



**UNFCCC technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches
for adaptation to climate change**

**Statement by
Richard Kinley, Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
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Your Excellency Mr Vice-President
Honorable Minister of State,
Honorable Minister,
Honorable Deputy Minister,
Honorable Permanent Secretary,
Distinguished guests and participants.

I would like to thank the Government of Tanzania for the invitation to address you at the opening this important workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change, for hosting the workshop and for its kind hospitality.

I will use this opportunity to update you on some recent developments in the intergovernmental process on climate change, and to highlight some aspects relating to the work on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, of relevance to your work here.

On the recent developments under UNFCCC, I have three points:

1. First, in 2011 at Durban, governments decided to work towards a universal climate change agreement covering all countries from 2020, to be adopted by 2015. Governments also decided to find ways to scale up efforts before 2020, beyond the existing pledges to curb emissions of greenhouse gases.
 - Durban launched a process, the Ad-hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, ADP, to conduct the negotiations towards the universal agreement. This is one of the most important international negotiations of this decade.

- Last year most efforts under ADP went into a transition/conceptual phase. A content forming phase will start this year, that will be followed next year by a negotiation text forming and then a decision making phase.
 - ADP will be an important gateway to the future climate regime including on adaptation. I would emphasize that a balanced outcome on mitigation and adaptation will ensure effective progress on both.
2. Second, at the end of last year, the Doha Conference tasked all countries to accelerate action now, not to wait for 2015, and certainly not to wait for 2020. The pace of national and international action on climate change is painfully slow, and nowhere near what is required by the seriousness of the challenges we are all facing. New insights on the status of the climate system and on the projections for its future will be made available by IPCC in September this year.
 3. Third, the climate conference that will be held in November of this year at Warsaw is expected to be an important step in the ADP process and to address many implementation issues in areas such as adaptation, mitigation, finance and the process on measurement, reporting and verification. Warsaw needs to address both the need for accelerating action, for example, by bringing down the wall between action inside and outside of the Convention, and the need for a steady progress in the ADP.

Now, what is being done to scale up adaptation action and increase resilience to climate change?

The world is on the verge of a climate crisis that dwarfs the recent fiscal crisis from which we are still emerging. Certainly, scientists have known about climate change for a long time, but we are now beginning to live its devastating effects, and no one is immune.

- As our population grows towards the 2030 estimate of 8 and a quarter billion, the warming would threaten more and more people –people who need food, water, energy, and climate stability to survive.
- The climate stress from extreme events is increasing. For example, the recently finalized IPCC report on extreme events found that, in this region, the frequency of warm days is likely to increase while the frequency of cold days is likely to decrease. You will have more frequent and/or longer heat waves and warm spells and increases in heavy precipitation.¹
- Tanzania's most recent National Communication to UNFCCC also indicates that there will be an increase in mean daily temperature as well as the temperatures of the warmest and coolest months.² This will likely increase the stress on water resources and agriculture.³

¹ IPCC SREX, Table 3.3, page 199.

² National Communication of United Republic of Tanzania, page 51.

³ National Communication of United Republic of Tanzania, table 5.1 page 47.

Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is therefore vital in order to reduce the impacts of climate change that are happening now and increase resilience to future impacts. In this context, some recent UNFCCC activities on adaptation are relevant:

- Durban finalized the new institutional arrangements launched in Cancun for financing climate change, supporting technology development and transfer, and for scaling up adaptation action.
- The Cancun Adaptation Framework is now under implementation. The Adaptation Committee held its second meeting recently in Bonn. Work on implementation of adaptation action and policies is progressing, including a process to enable LDC Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), and a work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage.
- Opportunities for funding for adaptation include the GEF Trust Fund, LDCF and SCCF and the Adaptation Fund under the Kyoto Protocol. Tanzania completed a NAPA and a project identified in that study, on capacity to address adaptation to climate change in productive coastal zones, was supported under the LDCF and is in the course of finalization.⁴
- A significant share of the new multilateral funding for adaptation should flow through the Green Climate Fund, a new fund established in Cancun.⁵ The preparations for making this fund operational are underway. Although in Doha several developed countries announced concrete finance pledges for the period up to 2015 totalling approximately USD 6 billion, much more needs to be done to mobilize scaled-up climate finance of USD 100 per year by 2020.
- COP 19 will provide an opportunity to evolve the Nairobi work programme, which has been a model for engaging stakeholders under in the UNFCCC process, and played a key role for catalyzing targeted actions and facilitating knowledge sharing and learning on adaptation.
- Research and systematic observation on the other hand has been instrumental in engaging with international and intergovernmental programmes and networks to promote cooperation in research and systematic observation of the climate system.
- The ongoing secretariat's efforts at stakeholder engagement, including organizations, NGOs and private sector will be important to the effort of scaling up adaptation at international, regional and national levels.

These adaptation work streams currently evolving will play an important role in evolving adaptation into its next phase. It is extremely important here to highlight the role of SBSTA Chair Mr. Richard Muyungi in the evolution of adaptation and the Nairobi work programme.

⁴ http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/least_developed_countries_portal/_ldcf_napa_projects/items/5632.php.

⁵ Decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 64.

Finally, adaptation strategies have been developed for some time, which utilize the services of healthy ecosystems that provide a valuable adaptation mechanism. Ecosystem based approaches are part of the solution that countries could use in building resilience to climate change.

Issues relating to ecosystems already occupy much of the research agenda and are one of the main areas of inquiry under the theme of slow onset events (as one of the irreversible impacts due to climate change) addressed in the work programme on loss and damage.

Synergy between ecosystems and adaptation is well represented in our work and I am confident that this workshop will make further steps in advancing the work on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation. The participants in this workshop represent a wide cross-section of communities and expertise that will enable a rich discussion, which will feed into the future work of the SBSTA on this matter.

I wish you every success for the workshop and underline the importance of your discussions for moving forward.

Thank you.
