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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 forty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It describes the continued engagement of Parties, partner organizations, regional centres and networks, experts and communities of practice in the implementation of activities under the Nairobi work programme, and highlights collaborative activities with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. 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 COP 19 also 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.⁵

4. Relevant activities and deliverables for the period prior to SBSTA 45, as mandated at COP 19⁶ and SBSTA 40 and 41,⁷ are summarized in figure 1.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

² Information on progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 42 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, FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.7, FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.15 and FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.2.

³ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 1.

⁴ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 5.

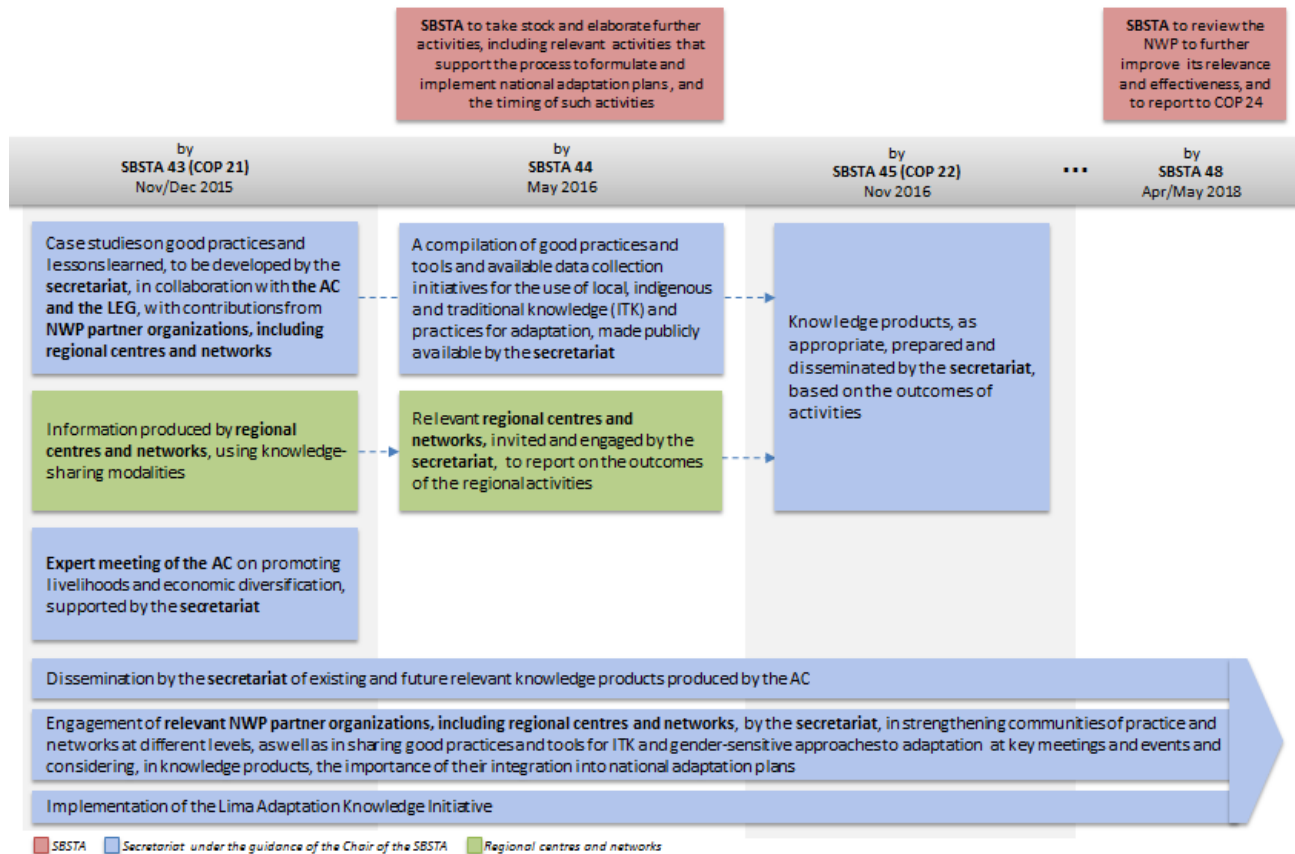
⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 19.

⁶ Decision 17/CP.19.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2 and FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5.

