Quito in October 2016 through a joint networking event with UCCRN.<sup>33</sup> Held every 20 years, the meeting of the Habitat conference was attended by 36,000 participants from 167 countries, including mayors, representatives of local and regional authorities, civil society and community

<sup>29</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/>.

<sup>30</sup> See <http://www.iclei.org/>.

<sup>31</sup> See <http://uccrn.org/>.

<sup>32</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2017/INF.3.

<sup>33</sup> See <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/News/Pages/Joint-Network-Event-Catalyzing-climate-change-adaptation-in-cities-through-knowledge.aspx>.

groups, and urban planners. The secretariat disseminated information on the upcoming human settlements activities under the NWP, both during the UNFCCC–UCCRN networking event and via an information page presenting opportunities for engagement under the NWP. The information page is also available on the human settlements page of the adaptation knowledge portal.<sup>34</sup>

29. The secretariat initiated new partnerships with key organizations in the human settlements field to encourage collaboration in the implementation of mandated activities under the NWP. Such partner organizations include ICLEI, UCCRN, UN-Habitat and the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security.<sup>35</sup> As a result, ICLEI and UN-Habitat have disseminated the NWP information page to their networks. Subsequently, the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development joined the NWP as a partner organization.

### 3. Collaborative drafting of the summary document

30. The summary of initiatives in the field of human settlements and adaptation was drafted on the basis of desk research carried out by the secretariat. Building on the experience acquired through the collaborative drafting of the report on ecosystems and water resources, the draft document was then shared with ICLEI and UN-Habitat, with technical questions. The participation of ICLEI and UN-Habitat ensured that the conclusion messages presented in chapter IV of the summary document reflect the latest experience in the field.

31. The global and regional initiatives presented in the summary document will be made available on a dedicated web page on the adaptation knowledge portal. Referenced under “human settlements” on the adaptation knowledge portal, the web page will link to those initiatives.

32. To complement the summary document, the adaptation knowledge portal allows easy access to a selection of useful case studies, tools/methods, technical reports, educational/training material, policy briefs and online portals identified by the secretariat during its desk research.

### 4. Next steps

33. The secretariat will be organizing a co-event and a poster session at Resilient Cities 2017,<sup>36</sup> which is a global annual forum on urban resilience and adaptation held in Bonn, Germany. The Resilient Cities forum is generally attended by 300–500 participants, including urban experts as well as representatives of local governments and municipal authorities. The poster session aims to provide an overview of the upcoming activities on human settlements under the NWP and to foster engagement among the forum participants, particularly local governments and municipal authorities, in the implementation of those activities. The co-event, entitled “Catalysing climate-resilient action in cities through knowledge”, will initiate a science–policy–practice dialogue to identify knowledge challenges and potential collaborative actions towards closing knowledge gaps and/or to address other knowledge barriers to adaptation action. The co-event will also contribute to strengthening the partnership with ICLEI.

34. Subsequent steps in relation to human settlements and adaptation include a call for submissions, the organization of the 11<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum and a synthesis report to be prepared for consideration at SBSTA 48.

<sup>34</sup> <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwp/Pages/HS-page.aspx>.

<sup>35</sup> See <https://ehs.unu.edu/research>.

<sup>36</sup> See <http://resilientcities2017.iclei.org/>.

## **D. The Hindu Kush Himalayas and in the Indian Ocean island countries**

### **1. Conducting innovative priority-setting workshops**

35. The COP 20 President endorsed LAKI, an action pledge under the NWP.<sup>37</sup> As a collaborative effort between UNEP and the secretariat, the initiative aims at prioritizing adaptation knowledge gaps and catalysing responses to close the knowledge gaps in the context of various subregions and thematic domains (e.g. different sectors and areas of vulnerability).

36. SBSTA 41 encouraged the implementation of this initiative in subregions, particularly in vulnerable developing countries such as the least developed countries, small island developing States and African States.<sup>38</sup> From 20 to 22 October 2016, the secretariat, in partnership with UNEP, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the International Water Management Institute, organized two parallel priority-setting workshops for the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion and for Indian Ocean island countries. The two workshops were held in Colombo, back-to-back with the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, in order to maximize experts' participation and lower costs.

37. The purposes of the LAKI workshops are: (1) to better understand knowledge gaps that are barriers to adaptation action in each subregion; (2) to prioritize knowledge gaps through a participatory quantitative methodology involving two Delphi rounds,<sup>39</sup> and (3) to collectively discuss possible response actions to the priority knowledge gaps, in order to trigger expressions of interest from participants' organizations, facilitate collaborative response actions among participants' organizations, and identify best placed organizations for further action.<sup>40</sup> In order to inform the discussion on collaborative response actions, innovative examples, such as the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network model of university–local government collaboration<sup>41</sup> and ICIMOD Adaptation Learning Highways, were also presented.<sup>42</sup> The workshops yielded positive results in terms of expressions of interest, as highlighted in chapter II.D.2 below.

