



Facilitator of the Nairobi Work Programme

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Date

**Subject        Inputs to Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on matters relating to the Nairobi Work Programme for its thirty-ninth session, in reference to the request made to relevant organizations in FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.9, paragraph 8, on “views on ways to enhance the relevance of, and to support the objective of, the work programme, taking into account paragraph 5.”**

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) thanks the SBSTA for the opportunity to provide input to enhance the relevance of, and to support the objective of, the Nairobi Work Programme.

The NWP has completed an extensive number of activities in its 7.5 year history, organizing a series of workshops and meetings, compiling databases, and developing publications, synthesis papers and technical contributions. It has also established a network of partner organizations doing extensive work in the area of vulnerability, impacts and adaptation, many of which have contributed through voluntary Action Pledges. This impressive body of work has addressed many recognized needs related to knowledge and good practices on adaptation.

In fact, two recent knowledge management needs assessments were completed by UNDP. A global survey was done under the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (2010) and another regional survey was done under the Africa Adaptation Programme (2012) funded by the Government of Japan.<sup>1</sup> The objective of these two assessments was to identify knowledge

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<sup>1</sup> Access to the results of these two assessments are available at the following links: Adaptation Learning Mechanism's Adaptation Knowledge Needs Survey: A Synthesis Report (2010) [http://www.adaptationlearning.net/alm\\_knsreport](http://www.adaptationlearning.net/alm_knsreport); and Africa Adaptation Programme Knowledge Management Needs Survey Report (2012) <https://www.undp-aap.org/resources/publications/knowledge-management-needs-survey-report>

needs and gaps, as well as key services required to facilitate the understanding of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and innovative adaptation approaches.

Based on these assessments, the focus of the NWP activities align well with the expressed needs. For example, both surveys indicated that “knowledge resources on evaluating and designing adaptation initiatives and assessments” was a high priority need. To date, NWP has developed a compilation document on Adaptation assessment planning and practice, as well as one on monitoring and evaluating the implementation of adaptation projects. Further, the surveys identified several thematic areas on which stakeholders requested more information, many of which have also been addressed by the NWP.<sup>2</sup> Finally, both assessments highlighted knowledge sharing services that would be beneficial to stakeholders, including training courses, workshops, seminars and online tools. The NWP has undertaken a number of workshops and seminars, and helped to compile existing online tools to support work in this area.

Overall, it is clear that NWP’s work on assessing climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation planning is helping address the knowledge gaps and needs identified; nonetheless, there are several ways that the information being generated and shared could be strengthened to better meet its mandate of supporting Parties to improve understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and also make informed decisions on practical adaptation action.

Through UNDP’s experience engaging with the Nairobi Work Programme during its lifetime, as well as lessons learned from its extensive support provided to countries in the area of adaptation, four main issues emerge as to the current relevance and impact of the NWP:

First, the **demand-driven nature and flexibility of work areas of the NWP can be further strengthened**. The nine work areas of the NWP were originally defined by Parties in 2005. There have been extensive efforts in recent years to identify new and emerging needs and ways to coordinate more directly with the newly established Cancun Adaptation Framework. Nonetheless, the current modalities for doing so include Submissions from Parties and Observers, workshops organized at COP sessions, and interim meetings to discuss with stakeholders. To date, these modalities have not always allowed for all users of NWP-generated knowledge to contribute to defining the areas of work, since it is mostly focused on official Observer organizations to the UNFCCC. There is also limited flexibility in this approach, since the work is defined annually through decisions agreed at the COP, and often requires extensive preparation to develop responses to these needs (i.e. organize a workshop, compile a publication). In the current information age, we have the means to both reach out to a broader range of stakeholders and also provide more timely and flexible information based on the changing needs and demands of stakeholders.

Second, while there is valuable information being generated and compiled under the NWP, both **accessing and navigating this information can be further improved**. Many of the

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<sup>2</sup> Specifically, in terms of thematic areas, the ALM survey indicated that information on the natural resource management sector, agriculture/food security and water were the most important. The AAP survey similarly indicated knowledge resources on water shortages, food security and loss of livelihoods. The NWP focused several of their products on ecosystem-based adaptation, including a workshop on the topic in 2013. They also developed a publication on climate change and freshwater resources, and water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.

publications, proceedings of workshops and compiled databases are located on the UNFCCC website. Capitalizing on recent technological advances in IT, there could be more innovative methods of querying the information in order to meet the specific needs of stakeholders.