Figure 1
Nairobi work programme activities and deliverables up to the forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice^a

NWP activities and deliverables up to SBSTA 45 (Nov 2016) as mandated by COP 19, SBSTA 40 and SBSTA 41



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.

^a As mandated at COP 19 (decision 17/CP.19) and SBSTA 40 and 41.

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 stakeholder engagement, collaboration and knowledge-sharing and management under the NWP.

A. Engagement of partner organizations

1. Partner organizations

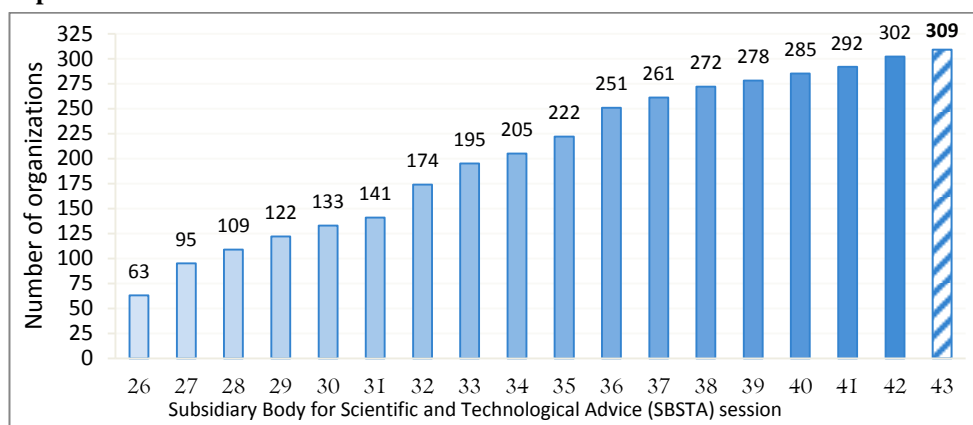
6. Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, regional centres and networks, community-based organizations, the private sector, practitioners and individual experts have all been contributing to the implementation of the NWP. The work programme has engaged relevant organizations as 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, in order to contribute to the enhanced provision and application of information on, and knowledge of, climate risk assessment and adaptation planning and implementation.

7. As figure 2 illustrates, the number of NWP partner organizations now stands at 309. During the reporting period, the following seven organizations/entities joined the NWP as new partners: Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions; the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research; the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance; HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation; the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility; Southern Voices on Adaptation; and The Rockies Institute.

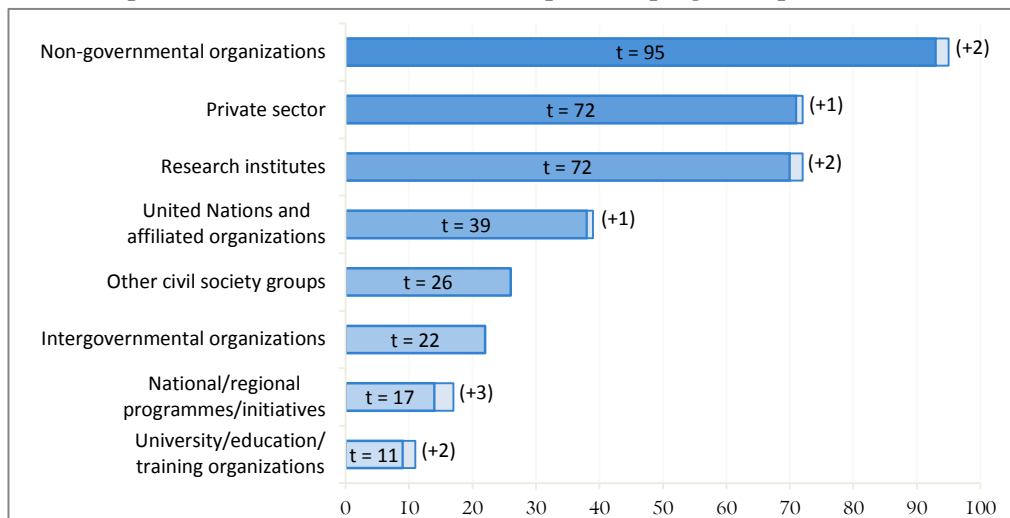
Figure 2

Total number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time as at 30 September 2015



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 2015.

Figure 3
Total number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 30 September 2015 and increase since the previous progress report



Notes: (1) A partner organization may be profiled under more than one category; (2) t = total number of partner organizations; (3) Increase in the number of partner organizations is shown in light blue.

