

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

## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Focal Point Forum**

**SB 32, Bonn**

**Friday, 4 June 2010, 18:30–20:30**

**Summary note**

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Mandate**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to regularly organize Focal Point Forums with representatives from interested Parties, with a view to taking stock of activities undertaken by organizations and institutions in support of the objectives of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP), and to promoting a periodic dialogue between Parties and engaged organizations and institutions.<sup>1</sup>

#### **B. Background**

2. The NWP is a five-year programme, covering the period 2005–2010, the objective of which is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.<sup>2</sup>

3. The focus of the implementation of the NWP is on catalyzing actions on adaptation, and ensuring that products and deliverables are targeted at stakeholders at all levels and across all sectors. The NWP has, over the past four and a half years, catalyzed actions by various stakeholders, and the SBSTA has expressed its appreciation to the organizations that have undertaken, or stated their intentions to undertake, actions in support of the objective of the NWP.

4. The second phase of the programme began in June 2008. Concrete mandates were adopted to further engage organizations, with a greater focus on catalyzing actions at the community, national and regional levels; and action on education, training and awareness-raising. These were also key themes dealt with at the third Focal Point Forum.

5. In 2008, the SBSTA also agreed to enhance outreach and foster a dialogue and exchange of information relevant to the NWP among stakeholders involved in adaptation. In this spirit, the Focal Point Forum was aimed at creating a platform for dialogue upon which the Parties and the partners of the programme could take stock of relevant activities being undertaken by partner organizations, as well as to identify opportunities for mutual learning and collaboration.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 29.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

6. There are now 189 NWP partners<sup>3</sup> which have expressed and demonstrated their willingness to participate in the implementation of the programme. These partners play a key role, since fulfilling the objective of the programme depends on a multi-stakeholder approach.

7. NWP partner organizations are invited to submit Action Pledges, which provide an interactive way for all partners to identify and commit publicly to undertaking activities towards the objectives and expected outcomes of the NWP. There are now 104 Action Pledges made by 47 partners.<sup>4</sup>

## **II. Proceedings**

8. The third NWP Focal Point Forum was held in Bonn, Germany on 4 June 2010, during the thirty-second session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC. The forum was chaired by Mr. Mama Konaté, the Chair of the SBSTA, and was attended by more than 80 representatives from Parties and NWP partner organizations. The annex to this summary contains the agenda for the meeting.

9. The Chair welcomed the participants to the third Focal Point Forum to be held under the NWP, noting that the NWP is the only multilaterally agreed initiative on adaptation in place. He highlighted that the Focal Point Forum, through an informal setting, aims to facilitate the sharing of information, knowledge, experience and practices on adaptation among Parties and organizations. He stressed that all participants could learn from each other and exchange ideas on how to further enhance their work on the assessment and understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability, and on how to make informed decisions on adaptation to climate change.

10. He invited participants from organizations to share information on relevant activities being carried out within their respective organizations, especially activities aimed at reaching adaptation practitioners at the national, subnational and community levels. He mentioned that this was primarily to take advantage of the presence of some delegates from Parties and a large number of partners who would be able to benefit from such targeted information.

11. The Chair also invited the participants to contribute to an interactive brainstorming session to share views and ideas on how to capitalize on the success of the NWP to date, and to address the adaptation needs that have been identified during the course of the work programme. He encouraged them to get to know each other, and interact after the forum, adding that through this type of collaboration and networking, organizations and Parties could enhance their understanding of, and action on, adaptation.

12. Additional introductory remarks, and a presentation, were made by the UNFCCC secretariat which highlighted the following aspects of the implementation of the NWP:

- (a) The engagement of an increasing number of stakeholders;
- (b) The development and sharing of knowledge, through a wide range of knowledge products;
- (c) The catalyzing of concrete action on adaptation on the ground through Action Pledges, the number of which has been steadily increasing;
- (d) The work of partners, which is becoming increasingly aligned with the objectives and mandates of the NWP;
- (e) New themes dealt with under the NWP, including costs and benefits of adaptation options; monitoring and evaluation; collaboration among regional centres and networks; and education, training and public awareness-raising;

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<sup>3</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/5005>>.

<sup>4</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/5005>>.

- (f) The link between the NWP as the foundation of work on adaptation under the UNFCCC, and the future adaptation regime under the Convention;
- (g) Challenges, such as how to ensure that the work that has been done transfers down to the national and sub-national levels.