### **2. Outcomes of the priority-setting workshops**

38. Each priority-setting workshop gathered 10–15 participants, including policymakers, representatives of non-governmental organizations, research centres and United Nations organizations. They resulted in the identification of 16 priority

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<sup>37</sup> Details of the action pledge are available at

[https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31\\_ID:461](https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31_ID:461).

<sup>38</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 19.

<sup>39</sup> The Delphi technique is a systematic forecasting method that involves structured interaction among a group of experts on a subject. It typically includes at least two rounds of experts answering questions and giving justification for their answers, providing the opportunity between rounds for changes and revisions. The multiple rounds, which are stopped after a predefined criterion is reached, enable the group of experts to arrive at a consensus forecast on the subject being discussed. See <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/Delphi-technique.html>.

<sup>40</sup> For more information on LAKI, see

<http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Item.aspx?ListItemId=23181&ListUrl=/sites/nwp/Lists/MainDB>.

<sup>41</sup> For more information on the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network, see <http://www.epicn.org/>.

<sup>42</sup> For more information on Adaptation Learning Highways, see <http://lib.icimod.org/record/28102>.



knowledge gaps for the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion and 20 priority knowledge gaps for the Indian Ocean island countries.

39. The **Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion** covers the Himalayan ecosystem shared by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. The priority knowledge gaps identified at the workshop are listed in table 1.

Table 1

**Priority knowledge gaps identified for the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion through the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative process**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Priority knowledge gap</i>
1	Agriculture	Limited access to adequate locally usable knowledge and information on weather and seasonal forecasting to assist farm production operations
2	Water	Weak dissemination of evidence and lack of successful water management practices, adaptation technologies, and water allocation and management during periods of scarcity and abundance
3	Water	Lack of access to awareness-raising products and early warning systems for multiple hazards (drought, landslide, debris flow, flooding and glacier lake outburst flood in the Himalayas and downstream communities)
4	Agriculture	Inadequate information and knowledge on adaptation options and technologies suitable to address context-specific climate extremes, impacts and risks for agriculture and the net effect of climate change at the local level
5	Health	Limited access to weather and seasonal forecasting data for public health preparedness (heatwaves, cold waves, thunderstorms and epidemics)
6	Agriculture	Limited access to traditional knowledge and indigenous knowledge on agricultural adaptation
7	Water	Poor translation of climate data and models into understandable formats
8	Health	Lack of awareness of/sensitization among the public and the media about climate change health impacts and adaptation/response measures
9	Agriculture	Limited understanding of traditional knowledge and indigenous knowledge on agricultural adaptation
10	Water	Knowledge gap on how climate change is impacting water sources/usage/availability/quality (including sanitation/water treatment/water inputs for energy/springs and natural wells, groundwater, spring water and glaciers)
11	Forest and biodiversity	Knowledge gap on methodologies and tools to quantify the impact of climate change on ecosystem services
12	Health	Lack of understanding/evidence of potential health co-benefits of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures in various sectors
13	Forest and biodiversity	Lack of adequate knowledge on the effects of climate change on biodiversity
14	Forest and biodiversity	Need for repackaging the baseline data on the effects of climate change for forests and biodiversity for different target groups
15	Forest and biodiversity	Insufficient information on local indigenous knowledge on forest management

<i>No.</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Priority knowledge gap</i>
16	Water	Insufficient communication on the impacts on water systems/water availability to determine climate change impacts and inform decision-making in designing water resource plans and implementation

40. Following the prioritization of knowledge gaps, several workshop participants representing organizations such as Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters, Kothowain (Vulnerable People’s Development Organization), the International Centre for Climate Change and Development, the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences, the Nepal Health Research Council, Chittagong University and ICIMOD, expressed interest in closing knowledge gaps.<sup>43</sup> Following the workshop, the Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research at BRAC University, the Nepal Health Research Council and Kothowain joined the NWP as partner organizations.

41. **Indian Ocean island countries** covers Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles and Sri Lanka. Owing to the geographical diversity of the countries in this subregion, the priority-setting exercise resulted in two separate lists of priority knowledge gaps: one for the larger island countries (i.e. Madagascar and Sri Lanka) and the other for the smaller island countries (i.e. Comoros, Maldives and Seychelles). The priority knowledge gaps identified at the workshop are listed in tables 2 and 3.

