
**Fifth meeting of the Adaptation Committee
Bonn, Germany, 5-7 March 2014**

Scoping paper

Joint meeting of the Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi work programme: Available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The AC, at its fifth meeting, may wish to endorse the scoping paper and provide any further guidance to the secretariat on the organization of the meeting.

A. Introduction

The Adaptation Committee (AC), in its three year workplan, which was approved at COP18, agreed to convene a workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities with input from and the participation of relevant bodies and programmes in order to share technical adaptation-related expertise.

SBSTA 38 requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and in collaboration with relevant organizations, to organize a technical expert meeting, before SBSTA 40 (June 2014), on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, with a view to developing recommendations for practitioners on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Following a recommendation from the AC, SBSTA 39 further requested the secretariat to organize this in conjunction with the AC's workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities.¹

B. Date and venue

The meeting will be held from 1 to 4 April 2014 in Bonn, Germany.²

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 13(a).

² The meeting website is available at <unfccc.int/8020>.

C. Scope and focus

In accordance with the mandates, this meeting will:

- Discuss the use of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices, including to address the needs of local and indigenous communities as well as to inform national and international adaptation planning and action;
- Discuss application of gender sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;
- Consider recommendations on the use of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices for adaptation, including to address the needs of local and indigenous communities for practitioners as well as to inform national and international adaptation planning and action; and
- Consider recommendations for practitioners on the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

The meeting will seek to address a series of questions around the two themes of the meeting: the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools.

On the theme of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, the meeting will focus on addressing the following questions:

1. What are best practices, trends, needs and limitations in the use of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices?
2. How can indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices be collected, evaluated and disseminated for use by local, national and international adaptation practitioners?
3. How can indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices inform adaptation and how can practitioners integrate indigenous, traditional and local knowledge with scientific knowledge in adaptation planning and implementation? When is it appropriate to do so?
4. How can holders of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices be effectively engaged in the adaptation process?

With respect to the theme of gender-sensitive approaches and tools, the following questions will be explored:

1. What gender-sensitive tools and approaches exist at different levels and sectors to support the understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change?
2. How can information on approaches and tools be collected, evaluated and disseminated for use by local, national and international adaptation practitioners?
3. How can gender-sensitive approaches and tools inform adaptation and how can practitioners integrate gender-sensitive approaches and tools in understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change? When is it appropriate to do so?
4. How can adaptation practitioners best apply gender-sensitive approaches and tools across adaptation process and ensure that adaptation initiatives are gender-sensitive?

D. Expected outcomes

In addressing these questions, participants are expected to arrive at a shared understanding of best practices and needs at the community level, as well as gender-sensitive approaches and tools to date, with a view to identifying good practices, lessons learned, and gaps, which could inform the development of recommendations for practitioners on the use of local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of

gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Given the mandate to organize this event as a joint meeting between the AC and the NWP, the key outcomes of the meeting will be captured in the report (an information document) to be made available for SBSTA 40 under the Nairobi work programme. This report will include outcomes from the respective NWP and AC mandates, and synergy between the two. The SBSTA may wish to consider those recommendations that pertain to its mandate (i.e. the provision of scientific and technological advice).

The AC will consider the outcomes of this meeting, including the report of the meeting outlined above, at its sixth meeting (August/September 2014) to identify recommendations and guidance for consideration by the COP, as appropriate and as needed, with a view to providing technical support and guidance to Parties, in order to facilitate the enhanced implementation of adaptation actions.

In addition to the information document, there will be a knowledge product, a possible joint effort between the NWP, the AC and relevant experts, to highlight key issues, including gaps and needs as well as good practices.

E. Participants

The four-day meeting will engage 50 to 70 relevant experts and adaptation practitioners from international, regional, national, and local levels, including representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations, development banks, research institutes, indigenous peoples organizations, gender groups and other civil society stakeholders.

In addition, in line with the AC's workplan, representatives from the Standing Committee on Finance, the Technology Executive Committee, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Board of the Green Climate Fund and the LDC Fund/ Special Climate Change Fund will be invited as well.

F. Structure of the meeting

The meeting will be held under guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and the Co-chairs of the AC. It will address the questions outlined in Section C above in a number of sessions, which would take place in a combination of plenary, panel discussions and breakout groups. Following an opening session on the first day, the meeting will be divided into two parts, with the first two days focusing on the theme of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices while the last two days will address the theme of gender-sensitive approaches and tools.

Opening session

(Day I: chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA and the Co-Chairs of the AC)

This will include welcome addresses and a general introduction to the work of the NWP, AC, and the meeting objectives and agenda.

Part one: the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices

(Day I and day II: chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA and the Co-Chairs of the AC)

Session 1 - Framing. This session will introduce participants to the significance of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices for adaptation that are applied for adaptation, thus bringing all participants up to a baseline level of understanding.

