

March 2008



Nairobi Work Programme eUpdate



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Featuring:

Recent and upcoming meetings
Bali Focal Point Forum: Many organizations pledge further action
Calls for Action
Action Pledges

Recent and upcoming meetings

4–7 March 2008, Mexico City: Expert Meeting on Methods and Tools, and on Data and Observations.

In this meeting, participants identified gaps and needs in the selection and application of methods and tools and in climate data that inhibit successful adaptation planning. Participants recommended to provide more guidance to adaptation practitioners so that they can choose a methodology or a tool that is most appropriate to their capacity and needs. Participants also recommended establishing a dialogue between providers and users of methods and tools to allow for a continuous exchange of lessons learned. With regards to data and observations, participants called for improved sharing and access to climate data to feed into impact and vulnerability assessments, in particular for vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and water resources. [More...](#)

10–12 March 2008, Trinidad and Tobago: Expert Meeting on Socio-economic Information.

Here, participants identified the gaps in the availability of information, including historical data particularly at smaller spatial scales, and of geo-referenced data, as well as the need for consistency of formats for socio-economic information that feeds into vulnerability assessments. Participants recommended tailoring existing socio-economic information to make it more policy-relevant in order to effectively support decision-making. A number of participating organizations committed to developing guidance on the collection and use of socio-economic information relevant to climate change. [More...](#)

7–9 April 2008, Bangkok: Informal meeting of representatives from Parties on the outcomes of completed activities under the Nairobi work programme

4–13 June 2008, Bonn: SBSTA 28.

This meeting of the SBSTA will address future activities undertaken through the Nairobi work programme after the first cycle of activities has run out in mid-2008. An in-session workshop on climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling is planned, this being the last one in a series of mandated meetings under the Nairobi work programme. The UNFCCC secretariat is also organizing a side event on the commitment of organizations in the implementation of the NWP.

A [calendar](#) is available that includes both past and future workshops and meetings under the Nairobi work programme.

Bali Focal Point Forum – Organizations pledge action



At their first meeting, held in Bali on 10 December 2007, focal points from 42 of the [101 organizations](#) that are partners with the Nairobi work programme discussed with the UNFCCC secretariat on the current state and future evolution of the Nairobi work programme. Following a stock-taking of current activities under the Nairobi work programme, in particular its catalytic role in identifying demand and generating supply for informed action on adaptation, many organizations moved to pledge action in a wide variety of themes and proceeded to raising ideas for future activities under the NWP. A meeting [report](#) is available.

The Nairobi work programme as a catalyst of knowledge

The Nairobi work programme was widely perceived as a catalyst for knowledge exchange in understanding impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and for enabling informed decision-making on practical adaptation actions. On the demand side, [Calls for Action](#) identify priority actions under the different areas of the Nairobi work programme. They complement the recommendations of the workshops and expert meetings mandated by the Nairobi work programme, and are taking into account questionnaires distributed to workshop participants and submissions by Parties and organizations. On the supply side, [Action Pledges](#) are a response to the Nairobi work programme, to Calls for Action, and also provide information on activities that partners of the programme have taken on their own initiative. With these Action Pledges, partners publicly commit to certain activities and commit to sharing their experiences and knowledge gained from these activities at subsequent SBSTA sessions. These processes help make the programme more widely available and open up the potential for further partnership.

Organizations move to action

Many organizations decided to use the focal point forum as an opportunity to pledge further action. For example, START pledged a variety of actions that focus on education and training of future adaptation experts, building institutional capacity for assessment and the usage of climate data, as well as expanding activities that support decision-making on adaptation.

Similarly, the Stockholm Environment Institute pledged to develop an online portal



that would link knowledge harnessed from the Nairobi work programme with indigenous knowledge and local practice in developing countries. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations announced six action pledges that would focus on adaptation in agriculture in developing countries. And finally, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis announced a pledge to further develop their work on insurance initiatives.

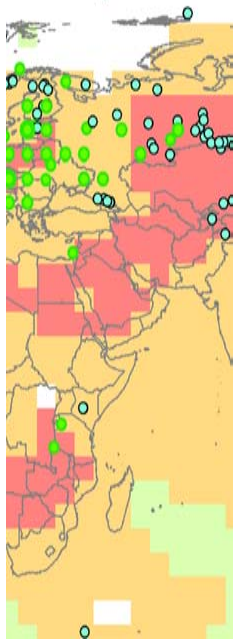
The Nairobi work programme as a one-stop-shop of information

The focal point meeting served as an opportunity for partner organizations to contribute their ideas to the future evolution of the Nairobi work programme, whose first cycle of activities is completed in mid-2008, with a discussion of the second cycle to take place at the mid-2008 SBSTA meeting. The Munich Climate Insurance Initiative raised the idea of the Nairobi work programme as a “one-stop-shop” that links to all existing information on adaptation knowledge and practices and therewith develops into an “adaptation portal”. The World Bank addressed a similar need in calling for a screening tool that would allow investors to incorporate information on adaptation into decisions.

Other organizations, such as the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and the World Tourism Organization called for more information on easily-implemented adaptation actions that could be communicated to decision-makers. Some organizations, including the World Health Organization and the World Resources Institute, called for the Nairobi work programme to further its role as a forum for different organizations to meet in partnership and develop joint activities, offering information on who could be a potential partner organization for a specific activity.

Next steps

Informal [meeting](#) of representatives from Parties on the outcomes of completed activities under the Nairobi work programme, 7–9 April 2008, Bangkok
Side event at SBSTA 28 – showcasing involvement by organizations in the Nairobi work programme
Development of a webportal on adaptation practices, as part of the UNFCCC webpages, as mandated by the SBSTA



Calls for Action

To date, 12 [Call for Action](#) sheets have been developed within the work areas of:

- Climate related risks and extreme events, and
- Adaptation planning and practices.

Call for Action sheets constantly evolve as new input is provided, and are intended to offer inspiration for action by the partners of the Nairobi work programme.

The production of Call for Action sheets is a dynamic process that is under constant refinement as new inputs are provided via participants at workshops and expert meetings, as well as through other inputs into upcoming Nairobi work programme activities.

These inputs, and consideration of them, will define any content and format of the Call for Action sheets, in order that they fulfil better the objectives and purposes of the Nairobi work programme - enhancing adaptation at all levels and across all sectors.

The following Calls for Action have been issued so far:

- Raise awareness on adaptation actions at international and regional levels in order to help facilitate coordination
- Enhance the use of climate information for adaptation to climate change impacts on agricultural production
- Improve guidance for adaptation planning at the national level
- Analyze and widely disseminate practical experiences on adaptation programmes, practices and activities
- Document, analyze and disseminate appropriate local adaptation knowledge and practices
- Create or strengthen community-based extension services in rural areas
- Improve and disseminate risk assessment tools and methods for addressing climate change-related health threats
- Promote and enhance adaptation planning and practices at the water basin level
- Assess the adaptive capacity of communities in coastal zones
- Map vulnerability to climate change in urban areas
- Explore and advance insurance-related instruments for coping with climate variability and climate change and promoting adaptation
- Assess and provide guidance on the links between disaster risk reduction strategies and adaptation

UNEP **UNFCCC** **Nairobi Work Programme**

OUTCOMES OF THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME ON ADAPTATION, VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE

CALL FOR ACTION Assess the adaptive capacity of communities in coastal zones

ACTION NEEDED
Assessing the adaptive capacity of communities and local contexts of adaptation in coastal zones, including underlying access to resources, processes of decision-making and impacts of adaptation measures.

GAP / NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING
While climate change impacts on coastal zones are increasingly well researched and understood, there is limited understanding of the adaptive capacity of communities in coastal zones. The adaptive capacity of communities in coastal zones is determined by the relationship between coastal settlements, infrastructure, ecosystems and other factors including physical factors such as sea level rise, coastal erosion, salt water intrusion, and biological factors such as presence of functioning public and private. Assessments are needed to better understand this relationship as well as various adaptation options and how these options affect ecosystems, local livelihoods, culture and traditions.

POTENTIAL INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES	POTENTIAL ACTORS
Identify, assess and improve availability and accessibility of relevant coastal climate and socio-economic information relevant for adaptation planning, including early warning systems	United Nations organizations and other relevant international and regional organizations
Assess local contexts of adaptation in coastal zones, including underlying access to resources, resilience of ecosystems, and others of adaptation measures	Relevant national scientists and agencies
Identify and assess policies, regulations, private initiatives and other constraints to the development of adaptive capacity of communities in coastal zones	Research institutions and universities at national, regional and international level
Identify and assess practical adaptation options, including their costs, benefits and possible trade-offs	Experts and practitioners in coastal zones and adaptation
Develop a conceptual framework for adaptation in coastal zones that would assist in identifying the range of available adaptation options while at the same time providing for flexibility and uptake of options as more clarity emerges regarding the level of change or response to which different coastal zones need to adapt	Local government and non-governmental organizations
Support the development of local scientific capability to understand local impacts and develop responses - capacity building, scientific centers, financial resources	Inter-governmental organizations

NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE
To assist all Parties, in particular developing countries (including the least developed countries and small island developing States), to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, assist them in formulating decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to support climate change in a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable manner, taking into account current and future climate change and related risks.

