

## **Fourth meeting of the Adaptation Committee Nadi, Fiji, 5–7 September 2013**

### **Compilation of submissions received from regional institutions and United Nations agencies on current support for adaptation in developing countries**

#### **1. Introduction**

The Conference of the Parties, at its 18<sup>th</sup> session, adopted the draft three-year work plan of the Adaptation Committee (AC).<sup>1</sup> Within this work plan, the AC agreed to “invite regional institutions and United Nations (UN) agencies to communicate, as per the template developed by the Adaptation Committee, their current support for adaptation in developing countries, including in relation to capacity building, including of national institutions”.<sup>2</sup> Communications from these institutions and agencies would facilitate further consideration by the AC aimed at strengthening the roles of regional institutions and UN agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation action in developing countries.

Following considerations at the third meeting of the AC held from 18 to 19 June 2013, the secretariat finalised the template and issued the call for submissions. In line with the AC’s workplan, this note contains a compilation of submissions received. The note concludes with proposed next steps that the AC may wish to consider at its fourth meeting, including the preparation of an “information paper that strengthens the understanding of the roles of regional institutions and UN agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries” as per the AC’s workplan.

#### **2. Issuance of the call for submissions and responses**

In line with the conclusions from AC3, the secretariat made the call for submission through an invitation letter from the Chair of the AC. The letter was sent to the focal points of accredited UN and IGOs to the UNFCCC as well as to selected focal points of Nairobi work programme partner organizations.

From 121 requests for information, a total of 30 organizations responded, of which 28 provided input. The IPCC responded that given the particular nature of its work, its activities do not respond directly to the request of the AC. It referred the AC to two major IPCC activities that may be relevant to enhanced adaptation action in developing countries: the release of, and outreach work related to the IPCC’s Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, and the scope of the upcoming Working Group II and Working Group III contributions to the Fifth Assessment Reports. IMO also responded that they were not in a position to contribute.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SB/2012/3, annex II.

<sup>2</sup> Item 5 in annex II to FCCC/SB/2012/3.

In addition, the secretariat placed an open invitation on the AC and other relevant adaptation webpages. This open call resulted in another two responses.<sup>3</sup>

The input received is very comprehensive and organizations invested considerable amount of time in preparing their contributions. Many expressed their willingness to further engage with the AC in enhancing support for adaptation in developing countries. For example, the Executive Directors of UNITAR and UNFPA sent letters to this effect.

### **3. Overview of submissions**

The majority of the 30 organizations provided their submissions in a consolidated response using the template, whereas a few provided multiple inputs and some in other forms than the template. All submissions are available in the Adaptation Committee's dropbox folder.

The remainder of this section provides a short overview of the submissions received. Submissions will be analysed in more depth for the envisaged information paper. Each organization's basic information was classified using the Nairobi Work Programme classification of partner organization to provide comparable attributes.

#### ***Type of organizations***

In line with the call, the majority of the responses were received from UN and affiliated organizations (55%) with IGOs (19%) or national/regional programmes/projects (16%) as the second more common response. A small portion are from Non-governmental organizations or research institutions. Type of organization is reflected in its size: the majority of organizations have a budget greater than USD 15million (58%) while a significant number of organizations have a budget of less than USD 3million (23%).

#### ***Regional and sectoral focus of support***

The majority of respondents have a global presence or are found to be working in more than one region (55%). This includes UN organizations such as FAO, GEF, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, WFP or WHO. Of those respondents working in one region only, Asia was highlighted most (e.g. by ICIMOD, SAARC), followed by Africa (e.g. African Union Commission, CILSS and OSS) then Europe (e.g. REC, UNECE) and the Pacific (e.g. SPREP). The majority of organizations provide support to more than one sector (23%) or predominately in the food security, agricultural, forestry and fisheries sector (23%). Terrestrial ecosystems sector (16%), Transport, infrastructure, and human settlements (10%) (e.g. UNHABITAT) and Water resources (10%) (e.g. GWP, UNECE Water Convention) equate the remainder.