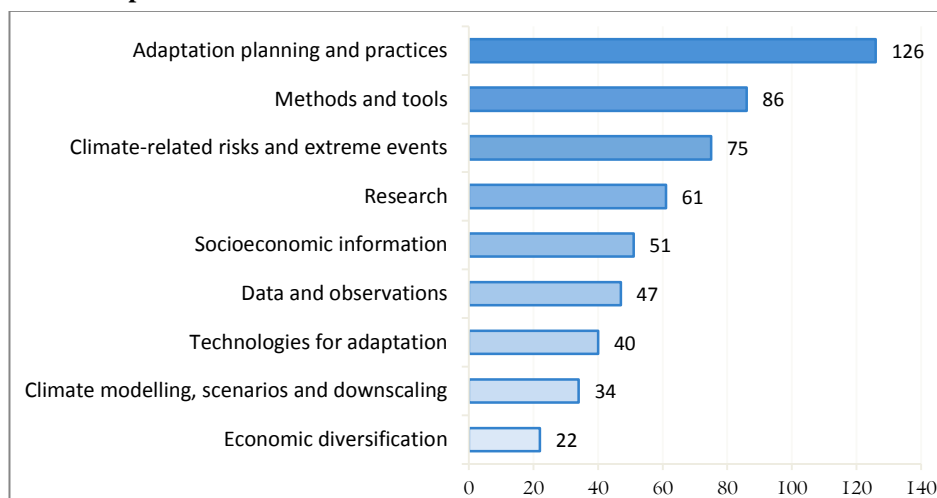
9. A further breakdown of NWP partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, scope of activities and sector is presented in the annex (figures 5–8).

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, 184 such action pledges have been made by partner organizations.

11. An overview of the action pledges made by partner organizations as at 30 September 2015, covering all nine areas of the work programme, is provided in figure 4.

Figure 4
Total number of action pledges under the Nairobi work programme by work area as at 30 September 2015



Note: Some action pledges may be associated with more than one work area.

B. Collaboration under the Nairobi work programme

1. Case studies on good practices and lessons learned for adaptation planning processes

12. In accordance with the mandate from SBSTA 40,⁸ the secretariat invited Parties and NWP partner organizations to contribute case studies on good practices and lessons learned on ecosystems, water resources, health and human settlements, and on linking national and local adaptation planning. In total, the secretariat received 170 such case studies.

13. The secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, and in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), synthesized the case studies and prepared a document⁹ containing synthesis information on: trends in the development and application of methods and tools; good practices and lessons learned, including success factors and barriers, in adaptation planning processes addressing the four thematic areas referred to in paragraph 12 above; and the structures and processes used in linking adaptation planning at the national and local levels. Cross-cutting issues, such as the linkages between adaptation planning processes at different levels, and between the four thematic areas, were also captured in the key messages.

2. Implementation of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative

14. At COP 20, the COP President endorsed the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, an action pledge under the NWP,¹⁰ as a component of a set of actions to further address adaptation to climate change under the Convention. As a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the secretariat, the initiative aims at prioritizing and catalysing responses to subregion- and theme-specific adaptation knowledge needs. SBSTA 41 encouraged the implementation of this initiative in other

⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 24.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/4.

¹⁰ Details of the action pledge are available at https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31_ID:461.

subregions, particularly in vulnerable developing countries such as the least developed countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa.¹¹

15. Following the implementation of the pilot initiative in the Andean subregion, the implementation of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative in the Gulf Cooperation Council subregion has been initiated. A priority-setting workshop for this subregion was held from 15 to 17 June 2015 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.¹²

16. Through extensive discussions, 19 climate change adaptation experts from the Gulf Cooperation Council member States prioritized 10 adaptation knowledge gaps relating to water resources, terrestrial and marine ecosystems, food security, health and cross-cutting issues such as data collection and access. Experts then identified a set of possible response actions. The secretariat, in collaboration with the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia, and the subregional coordination entity, Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative (AGEDI) will undertake the next steps in catalysing response actions to address these priority knowledge gaps.

17. Southern Africa will be the next subregional domain for the implementation of the initiative, starting off with a priority-setting workshop in South Africa in November 2015.

