

CALL FOR ACTION



NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Promoting the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change

GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING

Advances in understanding of the physical processes of the climate system and climate modelling have led to a considerable increase in confidence in projecting future climate change at continental and larger scales. However, spatial and temporal resolution associated with outputs from climate modelling carried out to date have been inadequate to support policy-relevant impact and vulnerability assessments at country-level. Significant gaps remain in providing outputs at finer spatial (regional, national and local) and various temporal (sub-daily, daily, monthly, annual or decadal) scales for shorter time horizons (5, 10, 15 years).

There is a need for improving the availability of, and access to, high quality observational data as they are critical for model calibration and validation, and are also essential for sectoral sensitivity analyses (e.g. for the purpose of identifying critical climatic thresholds). This calls for a range of actions, including: establishing new climate data recording facilities as well as sustaining existing ones; creating and maintaining networks of national and regional experts; and promoting the dissemination of existing local knowledge and data.

Given the inherent natural variability of the climate system, the wide range of assumptions that different models make and inconsistencies between model projections and observations, it is crucial to understand the context and the limitations of data produced by climate models. Challenges remain in improving the ability of users to interpret complex model outputs and effectively make use of them in impact and vulnerability assessments. It requires closer interaction between data providers (e.g. climate modellers, impact assessors) and adaptation practitioners, and a more effective integration of climate science into adaptation policymaking processes.

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 07 – September 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 **climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling** include:

- Continue efforts in the development and dissemination of climate information that is more conducive to adaptation decision making, including:
 - Providing climate projections at finer spatial scales that are consistent with typical administrative or geographical scope of adaptation decision making (e.g. national, provincial, or river basin);
 - Making widely available climate information at higher temporal resolution for the analyses of extreme events;
 - Enhancing climate projections for shorter time horizons (e.g. 5 or 10 years) compatible with near term planning horizons.
- Increase the availability of high quality observational data to support model development, including by:
 - Enhancing the observation of the current climate system (e.g. development of new observatory networks, maintain existing observatory networks);
 - Promoting open or easy access of data from observations and models as well as strengthening networks of regional and national experts;
 - Enhancing support for the dissemination of existing local knowledge and data.
- Increase the understanding of model outputs, including regarding uncertainties associated with projections, including by:
 - Providing and disseminating guidance on climate models, downscaling methods, potential applications of resulting data in user-friendly formats, including in languages other than English;
 - Facilitating dialogues between data providers and the adaptation community, including policymakers;
 - Developing a collaborative platform to facilitate the sharing of good practices and feedback on available datasets, and on downscaling methods and tools;
 - Enhance the technical capacity of stakeholders, including through the provision of long-term comprehensive training opportunities, to develop models as well as to analyse and apply model outputs for supporting adaptation planning.
- Improve the accuracy of climate projections by strengthening research on biophysical and physical climate systems, and by continuing efforts to quantify and reduce uncertainty within and across climate models.
- Strengthen the role of regional centres to promote effective knowledge sharing and transferring, collaboration on scenario development, and capacity-building at regional and national levels.

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 Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling, held on 7 June 2008, Germany (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/9). Details on related ongoing work is available at <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraph 17.