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Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change since the fortieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It describes the continued engagement of Parties, organizations, institutions, experts, communities of practice and the private sector under the Nairobi work programme, and highlights examples of the collaborative activities currently being carried out between Nairobi work programme partner organizations, Parties and relevant organizations. It concludes with a brief overview of the mandated next steps.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to provide a report for consideration at each of its sessions, starting from SBSTA 29, on progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP).^{1,2}

B. Background

2. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its nineteenth session, decided to continue the NWP within the framework of the provisions of decision 2/CP.11, addressing the knowledge needs arising from, inter alia, the Cancun Adaptation Framework and other relevant workstreams and bodies under the Convention and the knowledge needs identified by Parties.³ The COP requested the SBSTA to consider, under the NWP, the issues of ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health.⁴

3. In accordance with decision 17/CP.19, SBSTA 40 agreed on a set of activities to be undertaken under the NWP, by SBSTA 45, so that information and knowledge may be collected, analysed and disseminated to inform adaptation planning and actions at the regional, national and subnational levels, particularly in relation to, inter alia, ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health (see figure 1).⁵

4. SBSTA 40 also considered ways to enhance the effectiveness of the modalities of the NWP and concluded that the following actions, inter alia, would be carried out under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA and with the support of the secretariat:⁶

(a) Enhancing collaboration with global and regional knowledge networks and NWP partner organizations in order to strengthen the production and dissemination of knowledge on adaptation;

(b) Inviting regional centres and networks to serve as regional knowledge platforms for the implementation of the activities under the NWP;

(c) Considering web-based activities that would engage a broader range of stakeholders, and electronic means of dissemination of knowledge products of the NWP, as appropriate;

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

² Information on progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 40 is contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2008/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.3, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.7, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.9, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.1, FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.6 and FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.7.

³ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 1.

⁴ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 5.

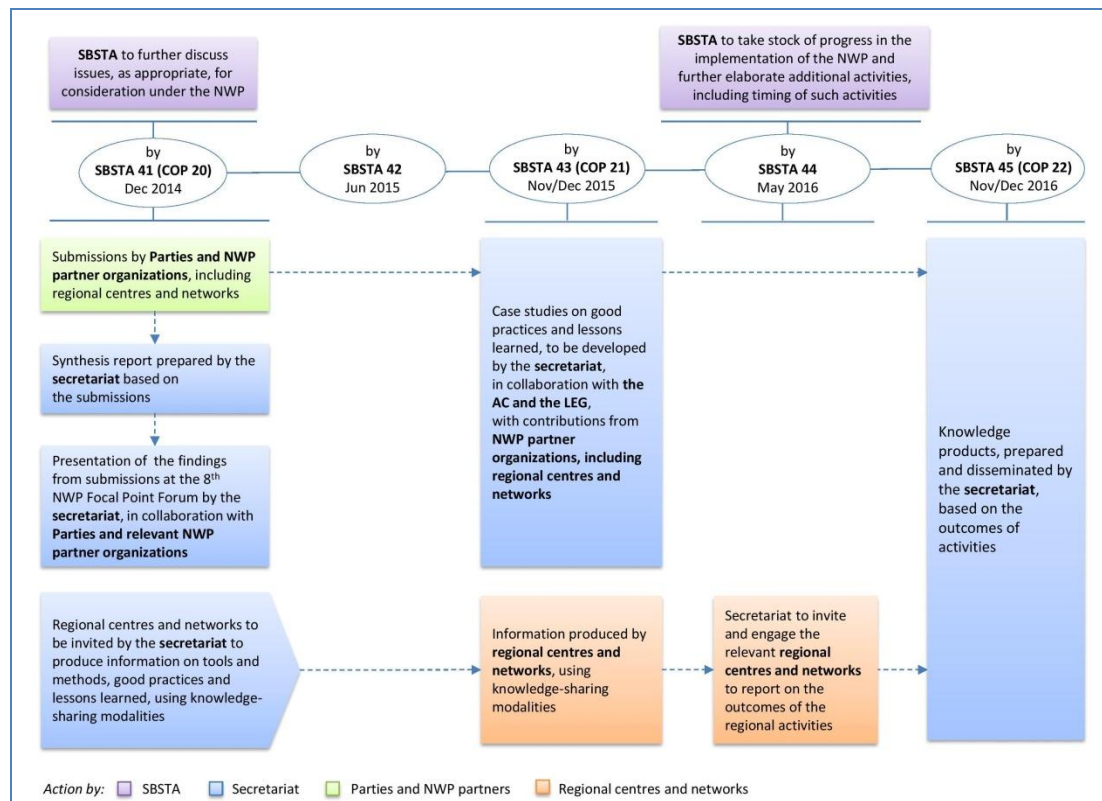
⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 19.