### **III. Stocktaking of adaptation activities towards the objective of the NWP**

13. All participants from organizations shared information on a large variety of adaptation actions being carried out, as pledges to the NWP. These activities are reflected below under a number of general clusters.

#### **A. Adaptation planning and practices focusing on specific administrative scales**

14. At the community level, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) reported on the Global Initiative on Community-Based Adaptation (GICBA). In partnership with key organizations including, inter alia, the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), they have held a series of international conferences on Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) to climate change, and have launched the GICBA. Other activities undertaken through this initiative include the creation of short videos on CBA, and the organizing of field trips to affected areas in Bangladesh and Tanzania for CBA conference participants. Practical Action also underlined, amongst other things, the importance of CBA action on the ground, as well as the need to work with local-level governments. They also highlighted their community-level programmes to build awareness and capacity, and reiterated the value in using video, mobile, and other technologies to disseminate knowledge on CBA. Flo-Cert, a private sector partner that attended the forum, discussed activities related to Fairtrade certification, including those related to addressing cost barriers for small-scale producers. They focussed on local-level needs, and explained that farmers at the local level are increasingly having to adapt to both market changes, and changes in the climate.

15. At the regional level, the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) reported on regional adaptation initiatives. RIOCC reported that since 2005, 21 countries in the region have become members of the network, and that adaptation is one of the highest priorities for the network. They also discussed progress on their Action Pledges related to methods and tools and systematic observation. In coordinating a wide arrange of activities in the Pacific region, SPREP noted a focus on ecosystem-based adaptation in their work this year, and shared practical lessons learned. They are working with tools that they have developed through the NWP, and are expanding their focus to include the DRR and adaptation link. They mentioned that they are looking forward to exploring opportunities to collaborate with other partners in activities mentioned during the forum, such as the capacity building initiatives (more details on this below). The CCCCC explained how their work covers the full range of NWP work areas, and that it now includes concrete adaptation measures and an Action Pledge on enhancing public outreach. They also discussed how they have partnered with other organizations that are part of the NWP. IPACC discussed how their work in Africa focuses on CBA and indigenous peoples. They have partnered with various NGOs in order to conserve traditional knowledge and enhance CBA action in the region.

16. At the global level, United Nations specialized agencies have been actively engaged in a wide range of adaptation activities: from capacity building and policy support to concrete adaptation projects. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reported that they are supporting developing countries with a large portfolio of adaptation projects, including CBA projects, with funding from the Global Environment Facility as well as other bilateral and multilateral donors. They also highlighted a number of national level capacity building and technical support programmes in all developing country regions. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) reported on progress on their Action Pledge on establishing a Global Climate Change Adaptation Network. They added that their adaptation

efforts focus on knowledge mobilization, capacity building and ecosystem-based adaptation, and that there has been much progress, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. They reminded the forum participants of the first Knowledge Day to be organized by UNEP the following week in collaboration with the NWP and other partners.

17. In terms of urban adaptation, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability has been working on the issue of adaptation since 2000. They updated participants on their Action Pledge by discussing the first World Congress on Cities and Adaptation to Climate Change, held from 28–30 May 2010. It brought together local government representatives and other stakeholders to discuss urban adaptation issues, and it also integrated the Mayors Adaptation Forum, which produced the Bonn Declaration. The Declaration, among other things, acknowledged the NWP as an effective mechanism for knowledge sharing and partnership building on adaptation now, and in the years ahead, and asserted the importance of extending the NWP. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) updated participants on their activities, notably the recently launched “Making Cities Resilient” campaign, highlighting the need to enhance the linkage between disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.

## **B. Sector- and system-oriented adaptation planning and practices**

18. The World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) discussed the development and promotion of tools for use by local communities for assessing infrastructural vulnerabilities, which are encapsulated in their Action Pledge to the NWP. These tools identify and assess the effects of climate change on current standards for infrastructure, since climate proofing is becoming increasingly important to ensure safety. They have held workshops to promote understanding of this issue and their tools, amongst other activities.

19. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) highlighted their work with other mountain-focussed organizations, and their activities aimed at building linkages between upstream and downstream countries, as a means to address water-related issues and vulnerabilities associated with climate change. They reiterated the stance of other organizations on the importance of CBA strategies in dealing with such issues. The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) reported on their capacity building programmes for transboundary water resources, to help water practitioners to be better prepared for climate change.

20. IUCN updating the participants on the status of their Action Pledge on linking ecosystem management and adaptation at the local level, noting that methods and tools for ecosystem-based adaptation have been developed, and that four different projects are underway related to forests, coastal zones, water, and livelihoods. They also highlighted the importance that IUCN places on working with other partners including Birdlife International and Conservation International.