CALL FOR ACTION #01/04/001/017 1

Action Pledges

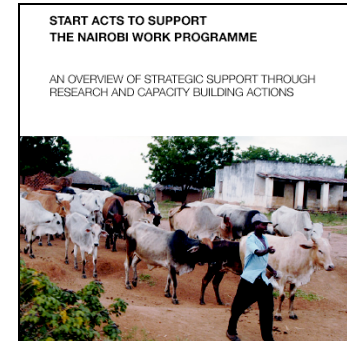
Action Pledges provide an interactive way for Nairobi work programme partners, including Parties, IGOs, NGOs and research institutes, to identify and commit publicly to the programme. Fourteen organizations have so far pledged action.

Recent updates from contributing organizations include:

At the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Dr. A. Patt has conducted extensive analysis of the uses of seasonal and shorter term climate forecasts for sustainable development and climate adaptation in Africa – a range of relevant papers are available.

START have pledged an action for each of the Nairobi work programme areas of work. This includes collaboration with the Institute of Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam to implement an education and training program on climate change and biodiversity conservation for African graduate students and early to mid-career professionals and collaboration with the African Academy of Sciences (AAS) to implement a new African Climate Change Fellowship Program, see <http://www.pass-africa.org> for more information.

The UNFCCC website contains up-to-date information on all Action Pledges. Future updates will feature further research results and other highlights.
<http://unfccc.int/3633.php>



To get involved ...

Please contact
nwp@unfccc.int

List of Action Pledges

In alphabetical order by organization:

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

- Monitoring and production of strategic plans for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture based on poor farmer's agricultural practices to climate variability
- Pilot projects on uses of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to put strategic plans into action to promote sustainable use and management of land for adaptation to climate variability
- Use of tools and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture to secure implementation and management methods to enhance capacities of poor farmers to face climate changes
- Development of methods and tools related to agro-climatology
- Farm Adaptive Dynamic Optimisation (FADO)
- Assistance to Nigeria in assessing adaptation requirements in the agriculture sector

Global Land Ice Measurements from Space

- Improving data and models on glacial activity and related hydrologic activity to improve assessment of the cost of the impacts and costs/benefits of mitigation or adaptation to impending changes to the world's glaciers and tackle cross-border problems created by changing glaciers

Institute of Development Studies

- Reorganise and repackage the IDS 'Networks and Knowledge Services' so as to recognise and address core needs and objectives identified by the Nairobi work programme

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis

- Using climate data, observations, and forecasts to improve adaptive decision-making in multiple sectors in Africa

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

- Expanding support for the five-year plan of action on adaptation, by the IPCC Data Distribution Centre (DDC)
- Development and provision of appropriate data sets and data products
- Capacity building in developing and transition-economy countries to create data resources relevant to their needs

Institute for Social and Environmental Transition

- Partnering with and fostering social entrepreneurs with climate resilient and environmentally sustainable business models

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development

- Establishing and assisting an NGO group in Nepal to raise awareness amongst key development NGOs on climate change and development issues
- Climate Change Information Resource Centres to enhance learning and sharing among civil society organizations on climate change issues
- Building resilience of communities to the adverse impacts of climate change

Oficina de Riesgo Agropecuario

- Developing and disseminating tools to evaluate and reduce agricultural risks

Oxford University Centre for the Environment

- Researching and Assessing the Adaptive Capacity of Coastal Zones and Practical Adaptation Options in the Least Developed Countries / Small Island Developing States

Practical Action

- Strengthening livelihood security among poor communities which are vulnerable to natural disasters

Stockholm Environment Institute

- Bridging emerging experience in developing countries and the Nairobi Work Programme

The global change SysTem for Analysis, Research and Training

- Document and disseminate information about methods and tools for vulnerability and adaptation assessment and build capacity for the use of assessment methods and tools through new education programs, advanced study institutes, fellowships and small grants.
- Support and assist identification, collection, storage and access to long-term observation data for additional weather stations in Africa and in Asia and Oceania
- Support climate science education in developing country universities to identify and build institutional capacity for providing access to climate data and projections and for users to interpret and apply climate data and projections
- Educating on impacts and vulnerabilities due to climate related risks and extreme events in Africa and Asia
- Assisting in the planning of workshops for integration of socio-economic information into adaptation planning
- Improving capabilities for planning and implementing adaptation actions through education and fellowship programmes
- Support decision-making on climate change adaptation and plan future education, fellowship and capacity building programs to develop the next generation of vulnerability and adaptation researchers.
- Review future research and capacity building programs to assure allocation of resources to technology development, know-how and practices for adaptation, and dissemination to relevant stakeholders.
- Develop research activities to explore the barriers to economic diversification as an adaptation strategy and strategies that have proven effective in diversifying economic activities.

United Nations Environment Programme/GRID-Arendal

- Bringing together partners from the Arctic and the SIDS to share and enhance knowledge and expertise about, and to collaboratively devise strategic solutions to, the challenges confronting coastal communities.
- Promoting the use of satellites for the public good and in support of public policy in the area of sustainable development, marine safety and environment.

World Food Programme

- Institutionalizing a Food Security Outlook Forum
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