#### ***Scope and beneficiaries of support***

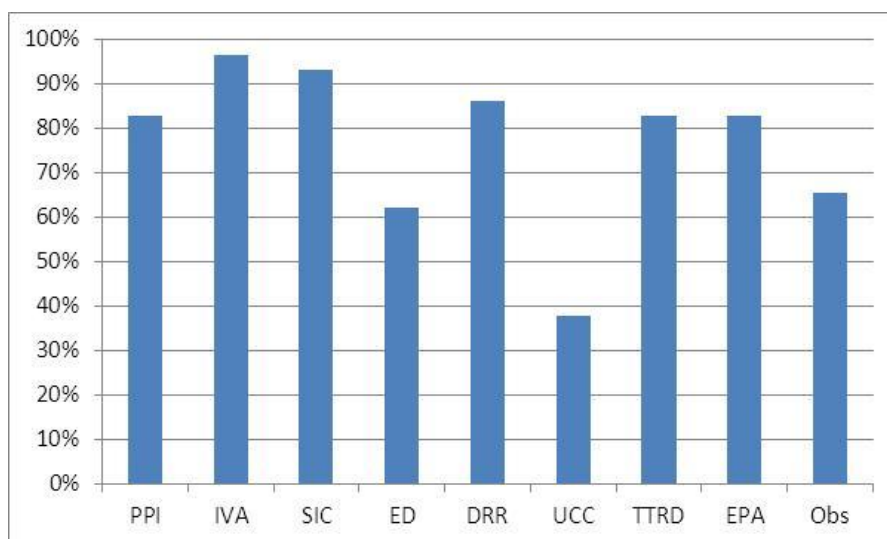
Organizations were asked to respond whether or not they provide support to adaptation in developing countries along nine categories. These categories were based on the Cancun Adaptation Framework's invitation to all Parties to enhance action on adaptation, inter alia, by undertaking nine distinct sets of activities (Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 14 (a-i)). If organizations indicated their support, they were also asked to provide details.

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<sup>3</sup> The list of organizations that responded is included in Annex 1.

Except for „Understanding, coordinating and cooperating on climate-related displacement“ (UCC), each category of support has more than 60% of the respondent’s active engagement (more than 19 organizations). „Impact and Vulnerability assessments“ (IVA) and „Strengthening institutional capacities“ (SIC) receive the most support with over 90% of the responding organizations’ acknowledging their involvement in this area (see figure 1 below). Table 1 illustrates the categories of support with examples taken from the submissions.

**Figure 1. Scope of support provided by the 30 responding organisations**



**Table 1. Illustrative examples of support provided by responding organizations**

**Abb. Category of support**

**PPI Planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions identified in national/subnational plans and strategies, national communications, NAPAs etc.**

- GEF projects funded by the LDCF and SCCF support recognized or priority adaptation needs as identified in the NAPA, National Communications to the UNFCCC, or other national/sub-national plans.
- GWP’s Water and Climate Development Programme in Africa putting in place investments for water security and climate resilience.
- OSS’s MECCA projects which pilots a multi-faceted approach for strengthening capacity of regional and sub-regional organisations in monitoring and evaluation of adaptation in preparation for widely supporting national planning and policy making and to reduce vulnerability at local levels.
- REC’s identification of adaptation “hot-spots” in the Southeastern European region through the intensification of multi-stakeholder dialogue with special attention to mountainous ecosystems.
- SPREP’s Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Program.
- UNECE Water Convention’s pilot projects support riparian countries in planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions at the transboundary level and in ensuring synergies between national and transboundary adaptation actions
- UNWTO’s sustainable tourism through adaptation project in Indonesia

**IVA Impact and vulnerability assessments (including financial needs)**

- CBD’s tools to assess threats and impacts of climate change on biodiversity are being made available on the CBD Climate Change Adaptation Database.
- HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation’s contribution to the development, testing, training and application of risk assessment tools such as CRISTAL.

