

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

The 5th Focal Point Forum

Durban, South Africa

Tuesday, 29 November, 18:00–21:00

Summary note

I. Introduction

1. The fifth NWP Focal Point Forum was held in Durban, South Africa on 29 November 2011, during the thirty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC.
2. Focal Point Forums provide NWP partners and Parties an opportunity to take stock of relevant activities being undertaken by partner organizations, and identify opportunities for collaboration and mutual learning. The Forums also help to enhance the outreach of the NWP, and foster dialogue and the exchange of information relevant to the NWP.
3. The fifth NWP Focal Point Forum trialled a more interactive format, including three thematic break out group discussions, aiming to stimulate coordination of efforts, and collaboration to advance adaptation actions in relation to the NWP.
4. Summaries of discussions from previous Forums are available at <<http://unfccc.int/4300>>.

B. Mandate

5. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to regularly organize Focal Point Forums, with the participation of Focal Points from partner organizations and representatives from interested Parties, with a view to taking stock of activities undertaken by organizations and institutions in support of the objective 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.¹

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 29.

C. Background

6. The objective of the NWP 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.² The implementation of the NWP is focussed on catalyzing action on adaptation, and ensuring that products and deliverables are targeted at stakeholders across all sectors and at all levels. The SBSTA has expressed appreciation to organizations that have undertaken action in support of the objective of the NWP.

7. There are now 249 NWP partners³ who have participated in the implementation of the programme in various ways and in response to the needs and priorities of Parties, including through activities outlined in Action Pledges. Partner organizations are also invited to provide periodic updates on relevant adaptation activities, especially those related to their respective Actions Pledges. There are currently 162 Action Pledges made by 69 NWP partners as well as 48 experts engaged in the activities of the NWP.⁴

II. Proceedings

8. The Forum was opened by the Chair of the SBSTA, Mr Richard Muyangi (United Republic of Tanzania) and co-chaired by Mr Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) and Ms Beth Lavender (Canada). The Forum was attended by over 60 representatives from NWP partner organizations and Parties. The annex to this summary contains the agenda for the Forum, and a list of participants.

9. The Chair welcomed the participants to the fifth NWP Focal Point Forum. The Chair noted that the Forums provide a unique opportunity for representatives of Parties and partner organizations to get together in an informal setting, and that in this year in particular, the NWP has an important contribution to make in relation to scientific and technical work under the Cancun Adaptation Framework. The Chair stated that he was looking forward to the collaborative actions to be developed as a result of the Forum.

10. The Chair then handed over to Mr Kumarsingh, who introduced the agenda, objective and expected outcomes for the evening, including the possibility of one or more 'collaborative action plans' arising from thematic discussions.

11. He also gave a brief update on the NWP, and thanked organisations for their ongoing efforts and contribution to new knowledge products including:

- o "Assessing climate change impacts and vulnerability. Making informed adaptation decisions. Highlights of the contribution of the Nairobi work programme";
- o "Assessing the costs and benefits of adaptation options - An overview of approaches";

² Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

³ <<http://unfccc.int/5005>>.

⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/5005>>.

- o “Practical business cases and examples of products and services” - an online database;
 - o “Ecosystem-based adaptation case studies” - an online database; and
 - o Adaptation calendar 2012: Showcasing ecosystem-based adaptation activities.
12. Mr Kumarsingh then introduced topics and facilitators for three thematic discussions, who proceeded with brief presentations to introduce and explain their topics:
- o Making use of strategic communication for adaptation, facilitated by Shereen Fotouh, JWT Mena;
 - o Technical support for national adaptation plans (NAPs), facilitated by Kanta Kumari Rigaud, World Bank; and
 - o Applying monitoring and evaluation approaches: experimentation and shared learning, facilitated by Heather McGray, World Resource Institute.
13. Following this introduction, the Focal Point Forum broke into the three thematic discussion groups for the majority of the Forum. A summary of discussions can be found detail in section III, with opportunities for future action summarised in section IV.
14. Following the conclusion of the parallel thematic discussions, representatives from each group reported back. Ms Beth Lavender provided concluding remarks and closed the Forum.

