

**Fifth meeting of the Adaptation Committee  
Bonn, Germany, 5-7 March 2014**

**Concept Note**

**The 2014 thematic report**

**“HANDS ON ADAPTATION“**

**Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee**

The AC, at its fifth meeting, is invited to decide on:

- The proposal for the title, outline and focus for the 2014 thematic report and identify links to the work streams and activities in the AC three-year work plan;
- The proposal to use mainly existing information available at the secretariat and possibly identify sources of further, in-depth, information while indicating the specific interest and possible questions;
- The organization of work.

**Introduction**

At AC4, the AC agreed on the theme for the 2014 thematic report, with the title to be further elaborated: “Tools and knowledge available, lessons learned, and challenges faced in the application of different approaches guiding national adaptation”. The COP requested the AC to further refine the title of the report. As a result the AC requested the reports group to make the title clearer, prepare an annotated outline for the report, an associated template for Parties to provide information and an updated timeline for consideration at AC5.

In further refining the title of the report, two considerations might be important:

1. As the 2013 thematic report ‘The state of adaptation under the UNFCCC’ had the aim to provide a snapshot of instruments, bodies, work programs and support mechanisms under the Convention, it is proposed to have the view of the 2014 thematic report to the world outside the Convention.
2. In preparing a report on lessons, tools and knowledge for adaptation the AC faces the risk of duplication, since much information about adaptation projects is already available from earlier reports, workshops, seminars, etc. by numerous organizations. Most of them having a focus on the technological aspects of the work.

**Focus**

On refining the title and to the background of these considerations, it is suggested to confine the 2014 thematic report to ‘work in progress’ on national adaptation planning and implementation and focus on the way that work is done. In this way the emphasis will be on the governance of national adaptation planning and implementation -including risk management (dealing with uncertainties), gathering data, capacity building, etc. - and on the interactions between stakeholders. The report will also consider, if appropriate, relevant elements of means of implementation related to ‘work in progress’ on national adaptation planning and implementation.

The title of the report ‘Hands on Adaptation’ indicates that the accent in the report is on describing who is involved (individuals, including local experts, organisations, government, etc.) in the different phases of planning and implementation of adaptation initiatives, what their respective role is or should be and how they work together. The technical characteristics (for

example building a dam, how big, high, expected effects etc.), though important, are used in this way mainly as framework for showing lessons on governance and related implementation challenges.

This would imply that the spotlight is placed on cooperation between stakeholders involved in all phases of the life cycle of an adaptation initiative - from planning to implementation - with the aim to recognize success and fail factors and show lessons learned from dealing with these factors. Plans and projects to showcase adaptation at the national level will be selected in different natural regions (deltas, mountainous regions, small islands, arid/semi-arid regions, tropical rainforest, sea and reefs), recognizing possible challenges for cooperation at the national and regional level if appropriate.

The report will take into account governance-related activities and work carried out by the AC in the implementation of its 3-year work-plan, in particular as mentioned in paper AC/2014/7 on 'Strengthening the understanding of the roles of regional institutions and UN agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries'.

### **Target audience**

Stakeholders in adaptation inside and outside the climate community (i.e. not negotiators), focusing on actors -including decisionmakers- in government responsible for 'work in progress' on national adaptation planning and implementation and private sector executives

### **Outline**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

- The challenge  
Adaptation = acting on a change & acting on a chance;
- Goal and ambition of the report  
Sharing knowledge on success and fail factors, opportunities for cooperation and dealing with uncertainties on governance related aspects in all phases of adaptation initiatives, including on securing (means of) implementation;
- Adaptation under the Convention
  - Reference to and short update of the 2013 Thematic Report (mention further work under NWP, CAF, etc.)
  - Role of UNFCCC (make a map, show the network);
  - Role of AC, connect to work plan.

#### **II. WORK IN PROGRESS ON NATIONAL ADAPTATION**

Select for each natural region (delta, mountain, desert, island, etc.) one or more national adaptation initiatives, small and large, and describe them along the indicated points of attention a-b-c below. This will be the showcase part of the report, analyses of the processes -focussing on lessons for success/failure and cooperation- will be in paragraph III.

##### **a. PLANNING AND DESIGN**

Initiative: bottom-up or top-down and how it fits into the adaptation agenda (NAP, etc.)  
Risk management, dealing with uncertainties  
Data and models  
Harvesting capacity building

##### **b. IMPLEMENTATION**

Financial arrangements and risks  
Process to tender and contract  
Ownership and institutionalization  
Local embedding (nature, society)

##### **c. SUSTAINABLE AND DURABLE**

Side effects, positive and negative (equality, social coherence, etc.)  
maintain and operate (life cycle approach)

Sources of information:

Parties (NAPs, etc.). LEG, NWP. Much information is already available, including upcoming calls, there may be no additional need for issuing another call.

### III. WORKING TOGETHER

This chapter is dedicated to showing examples of cooperation between partners from different background and level (multilevel participation). Indicated here are communities or connections where examples of such cooperation might already be available.

#### Sources of information:

- Parties: unilateral (vertical and horizontal cooperation in government), bilateral (cross border cooperation);
- UN: delivering as one (UNEP, FAO, WHO, UNISDR, WMO, etc.);
- Regional associations: geographical (catchment areas and other coherent regions) and political (Asia, Africa, etc.);
- Private sector: PPP (public-private, overview by OECD);
- Expert (international) and local (indigenous) expertise/consultancies/ government.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Focus on good practices and lessons. Indicate opportunities for improvement.

#### **Organization of work**

##### **TIME LINE**

The mode of preparation will have different implications for timing and resource needs. If the AC decides to rely on information available then the timing proposed below should be manageable.

5-7 March	AC5, to decide on outline, focus and information sources
15 May	Wrap up information, schematic draft
1 Oct	AC6, first draft.

##### **GATHERING INFORMATION**

The list of possible sources of information for the purposes of the report is virtually endless. The short list below is still very broad and unspecified.

The best way forward seems to first focus the report and then identify sources of information.

Furthermore, since the call for submissions from UN agencies and regional institutions yielded a wealth of information already and the secretariat is currently synthesizing the info to draw best practices, lessons learned and areas for further consideration, it is suggested to rely on existing resources and calls. In a later stage additional - more specific - information could be gathered, if appropriate.

#### Sources in close reach of the AC

UN organizations (UNEP, FAO, UNISDR, WMO, World Bank, etc.)

Parties

UNFCCC bodies (LEG, TEC, etc.)

#### Sources further away

Regional alliances (...)

Cities (C40, ..)

NGOs

Private sector, including consultancies and global companies (Coca Cola, Unilever, Nestle, Tata, Toyota, breweries, etc.).

##### **PRACTICALITIES**

- Renske will be in the lead in the working group for the 2014 thematic report and responsible for drafting the report with support by the secretariat and on the basis of input received at various points from AC;
- AC members, to be specified at AC5, can adopt specific cases or parts of the report and would also be responsible for contacts and content on these issues;

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- Some outsourcing to institutions, being highlighted through case studies (this has been done in the NWP context);
  - Since the target audience will be decisions makers, both in the public and private sector, the report should be short, concise, clear and not use technical language. The overall length of the report should not exceed 40 pages, with chapter II preferably not longer than 15 pages and chapter III not more than 20 pages;
  - Where possible and functional, electronic links to background information should be part of the report, including relevant work of the IPCC (AR5: WGII-report).
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