- UNFPA's support to developing countries to incorporate population dynamics and data in national, provincial and local climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning.
  - UN-Habitat supports local authorities through its Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) to carry out state-of-the-art risk-, impact- and vulnerability assessments.
- SIC    Strengthening institutional capacities (of national institutions) and creating enabling environments**
- CILSS' provision of institutional support for African Climate Institutions.
  - IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) increases human capacity to manage short- and long-term climate risks and reduce losses from weather-related disasters, including through local institution capacity-building and adoption of agro-ecological farming models
  - UNESCAP's support to the local level in the area of integrated resource management in Asian cities, by providing technical advice to municipal administrations/planning offices and by facilitating the establishment of Nexus Task Forces.
  - UNITAR acts as the secretariat for the UN Climate Change Learn programme, working to provide a One UN approach to knowledge management, provision of training materials and the delivery of capacity development support to national governments in designing and implementing Climate Change Learning Strategies
  - WHO Regional Offices have developed regional action plans on climate change, including an emphasis on capacity development and technical support to national institutions.
- ED    Economic diversification**
- FAO-Adapt provides support to stakeholders to assess and understand current livelihood systems, adaptive capacities and vulnerabilities of different production systems to climate change.
  - PERSGA's development of regional guidelines for marine resources management, economic valuation, conservation and restoration of degraded habitats
  - UNDP supports countries with pursuing economic diversification strategies in a wide range of sectors (tourism, agriculture, fisheries, forestry and energy production). These efforts involve shifting strategies to respond to emerging climate changes and to develop systems that are resilient yet sufficiently flexible that they enable people to respond to change.
- DRR    Climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies, early warning systems, risk management**
- WFP's Livelihood Early Assessment and Protection (LEAP) programme providing an early warning system for food and nutrition security.
  - SAARC's South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN) acts as the common platform for sharing knowledge and information among the multiple stakeholders of the member countries of the South Asian Association for regional corporation.
  - UNU-EHS' Climate Risk Adaptation and Insurance project, which promotes weather-index based insurance as a risk management instrument in the Caribbean.
- UCC    Understanding, coordinating and cooperating on climate related displacement**
- ICIMOD research on the role of labour migration and remittances (both financial and social) in building household-level adaptive capacity and community resilience.
  - IOM supports policymakers in understanding better how migration can contribute to measures to promote adaptation to environmental and climate change, including through conducting national assessments, household surveys, trainings; and environmental migration map development.
- TTRD    Technology transfer, research and development**
- The UNEP-hosted Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) will be supporting the transfer, research and development of environmentally-sound

- adaptation technologies through responding to country requests and by fostering collaboration and partnerships.
- EPA    Education and public awareness**
- CABI's plant clinics raise awareness of plant health issues at community level. Wider publicity campaigns include 'plant health rallies' and other complementary mass extension methods
  - KACCC's training programs on various issues related to adaptation for Asia-Pacific countries once or twice a year
- Obs    Systematic observation for climate data collection, archiving, analysis and modeling**
- African Union Commission's support for African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development.
  - CSIRO's support to climate data collection, archiving, analysis and modeling in the Pacific and modeling in Asia

The beneficiaries of the support provided range in types and numbers. While some organizations such as FAO or CBD target their member states, some like CABI target small holder farmers exclusively. The majority of beneficiaries are government authorities and officials, including at national, regional and local level, and vulnerable communities. Other beneficiaries include civil society actors, regional institutions such as river commissions, entrepreneurs, and researchers. In terms of numbers, a sample-based assessment conducted in May 2013 by the GEF showed that 43 LDCF projects had 1.84 million direct beneficiaries, and 20 SCCF projects had 2.26 million direct beneficiaries. IFAD's ASAP programme impact target for 2020 is that 8 million poor smallholder farmers, including 4 million women and girls, increase their climate resilience.

#### 4. Next steps

In line with the proposed activities relating to ongoing support for adaptation provided by regional institutions and UN agencies, as included in the approved AC work plan, the AC may consider the following actions:

1. The secretariat to issue a reminder to the call and approach those organizations, especially regional centers and networks, that have not been included in the first call but were recommended by the organizations that responded already (*Q3 and Q4 2013*);
2. The secretariat to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the submissions and prepare an information paper that strengthens the understanding of the roles of relevant institutions and agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries, for consideration at AC5.

The AC may also wish to consider broadening the scope of the call to include NGO's, which provide significant support for adaptation in developing countries and who have already responded indicating their willingness to contribute.

**Annex 1: List of organizations that provided input in response to the call for submission**

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Name of organization</b>
AUC	African Union Commission
CABI	CAB International
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CILSS	Comité permanent inter-états de lutte contre la sécheresse au Sahel
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP	Global Water Partnership
	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation*
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KACC	Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change*
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
PERSGA	The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
REC	Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UNECE Water Convention	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNU	United Nations University
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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\* Responded to the open call.