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 18.

(d) Further considering improved approaches to engaging and collaborating with NWP partner organizations, such as through the enhanced use and better alignment of calls for action and action pledges, when the SBSTA takes stock of progress at SBSTA 44.

Figure 1

Nairobi work programme activities and deliverables up to the forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice as mandated by decision 17/CP.19 and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its fortieth session



Abbreviations: AC = Adaptation Committee, COP = Conference of the Parties, LEG = Least Developed Countries Expert Group, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme

5. This chapter provides information on progress made during the reporting period in implementing the work programme with regard to engaging stakeholders, collaborating under the NWP and knowledge-sharing and management.

A. Engagement of partner organizations

1. Partner organizations

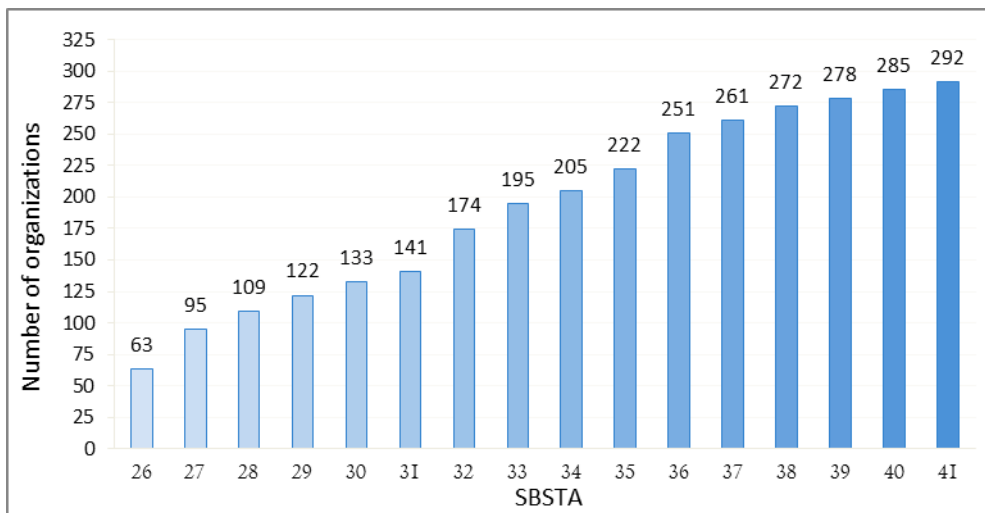
6. Parties to the Convention, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional centres and networks, community-based organizations, the private sector, practitioners and individual experts have all been contributing to the implementation of the

NWP. Therefore, the work programme has engaged relevant organizations as partner organizations, which are committed to aligning their activities with the objectives of the NWP and to carrying out initiatives, including through action pledges and collaborative actions, where appropriate, to provide information on climate risk assessment, and adaptation planning and implementation.

7. As figure 2 illustrates, the number of NWP partner organizations now stands at 292. During the reporting period, the following seven organizations/entities joined the NWP as new partners: the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change; Brandt Meio Ambiente; the Caribbean Office of Trade & Industrial Development Limited; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; the Regional Center of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development – Cebu; Community Forests International; and Community Forests Pemba.

