

Third meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 18–20 June 2013

Report on the review of existing lists of adaptation experts

1. Introduction

The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its 18th session, adopted the draft three-year work plan of the Adaptation Committee (AC).¹ Within this work plan, the AC agreed on the preparation of a list of adaptation experts, drawing on existing rosters.

Taking into account the background note on preparing a list of experts, the AC, at its second meeting, noted that a range of expert lists are already operational both within and outside the UN system. To further assist the AC in considering this item, the secretariat was requested:

- To finalize the selection criteria, based on recommendations made by the breakout group at AC 2; and
- To prepare a review of existing lists of experts, including the frequency at which these lists are updated.

2. Criteria for selecting experts

Taking into account the selection criteria presented in the background note, the outcomes of the break-out group and plenary discussions at the second AC meeting, the AC may wish to consider the following criteria:

Purpose for which the expertise is sought, for example:

- To carry out relevant work under the 3-year work plan of the AC (e.g. provision of substantive inputs to publications, expert meetings);
- To provide technical backstopping to Parties upon request, under the guidance of the AC.

Prior experience: Experts could primarily be drawn from UNFCCC rosters, i.e. priority given to experts who have supported relevant activities such as national communications or NAPAs in the past and only secondly from other lists.

Thematic expertise, for example:

- Climate science;
- Climate change impacts and vulnerability (assessments);
- Adaptation planning and practices;
- Adaptation finance;
- Adaptation technologies;
- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Cross-cutting themes (e.g. communications, gender, knowledge management, capacity-building).

Professional background, including sectors in which experts are active and types of professions, such as engineers, scientists, public administrators, practitioners, economists, educators, etc.

Geographic coverage and language diversity. While diversity in regions and languages is desirable, calls for such diversity would increase the number of experts rather than restrict them.

Availability/accessibility.

¹ FCCC/SB/2012/3, annex II.

3. Review of existing rosters of adaptation experts

The following eight lists of experts were reviewed:

- Rosters under the UNFCCC:
 - List of experts for NAPA preparation and implementation;²
 - List of experts under the Nairobi work programme,³ through its partner organizations;⁴
 - UNFCCC Roster of experts;⁵
- Rosters by other UN organizations:
 - UNDP's and UNEP's National Communications Support Programme (NCSP)'s Roster of experts on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation;⁶
 - Roster of experts developed by UNCCD;⁷
 - Roster of gender experts developed by UNEP.⁸
- Rosters by other organizations:
 - Roster of Experts developed by the Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN);⁹
 - Experts included in the writing team of IPCC's AR5 Working Group II 'Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability'.¹⁰

The review focused on aspects of relevance to the AC. On the one hand the features of the rosters were reviewed, including their purpose, how many experts were included and how these lists were maintained. On the other, the review looked at the included experts and evaluated them according to the above selection criteria by the AC, including thematic expertise, profession, geographic and language diversity as well as accessible information. The results of the review are included in the table below.

Besides the reviewed public rosters of experts, it is worth noting that some UN organizations keep internal lists of consultants or experts in order to assist them in undertaking their work. See for example UNFCCC's list of consultants¹¹ or UNDP's roster of experts.¹²

² <<http://unfccc.int/3541>>.

³ This list will soon be deactivated from the webpage but the secretariat will continue to maintain the list offline.

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/partners_and_action_pledges/items/5005.php?nwp=exp>.

⁵ <<http://unfccc.int/534>>.

⁶ <<http://ncsp.undp.org/roster?keys=&tid=163&country=All>>.

⁷ <<http://www.unccd.int/en/programmes/Science/Roster-of-Experts/Pages/default.aspx>>.

⁸ <<http://www.unep.org/gender/data/GenderDatabase/FrequentlyAskedQuestions/tabid/54773/Default.aspx>>.

⁹ <<http://experts.cdkn.org/search>>.

¹⁰ <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/AR5_authors.php#14>.

¹¹ <<https://unfccc.int/secretariat/employment/consultancy.html>>.

¹² <<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/ourwork/capacitybuilding/roster>>.

