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National communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

**Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications
from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention**

**Progress report on the activities of the Consultative Group of Experts
on National Communications from Parties not
included in Annex I to the Convention**

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This document contains the report of the activities of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) relating to the implementation of its activities during the period April to September 2005. It also contains reports on the CGE hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessments for the Africa region held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 18 to 22 April 2005 and the global hands-on training workshop on mitigation assessments held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 26 to 30 September 2005.

The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) may wish to provide additional guidance on the overall work of the CGE for 2006–2007 and on the conduct of the remaining regional hands-on training workshops.

* This document is submitted after the due date to include the report of the workshop on mitigation assessments.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of Parties, by its decision 3/CP.8, paragraph 5 (a), requested the secretariat to compile reports of the meetings and workshops of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI).

B. Scope of the note

2. This note contains the report on the fourth meeting of the CGE under its revised guidelines held in Maputo, Mozambique, on 14 and 15 April 2005. It also contains the reports on the CGE hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation (V and A) assessments for the Africa region held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 18 to 22 April 2005, and the CGE global hands-on training workshop on mitigation assessments held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 26 to 30 September 2005. The other activities of the CGE for 2005 were reported to the SBI at its twenty-second session (FCCC/SBI/2005/7).

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

3. The SBI, after having considered the lessons learned and recommendations by the CGE, may wish to provide additional guidance on the conduct of the remaining regional hands-on training workshops and the overall work of the CGE for 2006–2007.

II. Report of the fourth meeting of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

4. The fourth meeting of the CGE was held on 14 and 15 April 2005, in Maputo, Mozambique, back to back with the hands-on training workshop on V and A assessments for the Africa region. The objectives of the meeting were: to discuss the status of its cooperation with other expert groups under the Convention and with the National Communications Support Programme (NCSP);¹ to provide an update on the hands-on training workshops and the development of training materials; and to initiate the preparation of the CGE report on the outcomes of the examination of initial national communications and on the ways to improve access to financial and technical support.

5. Ms. Emily Ojoo-Massawa (Kenya) chaired the meeting that was attended by 13 members of the CGE (from Bahamas, Bangladesh, Canada, Cuba, Kenya, Kuwait, Mozambique, Paraguay, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Switzerland and Ukraine). Three members from international organizations – the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – also participated in the meeting. The CGE members from Asia nominated Mr. M. Asaduzzaman (Bangladesh) as the rapporteur of the CGE; as provided for in decision 3/CP.8, Mr. Asaduzzaman will succeed as Chair of the CGE in 2006.

A. Cooperation with other expert groups under the Convention

6. Parties at the twenty-second session of the SBI noted the progress in the efforts of the CGE to collaborate with other expert groups under the Convention and the NCSP and urged the CGE to continue

¹ The NCSP of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is funded by Global Environment Facility (GEF).

these efforts (FCCC/SBI/2005/10, para. 19). As a result of the conclusions of the CGE at its third meeting, the draft training materials on V and A assessments were shared with the members of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG). The LEG provided comments on the need to have a balance between training the participants on the use of tools and managing/organizing the process of conducting V and A assessments. It further commented that it takes time and resources to train experts on models and that it has to take into account that vulnerability is specific to a particular place and context.

7. Exchange of information continues to take place through the participation of the CGE members in meetings and workshops organized by other expert groups. For example, the Chair and the rapporteur of the CGE briefed the members of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT), at its meeting in December 2004 in Buenos Aires, about the activities of the CGE. The CGE also ensures that representatives of other expert groups take part in the hands-on training workshops it has organized.

8. The following are the recommendations of the CGE relating to cooperation with other expert groups under the Convention:

- (a) The group emphasized the need to collaborate with the LEG in connection with the national adaptation programmes of actions (NAPAs) to avoid inconsistencies in the approaches and methodologies introduced in the V and A assessments training materials
- (b) The members endorsed the LEG conclusions on cooperation with other expert groups and welcomed the proposal to integrate NAPAs into second national communications
- (c) The group supported the proposal by the LEG for a joint meeting and suggested that the CGE Chair further discuss this matter with the Chair of LEG at SBI 22.