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

1. The ninth Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum

18. An informal brainstorming session was organized under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA on the margins of SBSTA 42 to get inputs from Parties and partners on the organization of the ninth Focal Point Forum. The informal event was co-facilitated by Mr. Juan Hoffmaister (Bolivia (Plurinational State of)) and Ms. Beth Lavender (Canada). During the discussions, participants made suggestions relating to a number of aspects of the Focal Point Forum, including on the potential topics for discussion; potential experts, organizations and Parties that could contribute to these topics; the timing and duration of the event; how to effectively organize the forum; and how best to synthesize and disseminate its outcomes.

19. Drawing from the discussions held during the brainstorming session, it was decided that the ninth Focal Point Forum, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, would focus on sharing the case studies that have demonstrated good adaptation practices. The case studies are being selected from the large pool of contributions from Parties and NWP partners on good practices and lessons learned in relation to the adaptation planning processes addressing the four issues of ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health, and in relation to processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning, as referred to in paragraph 12 above.

20. A review group comprising representatives from the LEG, the Adaptation Committee and thematic experts from NWP partner organizations (with relevant expertise addressing water resources, human health, settlements and ecosystems) is currently engaged in the process of selecting the case studies using the criteria for good adaptation practices developed by the LEG as an initial input. During the forum, the participants will have an opportunity to interact and provide their inputs, in particular on: the set of criteria; any regional and thematic context that would need to be considered for selecting good practices in addition to the initial criteria; and the type and level of information that needs to be documented and disseminated in order to scale up and replicate these good practices.

¹¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 19.

¹² <https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:1727277722569461::NO::P31_ID:521>.

2. Adaptation knowledge portal under the Nairobi work programme

21. As part of the secretariat's efforts to improve the dissemination of knowledge developed under the NWP, a user-friendly online adaptation knowledge portal is being developed to facilitate comprehensive as well as targeted queries regarding information on adaptation. The portal is intended to further disseminate the outcomes under the NWP as well as the outcomes of the work carried out under the Adaptation Committee and the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, and the contributions made by Parties, partner organizations and regional centres and networks in addressing knowledge needs on adaptation.

3. Nairobi work programme eUpdate

22. The latest issue of eUpdate, a regular NWP newsletter disseminated to Parties and NWP partner organizations, was published and made available in July 2015.¹³ It highlights activities carried out under the NWP showcasing the role of the NWP as a knowledge hub and an engagement tool, including activities undertaken by Parties, partner organizations and regional centres and networks. The eUpdate also provides information on engagement opportunities under other workstreams and bodies under the Convention for the NWP partner organizations. The next issue will be made available in December 2015.

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

23. The case studies on good practices and lessons learned for adaptation planning processes referred to in paragraph 12 above and the inputs to the discussions to be held at the ninth Focal Point Forum referred to in paragraph 18 above provide two concrete examples of collaborative work with the Adaptation Committee and the LEG.

24. In addition, the Adaptation Committee organized an expert meeting on livelihoods and economic diversification to build resilience in the context of planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation, building on the relevant work undertaken under the NWP on this matter, and with inputs from 31 NWP partners. A total of 11 NWP partners participated in the expert meeting, which was held on 7 and 8 September 2015.^{14, 15}

IV. Next steps

25. In line with the conclusions of SBSTA 40,¹⁶ the secretariat has been engaging regional centres and networks with a view to them undertaking regional activities in 2015 which focus on sharing and disseminating knowledge on good practices and lessons learned on ecosystems, water resources, health and human settlements, and on linking national and local adaptation planning. The outcomes will be reported to SBSTA 44. The mandate has provided a unique opportunity for the secretariat to identify, engage and develop partnerships with regional centres and networks in order to leverage their critical role in providing the knowledge support needed for enhancing adaptation at the regional level.

26. In addition, in accordance with relevant mandates as summarized in figure 1, the secretariat will be implementing activities under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA,

¹³ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/7565>>.

¹⁴ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 16 for the mandate.

¹⁵ Further information on the expert meeting is available at <<http://unfccc.int/9030.php>>.

¹⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraphs 25 and 26.