Figure 2

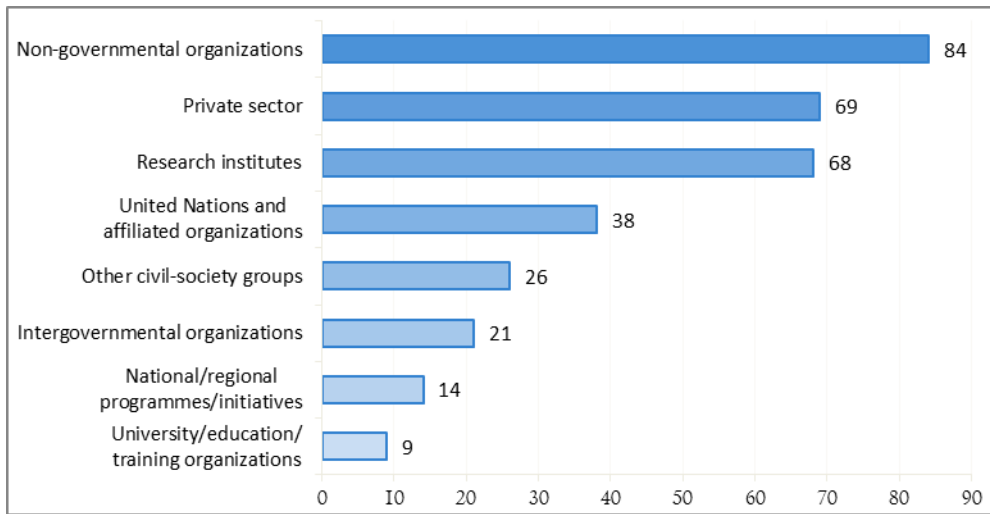
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time, as at 30 September 2014



Abbreviation: SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

8. NWP partner organizations represent a broad spectrum of expertise, experience and knowledge, and play an important role in the implementation of activities under the work programme. The NWP has been effective in catalysing targeted adaptation actions and has strengthened its capacity to enhance the provision and dissemination of information on, and knowledge of, adaptation. Figure 3 provides an overview of the NWP partner organizations by category as at 30 September 2014.

Figure 3
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category, as at 30 September 2014^a



^a A partner organization may be profiled under more than one category.

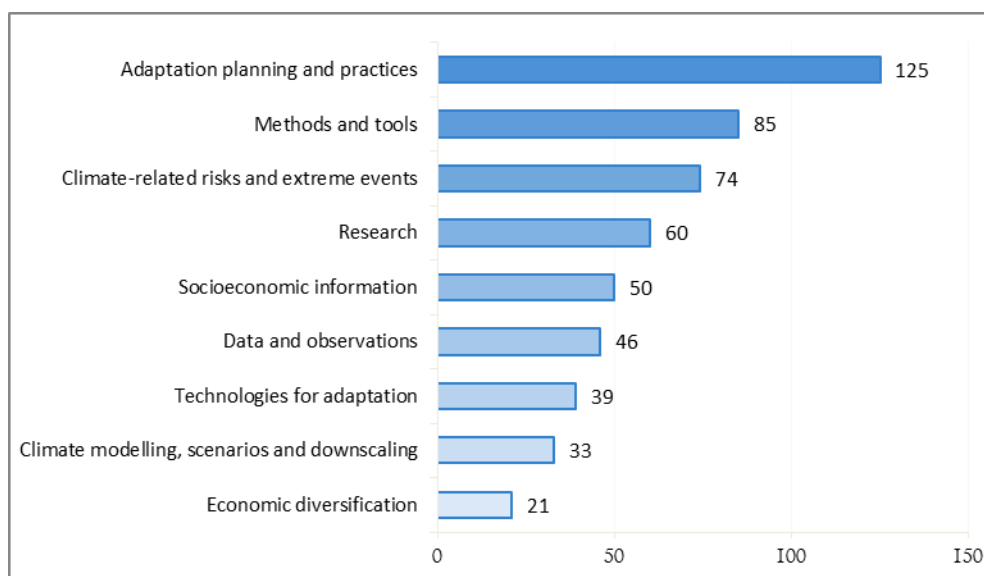
9. A further breakdown of NWP partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, activities and sector is presented in figures 5–8 in the annex.