B. Cooperation with the National Communications Support Programme

9. The CGE expressed its appreciation for the efforts of the implementing agencies to collaborate with the group. As indicated by the representative of UNDP at the third meeting of the CGE, the manual on managing the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory process was shared with the CGE members for comments. The representative of the NCSP was also invited to present an overview of the NCSP's work programme at the global hands-on training workshop on mitigation assessments in Seoul, Republic of Korea. In providing feedback to the activities reported by the representative of the NCSP, the group noted that valuable country experiences from stocktaking exercises and the NCSP training workshops, such as documenting procedures for preparing inventories, will be useful if shared with other Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties).

10. The group also provided comments on the proposed web-based facility ('web wizard') being developed by the NCSP to support non-Annex I Parties to design effective V and A assessments as part of their preparations for national communications. The group suggested that the 'web wizard' be simplified in order for national experts to access the information more easily and to address the needs of policy makers (e.g. parliamentarians) by proposing tools to develop cross-sectoral action plans.

11. The draft work programme of the NCSP will be presented at the fifth meeting of the CGE to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 24 to 25 November 2005, to facilitate the development of a joint work plan in response to the recommendation by the CGE at its third meeting and as requested by Parties at SBI 21 (FCCC/SBI/2004/19, para. 28). The joint work programme ensures closer collaboration between the CGE and the NCSP in the development of training materials and the organization of training workshops to support non-Annex I Parties in the preparation of their second national communications.

C. Update on the hands-on training workshops and the development of training materials

12. The CGE conducted hands-on training workshops on GHG inventories for the Latin America and the Caribbean region (Panama City, Panama, 25–29 October 2004) and the Asia region (Shanghai, China, 8–12 February 2005), and on V and A assessments for the Africa region (Maputo, Mozambique, 18–22 April 2005), involving 120 national experts from 78 developing countries. The training materials on GHG inventories and V and A assessments were developed prior to the workshops and used at these training workshops.

13. The CGE discussed the outcomes of the hands-on training workshop on GHG inventories held in China, and recommended the following to improve future GHG inventory workshops:

- (a) Parallel sessions on different sectors of GHG inventories should be organized
- (b) Input sessions should be shortened to allow for more interaction, e.g. case presentations, use of models and exercises.

14. The group also discussed the scoping note for the preparation of the training materials for mitigation assessments and proposed the following:

- (a) The SBI should explore the possibility of funding national experts to undergo specialized training on the various computer models needed for the preparation of the mitigation assessments section of second national communications
- (b) The training workshop on mitigation assessments should assist developing countries to relate climate change activities with the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals and the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers.

D. Status of the preparation of Consultative Group of Experts reports

15. The thematic groups of the CGE (GHG inventories, V and A assessments, mitigation and cross-cutting issues) are finalizing their report on the examination of the initial national communications of non-Annex I Parties. The findings and recommendations of the CGE on the outcomes of its examination of 42 initial national communications will be reported to the SBI at its twenty-fourth session.

16. In July 2005, the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, conducted a survey on existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of second and subsequent national communications by non-Annex I Parties. Fifty-four survey questionnaires were sent to non-Annex I Parties, Parties included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties) and multilateral and bilateral agencies. The secretariat received 33 responses and is compiling and synthesizing the information for analysis by the CGE. The results of the survey will be one of the inputs to the CGE report to the SBI at its twenty-fourth session on ways to improve access to financial and technical support.

III. Status of the Consultative Group of Experts hands-on training workshops

17. The workshops 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 GHG inventories, and V and A and mitigation assessments, as well as training on the use of the guidelines for the preparation of second and subsequent national communications by non-Annex I Parties (decision 3/CP.8, annex, paragraph 9 (b)).

18. The CGE played an important role throughout the development and implementation of the training workshops, including by providing guidance on the development of training materials. CGE

members also made some of the presentations on UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of national communications and acted as session chairs and rapporteurs during the workshops.