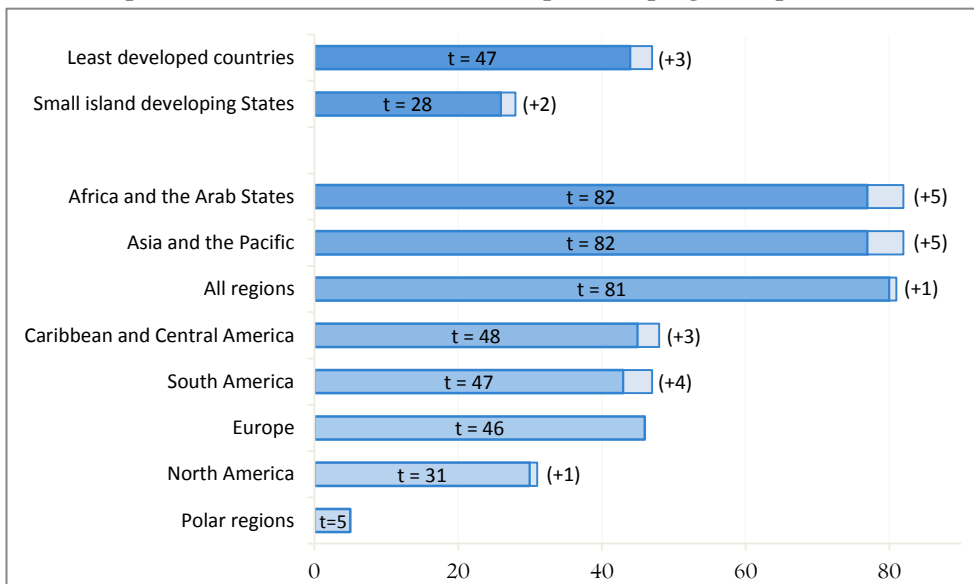
in collaboration with relevant entities, including the Adaptation Committee and the LEG, Parties, NWP partner organizations and regional centres and networks.

27. With regard to the implementation of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, the secretariat will continue its collaboration with UNEP and relevant partners and stakeholders in implementing the initiative in other subregions.

Annex

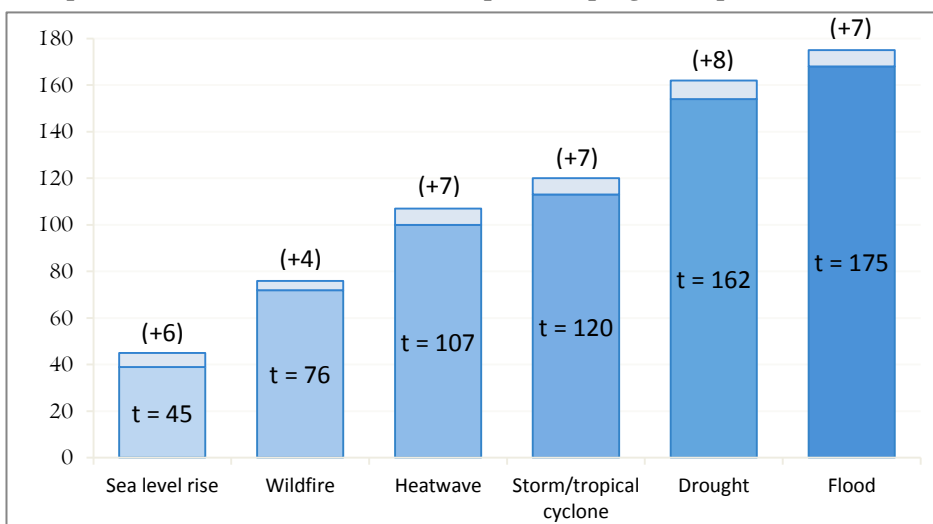
Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, scope of activities and sector

Figure 5
Total number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus as at 30 September 2015 and increase since the previous progress report