2. Action pledges

10. Action pledges are targeted adaptation actions that partner organizations undertake in response to knowledge needs and gaps identified under the work programme. The COP, by decision 17/CP.19, encouraged NWP partner organizations to support the effective implementation of the NWP by reporting on the actions and outcomes associated with the fulfilment of action pledges and addressing calls for action. To date, 182 such action pledges have been made by partner organizations.

11. An overview of the action pledges made by partner organizations as at 30 September 2014, covering all nine areas of the work programme, is provided in figure 4.

Figure 4
Number of action pledges under the Nairobi work programme by work area, as at 30 September 2014^a



^a Some action pledges may be associated with more than one work area.

B. Collaboration under the Nairobi work programme

1. Adaptation knowledge initiative – an action pledge made by the United Nations Environment Programme

12. In accordance with SBSTA 40 conclusions which call for enhanced collaboration with global and regional knowledge networks and NWP partner organizations in order to strengthen the production and dissemination of information and knowledge on adaptation, as referred to in paragraph 4 above, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), through its Global Adaptation Network and in collaboration with the secretariat, has been developing a demand-driven knowledge framework, with a particular focus on identifying and responding to region- and sector-specific adaptation knowledge needs.

13. This initiative, an action pledge made by UNEP,⁷ intends to provide a systematic and credible approach to prioritizing tractable and strategic adaptation knowledge gaps that can be addressed through the repackaging and/or dissemination of data, information and knowledge. A pilot of this initiative for the Andean subregion, led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture, has produced a set of strategic knowledge needs through the application of a prioritization methodology.⁸ A priority-setting workshop was held from 24 to 26 September 2014 in Bogota, Colombia. At the workshop, a multidisciplinary stakeholder group, constituting experts from national governments, United Nations entities, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, prioritized the adaptation knowledge gaps for the Andean subregion. The multidisciplinary stakeholder group also provided inputs on possible responses, and on the institutions that are best placed to undertake actions, to address the prioritized knowledge gaps.

⁷ Details of the action pledge are available at https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31_ID:461.

⁸ The outcomes of the workshop will be provided jointly by UNEP and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture as an update to the action pledge.

14. Building on the results of the workshop, efforts will be made towards catalysing relevant actions in response to those prioritized knowledge gaps.

2. Collaboration with regional centres and networks

15. SBSTA 40 concluded that collaboration with global and regional knowledge networks should be enhanced by inviting them to serve as regional knowledge platforms for the implementation of the activities under the NWP. Furthermore, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to engage regional centres and networks in the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and knowledge to inform adaptation planning and actions at the regional, national and subnational levels, particularly in relation to, inter alia, ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health.⁹

16. SBSTA 40 also requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) and with contribution from relevant NWP partner organizations, including regional centres and networks, to develop case studies that highlight good practices and lessons learned, as referred to in paragraph 18 below.¹⁰ In response, the secretariat has been engaging a notable number of NWP partners to provide inputs on the case studies addressing water resources with a view to developing the synthesis publication by 2015. Similar collaborative efforts will soon be launched with relevant partners working on health, ecosystems and human settlements.

3. Co-convening of a workshop during the 2014 World Water Week

17. In collaboration with three NWP partner organizations, the Stockholm International Water Institute, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, the secretariat co-convened the workshop entitled “Mitigation and adaptation measures for climate change: how to converge over energy and water” on 3 September 2014 in Stockholm, Sweden, during the World Water Week 2014.¹¹ Through a series of sessions structured around science, policy, and businesses and the private sector, the workshop investigated how to coherently balance climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies through the interface of energy and water. The event brought together an unusually diverse range of stakeholders from academia, national and local governments and the private sector. The role of the NWP was underlined as a central adaptation knowledge platform in facilitating the exchange of good practices on practical ways to adapt to the wide range of impacts on the provision and sound management of water and energy resources expected from a changing climate. The workshop culminated with a round-table discussion among different actors on ways forward.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraphs 18(b), 19 and 25.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 24.

¹¹ Details of the World Water Week 2014 are available at <<http://www.worldwaterweek.org>>; details of the workshop, including presentations, are available at <<http://programme.worldwaterweek.org/event/mitigation-and-adaptation-4163>>.

