

CALL FOR ACTION



NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Improving collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate and its impacts, and promoting improvement of observations, including the monitoring of climate variability

GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING

Continued accumulation of basic climate data and observations is essential to understanding past and current climate change; testing, verifying and improving global and regional models; improving projections of future climate; and developing effective adaptation strategies. Historical data and information is also important to improve climate predictions, and therefore the need for data rescue and recovery. Training is essential, in particular at a local level.

Still, what is presently collected for global observations will not be sufficient for impacts assessments at the regional and local levels. In order to develop effective adaptation strategies, climate-system data and observation must be linked to non-climatic data and socio-economic information if they are to result in accurate assessments of vulnerability and adaptation potential. GCOS has identified the systematic observations needed for climate monitoring, prediction and research, but there is still a need to identify the essential climate variables specific to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. This requires a close link to, and an iterative approach to be used with, the methods and tools, in order to build a framework for adaptation. It also requires close consultation with users of the data. A challenge that will have to be overcome in undertaking this task is the fact that requirements are sector- and region- specific.

Moreover, a thorough appreciation of the uncertainties and constraints associated with the use of data for regional and global models, and for an understanding of the limits and benefits of the use of regional model outputs for adaptation planning, is needed. There is also need for dialogue between data providers and the users of the information generated in order to inform users about the conclusions that can be drawn from observations and to inform analysts and researchers of how they should proceed to best meet adaptation information needs.

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 02 – 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 **data and observations** include:

- Define an authoritative set of data and information needs for adaptation, identifying the essential variables (climate, ecosystems, economic and social) specific to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, for example, through a process of consultation with providers and users of data or through an adequacy report.
- Identify and recommend a minimum network to be operated specifically for adaptation needs in line with existing international agreements. Use existing structures to the maximum extent possible.
- Catalogue and evaluate countries' climatic and non-climatic data holdings from an adaptation perspective, including: the adequacy of networks; the efficacy of data collection, quality control and documentation systems; the collection and documentation of local and traditional knowledge; the accessibility of the various data collections to users; and the extent to which datasets relate to each other. Use this assessment to develop integrated management and collection systems capable of providing the information required for adaptation.
- Improve awareness of data and information already available, for example by establishing a forum for user experiences to promote learning about available data and information and how they are used and applied.
- Create regional web-based databases of specific data for vulnerability assessments, both climatic and non-climatic (including, for example, hydrological observations in runoff formation zones, or death rate from relevant diseases).
- Promote a continuing dialogue between the providers of data relevant for adaptation and the users of the data in both the public and the private domains, and engage stakeholders at municipal and state levels, as well as in relevant sectors.
- Enhance links between climate-system data and observations and socio-economic information, and incorporate local and indigenous knowledge and information from local forecasters.
- Enhance and promote data recovery to improve reliability of predictions and projections of climate variability and change.
- Make available assessment and documentation describing the uncertainties that affect the data and information provided by the countries' data and information systems.
- Promote the formation of multidisciplinary teams of specialists, including experts in data and observations, when undertaking work on adaptation to ensure appropriate interpretation of the data and effective communication of information to policymakers, decision makers and other users.
- Identify barriers to the dissemination of data with a view to developing a legal framework for exchange of data or regional solutions, including by working closely with partner international agencies for access to data collected under their programmes, clearly identifying the costs of 'free exchange' of data to give providers arguments in raising funds, and securing high-level political support for improving data and information exchange, highlighting the importance of free access to data needed under the Convention.

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 expert meeting on Data and Observations, held on 6–7 March 2008, Mexico (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/3). Details on related ongoing work is available at <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.

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