

## Email update to AC 17

### Item 5(b) - Advice to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP)

#### Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The AC will be invited to consider the information contained in this update and request the secretariat to carry out the activities suggested under “next steps” in each section.

It will further be invited to consider the “Possible areas for further advice by the AC” in the light of the outcomes of AC 17 and provide feedback and guidance to the NWP secretariat support.

#### Background

In response to an invitation from SBSTA 48.1, AC 15 provided advice on the delivery of NWP mandates that relate to the work programmes of constituted bodies, and on opportunities to align efforts with relevant bodies, workstreams and institutional arrangements. This was then communicated to the Chair of the SBSTA, included in the NWP’s annual report and welcomed by SBSTA 50.

Building on ongoing collaboration and recent mandates of the SBSTA, the AC also invited the provision of technical support from the NWP partners in respect of the work mandated to the AC by the CMA and adaptation knowledge-related activities in the flexible three-year workplan of the AC, as appropriate.

At AC17, the secretariat will be invited to provide an overview of how the NWP has implemented the advice received at AC 15 as well as the forthcoming support to the work mandated to the AC and contained its three year-year work plan. The information provided will also address key points from the outcomes of a survey on the accessibility, applicability and clarity of NWP knowledge products, including the Adaptation Knowledge Portal and most recent findings resulting from activities undertaken under the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI).

#### Updates from the secretariat:

**NWP progress to-date:** Following the advice from the AC and based on the outcomes from SBSTA 50,<sup>1</sup> the NWP has undertaken the following:

1. **Collaboration between constituted bodies and the NWP to close adaptation knowledge gaps and scale up adaptation action.** The Chair of the SBSTA invited relevant constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention to consider collaborating with the NWP. The PCCB has recently provided feedback outlining areas of collaboration.

*Next steps:* Feedback from other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements are expected soon that will define areas of collaboration with the NWP in 2020, and beyond. These collaborations will help to enhance the role of the NWP in responding to knowledge

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/199148>

needs identified by the constituted bodies using an interactive and iterative step-by-step knowledge-to-action approach.

2. **Promoting sharing of information with a global network of partners:** Through the NWP eUpdates,<sup>2</sup> the Adaptation Exchange on Facebook and by the NWP twitter feeds, as well as direct email communication, relevant work and engagement opportunities, including the engagement in the TEP-A, have been communicated to and from the NWP partners.

*Next steps:* The secretariat will develop a dedicated page on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP) to provide up-to-date information on such engagement opportunities with the AC as well as with relevant constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention, in addition to the eUpdates. The AC could provide feedback on how the NWP partners could be better engaged in delivering the AC.

3. **Strengthen partnerships to close adaptation knowledge gaps at the subregional level:** In the context of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI),<sup>3</sup> strengthened partnerships and new partnerships with academic institutions, regional partners and networks are in place to help address the priority knowledge gaps in various subregions of the world based in a demand-driven process (e.g. partnership with Yale University and IUCN in the context of Andean subregion; partnership with Harvard University and ICIMOD in the context of Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion; the University of Michigan collaboration in Indian Ocean Island countries as well as South African subregion; and collaboration with WGEO as a Regional Climate Centre in Dubai in MENA and North African subregions).

*Next steps:* The outcomes will constitute knowledge outputs for specific knowledge users (as defined in the context of the LAKI) in each of these subregions. The outcomes and progress to-date will also be shared during a side event planned at SBSTA 52. The secretariat will also replicate such partnerships with other academic institutions and partners from the South.

4. **Deepen understanding among Parties and stakeholders about adaptation themes and convene partnerships for collaborative actions,** such as on oceans in 2019 and on biodiversity in 2020. In 2019, the secretariat, through a successful collaboration with a specialized group of experts on oceans, co-produced a scoping paper on existing knowledge and knowledge gaps; co-organized an expert meeting to refine the knowledge gaps and design collaborative actions; and co-organized the 13<sup>th</sup> NWP Focal Point Forum on the thematic area of oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems at COP25. These were delivered in line with the iterative NWP knowledge-to-action methodology. In addition to providing an interactive learning space to share and discuss identified knowledge gaps, key learnings and recommendations, participants also defined collaborative actions to close existing knowledge gaps at the forum.

