

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

Steps taken on implementation during the period
from November 2006 to May 2007

*Progress report by the secretariat under the guidance of the Chair of the
SBSTA*

Mandate. The SBSTA at its twenty-fifth session, agreed to implement the Nairobi work programme through the specific activities contained in its conclusions. It requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to report, at its twenty-sixth session and subsequent sessions, on progress made in implementing the five-year programme of work.

In response to the mandate given at SBSTA25, the following work has been undertaken since November 2006.

1. Implementation of specific actions

Under the focus area Climate related risks and extreme events, the SBSTA invited Parties and organisations to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, information on their relevant programmes, activities and views on the following issues:

- (a) Experience with assessment and management of current and future climate-related risks and impacts, including those related to extreme events and in specific sectors;
- (b) Ability, gaps, needs, opportunities, barriers and constraints to predicting climate variability, impacts and extreme events across regions and hazards;
- (c) Contribution of traditional knowledge to understanding and managing climate-related risks;
- (d) Implications for sustainable development in relation to subparagraphs 1 (a) to (c) above;
- (e) Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change.

The secretariat received 12 such submissions from Parties, and 9 from organizations. These submissions have been compiled in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.4 and Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.5.

The SBSTA also requested the secretariat, to organize a workshop, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, before its twenty-seventh session, with the participation of Parties, experts and relevant organizations and institutions on the issues, information and submissions on this focus area of climate related risks and extreme events. The secretariat has started preparations for the workshop, which will be held from 18 to 20 June 2007 in Cairo, Egypt. The MISC documents containing the submissions will provide input to the workshop.

Under the focus area Adaptation planning and practices, the SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to provide structured submissions, by 15 May 2007, on adaptation approaches, strategies, practices and technologies for adaptation at the regional, national and local levels in different sectors, as well as on experiences, needs and concerns. It requested the secretariat to develop the structure for these submissions and to disseminate it to Parties by 20 January 2007.

The secretariat developed such a structure and posted it on the web, as well as distributing it through a mass-mailing to Parties' national focal points and relevant organizations.

In addition, under the focus area on adaptation planning and practices, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize a workshop, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, with the participation of Parties, relevant organizations, business representatives, civil society, decision makers and other stakeholders, to exchange information and views on existing adaptation practices, experiences, needs, gaps, opportunities, barriers and constraints, and on the contribution of traditional knowledge to the work on adaptation planning and practices.

The secretariat has started preparation for the workshop on this focus area. The workshop will be held from 10 to 12 September 2007 at the FAO headquarters in Rome.

Under the focus area Methods and tools the SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 15 May 2007, information on existing and emerging assessment methodologies and tools; and views on lessons learned from their application; opportunities,

gaps, needs, constraints and barriers; possible ways to develop and better disseminate methods and tools; and training opportunities

The secretariat is making an effort to advance work in all nine focus areas: to enhance expert input and to catalyze and facilitate activities by organizations that are undertaken in these nine areas of the Nairobi work programme. To this end the secretariat is planning to conduct a series of small meetings for each of the focus areas, with participation by representatives of relevant organizations. The first of such meetings was held in January 2007 on Climate related risks and extreme events.

2. Involvement of relevant organizations and dissemination strategy

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 also agreed that there is a need to ensure expert input into the implementation of the Nairobi work programme.

The UNFCCC constituted bodies - Consultative Group of Experts on Non-Annex I National Communications (CGE), the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT), at their most recent meetings, discussed their possible future involvement in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme, including plans for active contribution in their respective areas of competence after 2008.

The secretariat contacted over one hundred relevant organizations, including international, regional and some national organizations with a global or regional scope of work, including organizations listed in the UNFCCC initial list of organizations that was compiled in response to the mandate given at the twenty-third session of the SBSTA.

The secretariat received responses to the invitation letters from 63 organizations. Fifty organizations have nominated focal points for further contact and work on the Nairobi work programme. A number of international and regional organizations, such as WMO, FAO, ISDR, IPCC, Asian Development Bank, Commonwealth Secretariat, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, International Water Management Institute, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, CATHALAC, as well as a number of NGOs such as the Pew Centre on Global Climate Change, the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recursos e Investigación para el Desarrollo Sustentable (RIDES), Yayasan Pelangi Indonesia, and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies all submitted descriptions of their relevant activities or concept papers describing how they can contribute or plan to contribute to the supporting of the objective and themes identified in decision 2/CP.11.

The list of organizations who have responded, with corresponding links, as well as the information on relevant activities and possible ways of contribution into the Nairobi work programme have been posted on the UNFCCC website.

Further actions on involvement of organizations and catalyzing activities under the Nairobi work programme are being undertaken by the secretariat under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA. These actions include liaising with nominated organizations' focal points, soliciting action pledges and information, methods and tools for possible wide dissemination to Parties, relevant stakeholders and other participants in the Nairobi work programme.

As part of its work on involvement of organizations and disseminating information to relevant stakeholders, the secretariat is planning to adopt a stronger approach to the dissemination of tools, research outcomes and project outcomes with the aim of facilitating greater cooperation among the wider adaptation community. The information will be distributed through the dedicated page on the Nairobi work programme under the UNFCCC website, and through linking it to other websites and networks, as well as using UN and other dissemination channels. Arrangements are also being made for preparing Nairobi work programme products (e.g. outcomes from the upcoming workshops) that will be targeted at specific groups of stakeholders and users. This, we hope, will eventually lead to the creation of a data warehousing site for the use of Parties and Nairobi work programme partners.

As part of this effort, the secretariat has prepared a brochure that describes the objectives, scope and activities of the Nairobi work programme, as well as ways for organizations to contribute to the implementation of the work programme. The brochure will be made available for delegates via their pigeon holes and at the CC Kiosk.

Acknowledgement of contributions

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