## **C. Cross-cutting activities including data provision, research, training, capacity building and knowledge management**

21. To address the gap in peer-reviewed literature on climate change in developing countries (and by developing country scientists), the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) has been engaged in two initiatives: together with Earthscan and other partners, publishing a leading international peer-reviewed journal *Climate and Development*; and, in collaboration with UNISDR, running a write-shop to assist developing country scientists in obtaining the skills needed for publishing in peer-reviewed journals, so as to broaden the pool of literature on climate change and adaptation in developing countries.

22. The Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) highlighted their work on research, training, capacity building and knowledge management through a large number of projects. In particular, they organized several national-level dialogues between representatives of government and civil society and scientists; and they are conducting regional knowledge assessments focussed on “grey literature”, to feed into the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

23. The IPCC reported on activities under the newly constituted Task Group on Data and Scenario Support for Impact and Climate Analysis (TGICA). This Task Group facilitates the distribution and application of climate change-related data and scenarios. The IPCC reinforced the call by others, such as SEI, for efforts to increase the peer-reviewed literature base, particularly from developing countries, so as to improve the overall balance of literature to be assessed through the AR5 cycle. They also called for the forum participants to help them to identify valuable literature by making them aware of different sources and publications.
24. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) shared information on activities relating to climate observations, modeling and research. They stressed that there is still the need for enhanced capacity building, particularly at the national level, and that knowledge sharing is crucial. They also highlighted some of the work that they are doing in this regard, noting the importance of collaboration with other organizations.
25. BCAS reported on activities which include researching the impact of climate change on ecosystems, developing policies in different sectors, and disseminating knowledge of adaptation through various channels, such as workshops and training programmes. The United Nations University (UNU) updated on their many research projects focusing on adaptation, and informed the participants of a joint postgraduate programme on climate change resilience that will be launched in July.
26. TEARFUND reported on the development of CEDRA, the Climate change and Environmental Degradation Risk and Adaptation assessment field tool for small- and medium-sized organizations that work in developing countries. They stressed the importance of looking at adaptation in an integrated manner. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) reported on policy guidance that they have developed to assist with the integration of climate change adaptation into development processes; and on a training programme developed in collaboration with the German Development Corporation to build capacities in applying the guidance.

#### **IV. Exchange of views on enhancing the implementation of the NWP**

27. Having shared information on a diverse range of adaptation activities being carried out by NWP partner organizations, participants exchanged views on how to build on the success of the NWP to date, and more importantly, on areas of work that could further enhance the implementation of the NWP.
28. As a starting point for discussions on strengthening the implementation of the NWP, the representative from WFEO noted that judging by the large number of Action Pledges, the NWP has been tremendously successful. He continued that organizations have pledged, and then gone out and delivered, and that this aspect of the programme should be continued in the future. The representative from Austria added that the range of activities catalyzed under the NWP is impressive. The representative from Argentina pointed out that the NWP has catalyzed a lot of work from a wide range of stakeholders, and it has been a “light” in adaptation through its coordinating role. Looking forward, participants identified the following areas of work that could further enhance the implementation of the NWP.

##### **A. Development of knowledge products**

29. Participants explored new knowledge products that the NWP could develop to address some of the current knowledge gaps, provide technical guidance, and support the implementation of practical adaptation actions on the ground.
30. SEI highlighted a need to document the lessons learned and good practices from the fast growing number of adaptation actions. RIOCC, supported by UNISDR, highlighted the need to produce guidelines and handbooks on the multitude of tools and methodologies that have been developed and tested by NWP partners and others. Within this context, the IPCC invited feedback and discussion on a possible assessment of methodologies and tools for adaptation to be carried out under the IPCC.

31. The need to develop knowledge products that target/trigger the implementation of adaptation action was also highlighted by representatives from Argentina, Austria, Japan and ICLEI.

#### **B. Dissemination and application of knowledge products**

32. While acknowledging the growing amount of adaptation work being carried out, mostly at the sub-national and local levels, the representative from New Zealand highlighted the need for better sharing of information and experiences from ongoing activities. She reiterated the richness of information that has been generated under the NWP, and the need for Parties to utilize this to make informed adaptation decisions. She mentioned that partner organizations could assist in this regard, in using existing information and knowledge to guide actions at the community level, by forming local partnerships within countries.

