

UNFCCC

UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME





Following consideration of the IPCC Third Assessment Report and the acknowledgement that adaptation is a necessity for all countries, Parties in 2003 agreed to initiate work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation to climate change.

In 2004, in Buenos Aires, Parties decided to elaborate a five-year work programme under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). After additional deliberations, in Montreal in 2005, Parties adopted the Five-year programme of work of the SBSTA on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and specified its objective, expected outcomes and scope of work.

Details of the work programme were finalized in 2006 in Nairobi, where the programme was renamed the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. A comprehensive plan of activities up to mid-2008 was agreed upon.

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INTRODUCTION

This brochure takes stock of progress so far in implementing the activities of the Nairobi work programme, familiarizing readers with deliverables now available, key outcomes from workshops, new ways of becoming involved and future work.

These activities represent part of the work planned for the five-year programme. Several other activities will be implemented before SBSTA 28 in June 2008, when the work programme is planned for revision and a new set of activities should be identified.

OBJECTIVE OF THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

The aim of the Nairobi work programme is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to:

- Improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation;
- Make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

AREAS OF WORK

The Nairobi work programme comprises nine focal areas, each of which covers a specific aspect of adaptation to climate change. Activities have been ongoing under each of these areas, the objectives of which are described below.

- **Methods and tools**
Developing and disseminating methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, measures and actions.
- **Data and observations**
Improving collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate variability and change.
- **Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling**
Promoting the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change.
- **Climate related risks and extreme events**
Promoting understanding of impacts and vulnerability, emphasizing current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development.

- **Socio-economic information**

Improving knowledge of the socio-economic aspects of climate change and promoting the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments.

- **Adaptation planning and practices**

Collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including projects, short- and long-term strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge. This is done through facilitating communication and cooperation between stakeholders.

- **Research**

Promoting research on adaptation practices and options, analyzing opportunities and ways to promote research on adaptive capacities and adaptation practices that increase resilience.

- **Technologies for adaptation**

Promoting the development and diffusion of technologies, know-how, and practices for adaptation.

- **Economic diversification**

Promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of ways to increase economic resilience and decrease reliance on vulnerable economic sectors.

APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTATION

The overall approach to implementation of the work programme focuses on catalyzing actions on adaptation at all levels, and ensuring that the products and deliverables target stakeholders at all levels and across all sectors beyond the environment context.

The implementation of the Nairobi work programme includes several components:

1. Activities mandated by the SBSTA, including organizing workshops, publishing documents, and producing the web-based interface.
2. Furthering the reach of the mandated activities, including generating expanded ownership, creating reader-friendly versions of UNFCCC products, and disseminating these outcomes as widely as possible.
3. Catalyzing new and innovative action in Parties and organizations through a number of actions, that include:
 - Engaging a wide range of organizations in the different activities of the Nairobi work programme;
 - Introducing Call for Action sheets and encouraging action pledges;
 - Enhancing cooperation among multiple partners.

DOCUMENTS

Information for several areas of work of the Nairobi work programme was requested by the SBSTA from Parties and organizations. Submissions were received from Parties and a broad range of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

The detailed and comprehensive information contained in these submissions is available in compilations of the submissions ('MISC' documents) and/or synthesis reports of this information. A full list of documents produced under the Nairobi work programme can be found at the end of this brochure.

Due to the wealth of information contained within the submissions under the area of work on adaptation planning and practices, and to ensure its access and dissemination, the information contained within submissions has been converted into an online searchable database and can be found at: http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation_planning/

WORKSHOPS

A number of workshops have been mandated under the Nairobi work programme. The workshops are not an end in themselves, but a way to bring a broad range of stakeholders together to identify further actions towards the goals of the work programme. They function as a forum for the exchange of ideas and developing recommendations that will assist in achieving the objectives of the Nairobi work programme.

