

CALL FOR ACTION



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

Promoting the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments, such as rapid assessments and bottom-up approaches, including as they apply to sustainable development

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

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

GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING

With similar geophysical conditions and sometimes socio-economic circumstances, countries in the same region often share similar adaptation challenges. Therefore, enhanced collaboration among relevant centres and networks at the regional level is needed for, inter alia, better knowledge management, including the sharing and standardization of data and information. In addition, there is currently an absence of a viable framework to feed knowledge from the ground upwards to the regional and global level, and for the information available at the global level to trickle down to the local level. Hence, there is a need to further develop regional cooperation mechanisms to bridge the knowledge gap between stakeholders at different levels.

Gaps also remain in the capability to adapt and apply existing methods and tools. Planning for adaptation is a social process that requires the application of knowledge from multiple disciplines, from natural science to socio-economics. This gives rise to an urgent need to enhance the documentation and dissemination of lessons learned from the application of methods, tools and interdisciplinary approaches in order that conceptual strategies lead to practicable adaptation activities.

In spite of the recognition that enhanced collaboration among regional centres and networks would increase the effectiveness and efficiency of support for adaptation, challenges remain with regard to an effective mechanism to bring about synergies and avoid duplication of effort with a minimum level of coordination.

Among other factors, the lack of information on existing technical resources in a region has been a barrier in this regard. Practical ways to create linkages among regional entities need to be explored and scaled up, including by making and updating an inventory of entities and networks with specialized technical capacities.

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ACTIVITIES¹

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (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 encouraged relevant organizations and other stakeholders to develop specific activities at the national and regional level in support of the objective and expected outcomes of the Nairobi work programme identified in decision 2/CP.11, and to share outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate.²

Actions are called for to enhance collaboration among regional centres and networks, with a view to:

Improving knowledge management through the

- Development of a regional clearing house of knowledge resources, including knowledge and information on current research, to facilitate interaction among collaborating centres and to accumulate relevant information that could contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessment process;
- Organization of regular face-to-face meetings to facilitate the sharing of good practices and lessons learned;
- Linking up of regional centres and networks with ongoing climate service networks and initiatives to ensure that the development and implementation of climate information services and products are informed by the needs of adaptation 'customers';
- Facilitation of sharing of knowledge and lessons learned with the private sector.

Enhancing the effectiveness of technical support through the

- Analysis of region-specific technical support needs in support of adaptation;
- Development and maintenance of region-specific directories of expertise/competences available within regional centres with a view to identifying their comparative advantages;
- Clearly defined vision, goals, scope of work, outcomes and modes of operation for any collaborative action at the regional level aimed at the provision of technical support;
- Identification of practical ways to create links among existing networks. This may entail:
 - Mandating a group of resource people, such as an expert group, to liaise on specific activities among networks and centres;
 - Establishing working groups of experts, together with a steering group or committee, to respond to specific calls for assistance through joint programmes and collective efforts for resource mobilization;
- Piloting of technical support projects and mandating experts from centres with concrete tasks to address region-specific gaps and needs;
- Exploration of opportunities to use virtual centre models that build on existing regional organizations to provide technical backstopping services;
- Engagement of university networks and research centres in order to scale up and sustain capacity-building efforts and the knowledge base.

The secretariat prepares calls for action following guidance from the Chair of the SBSTA. Calls for action aim to facilitate the implementation of recommendations resulting from the Nairobi work programme workshops and expert meetings by a wide range of stakeholders. This call for action is derived from the report of the technical workshop on collaboration among regional centres and networks held in Apia, Samoa, from 2 to 5 March 2010. Details of related work are available at <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.

¹ Activities referred to in this call for action link to those aimed at promoting collaboration among regional centres and networks working on issues relating to the Nairobi work programme work areas on methods and tools, data and observations and climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraph 17.

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