C. Development and dissemination of information and knowledge, and sharing and learning from adaptation experiences

1. Synthesis report on methods and tools for, and good practices and lessons learned relating to, adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health, and good practices and lessons learned related to processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning

18. The report synthesizes information contained in submissions from two Parties and eighteen NWP partner organizations on: (a) available and implemented tools and methods for adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health; (b) good practices and lessons learned in relation to adaptation planning processes, including on monitoring and evaluation, addressing the above-mentioned four issues; and (c) good practices and lessons learned related to processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning.¹²

19. In addition, the synthesis report includes key elements common to the submissions received from Parties and NWP partner organizations on adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health, as well as on linking national and local adaptation processes. These key elements, relating to ensuring robust and successful adaptation planning processes and strengthening the link between national and local adaptation processes, include: the importance of integrating adaptation planning into development and sector planning and implementation; the consideration of vulnerable sectors and communities in adaptation planning processes; the need for decision-making processes in adaptation planning to be informed by local and scientific information; the importance of partnerships and working with others; the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation using multiple approaches; and the importance of knowledge management systems.

20. SBSTA 40 invited the Adaptation Committee and the LEG to consider the synthesis report when conducting their work on adaptation planning.¹³

2. The eighth Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum

21. The eighth NWP Focal Point Forum is scheduled to be convened, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, and in collaboration with Parties and relevant NWP partner organizations, during SBSTA 41. In accordance with the mandate from SBSTA 40,¹⁴ the Focal Point Forum will include a presentation on the findings from the submissions referred to in paragraph 18 above, and will provide a space for sharing ideas and experiences in the effective implementation of the NWP in line with the relevant mandates from the COP and the SBSTA.

3. Database of action pledges and partner organizations

22. The online database of partner organizations and action pledges facilitates effective access to information by adaptation stakeholders, including Parties and NWP partner organizations, and the management of that information by NWP partner organizations.¹⁵ The database is continuously updated with information on new partner organizations and

¹² The synthesis report is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/4. The submissions from Parties, United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/MISC.8; the submissions from non-governmental organizations have been posted on the UNFCCC website at <<http://unfccc.int/7482>>.

¹³ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 22.

¹⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 23.

¹⁵ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/nwp>>.

information submitted by partner organizations, including action pledges and associated updates.

4. Nairobi work programme eUpdate

23. The latest issue of eUpdate, a regular NWP newsletter disseminated to Parties and NWP partner organizations, was published and made available in July 2014 in its new format.¹⁶ The NWP eUpdate highlights activities carried out under the NWP, including those undertaken by Parties and partner organizations. The next issue will be made available in November 2014.

III. Developing linkages with adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention

24. The Adaptation Committee, at its sixth meeting,¹⁷ discussed issues with relevance to the NWP under several of the meeting agenda items, including its work on the coherence of adaptation under the Convention and on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities.

25. Concrete proposals for activities to enhance the collaboration with the NWP included the joint organization of an expert meeting on promoting livelihoods and economic diversification, to be held in the third quarter of 2015.

26. SBSTA 40¹⁸ invited the Adaptation Committee, in accordance with its mandate and functions, to consider providing further recommendations for activities to be undertaken under the NWP in relation to the joint meeting held on 1 to 4 April 2014 on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.¹⁹ The Adaptation Committee, during its sixth meeting, also considered recommendations for activities to be undertaken under the NWP in relation to the joint meeting.²⁰

IV. Next steps

27. Under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration with relevant entities, including the Adaptation Committee, the LEG, Parties, NWP partner organizations, and regional centres and networks, a number of activities will be undertaken under the NWP, as referred to in paragraph 3 above.

28. Decision 17/CP.19 requested the SBSTA to consider, inter alia, the following issues: ecosystems, human settlements, water resources, and health under the NWP. It further requested the SBSTA, at its forty-first session, to further discuss issues, as appropriate, for consideration under the NWP.

¹⁶ Available at <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/eupdate_july2014_final.pdf>.

¹⁷ Details of the sixth meeting of the Adaptation Committee are available at <<http://unfccc.int/8467>>.

¹⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 15.