Two workshops, both chaired by Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh, Chair of the SBSTA, have been held in this first stage of the Nairobi work programme. The workshops drew considerable coverage by the press indicating the increased interest in adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change in general and the Nairobi work programme in particular. The workshop deliberations are summarized on the following pages.

Workshop on climate related risks and extreme events

Cairo, Egypt, 18 to 20 June 2007, Workshop website: <http://www.unfccc.int/3953.php>
Full report contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/7

The workshop was organized in collaboration with Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs of Egypt and allowed around 80 representatives from countries and relevant IGOs and NGOs to share their experience with assessment, prediction and management of climate-related risks and impacts, including those related to extreme events, in the areas of agriculture and food security, coastal zones and health.

Participants identified gaps and needs which currently constrain the assessment, prediction and management of climate-related risks and impacts, and shared good practices which can be replicated to enable countries and communities to better assess, manage and eventually reduce climate-related risks. Good practices highlighted include, for example, multi-hazard warnings which focus on prediction of impacts rather than extreme events; heat/health warning systems; and the involvement of farmers through farmers' associations, for a comprehensive risk management effort in the agriculture sector.

Participants also discussed how to take forward recommendations aimed at improving risk assessment and management.

Workshop on adaptation planning and practices

Rome, Italy, 10 to 12 September 2007, Workshop website: <http://www.unfccc.int/4036.php>
Full report contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/15

The workshop was organized in collaboration with FAO. The workshop enabled around 150 experts representing developed and developing countries, along with IGOs and NGOs, to share their experience in adaptation planning and practices in the areas of agriculture and food security, water resources, coastal zones and health, and on how to integrate and coordinate adaptation across different sectors and at different levels to contribute to the overall efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Participants identified gaps and needs which currently inhibit adaptation planning and implementation, and shared good practices which can be replicated in a wide range of sectors to enable countries and communities to better plan for and design adaptation strategies.

Participants made recommendations aimed at enhancing adaptation planning and practices. Many organizations outlined how they will pick up some of the recommendations – be it relating to tailoring data, methods and information for users, developing guidebooks on how to plan and implement adaptation, or supporting the development of legal and institutional frameworks to promote collaboration and integration across sectors and at different levels.

ENGAGEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS

As of October 2007, around ninety organizations worldwide had offered to take part in the Nairobi work programme and had nominated a focal point with whom the secretariat can coordinate. A list of organizations involved is shown in the table on page 14.

Some organizations, including FAO, IPCC, ISDR, OECD, UNDP, World Bank, WHO and WMO, have taken the opportunity to provide information on relevant activities, and to make proposals for their involvement in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme, through statements to the SBSTA and concept notes which can be found at:

<http://www.unfccc.int/3967.php>.

In addition, organizations are already undertaking activities that directly contribute to the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme. For example the Adaptation Learning Mechanism, which is a multi-collaborator effort implemented by UNDP-GEF that aims to create a common platform to capture, promote and share adaptation knowledge and expertise, and will also help build capacity for capturing these learning experiences at national level.

Any organizations interested in aligning their adaptation work with the Nairobi work programme should contact the secretariat at: *nwp@unfccc.int* for further information.

CALL FOR ACTION SHEETS

The purpose of Call for Action sheets is to identify priority actions under the different areas of the Nairobi work programme in order to communicate those actions to the wider adaptation community and to Parties and organizations.

They represent a tool for developing plans of actions involving multiple stakeholders to address commonly identified barriers. They are meant to stimulate action pledges by Parties and organizations that are working on climate change adaptation.

To provide input for Calls for Action, representatives of Parties, organizations and experts participating at the workshops submitted their views on key actions that have potential to help Parties adapt to climate change, via questionnaire responses to the secretariat (which included information on justification, stakeholders, examples, and specific activities).

Based on the questionnaire responses, as well as submissions, workshop reports and synthesis papers, the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, has prepared Call for Action sheets. These facilitate the identification, by a broad range of stakeholders, including Parties and organizations, of their potential contribution towards the objectives of the Nairobi work programme.