Table 2  
**Priority knowledge gaps identified for the larger island countries of the Indian Ocean through the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative process**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Priority knowledge gap</i>
1	Agriculture/ fisheries	Insufficient information on water-conserving irrigation practices and other water management techniques
2	Agriculture/ fisheries	Insufficient information on crop and agricultural diversification
3	Agriculture/ fisheries	Insufficient information on climate-smart crop varieties
4	Water	Insufficient information on climatic parameters at the sub-basin/catchment/subnational level
5	Water	Insufficient information on water storage capacity and status (e.g. reservoirs and tanks)
6	Agriculture/ fisheries	Insufficient information on cropping calendars that precisely integrate the impacts of climate change
7	Health	Insufficient knowledge of indirect impacts of climate change on health (water/vector/rodent-borne diseases, food insecurity and malnutrition), including in relation to the deteriorated socioeconomic conditions induced by climate change
8	Agriculture/ fisheries	Insufficient information on the impacts of climate change on livestock and possible adaptation response measures (e.g. breed and feed)
9	Agriculture/	Insufficient information on increasing physical water productivity (kg crop/m <sup>3</sup> )

<sup>43</sup> See the workshop report for more information, at <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/LAKI-Asia.aspx>.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Priority knowledge gap</i>
	fisheries	water or 'crop per drop' approach)
10	Coastal areas	Insufficient information on the impacts of storm surges and other extreme events on coastal areas, including erosion, and impacts on infrastructure and drinking water supply

Table 3

**Priority knowledge gaps identified for the smaller island countries of the Indian Ocean through the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative process**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Priority knowledge gap</i>
1	Coastal areas	Insufficient information on the impacts of storm surges and other extreme events on coastal areas, including erosion, and impacts on infrastructure and drinking water supply
2	Agriculture/fisheries	Insufficient knowledge on how climate change affects coastal/marine fish migration
3	Coastal areas	Insufficient information on the impacts of sea level rise on coastal areas, including erosion and impacts on infrastructure and drinking water supply
4	Coastal areas	Insufficient information on the impacts of climate change on coral reefs, including coral bleaching
5	Water	Insufficient information on climatic parameters at the sub-basin/catchment/subnational level
6	Energy	Insufficient information on the impacts of climate change on energy demand
7	Human settlements	Insufficient information on climate-resilient wastewater infrastructure and waste management techniques
8	Energy	Insufficient information on measures to respond to changes in energy demand
9	Agriculture/fisheries	For policymakers, insufficient information on appropriate post-harvest techniques for key food and cash crops
10	Agriculture/fisheries	Insufficient information on climate change impacts on crop prices and markets

42. Following the prioritization of knowledge gaps, the International Water Management Institute, the subregional coordination entity for the workshop, expressed interest in closing five of the water and agriculture knowledge gaps identified for the larger island countries, and one water knowledge gap that is common to both the larger and smaller island countries.<sup>44</sup>

### **3. Disseminating the results of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative workshops and fostering additional response actions**

43. Information about the priority knowledge gaps identified during the priority-setting workshops was disseminated through various channels. At COP 22, UNEP presented information on the progress of LAKI and the results of the recent LAKI priority-setting workshops in the opening plenary of SBSTA 45 and during the 10<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum on health and adaptation. Both ICIMOD and the Asia Pacific

<sup>44</sup> As footnote 43 above.

Adaptation Network, two regional centres and networks, posted news on the LAKI events online and disseminated the information to their networks of partner organizations. The outcomes of LAKI were also communicated to all Parties and NWP partner organizations in the December edition of the eUpdate.<sup>45</sup>

44. A side event on LAKI will be co-organized with UNEP and held at SBSTA 46.<sup>46</sup> The side event will give an overview of the progress of the initiative over the past three years, share the results of the priority-setting workshops and of any follow-up response actions for the Hindu Kush Himalayas, and trigger expressions of interest both in closing the identified knowledge gaps and in contributing to the replication of priority-setting workshops in other subregions. The side event will engage country delegates as well as representatives of universities, research centres and financial institutions that support research and knowledge-brokering projects.

### E. Linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

45. The NWP activities in the thematic areas of health, ecosystems and water resources, and human settlements, as well as the outcomes of LAKI, generally align with a number of the SDGs<sup>47</sup> (i.e. goal 13 on climate action, but also goals 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 14 and 15, shown in figure 6), including some specific targets.<sup>48</sup>

Figure 6  
Sustainable Development Goals



Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>.

46. Some of the activities implemented during the reporting period have supported:<sup>49</sup>

<sup>45</sup> <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/The-NWP-eUpdate---December-2016.html?soid=1117347475566&aid=o0YgBt1TNU>.

<sup>46</sup> For more information, see [https://seors.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events\\_list.html?session\\_id=SB46](https://seors.unfccc.int/seors/reports/events_list.html?session_id=SB46).

<sup>47</sup> For more information, see <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

<sup>48</sup> See annex II for a mapping of areas of alignment.

