

**Second meeting of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International  
Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts  
Bonn, Germany, 2–5 February 2016**

**Background paper on Action Area 3, activity (a) of the initial two-year workplan of the  
Executive Committee**

<b>Action Area 3:</b> Enhance data on and knowledge of the risks of slow onset events and their impacts, and identify ways forward on approaches to address slow onset events associated with the adverse effects of climate change with specific focus on potential impacts, within countries and regions
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<b>Activity (a):</b> Take stock of organizations that are working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts
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<b>Expected results:</b> Mapping of organizations and their efforts carried out
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## **I. Background**

1. At the first meeting of the Executive Committee (Excom 1), the Executive Committee (Excom) considered the implementation of Action Area 3, activity (a), of its initial two-year workplan, and agreed on the initial guideline for this activity. The secretariat was requested to undertake the work in accordance with the agreed initial guideline.
2. This paper provides an overview of the mapping (section II), status of this activity (section III), elements of mapping (section IV), suggestions for further work (section V), and a draft synopsis of the mapping results (annex).

## **II. Overview of the mapping**

3. Scope of the mapping: The mapping covers a total of 151 organizations working on slow onset events (SOEs). The information on these organizations, including the scope of their current efforts, has been mapped against the elements indicated in section IV below.
4. Sources of information: Information underlying the mapping has been drawn from the following sources:
  - (a) Previous technical work carried out in the context of the work programme on loss and damage, including a technical paper on gaps in existing institutional arrangements within and outside the Convention to address loss and damage, including those related to slow onset events (FCCC/TP/2013/12)<sup>1</sup> and the regional expert meetings;<sup>2</sup> and
  - (b) Web-based desk research undertaken during the second half of 2015.
5. Limitations: The stocktaking does not extend to those organizations working at the national or sub-national

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<sup>1</sup> 73 organizations included in the technical paper are mapped. Relevant inputs provided by organizations at the time of development of the technical paper have also been used

<[http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced\\_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007650#beg](http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600007650#beg)>.

<sup>2</sup> Available at <[http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workshops\\_meetings/items/6989.php#LaD](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/workshops_meetings/items/6989.php#LaD)>.

levels. While attempts were made to cover organizations working on SOEs at the international and regional levels, the results should not be treated as exhaustive.

- 6. The activity was undertaken based on publicly available, largely web-based information in English, or on in-house technical information previously developed/collected. Due to time constraints, mapped organizations have not been contacted to review the accuracy of the information nor were expert reviews conducted to ensure comprehensive coverage of relevant information. The collected information was mapped with best efforts by the secretariat. However, the element of subjectivity should be acknowledged, and the level of detail of the information across the mapped organizations varies.
- 7. Taxonomy (data classification): Taxonomy used in this mapping has been adopted from the taxonomy of existing databases<sup>3</sup> on the UNFCCC website in order to ensure compatibility of data.

**III. Current status of the activity**

- 8. In accordance with the initial guidance as agreed at Excom 1, the following initial outputs have been made available:
  - (a) An Excel file containing the data and metadata of the mapping results (available at the Excom Collaboration Space);
  - (b) An online database available at <<http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/soe.aspx>>.
- 9. In addition, a draft synopsis of the mapping results (see the annex) has also been developed in order to provide a user-friendly knowledge product on the work of the Excom.

**IV. Elements of the mapping**

10. The organizations are mapped against information on the following elements:

(a) *Types of organizations*:

Intergovernmental organization	Non-governmental organization
Private sector	Regional centre/network/initiative
Research institution	UN and affiliated organization
University/academic institution	

(b) *Geographic regions* where the major efforts and work on SOEs are targeted:

Africa	Asia	Caribbean and Central America	Europe
North America	Pacific/Oceania	Polar regions	South America

(c) *Types of SOEs* as contained in Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 25:

Desertification	Glacial retreat and related impacts	Increasing temperatures
Land and forest degradation	Loss of biodiversity	Ocean acidification
Salinization	Sea level rise	

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<sup>3</sup> Such as NAP Central <<http://www4.unfccc.int/nap>> and those developed under the Nairobi work programme <<http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP>>.

(d) *Indicative scope of work:*

Assessment	Design of approaches	Data collection and management
Implementation	Investment	Stakeholder engagement
Communication and outreach		

(e) *Relevant stakeholders:*

Academics and scientists	Communities	Policy makers
Practitioners	Private sector	

## 11. The database also includes the following descriptive information on the mapped organizations:

- (a) Relevant institutional mandates and operational frameworks: general information for the mapped organizations, such as their organizational mandates and objectives and institutional structure, as appropriate;
- (b) Implementation modality, approaches used and delivery mechanism: information on existing modalities for external stakeholder engagement, e.g. platforms, regular meetings or fora, online tools, etc., and existing channels for collaboration;
- (c) Description of relevant efforts on SOEs: information on the work, efforts and concrete activities of organizations addressing SOEs and climate change impacts;
- (d) Target beneficiaries: brief information on those people, communities and populations living in the regions where an organization targets its efforts;
- (e) Outputs: web links to data and knowledge resources and outputs, e.g. publications, reports, online tools, databases, etc.

**V. Suggestions for further work**

12. In order to improve the quality of the current information, and to update the database, the Excom may wish to consider the following:
  - (a) The secretariat to invite the mapped organizations to review the online database and update/modify the information as appropriate, and to provide suggestions on additional institutions/ organizations to survey;
  - (b) The secretariat to make available a template for organizations to submit relevant information.
13. The Excom may also wish to consider how the results of the mapping of organizations and their efforts carried out under this activity could serve as an input for the implementation of the subsequent activities under this Action Area.

**Annex:** Draft synopsis of the mapped organizations working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts.

# EXCOM SYNOPSES SERIES STOCKTAKING OF ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON SLOW ONSET EVENTS AND THE SCOPE OF THEIR CURRENT EFFORTS

The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (Excom) guides the implementation of the following functions of the Mechanism:

- ⇒ Enhance knowledge and understanding
- ⇒ Strengthen dialogue, coordination, coherence
- ⇒ Enhance action and support

The Excom synopses series aims to provide a summary of the technical work carried out by the Excom.

This synopsis provides a snapshot as of December 2015 of the information contained in the online database available at <http://xxx>

## RELEVANT ACTIVITY OF THE EXCOM WORKPLAN

**Action area 3:** Enhance data on and knowledge of the risks of slow onset events and their impacts, and identify ways forward on approaches to address slow onset events associated with the adverse effects of climate change with specific focus on potential impacts, within countries and regions

**Activity (a):** Take stock of organizations that are working on slow onset events and the scope of their current efforts

**Expected result:** Mapping of organizations and their efforts carried out

## FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE MAPPING

**151** ORGANIZATIONS  
MAPPED

33 Intergovernmental organizations

28 Regional centers/networks/initiatives

28 Nongovernmental organizations

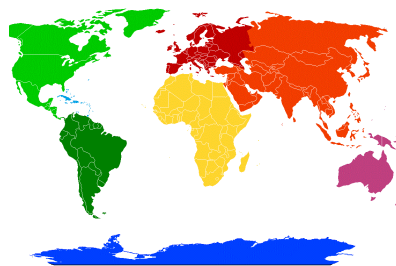
27 UN and affiliated organizations

19 Research institutions

11 University/academic institutions

5 Private sector organizations

**8** REGIONS



**7** TYPES OF SCOPE  
OF EFFORTS

Communication and outreach 76

Assessment 75

Data collection and management 62

Design of approaches 55

Stakeholder engagement 54

Investment 44

Implementation and support 38

**8** SLOW ONSET EVENTS \*



Rising temperatures



Loss of biodiversity



Glacial retreat and related impacts



Sea level rise



Desertification



Land and forest degradation



Ocean acidification



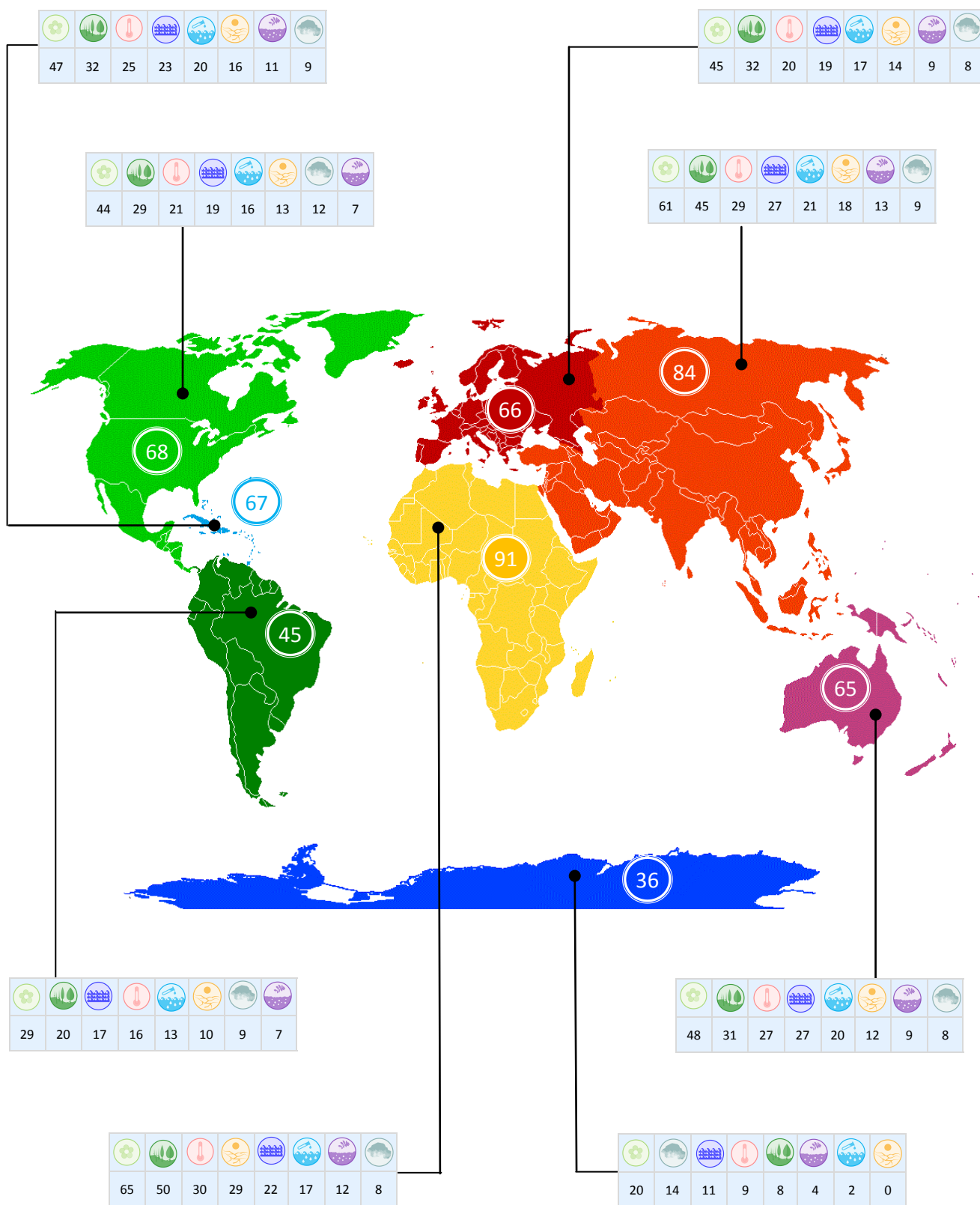
Salinization









\* as defined in decision 1/CP.16

An online database of the mapped organizations is available [here >>](#)

To submit updates and additional information on any entries in the database, please use this [template >>](#)

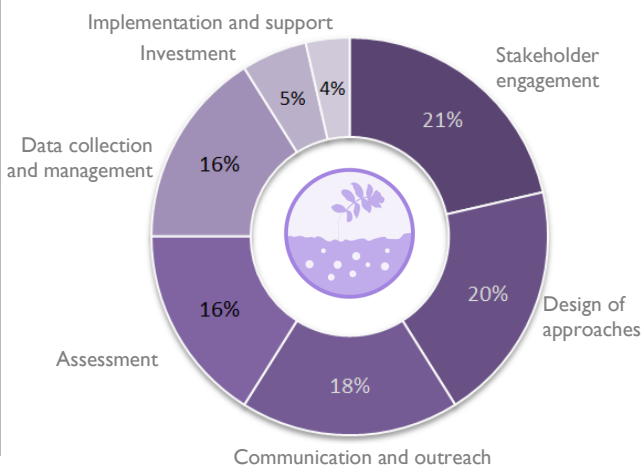
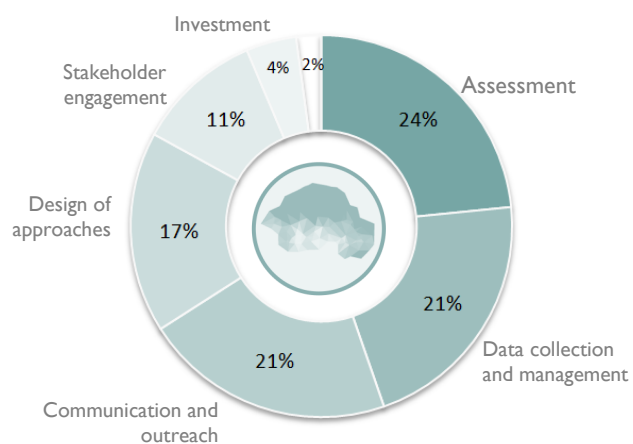
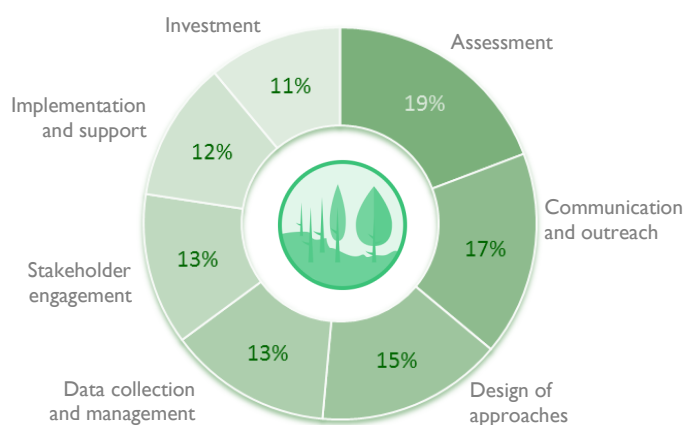
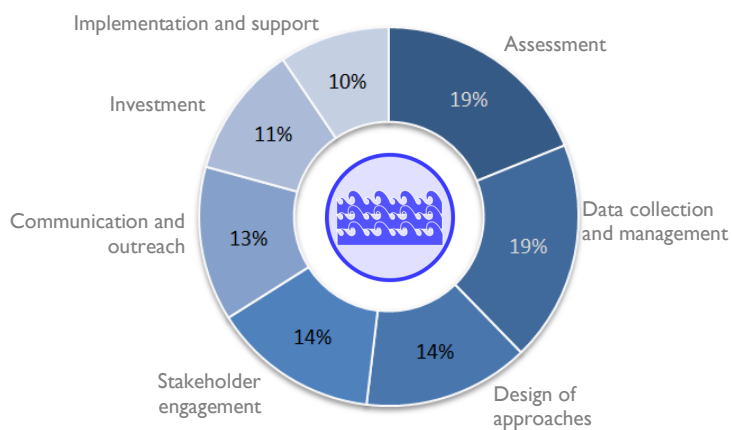
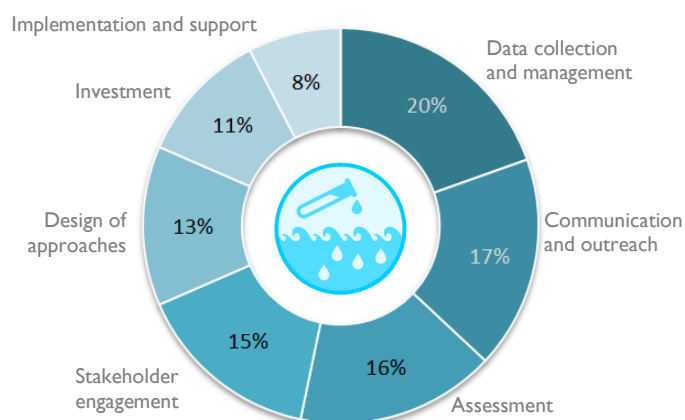
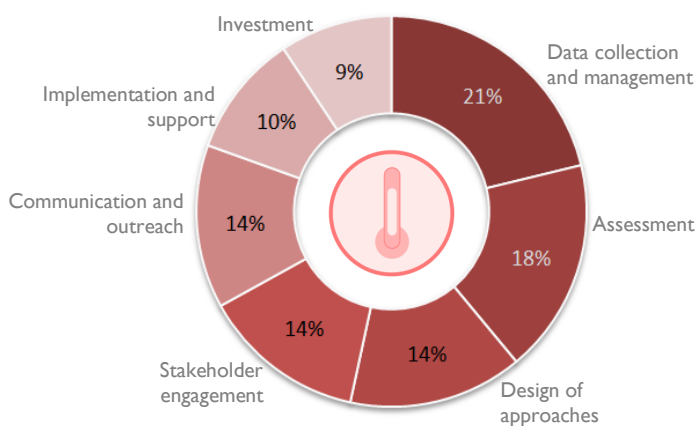
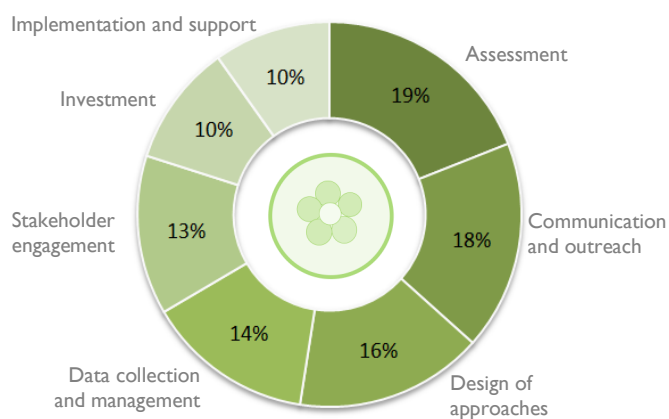
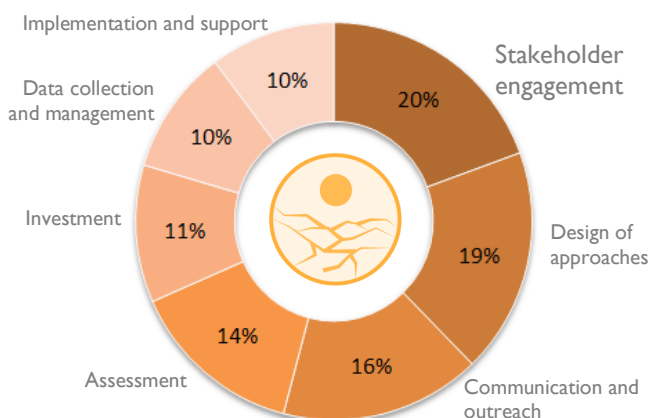
## MAPPING RESULTS BY REGION