19. At each workshop, the participants were provided with CD-ROMs containing the training materials, country case studies, and other supporting documents. CD-ROMs containing the training materials on GHG inventories, V and A assessments and mitigation assessments will be made available at SBI 23.

A. Hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessments for the Africa region

20. The hands-on training workshop on V and A assessments was held from 18 to 22 April 2005 in Maputo, Mozambique. Forty-six participants from 36 Parties, nine CGE members, a representative of UNDP and a representative of Environmental Development Action in the Third World (ENDA-TM) attended. Five trainers facilitated the workshop. The workshop was made possible through the financial support provided by the Governments of Canada, Finland, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America for the development of training materials and for the participation of developing country experts. The Government of Mozambique, as host to the training workshop, provided excellent support in ensuring the successful outcome of the workshop.

21. The workshop covered the following topics: overview of various frameworks used in V and A assessments, socio-economic scenarios, climate change scenarios, impact, assessments (coastal zones, water resources, agriculture and human health) and integrated assessment and reporting. The training methods used include slide presentations and exercises using different tools and computer models such as the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT), the Decision Support System for Agro-technology Transfer (DSSAT) and MARA Lite (Malaria mapping) to elaborate the different topics of the workshop.

22. In order to benefit from the training, the participants were encouraged to provide information on the scope of their assessment, including identification of vulnerable areas that are most critical, participation of stakeholders, sectors identified and studied and methods/approaches used in their countries. Eight country case studies were presented on different sectors to illustrate challenges to and lessons learned by the participants during the preparation of the assessment for the initial national communications. In the course of the discussions, many participants indicated that raising public awareness on climate change, involving and consulting a wide spectrum of stakeholders and providing policy relevant information, were essential for framing national assessments.

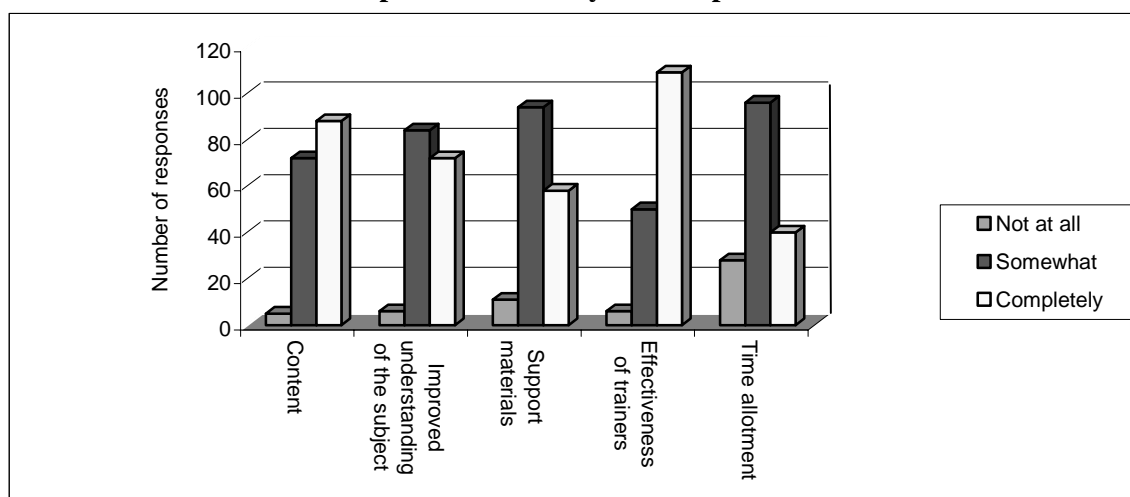
23. At the end of each session, evaluation forms were distributed to the participants to obtain their feedback on the training materials and the trainers and to obtain views on how to improve future workshops. For each session, the participants were asked the following:

- (a) Was the content of the module clear?
- (b) Did the module advance your understanding of the subject?
- (c) Were the support materials effective and appropriate?
- (d) Were the trainers effective?
- (e) Was the time allotted for the module enough?