<sup>49</sup> For more information, see <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

(a) Goal 3, “**good health and well-being**”, and its target to “strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks”. The NWP synthesis paper on health contributes to raising awareness and improving learning in countries on the risks posed by climate change to health, and on opportunities to better protect health from climate change impacts, as well as to develop more climate-resilient health systems;

(b) Goal 9, “**industry, innovation and infrastructure**”, which has the target to “facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States”, and goal 11, “**sustainable cities and communities**”, the target of which is to “enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries”. The summary of existing initiatives in the area of human settlements and adaptation provides an overview of global and regional initiatives that can help countries and cities to learn about adaptation and climate-resilient urban planning and infrastructure development as well as access technical support and financing to implement their policies, programmes and projects;

(c) Goal 14, “**life below water**”, and goal 15, “**life on land**”, particularly its target to “promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forest, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally”. The synthesis report on ecosystems and water resources provides substantial evidence of the benefits of EbA, which includes the conservation and restoration of forest ecosystems. It concludes that EbA should be considered in national approaches to adaptation, including in national adaptation plans.

47. Those thematic activities, in addition to LAKI, which has a multisectoral/multithematic focus, also contribute to goal 13, “**climate action**”, particularly its targets to “strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries”, “improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on [...] adaptation, impact reduction and early warning” and “promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change related planning and management in the least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities”.

48. The alignment of the activities carried out by NWP partner organizations with the SDGs has been highlighted in a video interview episode on goal 13 (see para. 64(b) below). Follow-up activities to the thematic work of the NWP, particularly on health, and ecosystems and water resources, for possible consideration by Parties at SBSTA 46 could provide a useful avenue to further develop linkages with the targets of the SDGs.

### **III. Providing continuous knowledge support to the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group**

49. SBSTA 45 acknowledged the activities undertaken by the secretariat in collaboration with NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations in response to recommendations made by the AC and the LEG and recognized that those activities have strengthened the knowledge support role of the NWP to the AC and the

LEG.<sup>50</sup> In response to the recommendation of the AC, the terms of reference for the overview of the landscape of existing platforms, including gaps, have been prepared in collaboration with staff members of the Climate Technology Centre and Network (see para. 3(c) above). The overview of the landscape of existing platforms will be reported to the AC at its 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **IV. Expanding the network of partner organizations to strengthen the Nairobi work programme's actionable knowledge base**

### **A. An active network of partner organizations**

50. Non-Party stakeholders play a key role in sharing information and knowledge on the latest research as well as in the most recent initiatives, projects and programmes implemented at various governance levels and geographical scales in countries. Hence their contribution to calls for submissions mandated by the SBSTA is particularly relevant so as to produce technically robust documents under the NWP. The wide dissemination of recent calls for submissions has helped reach out to non-Party stakeholders that were not NWP partner organizations and raise their interest in joining the NWP network. New partner organizations have shown great interest in sharing information and knowledge and in actively contributing to all activities undertaken under the NWP.

51. As at 7 April 2017, the number of NWP partner organizations stood at 341. During the reporting period, 18 organizations joined the NWP as partners. In response to the SBSTA 44 and 45 mandates regarding the development of new partnerships, new partner organizations include:

(a) One network representing local and municipal governments (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development);

(b) Two private sector companies (Banka Biolo and Manta Sail Training Centre);

(c) Two scientific organizations (Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Research at BRAC University and Nepal Health Research Council);

(d) Three universities (College of Economics of Hue University, University of Bonn and University of Michigan);

(e) Two organizations representing indigenous and traditional communities (Adivasi Yuva Seva Sangh and Kothowain);

(f) Two spiritual and religious groups (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh);

(g) One organization representing the gender constituency (JAGO NARI – Fighting for Women Empowerment);

(h) In addition, four new partner organizations are non-governmental organizations, including one working on health and resilience (Family Health Options Kenya) and three working on the preservation of terrestrial and marine ecosystems (Mountain Institute, Boticario Group Foundation for Nature Protection and Marinelife Alliance). Lastly, the Natural Resources Department of the Government of Canada joined the NWP as a partner organization.

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<sup>50</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraph 16.

52. NWP partner organizations represent a broad spectrum of expertise, experience and knowledge. Figure 7 provides an overview of the composition of the NWP network by category of partner organizations, and figure 8 gives an overview of the thematic and regional focuses of the partner organizations.

