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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Twentieth session

Bonn, 16–25 June 2004

Item 8 (a) of the provisional agenda

Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention

Progress on the implementation of activities under decision 5/CP.7

**Information on current and/or planned activities implemented in support of
the various provisions of decision 5/CP.7.**

Submissions from Parties and international organizations

Addendum

1. In addition to the 10 submissions contained in documents FCCC/SBI/2004/MISC.2 and Add.1, one further submission has been received.
2. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

FCCC/SBI/2004/MISC.2/Add.2

SUBMISSION FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

United Nations Environment Programme

Submission on: Recent steps taken to further the implementation of 5/CP.7

The 22nd Governing Council (2003) of UNEP has decided that the existing role of UNEP be strengthened in the area of adaptation to climate change. Regional and national actions and programmes have to be supported, including NAPAs for LDCs. Programmes for reducing the vulnerability of developing countries to climate change are to be enhanced, particularly pertaining to LDCs and the small island developing States. UNEP's activities will assist developing countries take incremental interventions to integrate climate concerns in development for addressing and reducing the negative impacts.

The UNEP-GEF is supporting several initiatives in the area of Vulnerability and Adaptation

- Enabling Activities
- UNEP's Role as an Implementing Agency for the Global Environment
- Other Project Support
- Science and Information

Climate Change Enabling Activities

National Communications

UNEP is assisting over 30 countries prepare their Second National Communications (SNC), including the component on V&A assessment. Through the joint the GEF/UNDP/UNEP National Communications Support Programme (NCSP) UNEP will be providing technical advisory services and additional financial assistance in priority areas for countries during the preparation of National Communications.

In addition to contributing to their capacity to meet their obligations under the Convention, this process also engages a wide range of stakeholders, increasing awareness about climate change; enhances technical and scientific capacity for greenhouse gas inventorying as well as vulnerability and adaptation assessment; integration of climate change issues into national development processes and systems, and increased capacity to participate in the negotiations of the Convention.

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA)

UNEP is also assisting 16 least developed countries prepare their NAPAs and is also available for advisory services and technical support to those countries.

The NAPA process is intended to provide a simple and direct channel to communicate their urgent and immediate adaptation needs. The NAPA process will also contribute to raising awareness, know-how, technical and analytical expertise in order to prepare options to reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

UNEP is also finalizing a set of tools prepared to assist countries conduct Integrated Assessment (including economic assessment) and Vulnerability Indicators for LDC. These tools are region and sector specific tools to assist decision makers identify vulnerabilities and to contribute to the developing adaptation strategies.

Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNEP

As an implementing agency of the GEF, UNEP participates in developing GEF policies and practices. Together with other GEF partners, UNEP is working with the GEF Secretariat to develop the GEF operational programmes for adaptation to climate change to ensure that rapid and efficient support is made available to countries for Adaptation Pilot Project and through the least developed countries fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). UNEP-GEF is also planning for and mobilizing internal resources in order to respond to requests by countries under these new opportunities for support.

UNEP is currently working with a number of countries around the world to develop adaptation projects. An emphasis is being placed on building regional capacities through local institutions, on achieving national sustainable development goals, and on broadening participation in adaptation activities to new partners and experts.

Ongoing Projects

Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC):

The project involves 45 countries, including several LDCs. The objective of the project is to: Build capacity in developing countries for research in support of climate change adaptation; Advance scientific understanding of climate change impacts, adaptations and vulnerabilities; Link the research community with the policy community to support national communications and adaptation planning

The Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change (AIACC) project (www.aiaccproject.org/) is a partnership between UNEP, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) to increase scientific capacity in the area of impacts and adaptation in 45 developing countries.

Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into National Sustainable Development Planning

UNEP is working with local organizations to assist countries in Southern and Eastern Africa integrate vulnerability and adaptation concerns into sustainable development plans and policy processes. This workshop and subsequent pilot project will assist countries raise awareness and support within the community of policy analysts and decision makers about the benefits of integrating climate change into national sustainable development planning.

South Asia Expert Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change for Agricultural Productivity

On the request of Indian Government UNEP organised this meeting jointly with the Government of India and the Consultative Group on Agricultural Research (CGIAR) from 1-3 May 2002 in New Delhi. The workshop attracted more than 150 participants, including senior policy makers and agriculture scientists from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The chairman of Subsidiary Body on Science and Technology (UNFCCC) also actively participated at the meeting:

The main goal of the workshop was to identify strategic actions, nationally and internationally, to strengthen the planning process and decision making framework to mainstream adaptation to climate change in the context of agriculture. The Government of India is now developing a follow-up project with the assistance of UNEP and CGIAR;

As a follow-up a pilot adaptation project to test Information Technology to increase climate forecasting information and early warning to farmers to strengthen the ability to cope and optimise the management of climate variability and change is being developed. The pilot project will build and strengthen capacity at the district level by improving communication link between the farmers and research agencies using

information technology. The project will also provide a model for increasing or sustaining agriculture production through micro-level adaptations and identification of long-term adaptations and test a model for stakeholder involvement and provide training to South Asian countries in adaptation for the agriculture sector.

Sustainable development and climate change

This project involves six developing countries and seven international organizations working to elaborate links between sustainable development and climate change. The project looks at how to structure environmental and climate policy around development priorities appropriate to national circumstances (www.developmentfirst.org).

Reducing the Vulnerability of the Indian Agriculture Sector to the Impacts of Climate Change

In partnership with the National Centre for Agricultural Economic and Policy Research (New Delhi, India) and the Stockholm Environment Institute a project was launched to support development of decision-making tools for developing countries to help mainstream adaptation to climate change in national sustainable development planning. This project is specifically testing vulnerability indices for the agriculture sector in the context of climate change.

Vital Climate Change Graphics for Africa

UNEP has prepared a set of 28 graphics titled “*Vital Climate Change Graphics for Africa*” with its collaborating centre, GRID-Arendal as a special effort to provide easily understandable scientific information to policy makers working in Africa. The publication focussing on impacts and adaptation was formally released at UNFCCC COP8.

Science and Information

UNEP’s Global Resource Information Database programme provides timely and reliable geo-referenced environmental data and information to help address environmental issues at the global, regional and national levels. Climate change specific information can be found on the following web site:
<http://www.unep.org/newdraft/unep/eia/ein/grid/home.htm>

UNEP continues to build scientific collaboration and understanding of climate change and adaptation to climate change through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (www.ipcc.ch). The IPCC assesses, on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis, the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. UNEP has organized three training workshops on impacts and adaptation to train 100 developing country scientists with a view to increased participation in the work of the IPCC.

Integrating land-use change and forestry and adaptation

UNEP is developing, together with partners such as CGIAR, linking agriculture and climate change data through a CGIAR information database as well as regional projects in Asia and Africa on linking adaptation and carbon sinks components.