Adaptation Committee

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Table. Review of existing lists of experts

Name of roster	Features of the roster			Features of the included experts				
	Purpose	Management	# of experts	Thematic expertise	Profession	Geographic region and scales	Languages	Accessible information
Rosters under the UNFCCC								
List of NAPA experts	Technical support for LDCs for the NAPAs	Maintained by the Secretariat; Nominated by Focal points, LEG, NGOs	15	Specific to the different NAPA steps	Agronomists, Economists, Engineers, and not specified	Global, Africa, Pacific National, sub-national	EN, ES, FR, PT and other African languages	Name, affiliation
NWP Experts	Technical support in implementing the NWP	Maintained by the Secretariat; Nominated by NWP partners	47	Expertise along different sectors, NWP work areas, climate hazards and activities	N.A.	All regions and scales	N.A.	Name, affiliation, function
UNFCCC Roster of experts	Technical support for the Convention bodies	Maintained by the Secretariat; Nominated by Focal points	360	Adaptation in general	N.A.	All regions and scales	Diversity in languages	Name, country, affiliation
Rosters by other UN organizations								
NCSP Roster of experts	Technical support for V&A part in national communications	Maintained by NCSP	62	Expertise along sectors, modeling, scenarios, impact assessments	Diversity, many researchers	All regions and scales	Diversity in languages	Name, country, affiliation, contact, CV
UNCCD Roster of experts	Technical support for the UNCCD COP hoc	Maintained by the UNCCD Secretariat; Nominated by UNCCD Focal points	1900	Combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought	Variety of disciplines, mainly natural resources management	Regions included in UNCCD, majority from Africa and Asia	Diversity in languages	N.A.
UNEP's Roster of gender experts	Support for UNEP to deliver services to developing countries	Currently being developed by UNEP; self-nomination subject to approval	6	Range of climate and development themes and competencies	N.A.	Africa, Asia, Latin America	Diversity in languages	N.A.

Name of roster	Features of the roster			Features of the included experts				
	Purpose	Management	# of experts	Thematic expertise	Profession	Geographic region and scales	Languages	Accessible information
Rosters by other organizations								
CDKN Roster of experts	Primary source of service providers for the research, technical assistance and knowledge management projects that CDKN funds	Maintained by CDKN; self-nomination subject to approval	339	Adaptation and a variety of competencies: V&A assessment, M&E, financing, Capacity-building	Diversity	All regions and scales	Diversity in languages	Name, country, affiliation, competencies, short biography
Writing team of IPCC AR5 WG II	Draft the AR5 of WGII	Maintained by IPCC Secretariat; nomination by countries	>100	Across the chapters of the report	Diversity, many researchers	All regions	Diversity with emphasis on English	Name, affiliation

In terms of their purpose, many rosters seek to provide an up-to-date list of experts that could provide technical support either to the organization under which the roster was developed or to developing countries.

The reviewed rosters are all regularly updated, i.e. their last update occurred in 2012. However information on the frequency of such updates is lacking. Many rosters request the experts listed or the nominating Party to provide updates. For example, the UNFCCC secretariat continuously invites National Focal Points to nominate new experts; regularly check and, where necessary, update information; and to remove experts if they are no longer available for cooperation.

While some lists of experts are quite small, such as the lists of NAPA or NWP experts, others such as the UNFCCC or NCSP rosters of experts provide a large number of experts, many of which have worked on UNFCCC activities before. In addition, experts included in the reviewed rosters have undergone quality control as they have been either nominated by a country or, if they nominated themselves, were subject to approval.

Those reviewed rosters which included more than 100 experts (UNFCCC, UNCCD, IPCC and CDKN) all have the full spectrum of thematic expertise, regions, scales and languages. Given that many rosters do have similar purposes and seek for similar expertise, it comes as no surprise that the same expert is included in more than one list. For example, Ms. Balgis Osman-Elasha from Sudan is included in the rosters of the UNFCCC, NCSP, CDKN and on the IPCC's writing team.

Finally with regard to accessible information of the expert, most of the rosters include name and affiliation. Some like NCSP or CDKN even provide a CV or short biography and some contact information.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

The reviewed lists of experts offer sufficient expertise to serve the identified purpose of the AC. The selection criteria as agreed by the AC can be broadly applied to the reviewed lists. Access to these lists can be assured as they are either maintained by the UNFCCC or other organizations, including some that have already expressed an interest in supporting the work of the AC.

Given the finite number of adaptation experts worldwide as seen in the duplication of experts in the different lists, it worth questioning whether a new list of experts developed by the AC could add value. The resources required for setting up and maintaining a list of experts could alternatively be used for the implementation of other priority AC activities.

Finally, examples from the NCSP could be used to illustrate that services of experts will need to be compensated. In the case of NCSP, a combination of budget allocation from the NCSP and country national communication project budgets was used to pay for the services of experts in assisting Parties with specific technical issues relating to vulnerability and adaptation assessments.

In conclusion, the AC may wish to consider relying on existing lists of experts until it deems those lists to be insufficient for its purposes. The AC may also wish to use its call for submissions by regional institutions and United Nations agencies on support for adaptation to identify experts or organizations that could either support the AC's work or provide technical backstopping to Parties upon request.

5. Next steps

The AC may wish to use the information provided in this report to agree on next steps, as appropriate.