

Report on the CGE hands-on training workshop on Vulnerability and Adaptation for the Africa region Maputo, Mozambique, 18 - 22 April 2005

1. The CGE hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) for the Africa region was held from 18 to 22 April 2005 in Maputo, Mozambique. The workshop was organized back to back with the fourth meeting of the CGE that took place from 14 to 15 April 2005. Forty-six participants from 36 Parties, 9 CGE members, a representative of the UNDP and a representative of ENDA-TM attended the workshop; five trainers facilitated it. Staff from the secretariat supported both events.
2. The workshop took place in response to the mandate of the CGE to provide technical advice and support to non-Annex I Parties, by organizing and conducting workshops, including hands-on training workshops at the regional or subregional level, on national greenhouse gas inventories, vulnerability and adaptation, and mitigation, as well as training on the use of the guidelines for the preparation of second and subsequent national communications by non-Annex I Parties (paragraph 9(b) of Annex to decision 3/CP.8). In order to benefit from the training, the participants were encouraged to provide information on the scope of their vulnerability and adaptation assessment, including identification of vulnerable areas that are most critical, participation of stakeholders, sectors identified and studied as well as methods/approaches used in their countries.
3. The secretariat was able to secure adequate conference facilities and equipment supplies in Maputo to meet the demands of the CGE meeting and workshop. Travel arrangements were complicated by the fact that the majority of participants had to travel through Johannesburg. This increased the price of the tickets and necessitated additional DSA for participants, since a number of connecting flights were not available on the same day.
4. With regard to security, the UNDP office cautioned the participants not to walk alone in Maputo, as it was not safe and to avoid going into some areas of the city. This was somewhat disconcerting, as UNSECOORD has no security phase in place for Mozambique to reflect the potential dangers to personal security. It is pleasing to report that there were no incidents of theft or injury.
5. The Mozambican Minister for Co-ordination of Environmental Affairs, H.E Luciano de Castro, opened the workshop and the National Director of Environmental Affairs, Mr Eduardo Baixo, closed it.
6. After the presentation made by the secretariat on the UNFCCC guidelines for V&A reporting, the five trainers elaborated the training materials on V&A for use by the CGE. These materials included PowerPoint presentations, and other supporting materials on methods and tools for V&A assessment. Eight country case studies were also presented on different sectors.
7. The first trainer presented an overview of the overall methodological frameworks and approaches for conducting V&A assessment including scenario-driven impact assessment, other frameworks. He also made a presentation on how to integrate the sectoral assessments and report them in the V&A chapter of the national communications.

8. The other four trainers covered the following topics:
 - Impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessment for **coastal zones**
 - Impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the **water resources sector**
 - Impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessment for the **agriculture sector**
 - Impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessment for **human health**.

9. At the end of each session, questionnaires were distributed to the participants to obtain their evaluation of the training materials and the trainers and to obtain views on how to improve future V&A workshops. Most participants highly rated the effectiveness of the trainers.

10. However, a number of participants felt that:
 - the time allocated for the training on models was not adequate and that some models were not well demonstrated especially those on the health sector. There was also a comment that the trainers could have used simple models adapted to the African circumstances;
 - it would be advisable to network the computers during the training in order to facilitate the training;
 - there is need to invite a trainer who is more conversant with the General Circulation Models;
 - the translators were not well prepared for the workshop let alone coping with the speed of the trainers ;

11. One session of the workshop was devoted to discussions on the successes and problems participants experienced during the preparation of the V&A assessment for the initial national communications. Many participants indicated that raising public awareness on climate change, involving and consulting a wide spectrum of stakeholders and providing policy relevant information on V&A were essential for framing national V&A assessments;

12. During the final session, the participants discussed and recommended to the CGE to:
 - Develop and include into the V&A training materials a matrix of the strengths and weaknesses of methodologies/ tools to assess V&A, including “suitability” under different circumstances;
 - Ensure that the V&A training materials are updated as new climate change regional models are made available;
 - Advise V&A experts to use consistent timescales for all the sectoral assessments reported in the national communications;
 - Ensure that as far as practically possible, national data sources should be used in the training of V&A assessments;
 - Consider providing additional opportunities for training on modeling since the time allocated for modeling exercises at the workshop was not adequate. Trainers should concentrate on those models that are in the public domain;

- Widen the scope of the health sector training materials and to ensure that the models used for the training are available in the public domain and can be easily demonstrated;
- Inform participants about the availability of further financial and technical support for V&A training;

13. The participants were provided with a CD-ROM containing all the training materials, country case studies, and other support documents. CGE members are expected to provide comments on the current drafts with a view to improving them well in advance of the next V&A hands-on-training workshop. Subject to the availability of funds, the CGE will be conducting more V&A workshops in other regions

14. The overall impression is that the V&A workshop in Maputo was a success. This is supported by the answers that were provided by the participants to specific questions on the different aspects of the workshop (see paragraph 9 above).

15. It is important to recognize the excellent support that was provided by the Government of Mozambique and the UNDP country office in Mozambique. Ms Marilia Manjate (also a CGE member) from the Ministry of Co-ordination and Environmental Affairs chaired many of the workshop sessions and her colleagues assisted with a number of logistical issues. The UNDP provided logistical support.