Session 2 – Identifying best practices, lessons learned, trends, needs and limitations in the use of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices.

Based on a variety of case studies from different countries, sectors and communities facing different climate hazards, participants will develop a shared understanding of the tools and

practices used, as well as of ways to evaluate the effectiveness and applicability of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices. In addition, participants will elaborate on best practices, lessons learned, common trends, needs and limitations of applying indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices in the adaptation process (e.g. for observation, assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation). Participants will be divided into small groups to facilitate in-depth discussion, with examples from different countries, sectors, communities and hazards.

Session 3 – Collecting, evaluating and disseminating knowledge and tools for use by local, national and international adaptation practitioners.

Participants will share lessons learned and good practices for collecting, evaluating and disseminating information on, and tools for the use of, local, traditional and indigenous knowledge and practices at different levels and in different sectors and countries. Participants will also identify means to identify good practices from local, indigenous and traditional communities as well as dissemination strategies so that good practices and lessons learned could inform not only local communities but also national and international adaptation practitioners.

Session 4 – Integrating local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices.

This session seeks to address key issues related to integrating indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices in adaptation planning and implementation at different levels. Issues to be considered include: institutions, stakeholders and decision-making; monitoring and evaluation tools; opportunities, needs and limitations. Participants will also consider how indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices could inform the adaptation process, through exploring how such knowledge and practices are created and evolve over time, and are assimilated into local communities to address new threats. Participants will consider what practical lessons could be drawn to help adaptation practitioners in integrating local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices with scientific knowledge in adaptation planning and implementation.

Session 5 - Enhancing the engagement of holders of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices in adaptation. Taking into account the results of the previous sessions, this session seeks to identify recommendations on how to enhance the engagement of holders of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices for adaptation, including addressing needs and scaling up best practices. Participants will consider recommendations that could help adaptation practitioners in linking holders of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices with adaptation practitioners in the adaptation planning and implementation process.

Part two: gender-sensitive approaches and tools

(Day III and day IV: chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA)

Session 1 - Framing. It will introduce participants to the linkages between gender and climate change, and to the significance of gender-sensitive adaptation.

Session 2 – Identifying best practices, trends, needs and limitations in the application of gender-sensitive tools and approaches.

Based on a variety of case studies from different countries, sectors and communities facing different climate hazards, participants will develop a common understanding of gender-sensitive tools and approaches used, as well as on ways to evaluate the effectiveness and applicability of these approaches and tools. In addition, participants will elaborate on best practices, lessons learned, common trends, needs and limitations of applying gender-sensitive tools and approaches for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. Participants will be divided into small groups to facilitate in-depth discussion, with examples from different countries, sectors, communities and hazards.

Session 3 – Collecting, evaluating and disseminating information on gender-sensitive tools and approaches and their application for adaptation.

In this session, participants will share lessons learned and good practices for collecting, evaluating and disseminating information on gender-sensitive approaches and tools, and their application at different levels and countries. Participants will also discuss means to identify good practices, as well as dissemination strategies for use by local, national and international adaptation practitioners.

Session 4 – Integrating gender-sensitive tools and approaches.

This session focuses on issues relating to the integration of gender-sensitive knowledge and practices in impacts and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning and implementation at different levels. Key issues to be considered include: institutions, stakeholders and decision-making processes; monitoring and evaluation tools; opportunities, needs and limitations.

Session 5 - Enhancing the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation. Taking into account the results of the previous sessions, this session seeks to clarify how to enhance the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, including addressing needs and scaling up best practices. Participants will consider recommendations that could help adaptation practitioners in applying gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation planning and implementation ensuring that adaptation initiatives are gender-sensitive.

Closing session - chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA.

The first part of the closing session will highlight key messages from earlier sessions and could also address synergies between addressing local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and gender consideration in adaptation planning and practice. The second part of the session will include the official closing of the meeting by the Chair of the SBSTA.

G. Background materials and preparatory work

The meeting, including the selection of participants, will be informed by:

- The technical paper on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;³
- Case studies on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation;⁴
- The database on local coping strategies;⁵
- 2003 Workshop on local coping strategies and technologies for adaptation;⁶
- Case studies on the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.⁷

In addition, participants will be requested to provide responses to the above policy questions prior to the meeting (1-3 pages). This information will help to identify presenters and further areas of discussions for the different sessions.⁸

³ FCCC/TP/2013/11.

⁴ <unfccc.int/7769>.

⁵ <<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation/>>.

⁶ The agenda, presentations and the report are available here <unfccc.int/3956>.

⁷ <unfccc.int/7786>.

⁸ This practice has been successfully applied in the NWP workshop on the costs and benefits of adaptation and the AC workshop on the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation.