

CALL FOR ACTION



NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Promoting the development and dissemination of methods and tools for assessment and improvement of adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration with sustainable development

Collecting, analysing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including adaptation projects, short- and long-term adaptation strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge

GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING

Adaptation requires an approach **in and across-sectors** as part of an overall sustainable development strategy, since uncoordinated sectoral responses can be ineffective or even counterproductive given that responses in one sector can increase the vulnerability of another sector or reduce the effectiveness of adaptation responses taken in another sector.

Besides, sectors face specific constraints to plan and implement adaptation. In the health sector constraints include insufficient understanding and recognition among health practitioners of the need for adaptation planning, and the overall lack of vulnerability and adaptation assessments for different health outcomes. Adaptation in the agriculture sector is hindered by a lack of local dissemination of relevant information, and of more long-term strategies or climate-proof rural development plans. In regards to water resources, there is a need for capacity building and for socio-economic and observational data tailored to water sector planners and for a better understanding of adaptation options at different scales. In coastal zones, barriers include limited understanding of the adaptive capacity of coastal zones and of the connections between social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects specific to each area.

Overall, there is a need to enhance the integration of adaptation into development and budgetary planning policies across all sectors and levels. There is also a need to engage the private sector in adaptation, possibly by promoting a business charter on adaptation, in which the private sector highlights good practices in integrating adaptation into their operations.

NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

To assist all Parties, in particular developing countries including the least developed countries and small island developing States, 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 socioeconomic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

Call for Action 06 – June 2008

<http://unfccc.int/3633.php>

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ACTIVITIES

The SBSTA requested the secretariat to strive to engage a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. The SBSTA urged relevant organizations and other stakeholders to undertake their own activities in support of the objective and themes identified in decision 2/CP.11 and to share outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate.¹

Activities identified under the focus area of **adaptation planning and practices**² include:

Cross-sectoral integration

- Provide support for the development of legal and institutional frameworks to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration on adaptation, including public and private sectors. Use existing or create new national adaptation platforms to bring together sectoral stakeholders and experts for developing integrative adaptation strategies and plans.
- Develop a 'How to' document to provide guidance on integration that includes integrated planning tools to assess possible trade-offs and case studies of projects with sectoral synergies.
- Make use of regional organizations and their meetings, for example the UN economic commissions, to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration on adaptation through information exchange and common projects.
- Map vulnerability in urban areas

Health

- Carry out research and surveys on climate change impacts and health outcomes, especially regarding the changing distribution of diseases, the identification of new risk areas and options to reduce health impacts. Disseminate the results widely.
- Develop a general health strategy across agencies that includes a common portfolio with methods and tools; best practices aimed at climate proofing the health sector; and risk management techniques.
- Develop programmes and training to empower the health community to plan and implement adaptation to climate variability and change, using existing centres of excellence and facilitating the development of new centres where needed.
- Develop a campaign for climate change and health for children.

Agriculture and food security

- Strengthen agricultural extension services so that knowledge and new adaptive farming practices can be disseminated and incorporated more quickly and effectively.
- Climate-proof rural development plans.
- Disseminate results from pilot adaptation projects on the ground and from comprehensive livelihood programmes. Build networks to exchange knowledge and good practices, provide training, identify champions of adaptation in agriculture and engage decision makers.
- Diversify farming systems based on sound natural resource management so that they generate multiple agricultural products and income sources and are thus more sustainable and resilient to climate change.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, extract of paragraph 17.

² Activities under the adaptation planning and practices focus area, in this Call for Action, relate to those identified in and across sectors.

Water resources

- Rehabilitate deteriorating observational networks and link weather databases (for example, those provided by the WMO) with hydrological monitoring.
- Provide guidance on how to assess availability and accessibility of water resources at the national and regional levels to determine their water carrying capacity, assess how it changes over time, and identify possible thresholds to allow for adaptive water budgeting.
- Assess water sector case studies, highlighting successful integrated water resources management (IWRM), particularly regarding transferability and applicability, and provide incentives for IWRM.
- Improve understanding of competition for water, including by monitoring water obstructions and evaluating the effects of licensing for water usages.

Coastal zones

- Undertake practical research to understand local contexts of adaptation, including underlying access to resources, adaptive capacity of coastal ecosystems, decision-making processes and effects of adaptation measures.
- Build capacity for wider application of integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) involving multiple levels, sectors and stakeholders, and create enabling environments by setting up legal frameworks for applying ICZM as part of sustainable development strategies and for empowering coastal communities to plan for and manage coastal resources.

The secretariat has prepared this Call for Action following guidance from the Chair of the SBSTA. It aims to facilitate the implementation of recommendations resulting from the Nairobi work programme workshops and expert meetings by a wide range of stakeholders. The information is taken from the report of the workshop on Adaptation planning and practices, held on 10–12 September 2007, Italy (FCCC/SBSTA/2007/15). Details on related ongoing work is available at <http://unfccc.int/4430.php>.

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