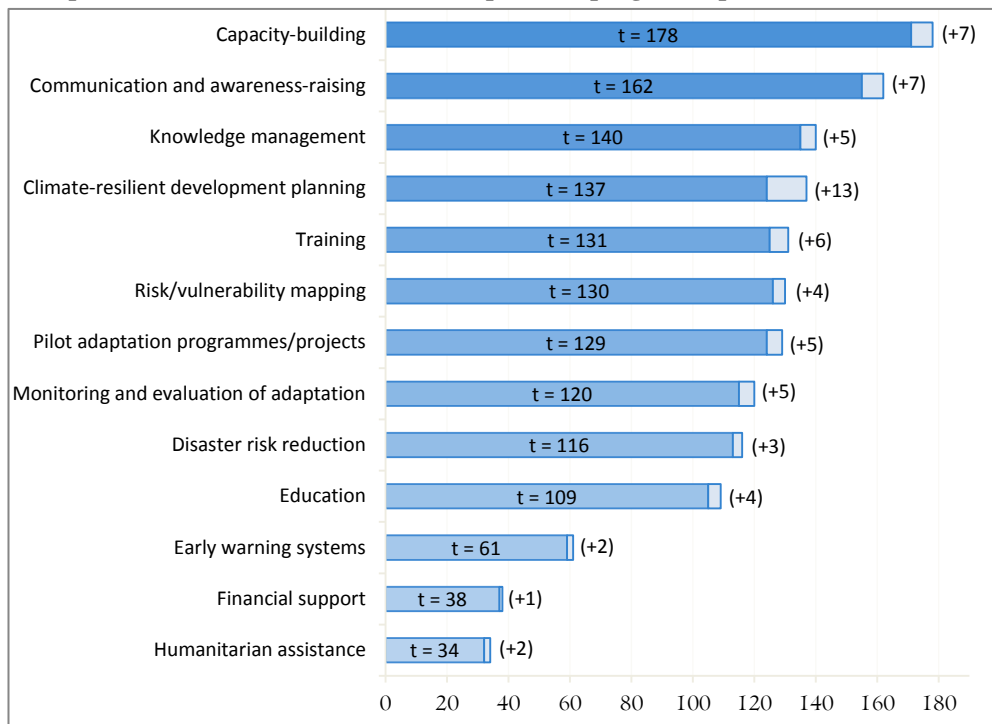
Notes: (1) A partner organization may operate in more than one region; (2) t = total number of partner organizations; (3) Increase in the number of partner organizations is shown in light blue.

Figure 6
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by climate hazard as at 30 September 2015 and increase since the previous progress report



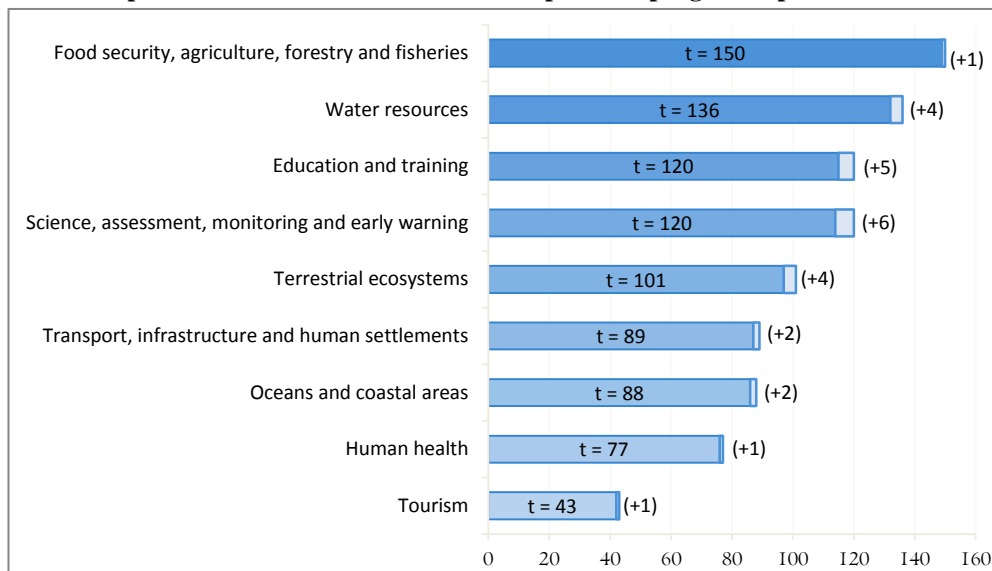
Notes: (1) A partner organization may address more than one hazard; (2) t = total number of partner organizations; (3) Increase in the number of partner organizations is shown in light blue.

Figure 7
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by scope of activities as at 30 September 2015 and increase since the previous progress report



Notes: (1) A partner organization may address more than one hazard; (2) t = total number of partner organizations; (3) Increase in the number of partner organizations is shown in light blue.

Figure 8
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by sector as at 30 September 2015 and increase since the previous progress report



Notes: (1) A partner organization may address more than one hazard; (2) t = total number of partner organizations; (3) Increase in the number of partner organizations is shown in light blue.