Figure 7

**Distribution of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category**

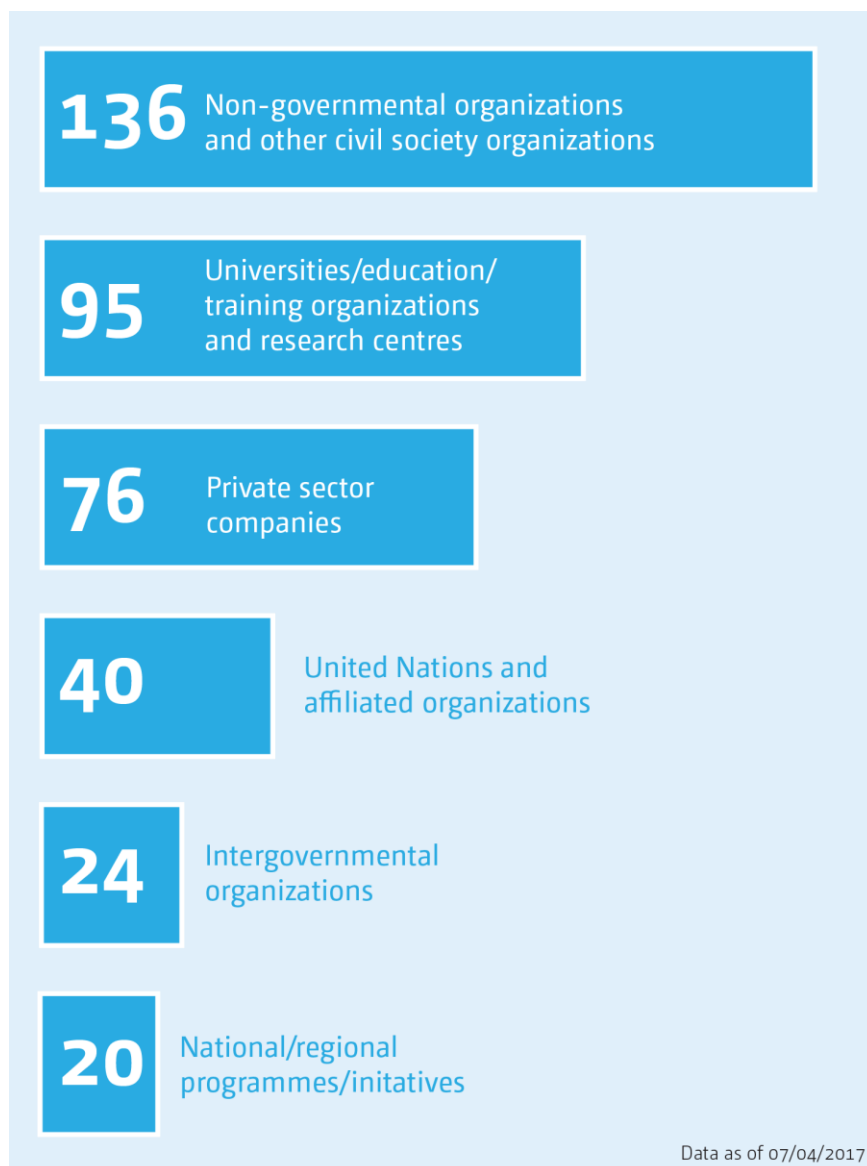
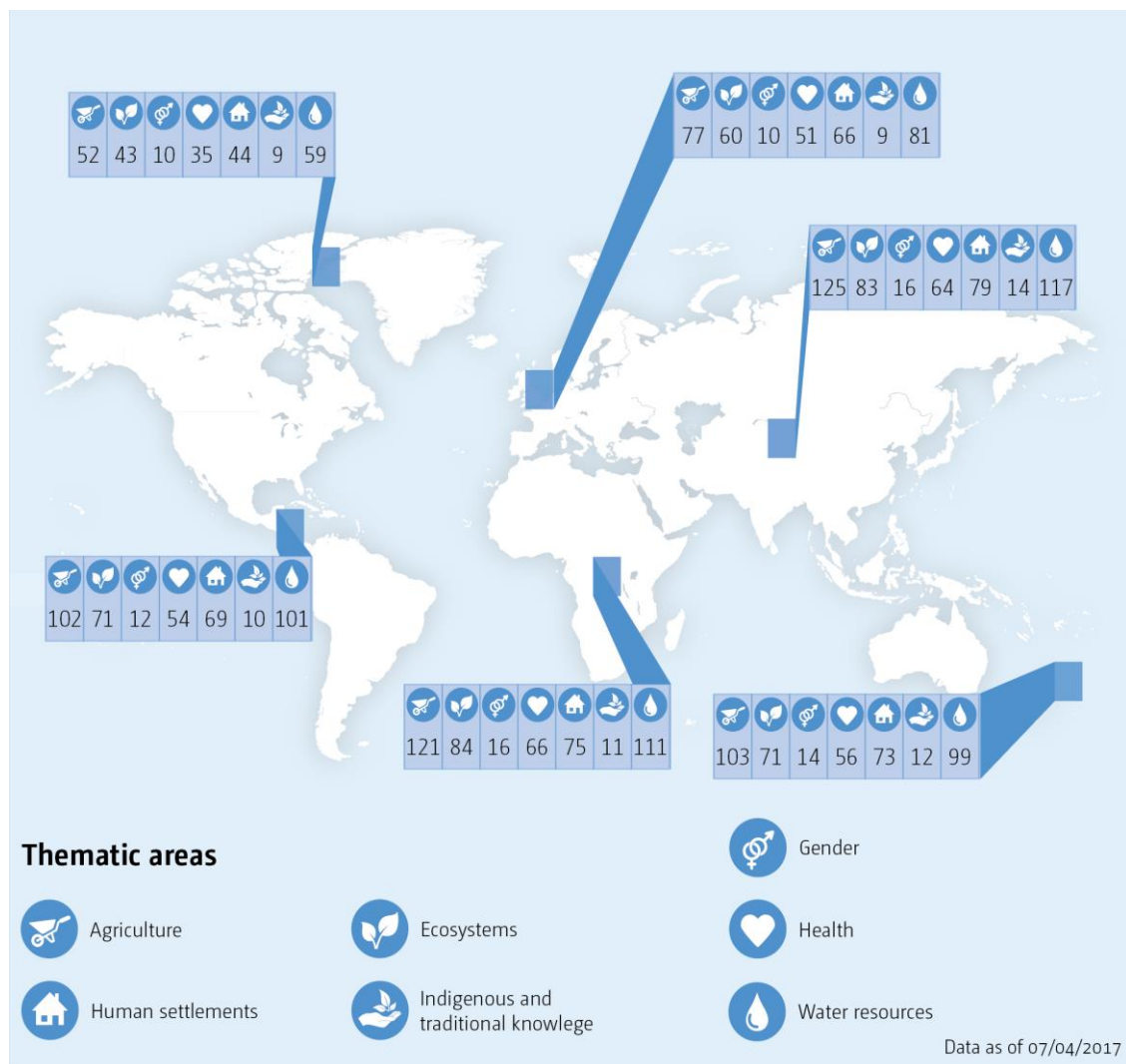