Organizations involved in the Nairobi work programme

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| • AASSREC | • GCOS | • JRC | • START |
| • ACE CRC | • GEF | • LEAD Intl. | • TERI |
| • ADB | • GFMC | • LI-BIRD | • Tyndall Centre |
| • ADPC | • GLIMS | • LSHTM | • UNCCD |
| • AfDB | • GRID-Arendal | • MCII | • UNCTAD |
| • BCAS | • Hadley Centre | • MRI | • UNDP |
| • CAFOD | • ICES | • Nature Conservancy | • UNECA |
| • CARICOM | • ICOLD | • OAPEC | • UNESCAP |
| • CATHALAC | • IDB | • OECD | • UNESCO-IHE |
| • CBD | • IDS | • OSS | • UNU EHS |
| • CCCCC | • IEA | • Ouranos | • UNU ESD |
| • CITET | • IFAD | • Oxfam | • UNWTO |
| • Commonwealth | • IGES | • PAHO | • WB |
| • CRED | • IIASA | • Pew Center | • Wetlands Intl. |
| • Christian Aid | • IIED | • PIFS | • WFP |
| • CSIRO | • IISD | • PIK | • WHO |
| • EEA | • IOC | • Practical Action | • WHO EMRO |
| • ENDA | • IPCC | • ProVention | • WHO WPRO |
| • ETC | • IRI | • RIDES | • WMO |
| • FAO | • ISDR | • RIOCC | • World Heritage |
| • FRCGC | • ISET | • SDPI | • WWF |
| • FB | • IUCN | • SEI | • Yayasan Pelangi |
| • GCISC | • IWMI | • SPREP | |

Calls for Action on climate related risks and extreme events and adaptation planning practices have been posted on the Nairobi work programme web pages at <http://www.unfccc.int/4087.php> and forwarded to relevant organizations to solicit further actions.

ACTION PLEDGES

In the context of the Nairobi work programme, the SBSTA urged relevant organizations and other stakeholders to undertake their own activities in support of the objectives and themes of the Nairobi work programme and to share the outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate.

Action pledges provide an interactive way for Parties, IGOs, NGOs and research institutes to identify and commit publicly to undertake activities towards the objectives and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme, under specific areas of work and responding to:

- A Call for Action; and/or
- Other needs identified under the mandated activities of the Nairobi work programme.

Highlighted below are some examples of action pledges made on the Nairobi work programme. The implementation of some of these pledges may benefit from the provision of support. A full list of action pledges and further background information can be found at <http://www.unfccc.int/3996.php>.

Potential action pledge to respond to Call for Action: Brazil

Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

The Center for Weather Forecast and Climate Studies in Brazil has applied the ETA model to the South American continent at a resolution of 80 kilometres in order to analyze the impacts associated with climate change in strategically relevant areas of Brazil.

After the preliminary results of the run of this model are available, Brazil is planning to invite experts from other South American countries to discuss the model and improve it so that it may be of use to others in the region.

Action pledge made by an IGO: IPCC

Data and observations; and climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change suggested that it could support the Nairobi work programme by expanding the services of the Data Distribution Centre (DDC) and the Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impacts and Climate Analysis.

Activities would include tailoring data and information to the needs of Parties and organizations working towards the objectives of the work programme; creating simple data sets and products that could be used by computationally-limited countries; and training in the use of the DDC data.

Action pledge made by an NGO: Practical Action

Adaptation planning and practices and climate related risks and extreme events

Practical Action is seeking to strengthen livelihood security among poor communities that are vulnerable to natural disasters through a number of awareness raising and knowledge sharing activities.

These include documenting and publishing useful experiences from their work on community-based adaptation in South Asia, and producing and disseminating audio-visual material that could help enhance the knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to climate change. This approach builds upon Practical Action's current experience in using participatory video to help capture local knowledge in a manner that is owned by and shared with communities.

Action pledge made by a research institution: START

Adaptation planning and practices

The global change System for Analysis, Research and Training highlighted three projects which could be carried out towards the objectives of the work programme.