III. Summary of thematic discussions

A. Making use of strategic communication for adaptation

15. This group discussed ideas on possible approaches to strategic communication for adaptation, including identifying target audiences, defining clear objectives, and outlining tasks, timeframes, responsibilities and progress measures, as well as next steps.
16. Discussion took place on identifying target audiences for communication efforts. The need to engage with the private sector with adaptation, and to eventually influence behaviour and instigate action was emphasized. Accordingly, a specific target audience for immediate action was defined as ‘private sector companies with global presence and with investments vulnerable to climate change impacts’, acknowledging the need for possible further refinement at a later stage.
17. The group identified ‘raising the target audience’s awareness about the urgency and relevance of climate change impacts to their businesses and instigating adaptation actions - awareness, education and behaviour change’ as the main objective of the communication exercise with the private sector.
18. Opportunities for progress were identified. Initially more information could be collected about the level of awareness and action already taken by relevant private sector companies, including through the NWP Private Sector Initiative database⁵ and existing resources such as the OECD’s recent report on “Private sector engagement in adaptation to climate change”.⁶ Following

⁵ <<http://unfccc.int/6547>>

⁶ Available at <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/private-sector-engagement-in-adaptation-to-climate-change-approaches-to-managing-climate-risks_5kg221jkf1g7-en>

this, analysis could be undertaken to identify communication gaps that need to be filled and, a questionnaire could be designed and distributed to private sector partners to obtain a better understanding of communication gaps. At a later stage the private sector could be segmented into target groups and communications tools designed accordingly, building on the NWP Private Sector Initiative. A communication tool to engage with this target audience (e.g. an adaptation expo) could be designed. Progress could be defined through ensuring a two-way communication and evaluation plan, enabling experiences to be shared and reported back. Participants also felt that the number of NWP Private Sector Partners could be doubled.

B. Technical support for national adaptation plans

19. The group discussing technical support for NAPs identified key areas of technical support for the formulation of NAPs, which could be provided through the NWP. The priority areas identified were:

- o Knowledge sources: NAPs could need to build on multiple sources and areas of knowledge. This could include community knowledge, biological sciences and atmospheric science. Linkages between the different sources of information should be made. Cross-sectoral information will be required;
- o Analysing knowledge and information needs: A bottom-up approach could identify information gaps and needs at multiple scales. Non-climatic information would help identify adaptation responses and support planning. NAPs should be demand-driven and respond to local, sub-national and national needs;
- o Observing systems: These systems should be integrated at the planning stage of NAPs, so as to identify gaps and support the development and implementation of adequate national observing systems;
- o Scaling-up knowledge on the ground: Existing adaptation knowledge on the ground, for example on community-based adaptation, could be scaled-up to inform national level adaptation planning and NAPs;
- o Gender: Information on gender could be synthesized and scaled-up to inform NAP processes;
- o Social networks: NAPs could seek information from new constituencies, such as media and church groups;
- o Transboundary interaction: NAPs will need to address and consider information on the transboundary implications of adaptation responses.

20. The group recognised the importance of process in informing adaptation planning and decision making. The adaptation community is moving beyond focusing solely on information and data needs to inform adaptation planning, towards recognizing the importance of participatory approaches. For example, several NWP partners have developed frameworks, tools and guidelines for supporting national level decision making on adaptation. Such information is expected to be particularly relevant for the development of NAPs.

21. Opportunities for progress were identified:

- o A review of NWP Action Pledges to cluster and document information around the identified areas of technical support;
- o An inventory and mapping of Action Pledges to assess whether they adequately address the process of adaptation planning, with the possible issuing of a Call for Action to this regard as appropriate, and

development of a 'living document' to inform Parties and organizations of available areas of technical support and gaps for national adaptation plans.

C. Applying monitoring and evaluation approaches: experimentation and shared learning

22. The group discussing monitoring and evaluation (M&E) began by sharing current practices, experiences, successes and challenges through conversations in three smaller groups. The entire group then identified common principles of M&E, including the importance of: participation; taking a simple approach; M&E for adapting well; consideration of the context; using M&E processes to support iterative learning; and sharing lessons learned.