Third, **the work covered under the NWP could be better sequenced to have greater impact.** Each year the SBSTA decisions request workshops or synthesis papers on new topics, which does not always build on the work done before. While this does produce knowledge on a wide breadth of topic areas, the lack of sequencing limits the impact of the work in these selected areas. Establishing a framework which can coordinate and strengthen the focus of the NWP's work could help it meet its full potential.

Finally, **there is no mandate or built in mechanism to monitor and review the impact of the work completed under the NWP.** Therefore, it is very difficult to assess whether the programme has been successful in addressing its mandate. Once products are developed and disseminated, assessment of their use and the resulting impact would go a long way to strengthen the added value of the NWP, while also providing opportunities to strengthen and adjust the work programme to meet emerging needs.

In response to these four issues, the following ideas provide several approaches which could address the challenges and strengthen the added value of the NWP. Each of these ideas could be further developed to align with Parties' views.

- **Virtual Knowledge Hub or “one-stop shop”:** To address the challenge of accessing and navigating information, a “one-stop shop” could be created which brings together existing information that has already been compiled and generated under the NWP. The databases that are currently available by the NWP under the UNFCCC Secretariat website contain a vast amount of information. This information could be compiled onto one easily-accessible site that provides all information relevant to the NWP work areas. It would simply arrange the available information in an accessible way for practitioners to find it. The site could also incorporate an inquiry tool which would allow the user to enter a specific question or query and the relevant information in the databases would appear. Instead of adding yet another knowledge platform to the plethora that already exist, this site would draw on the unique role and convening power of the UNFCCC and its Secretariat, to bring stakeholders to one central location to find the best resources related to the NWP. Therefore, to ensure effective engagement by stakeholders, the development of a hub would also require sufficient outreach regarding the added value of this knowledge hub and how it relates to other existing resources.
- **Official mechanism or modality for linking NWP to other streams of work under the UNFCCC:** To help provide a framework for coordination and strengthening the focus of the NWP, bodies like the Adaptation Committee (AC), LDC Expert Group (LEG) and others could more directly define the areas of focus of the NWP. This would require an official mechanism with subsequent modalities which would allow the Adaptation Committee, the LEG, the TEC, CTCN, Standing Committee on Finance and other relevant bodies to work directly with the NWP on areas of importance for their work. This approach would not only target the use of NWP, but also strengthen the demand-driven aspect and ensure application of the knowledge being generated and shared.

- **Using NAPs as a framework for information:** Another framework for focusing the work of the NWP could be under the NAPs. The NWP could support all NAP-related information, building on the LEG and AC information sites that are now being developed. The NAP framework would help to organize the information that is being generated, compiled and shared by the NWP, provide a direct application of the information through the NAP process and bring together the different knowledge needs identified.
- **Facilitator of Technical assistance and capacity building support directly to countries:** It is clear from UNDP's experience in countries that there is often limited capacity at the national/sub-national level with regards to understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and risk related to climate change. Specifically, it is often difficult to ensure adaptation-related decisions are informed by evidence and robust information/data. As a result, the NWP could greatly strengthen its work according to its mandate by being a facility to connect countries with identified needs to technical expertise, assistance and capacity development support across existing institutions and NWP partners. The NWP would act as a "help desk" for countries under the UNFCCC, bringing the expertise where it is needed most while also identifying global trends.
- **Monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess the impact of the NWP:** To ensure the effectiveness and added value of the NWP work, an official M&E mechanism could be put in place to periodically review the impact of the work of the NWP. Integrated into the development and dissemination process of every product could be the ability to track where the product is being disseminated, who is using it and how it has been used. This would also provide further information on additional knowledge needs from relevant stakeholders.

Given its impressive group of partner organizations and diverse action pledges, there is potential for the NWP to add significant value to the discourse on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation. Bringing in innovative ideas would help to strengthen the relevance and application of the knowledge being generated and shared.