Figure 8  
**Overview of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional and sectoral focus**



## B. The actionable knowledge base of the Nairobi work programme

53. The NWP knowledge base is accessible through the adaptation knowledge portal,<sup>51</sup> which was developed as a gateway for sharing information and knowledge on adaptation and for facilitating adaptation planning and implementation at all levels. Information disseminated through the portal includes information generated under the NWP, relevant bodies and workstreams on adaptation under the UNFCCC process as well as by NWP partner organizations and broader adaptation communities of practice.

54. Since its launch at COP 21, the adaptation knowledge portal has been constantly enhanced to facilitate navigation between web pages, and information searches. For instance, on the NWP partner organization profiles accessible through the advanced search page, it is now possible to see all the knowledge resources (e.g. online portal, scientific/peer-reviewed publications, technical documents/reports,

<sup>51</sup> <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Home.aspx>.



policy briefs, educational/training material and multimedia material) contributed by each partner organization.

55. The responses of new NWP partner organizations, as well as other non-Party stakeholders and Parties, to the most recent calls for submissions has considerably expanded the knowledge base of the NWP. As highlighted in chapter II above, the latest case studies, tools/methods, policy briefs, technical reports and other knowledge resources communicated to the secretariat through submissions have been extracted from such submissions and integrated into the adaptation knowledge portal. These new items are additional to those that were contributed by partner organizations on a rolling basis.

56. On the advanced search page of the adaptation knowledge portal, it is now possible to use a multi-criteria search engine to search the knowledge resources indicated in table 4.

Table 4

**Overview of the knowledge resources available on the adaptation knowledge portal on 30 May 2017**

	<i>Total</i>	<i>On health</i>	<i>On ecosystems</i>	<i>On human settlements</i>
Case studies	361	64	146	56
Tools/methods	309	89	117	62
Online portals	37	19	12	10
Policy briefs	7	2	2	2
Technical documents/reports	51	9	17	11

57. In order to facilitate the exchange of actionable information by Parties, NWP partner organizations and other relevant non-Party stakeholders, easy online templates to share case studies, tools/methods and other knowledge resources were recently added to the adaptation knowledge portal. They replace the original Word template that the secretariat had to process manually. They will facilitate the contribution of all adaptation stakeholders and help to update the NWP knowledge base.

## V. Enhancing communication and outreach activities

58. Communication and outreach activities are crucial to raising awareness on key adaptation challenges and opportunities and to sharing the outcomes of knowledge-support activities undertaken under the NWP with various audiences. Apart from this, communication and outreach activities contribute to fostering the engagement of Parties, NWP partner organizations and other non-Party stakeholders in supporting the implementation of activities under the NWP. In order to achieve the double objective of disseminating information and strengthening engagement, the secretariat has been using a variety of communication channels, including presentations and networking at global and regional events as well as a mailing campaigns and social media.