23. The group discussed core challenges for M&E, dividing them into two categories: 'hard to solve' and 'even harder'. 'Hard to solve' challenges relate to:

- o Developing indicators for a 'moving target' (relating to uncertainties in the climate system and future climate change and therefore what constitutes effective adaptation);
- o Transparency regarding M&E processes and findings; and
- o Defining and redefining success as we learn.

24. 'Harder challenges' relate to:

- o Lack of data on adaptation outcomes in terms of measuring progress achieved relative to a baseline (as opposed to data on adaptation processes, which is easier to obtain);
- o Politics and value judgments in M&E: Value judgments around why and to whom M&E matters affect what is measured, how is it measured, and who does the measuring;
- o M&E in 'fragile states': It is unlikely to be a priority in these places, compared to other endeavours;
- o Developing a working definition of adaptive capacity to allow greater consensus on indicators (there is currently still a lot of ambiguity and disagreement). Related to this, the need for clarity and agreement on the differences between resilience and adaptive capacity in practice (not just in conceptual terms) was discussed; and
- o Difficulties in measuring/quantifying, and tracking progress for, many of the intangible processes that make up adaptive capacity and enable adaptation across scales (e.g. coming up with indicators for flexibility, forward-looking decision making, information management, coordination, etc.).

25. The group reflected on these challenges, and what could be done collectively to move forward on them. Immediate steps (i.e. in Durban) were identified:

- o Encourage Parties to consider M&E in the SBI-SBSTA NWP workshop;
- o Attend the D&C Days Adaptation M&E Panel; and
- o Argue for linking M&E to the NAPs guidelines - both M&E of the UNFCCC's NAPs process and an M&E system as a component of a good national adaptation plan.

26. Opportunities for shared learning were identified by the group including:

- o The Adaptation Partnership's upcoming workshop on M&E in March;
- o National-level workshops on the topic would be helpful;
- o Electronic opportunities for knowledge sharing (e.g. webinars, website resources) could be streamlined and made more widely known;
- o Build on knowledge of M&E from 'outside' sources – e.g. outside of the climate change field (such as in natural resources management and other areas of development), and outside the UNFCCC (such as approaches developed in community-based adaptation).

IV. Summary of discussion

27. A range of opportunities were identified to catalyze collaborative action among Parties and partner organizations, building on ongoing activities under the NWP, as summarised in the table below.

<i>Theme</i>	<i>Opportunities</i>
Making use of strategic communication for adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Collect information on awareness of adaptation in the private sector, as well as action already taken by relevant private sector companies, including through the NWP Private Sector Initiative database and existing resources such as the OECD report; o Identify communication gaps that need to be filled through NWP private sector partners through a questionnaire; o Identify target groups and design communications tools designed accordingly, building on the NWP Private Sector Initiative; o Design a communication tool to engage with the target audience (e.g. adaptation expo); o Double NWP Private Sector Partners. o Review NWP Action Pledges to cluster and document information around the identified areas of technical support; o Conduct an inventory and mapping of Action Pledges to assess whether they adequately address the process of adaptation planning; o Issue a Call for Action under the NWP if appropriate; o Develop of a 'living document' to inform Parties and organizations of available areas of technical support and gaps for national adaptation plans. o Link M&E to the NAPs guidelines - both M&E of the UNFCCC's NAPs process and an M&E system as a component of a good national adaptation plan; o Share learning through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adaptation Partnership's upcoming workshop on M&E in March; • National-level workshops on the topic; • Development and dissemination of electronic opportunities for knowledge sharing (e.g. webinars, website resources); • Build on knowledge of M&E from 'outside' sources – e.g. outside of the climate change field (such as in natural resources management and other areas of development), and outside the UNFCCC (such as approaches developed in community-based adaptation).
Technical support for national adaptation plans	
Applying monitoring and evaluation approaches: experimentation and shared learning	

V. Next steps

28. At its thirty-fifth session the SBSTA noted the value of the Focal Point Forum in facilitating information exchange and collaboration between partner organisations.

29. The secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, will facilitate consideration by Parties and organizations of the outcomes of this Focal Point Forum to catalyze collaborative action among Parties and NWP partners.