*Next steps:* The NWP will further collaborate with the oceans expert group to close existing adaptation knowledge gaps in 2020. With biodiversity as one of the main thematic focus areas in 2020, the NWP has also planned activities and several milestones in collaboration

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/adaptation-newsletters>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/laki.aspx>

with a specialized group of experts on biodiversity, leading to the 14<sup>th</sup> focal point forum at COP26.<sup>4</sup>

### **Relevance, accessibility and utilization of adaptation knowledge: Findings of an NWP survey**

The NWP secretariat undertook a survey to seek feedback on the relevance, accessibility and utilization of NWP knowledge products including the Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP) (between November 2019-February 2020). The purpose of the survey was to seek insights from UNFCCC national focal points, NWP partners and other users of the NWP products to improve NWP knowledge products and identify collaborative opportunities. The survey was sent to UNFCCC national focal points and NWP partners' focal points. In addition, the link was promoted through various UNFCCC social media platforms. Of the 82 respondents, 45% were NWP Partners and 42% were non-Partners. There were 8 respondents who represent national policy makers/UNFCCC national focal point persons and negotiators who constitute one of the primary audiences for the survey.

#### *Key findings:*

The NWP knowledge products noted as most relevant to the work of the respondents include case studies, tools/ methods (including good practices and lessons learned) and synthesis reports. The knowledge products highlighted as relevant include an online interface to interact with the knowledge producers, webinars and webcasts. Several limitations to the relevance of NWP knowledge products were noted, including missing information on the inter-relationship between thematic areas, specific geographic region and specific thematic areas.

With regards to the AKP, most respondents visit the AKP approximately once a month to access knowledge products. Respondents noted poor navigation and signage to relevant content cited as challenges.

#### *Next steps:*

The NWP secretariat is currently undertaking a comprehensive analysis of the survey results. The final report will be available in April 2020 and will be published on the UNFCCC website. The report will also include concrete ways that the secretariat will integrate to curate and produce knowledge products over 2020 that will contribute towards enhancing the relevance, accessibility and utilization of NWP knowledge products.

### **Possible areas for further advice by the AC:**

1. Further to the advice from the AC, the NWP was also encouraged to collaborate with the AC and the NWP partner organizations in contributing to the **work mandated to the AC by the CMA<sup>5</sup>** as well as to the adaptation knowledge-related activities set out in the **AC three-year workplan<sup>6</sup>**,<sup>6</sup> including:

- (a) Developing and updating an inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs;
- (b) Sharing experience and lessons learned from developing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/13th-focal-point-forum-of-the-nairobi-work-programme-on-the-ocean>

<sup>5</sup> See AC document AC/2019/2, available at <https://unfccc.int/node/193710>.

<sup>6</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/workplan>.

These mandates from the AC are critical in strengthening the role of the NWP to address context specific knowledge needs under the Convention using the NWP knowledge-to-action methodology. The NWP secretariat looks forward to feedback from the AC on specific guidance in terms of implementing these mandates.

2. SBSTA 50 invited the AC to consider, as appropriate, the work of the NWP when implementing its **mandates related to the adaptation communication and the global stocktake**. The AC might want to consider providing advice on the design and delivery of the NWP work and priorities in 2020 (e.g. in the context of the LAKI, thematic areas of biodiversity, oceans and ecosystems) that are relevant for the adaptation communication and the global stocktake. In addition, the AC might want to consider additional areas of collaboration with the NWP and its partners in the context of implementing its mandates in the context of the adaptation communication and global stocktake.
3. Building on the survey outcomes and insights that will be used in enhancing the relevance, accessibility and utilization of the NWP knowledge products, the secretariat will be also pleased to share the report and learning with the AC. The AC might want to consider using these outcomes and insights, if relevant, in implementing the AC work, in particular, the activities involving collaboration with the NWP.
4. SBSTA 50 requested the secretariat to prioritize the following NWP thematic areas mandated at SBSTA 48:
  - Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, flash floods, sand and dust storms, cyclones and heavy precipitation;
  - Drought, water scarcity and land degradation neutrality;
  - Forests and grassland;
  - Oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves;
  - Agriculture and food security.

The AC might want to consider these priority thematic areas when providing recommendations for the thematic focus for the 15<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 55.