-  Rising temperatures
-  Land and forest degradation
-  Sea level rise
-  Desertification
-  Glacial retreat and related impacts
-  Salinization
-  Loss of biodiversity
-  Ocean acidification

\* Some organizations work in more than one region or worldwide, and on more than one slow onset event.

## MAPPING RESULTS BY SCOPE OF EFFORTS



## DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ONLINE DATABASE

The online database on the organizations working on slow onset events and their efforts also contains the following information:

Relevant institutional mandates and operational frameworks	General information on the mapped organizations, such as the type of their activities, mandates, objectives and organizational structure
Implementation modality, approaches used and delivery mechanism	Information on currently available modalities for external stakeholder engagement (e.g. platforms, regular meetings or fora, online tools, etc.) and existing channels for collaboration
Description of relevant efforts to address slow onset events	Detailed information on the scope of work (assessment, data collection and management, design of approaches, stakeholder engagement, communication and outreach, implementation and support, investment) and concrete activities addressing climate change impacts, and slow onset events in particular  It also includes an indication whether these efforts address related to non-economic losses
Outputs	Quick links to the most relevant resources and outputs of organizations (e.g. publications, reports, online tools, databases, etc.)
Relevant stakeholders and target beneficiaries	Academics and scientists, communities, policy makers, practitioners, private sector

In addition to the Excom synopses series, other synopses on loss and damage are available at [www.unfccc.int/9103](http://www.unfccc.int/9103)

For further information, please contact [loss-damage@unfccc.int](mailto:loss-damage@unfccc.int)