24. Figure 1 is a compilation of the evaluation provided by the participants for all the sessions. The responses indicated that the workshop was a success and most participants rated the effectiveness of the trainers highly. The participants also commented 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 African circumstances.

Figure 1. Compilation of evaluation responses provided by participants in the workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessments



25. During the final session, participants recommended that the CGE:
- Develop and include into the training materials a matrix of the strengths and weaknesses of methodologies/tools to assess V and A, including “suitability” under different circumstances
 - Ensure that the training materials are updated as new climate change regional models are made available
 - Advise experts to use consistent timescales for all the sectoral assessments reported in national communications
 - Ensure that, as far as practically possible, national data sources should be used in the training on V and A assessments
 - Widen the scope of the health sector training materials and ensure that the health-related 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 training.

B. Global hands-on training workshop on mitigation assessments

26. The global hands-on training workshop on mitigation assessments was held from 26 to 30 September 2005 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. Fifty-seven participants from 46 Parties and seven CGE members participated. Four trainers facilitated the workshop. Financial resources for the organization and development of training materials for this workshop were received from the Governments of Australia, Canada, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. As host to the workshop, the Government of the Republic of Korea, through the Korea Energy Economics Institute, also provided financial and excellent logistical support to the workshop.

27. The training workshop provided the participants with an overview of the concepts, structures, processes and steps in mitigation assessments. Four country case studies were also presented, highlighting the challenges and lessons learned in mitigation assessments, particularly in the process of training and retaining national experts. Two CGE members presented the Integrated Environmental Strategies (IES) programme of the United States Agency for International Development. IES engages developing countries in building support for integrated planning both to address local environmental concerns and to reduce associated global GHG emissions. Throughout the sessions, participants had the opportunity to discuss technical concerns relating to mitigation assessments. The following are highlights of those discussions:

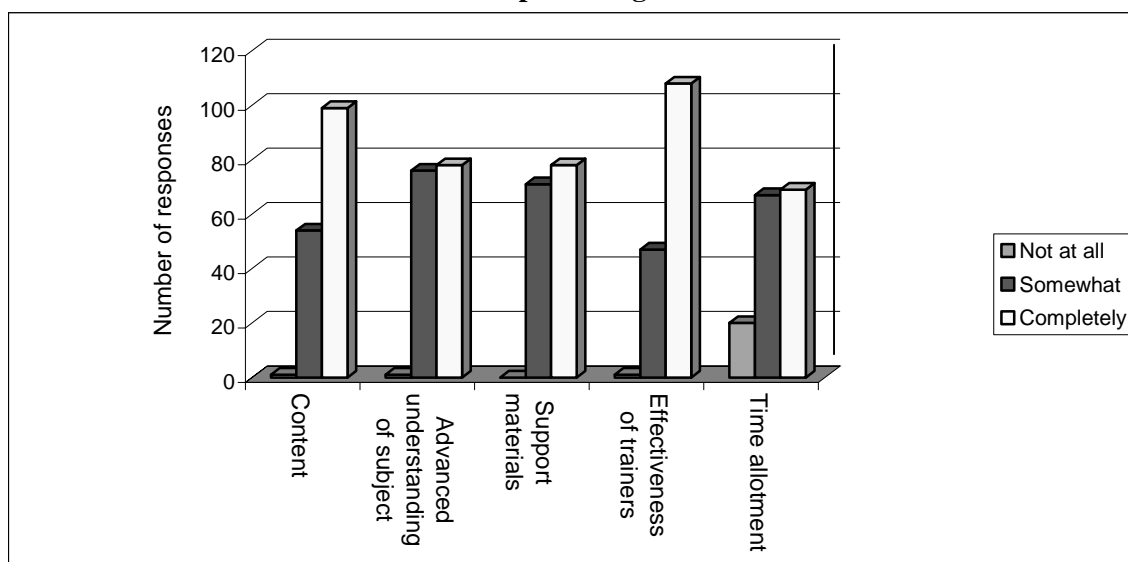
- (a) Experiences in capacity-building/retention of experts and development of computer models may be useful examples for other countries
- (b) There is need to further clarify the role of mitigation assessments in national development planning processes
- (c) There is a need to determine how the possible impacts of response measures by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention in fulfilling their commitments can be considered in the conduct of mitigation assessments
- (d) In conducting mitigation assessments, experts should consider issues such as the clean development mechanism, spillover effects and economic development
- (e) The development of criteria and prioritization of mitigation options vary across to countries and regions guided by such issues as generation of employment, electricity generation and other development issues
- (f) The CGE has an important role to play in providing technical guidance to Parties on such matters as the definition and scope of mitigation assessments.