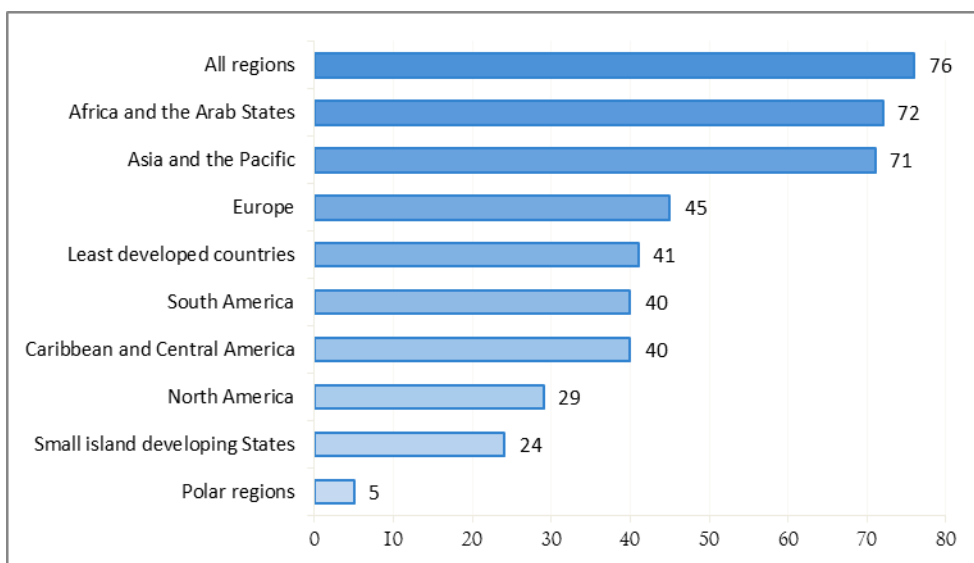
¹⁹ The report on the meeting is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11.

²⁰ Further information on the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Adaptation Committee will be included in the report of the Adaptation Committee (FCCC/SB/2014/2) for consideration at COP 20.

Annex

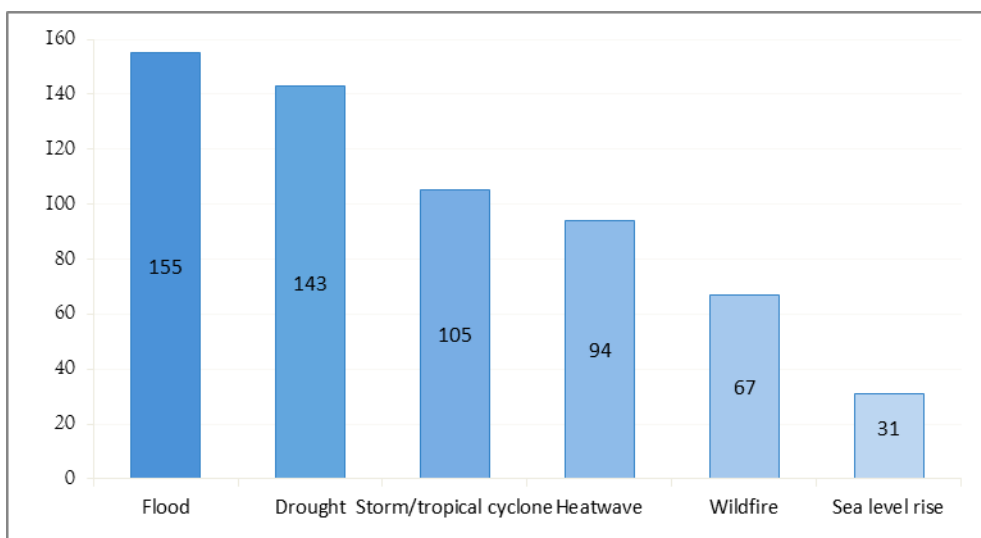
Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, scope of activities and sector

Figure 5
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, as at 30 September 2014^a