One of the most relevant projects is entitled 'Decision Support for Climate Change Adaptation', and will initiate pilot projects (with well defined sectoral parameters) to create/define a sustainable system for generating and communicating climate risk information. This will assist stakeholders with the interpretation and application of information necessary in decision making.

CONTRIBUTION OF EXPERT GROUPS UNDER THE UNFCCC

Besides Parties and organizations, the three constituted bodies under the Convention, namely the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) pledged to contribute to the implementation of the Nairobi work programme through their activities.

The LEG contributes by providing advice to LDC Parties on strategies and technical aspects for implementing National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). The chair of the LEG also expressed the group's readiness to support non-LDCs in developing adaptation plans.

The CGE contributes in providing technical advice and support through hands-on training and examination of national communications by non-Annex I Parties in the area of tools, methodologies and processes for vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

The EGTT contributes by providing technical advice and guidance on technologies for adaptation in order to improve understanding of, and identify prioritized needs for, these technologies. It also seeks to improve the process of technology development and transfer as relevant to adaptation, including through identifying possible sources of financing.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The following activities will take place during the first half of 2008 before SBSTA 28 when the new set of activities should be identified:

- Expert meeting on socio-economic information;
- Expert meeting on methods and tools, and on data and observations;
- Meeting of representatives of Parties to consider the outcomes of the activities completed prior to SBSTA 28;
- In-session workshop during SBSTA 28 on climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling.

Submissions received on these topics will provide input to these events. In addition, the secretariat will expand its work in disseminating Nairobi work programme projects, including through an enhanced web based interface, networking and dissemination of documents and brochures to a broader range of stakeholders.

These products may be useful for practitioners in fields relating to the areas of work of the Nairobi work programme, and can be accessed from <http://www.unfccc.int/3633.php>.

| Documents | | |
|---|--|---|
| Methods and Tools | Information on methods and tools for impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from Parties FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.12 • Submissions from relevant organizations FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.13 |
| | Synthesis of information and views on methods and tools submitted by Parties and relevant organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCCC/SBSTA/2007/8 |
| Data and Observations | Work that could contribute to the improved understanding of current and historical climate, and its impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from the WMO and its member States and other relevant organizations FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.23 |
| Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling | Ways to contribute to climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from relevant organizations FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.24 |
| Climate related risks and extreme events | Relevant programmes, activities and views on the issues relating to climate related risks and extreme events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from Parties FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.4 • Submissions from relevant organizations FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.5 |
| | Report on the workshop on climate related risks and extreme events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCCC/SBSTA/2007/7 |

| Documents (continued) | | |
|--|---|---|
| Socio-economic information | Information and views on socio-economic information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from Parties FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.21 • Submissions from relevant organizations FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.22 |
| Adaptation planning and practices | Information on adaptation approaches, strategies, practices and technologies at the regional, national and local levels in different sectors, as well as on experiences, needs and concerns | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from Parties FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.10 • Submissions from relevant organizations FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.11 |
| | Synthesis of information and views on adaptation planning and practices submitted by Parties and relevant organizations | • FCCC/SBSTA/2007/9 |
| | Synthesis of outputs of the work of the LEG, the CGE and the EGT, relevant to adaptation planning and practices | • FCCC/SBSTA/2007/10 |
| | Report on the workshop on adaptation planning and practices | • FCCC/SBSTA/2007/15 |
| Research | Synthesis of ongoing and planned adaptation research and adaptation research needs identified in submissions by Parties and relevant organizations | • FCCC/SBSTA/2007/12 |

| Documents (continued) | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Technologies for adaptation | Synthesis report on technologies for adaptation identified in the submissions from Parties and relevant organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FCCC/SBSTA/2007/6 |
| Economic diversification | Information on economic diversification | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submissions from Parties FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.15• Submissions from relevant organizations FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.16 |
| | Synthesis of information on economic diversification submitted by Parties and relevant organizations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• FCCC/SBSTA/2007/14 |

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