### A. Global and regional events

59. As mentioned in chapter II above, the secretariat has organized events and given presentations at various global and regional conferences, forums and congresses

in order to disseminate the outcomes of NWP work and/or foster interest in supporting the NWP in its upcoming work. This includes the secretariat's networking event at Habitat III, the presentation given at the FEBA meeting at COP 22, the upcoming co-event and poster session at the Resilient Cities congress, as well as the two side events to be held at SBSTA 46 focusing on LAKI and on the NWP work on ecosystems and water resources.

60. Moreover, the secretariat shared information on the NWP and its thematic work in order to foster the engagement of both NWP partner organizations and other non-Party stakeholders at various regional and global events, including the Global Festival of Ideas for Sustainable Development and the meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, both of which took place in Bonn in March 2017.

## **B. Online communication**

### **1. Online communication channels under the Nairobi work programme**

61. The primary communication tool of the NWP is the **adaptation knowledge portal**, which is regularly updated and comprises a news section. All calls for submissions are referenced on both news pages and thematic pages, and progress in relation to activities under the NWP is indicated on various thematic and regional pages in a concise and easily accessible format. For instance, the adaptation knowledge portal news section and thematic pages will soon feature the release of the health synthesis paper, the ecosystems and water resources synthesis report and the summary of existing initiatives in the field of human settlements. During the reporting period, over 3,000 users visited the portal and around 10,500 pages were viewed. For comparison purposes, the NWP page on the UNFCCC website was viewed 2,500 times over the same period.

62. The **eUpdate** is an NWP newsletter produced three times a year and disseminated to Parties, NWP partner organizations and other interested organizations and individuals.<sup>52</sup> It highlights recent and upcoming activities under the NWP (including calls for submissions). Since the May 2016 edition, the secretariat has used the eUpdate to increasingly communicate on engagement opportunities with other workstreams and bodies under the Convention for both Parties and NWP partner organizations. It also showcases the work of interested NWP partner organizations and introduces the new partner organizations. The latest edition was released in December 2016 in a user-friendly format that takes into account the experience of smartphone users. The upcoming edition will be instrumental in highlighting the release of the latest NWP official documents on health, ecosystems and water resources, and human settlements.

63. The secretariat has enhanced its communication via **e-mail**. In the context of calls for submissions, e-mails tailored to different target audiences (i.e. Parties, NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations) were sent out. Following suggestions from the UNFCCC national focal points on modalities to enhance the dissemination of knowledge outputs generated under the NWP to countries,<sup>53</sup> a short e-mail presenting official documents on health, ecosystems and water resources, and human settlements, indicating possible target audiences to whom the document may be relevant, will be sent to UNFCCC national focal points. This aims to help widen the dissemination of the synthesis and summary documents in countries.

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<sup>52</sup> [http://unfccc.int/adaptation/knowledge\\_resources/newsletters/items/7565.php](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/knowledge_resources/newsletters/items/7565.php).

<sup>53</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.10, paragraph 37.

## 2. Communication through UNFCCC social media channels

64. In addition to the NWP channels of communication, the secretariat has actively used UNFCCC social media channels and explored new channels to communicate the outcomes of NWP work to much larger audiences. These communication channels include the Adaptation Exchange Facebook page, the UNFCCC climateconference YouTube channel and the UNFCCC newsroom and social media channels:

(a) The **Adaptation Exchange Facebook page**, with around 12,000 followers, continued to play a major role in disseminating information, including on calls for submissions, the progress of LAKI and NWP video interviews, during the reporting period. The last episode of the NWP video interview series on SDG 13 reached 575 views on the Adaptation Exchange Facebook page;

(b) The **UNFCCC climateconference YouTube channel**,<sup>54</sup> with over 3,800 followers, is used by the NWP to share its video interview series. The latter aims at showcasing the views and experiences of NWP partner organizations in relation to current adaptation challenges and opportunities, through easily understandable messages and examples, so as to raise awareness among a non-specialist audience. The last episode focused on SDG 13, “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.<sup>55</sup> New episodes on thematic areas such as health or ecosystems, in line with their respective corollary SDGs, are also being considered;

(c) The **UNFCCC newsroom**<sup>56</sup> and **UNFCCC social media channels** are also being used to disseminate the key findings from the synthesis documents on health<sup>57</sup> and on ecosystems and water resources. The UNFCCC has around 370,000 followers on Twitter<sup>58</sup> and 200,000 on Facebook.<sup>59</sup>

## 3. Communication through external media

65. The secretariat engaged with the International Institute for Sustainable Development to include coverage of the outcomes of the 10<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum on health and adaptation in the Earth Negotiation Bulletin.<sup>60</sup>

## VI. Next steps under the Nairobi work programme

66. In accordance with relevant mandates and activities as summarized in figures 1 and 2, the secretariat will implement activities under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration with relevant entities, including the AC and the LEG, Parties, NWP partner organizations, regional centres and networks, and other relevant non-Party stakeholders.