33. In terms of disseminating the knowledge, including lessons-learned from current adaptation practices, the Argentinean representative stressed the need to reach practitioners at the national and sub national levels, including by translating knowledge products into different languages. The North/South University underscored the importance of disseminating adaptation knowledge to government officials as there is a disconnect between science and policy.

#### **C. Capacity building**

34. IIED pointed out that adaptation has truly become a reality over the course of the past few years, with a transition from only pilot projects to extensive adaptation initiatives on the ground. This transition has created needs, one of which is a demand for capacity building and training on the various aspects of adaptation. BCAS highlighted the need for science to differentiate between adaptation and development. They noted that training and capacity building programmes, aimed at scientists and professionals, could help to fulfill this need by creating more peer-reviewed literature and by promoting understanding of the additionality of adaptation to development needs.

#### **D. Technical support**

35. The representative from South Africa noted that five of the six modalities for the implementation of the NWP as defined in Decision 2/CP.11<sup>5</sup> have been applied thus far. The sixth, the formation of an expert group, is yet to be explored. He encouraged Parties to capitalize on the wealth of technical expertise within the partner organizations and to continue the consideration of establishing a group of experts under the NWP to provide technical support to Parties. The World Bank stressed that such a group under the NWP could, amongst other things, generate valuable new ideas.

#### **E. Coordination, collaboration and facilitation**

36. The World Bank underlined the ability of the NWP to create synergies between organizations, Parties and other stakeholders, and mentioned that there is still scope for the NWP to scale up efforts in this regard in the future, so as to facilitate efforts and prevent unnecessary overlaps.

37. The North/South University representative also highlighted the facilitative role that the NWP could play to enhance the science and policy dialogue, to ensure that knowledge generated through the NWP is adequately disseminated and communicated to policy makers.

#### **F. Engagement of the private sector**

38. The North/South University representative noted that there is a need to engage the private sector more in the future, particularly since the private sector is not very engaged in climate change and adaptation issues in many developing countries at the present time.

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<sup>5</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2005/cop11/eng/05a01.pdf#page=5>>.

## **V. Summary of key discussion points**

39. A number of key messages on the implementation of the NWP emerged from the discussions during this third Focal Point Forum:

- (a) The NWP has been effective in engaging stakeholders; catalyzing action on adaptation, and facilitating the sharing of information, knowledge, experience and practices on adaptation among partner organizations and Parties;
- (b) Numerous innovative methods for disseminating and communicating knowledge are emerging and being used by NWP partner organizations;
- (c) Partner organizations are carrying out an increasing number of community- and ecosystem-based adaptation actions;
- (d) A number of areas of work need to be enhanced under the NWP, including: capacity building and training, adaptation in cities and urban areas, further engagement of the private sector, engineering and infrastructure resilience, and understanding of issues relating to adaptation to the impacts of mitigation measures;
- (e) There is a need for enhanced coordination and collaboration, given the large amount of activities that are already underway, including those that are multi-thematic and cross-sectoral. The NWP could play a more active role in fostering partnerships and in facilitating collaboration among organizations and Parties to ensure synergy and complementarity of efforts;
- (f) A multitude of knowledge products have been generated through the NWP, and these need to be better disseminated and utilized in the future, including through the facilitative role of the NWP.

## **VI. Next steps**

40. The secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, will facilitate consideration by Parties and organizations of the outcomes of this forum.

Annex

**The Third NWP Focal Point Forum  
of the  
Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation  
to climate change**

**Room Liszt, Maritim Hotel, Bonn, Germany  
Friday, 4 June, 18:00–20:30**

**Chair: Mr. Mama Konaté, Chair of the SBSTA  
Co-facilitators: Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) and Mr. Don Lemmen (Canada)**

**AGENDA**

<b>1. Welcome and update</b>	
18:00–18:15	<b>Welcome and opening remarks by the Chair</b> (Mr. Mama Konaté, Chair of the SBSTA). <b>Presentation</b> on progress in the implementation of the NWP (UNFCCC secretariat).
<b>2. Stocktaking of activities undertaken by NWP partner organizations</b>	
18:15–19:15	<b>Interventions</b> by organizations to take stock of their relevant activities (Co-facilitator: Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh).
<b>3. Opportunities to further enhance the implementation of the NWP</b>	
19:15–20:15	<b>Brainstorming session</b> with interventions from Focal Points and representatives from Parties (Co-facilitator: Mr. Don Lemmen).
<b>4. Conclusion and next steps</b>	
20:15–20:30	<b>Summary of key discussion points</b> (UNFCCC secretariat). <b>Closing</b> (Co-facilitator: Mr. Don Lemmen).

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