30. Decision 6/CP.17, adopted by the Conference of Parties at its seventeenth session in Durban, provides several opportunities for engagement and collaboration with Parties and organizations. Among these, Parties and organizations are invited under the SBSTA to make submissions containing their views on potential future areas of work for the NWP. Decision 6/CP.17 also requested the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations, a technical workshop, before the thirty-seventh session of the SBSTA, on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies; and a technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change, before the thirty-eighth session of the SBSTA.

Annex 1: Agenda

Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

**Fifth Focal Point Forum, Durban, South Africa
29 November 2011, 18:00–21:00**

**Venue: International Convention Centre (ICC), Durban
Room: Marula**

Agenda

18:00–18:20	Opening: NWP update and introduction to thematic discussions
18.20–18:50	Brief presentations from thematic facilitators: Shereen Fotouh, JWT Mena - Making use of strategic communication for adaptation Kanta Kumari Rigaud, World Bank - Technical support for national adaptation plans Heather McGray, WRI - Applying monitoring and evaluation approaches: experimentation and shared learning
18:50–20:20	Thematic group discussions (in parallel, as detailed above)
20:20–20:50	Reporting back: actions, actors and timeframes for collaborative activities
20:50–21:00	Wrap up and closing

Annex 2: List of participants

Chair:	Mr Richard Muyangi (United Republic of Tanzania), Chair of the SBSTA
Co-Chairs:	Mr Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) and Ms Beth Lavender (Canada)
Facilitators:	Shereen Fotouh (JWT Mena), Kanta Kumari Rigaud (World Bank) and Heather McGray (World Resource Institute)

Representatives from Parties

Ghulam Rabani Nezirabi	Afghanistan
Richard Merzian	Department of Climate Change, Australia
Saber Osman	Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency
Nicolas Beriot	EU
Stéphane Nicolas	EU
Etienne Coyette	European Commission
Tapugao Falefou	Government of Tuvalu
Mataio Tekinene	Government of Tuvalu
Fatuma M.Hussein	Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, Kenya
Ali Mohamed	Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, Kenya
Lorena Santamaría Rojas	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable development, Colombia
Jana Kontrosová	Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic
Paz Valiente	Ministry of Environment, Spain
Khalid Omar Ali	Ministry of Fisheries and Environment, Somali Republic
	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (SERNA), Honduras
Manuel López Luna	
Madga Campos Barrantes	Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Costa Rica
Koji Yamada	Ministry of the Environment, Japan
Klaus Radunsky	Umweltbundesamt, Austria

Representatives from NWP Partner organizations

Emanuele Cuccillato	ACCC/DFID
Rebecca Nadin	ACCC/DFID
Julia Kennedy	Adaptation Partnership
Sarshen Marais	Conservation South Africa; Conservation International
Chinwe Ifejika Speranza	DIE
Marcus Kaplan	DIE
Adrian Simmons	ECMWF; GCOS Steering Committee Chair
Djminigue Nanasta	ENDA
William Westermeyer	GCOS
Tek Mahat	ICIMOD Nepal
Anne Hammill	IISD
Nigel Crawhall	IPACC Secretariat, IUCN WCPA
Renate Christ	IPCC
Ninni Ikkala	IUCN (Consultant)

Hiroki Kondo	JAMSTEC
Soojeong Myeong	Korea Environment Institute
Richard Jones	Met Office Hadley Center
Jeong Ah Yu	National Institute of Environmental Research
Roberto Villalobos Flores	National Meteorological Institute of Costa Rica
Michael Mullan	OECD
Rachel Berger	Practical Action
Michelle Slaney	Practical Action
Kathryn Gullason	SEI
Richard Klein	SEI
Karin Lexén	Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
Alex Veitch	UIC
Lucy Wanjiru	UNDP
John Crump	UNEP/GRID-ARENDAL
Justin Ginnetti	UNISDR
Chris Moseki	Water Research Commission
Sandra Freitas	WEDO
Rachel Harris	WEDO
Amir H. Delju	WMO
Mannava Sivakumar	WMO
Robin Mearns	World Bank
Aarjan Dixit	WRI