67. SBSTA 44 and 45 noted the potential role that the NWP can play in new processes under the Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21. In this regard, the SBSTA invited the AC, the LEG and other relevant bodies, in accordance with their mandates and functions, to consider providing recommendations for new activities. Accordingly, such activities will be undertaken under the NWP so as to support these new processes.

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/user/climateconference>.

<sup>55</sup> <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/News/Pages/SDG-video-.aspx>.

<sup>56</sup> <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/>.

<sup>57</sup> <http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/climate-change-impacts-human-health/>.

<sup>58</sup> <https://twitter.com/unfccc>.

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/UNclimatechange>.

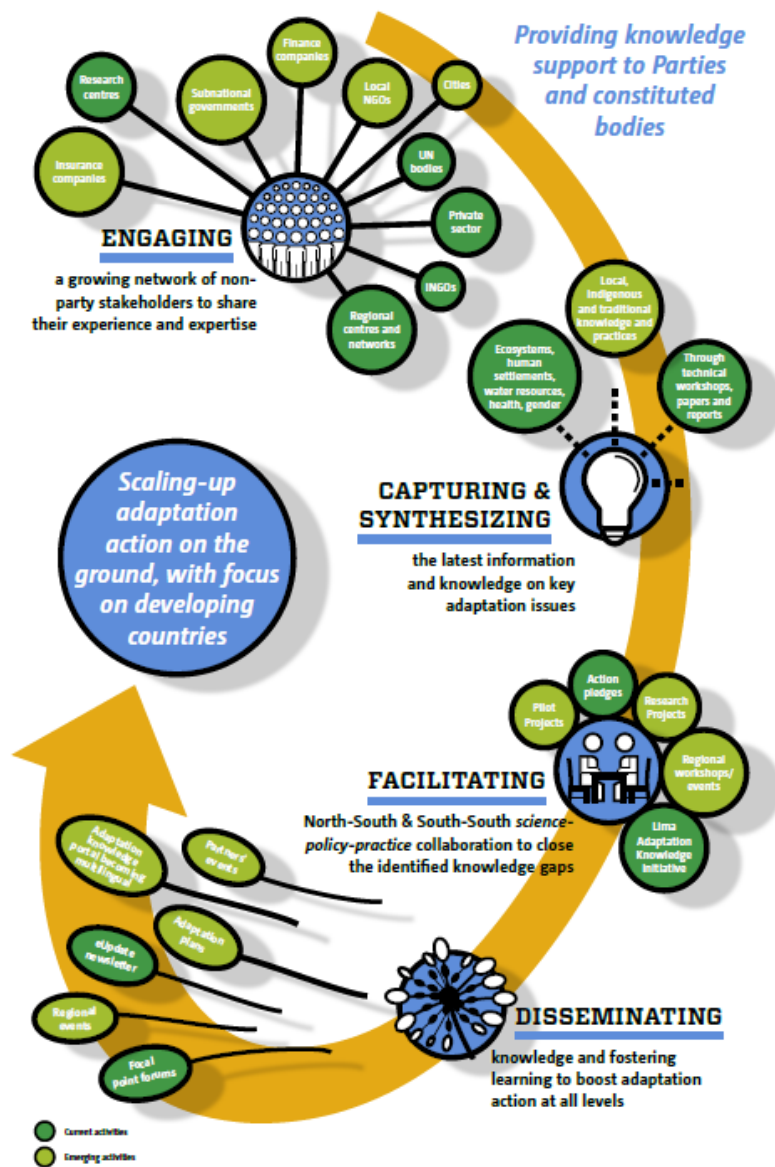
<sup>60</sup> <http://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop22/enbots/9nov.html>.

68. In line with the SBSTA 45 conclusions, the secretariat continues to implement activities under the NWP, including the activities in response to recommendations of the AC and the LEG, in a way that **enhances the role of the NWP as a knowledge hub that supports enhanced action on adaptation and further develops linkages with the SDGs, as appropriate.**

# Annex I

## Nairobi work programme mandates and modalities for knowledge support on adaptation under the UNFCCC

### Advancing adaptation action through knowledge



Abbreviations: INGOs = international non-governmental organizations, NGOs = non-governmental organizations.

## Mapping of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets that align with the Nairobi work programme's activities



Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>.