

CALL FOR ACTION



NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Promote the availability of information on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and improve the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments.

Undertake stocktaking on what socio-economic information and approaches are available and in use, and what need to be done to ensure better integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments.

GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING

Two main gaps exist in regards to socio-economic information for use in impact and vulnerability assessments: lack of data and mismatch of data. Whereas some of the basic data are simply not collected, some are gathered in a way that is not useful for impact and vulnerability assessments, and much of the existing socio-economic information is in a form that does not facilitate climate change policymaking. Better frameworks are needed to disseminate existing data and information to target audiences.

Quantitative and qualitative socio-economic data are equally important for increasing the effectiveness of assessments. Gaps in data include historical and geo-referenced data, particularly at smaller spatial scales. Socio-economic data need to be better integrated with geophysical data. Geographic information systems, for example, could assist in combining different types of data for integrated analysis.

Different types and scales of assessment require different data. It is necessary to identify the common needs across sectors and scales. Identifying shared priorities may lead to increasing the availability of geo-referenced data, address challenges of aggregating/disaggregating data, and improve ways of linking top-down and bottom-up types of assessments.

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 04 – 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 **socio-economic information** include:

- Prioritize data needs according to different usages and scales in order to identify the gaps in data availability. Analyze impact and adaptation studies and document good practices in order to identify what has worked, and to improve on good practices.
- Develop incentive schemes to encourage generation of data specific to adaptation to climate change, for example, data on subsistence crops, water distribution within sectors, migration and remittances.
- Collect and store data in a more standardized way in order to facilitate wider dissemination of information at multiple decision-making levels. Promote guidance on collection of data provided by the United Nations Statistics Division to increase usability and facilitate sharing of information in cross-country analyses.
- Strengthen links among international organizations that are already working in specialized sectors in order to collaborate on information sharing within their respective sectors. Develop incentive schemes to encourage the private sector to share its data.
- Develop guidance on methods for translating existing data into information that is relevant to climate change policy. Promote local ownership of the integration process and of the resulting information by increasing stakeholder engagement.
- Create and maintain databases to take stock of existing information, sources of expertise, tools and good practices. Create alternative ways to supply data to those without broadband Internet access.
- In addition to aggregated data (e.g. national statistics), disseminate original (disaggregated) data collected at subdistrict level, in order to accommodate specific assessment needs at different spatial scales.
- Facilitate downscaling of climate models and promote visualization of spatial patterns by ensuring that socio-economic data are available electronically, in time series and spatially differentiated formats to increase their usability.
- Promote development of geo-referenced data at high resolutions to support more accurate assessment of local-level adaptive capacity.
- Strengthen regional centres and networks as clearing-houses to leverage existing human resources, knowledge, data and experiences that are applicable to specific regions or sectors, and to facilitate capacity-building. Similarly, encourage South–South cooperation to facilitate knowledge exchange on lessons learned from local experiences.
- Develop information on costs and benefits associated with the implementation of climate change policies and programmes, and on the economics of climate impacts, in order to address adaptation in the wider perspectives of development objectives.

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 Socio-economic information, held on 10–12 March 2008, in Trinidad and Tobago (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/2). Details on related ongoing work is available at <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.

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