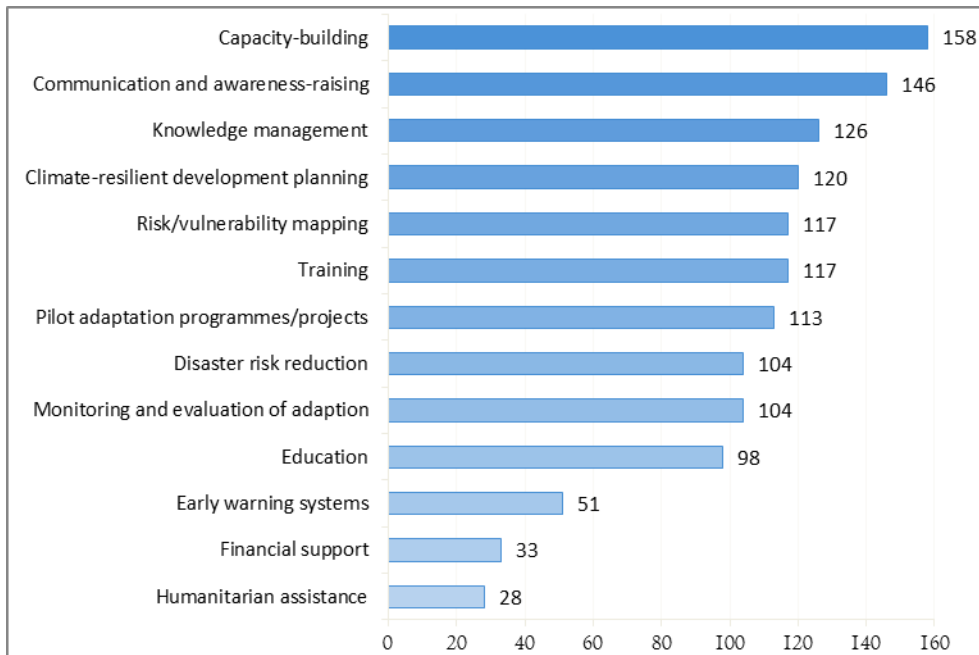
^a A partner organization may operate in more than one region.

Figure 6
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by climate hazard, as at 30 September 2014^a



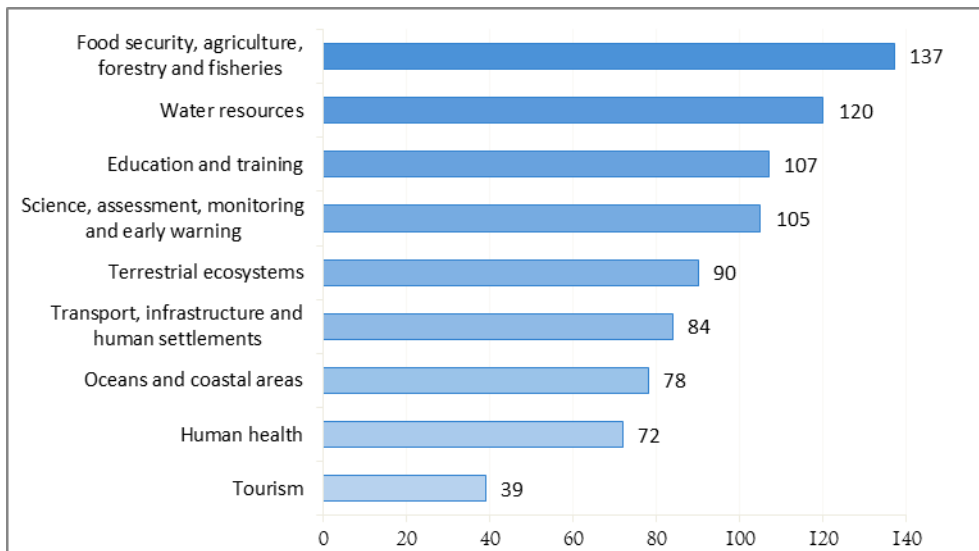
^a A partner organization may address more than one hazard.

Figure 7
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by scope of activities, as at 30 September 2014^a



^a A partner organization may undertake activities which fall under more than one area.

Figure 8
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by sector, as at 30 September 2014^a



^a A partner organization may address issues related to more than one sector.