28. Some of the tools introduced at the workshop include COPATH (Carbon Pasture Agriculture Total Harvesting), LEAP (Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning system), MARKAL-MACRO (Market Allocation Macro-Economic Model), ENEP (Energy and Power Evaluation Program) and RETscreen. The participant from Cuba also presented the computer model Programa de Diseño Opciones de Mitigacion (PRODOM) that Cuba is developing to assist in conducting mitigation assessments. Participants made the following comments regarding the sessions on tools and methodologies:

- (a) Models are tools aimed at helping plan future scenarios but they cannot predict what the future will be
- (b) The following should be considered when choosing the tools for mitigation:
 - (i) What are the objectives in using the computer models?
 - (ii) What are the data requirements?
 - (iii) How can these tools be useful in addressing national development needs?
- (c) Although computer models are important, the process of building the capacity of local experts is imperative in the exercise of mitigation assessments
- (d) At the outset of a modelling exercise, there should be a clear distinction between generating information for the models and the actual work in computer modelling.

29. At the end of each session, evaluation forms were distributed to participants in order to get feedback on how to improve the organization of future training workshops and on the further development of training materials. Overall, the participants rated the workshop highly, particularly the quality of materials distributed and the effectiveness of the trainers (see figure 2). Some participants observed that the workshop provided an excellent opportunity to network with other experts and helped clarify concepts and processes in mitigation assessments. Most participants commented on the lack of time provided for discussions and exercises.

Figure 2. Compilation of evaluation responses provided by participants in the workshop on mitigation assessments



30. The following are the recommendations provided by the participants to the CGE on organizing and conducting future training workshops:

- (a) Start with simple exercises before going into more complex ones
- (b) Introduce more software on mitigation assessments and upgrade them periodically. There is also need for software on multi-criteria analysis
- (c) Provide more time for hands-on exercises
- (d) Provide more references and detailed sources of information to support the presentations
- (e) Provide technical support in the use of tools and methodologies for mitigation assessments after the workshop.

IV. Conclusions

31. The CGE has successfully implemented its activities outlined in its work programme for 2003–2007. The group continued to provide technical advice to Parties on improving their national communications through the effective organization of four hands-on training workshops and examination of national communications of non-Annex I Parties. The CGE also continued to strengthen its cooperation with the expert groups under the Convention and the NCSP through exchange of information and training materials.

32. Growing numbers of requests for technical assistance are expected from non-Annex I Parties as they embark on the preparation of their second national communications. Experts who attended the hands-on training workshops articulated these requests to ensure that technical support is provided to them after the workshops. In this regard the CGE will start to consider the development of a comprehensive training strategy and other technical support, such as local training and networking of experts, that may be extended to Parties. As a technical advisory body, the CGE will provide the necessary recommendations on this matter to the SBI, including recommendations on the possible role of the CGE and of other agencies involved in supporting non-Annex I Parties in preparing their national communications.

33. The CGE and the secretariat appreciate the financial assistance provided by Annex II Parties to develop the training materials and to organize the hands-on training workshops for the preparation of national communications. To date, 164 experts from 90 non-Annex I Parties have attended these training workshops and gained knowledge and skills in GHG inventories, V and A assessments and mitigation assessments. The secretariat notes that additional financial resources are still needed to complete the remaining hands-on training workshops outlined in the CGE work programme.
