



United Nations

FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.5



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
30 October 2012

English only

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Thirty-seventh session

Doha, 26 November to 1 December 2012

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**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 thirty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It describes the continued engagement of organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector in the activities of the Nairobi work programme, as well as examples of collaborative activities between Nairobi work programme partner organizations, Parties and the private sector that are currently being carried out. The report further provides information on the dissemination of outputs produced under the Nairobi work programme. It concludes with a brief overview of mandated next steps.

Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	1–6	3
A. Mandate.....	1	3
B. Background.....	2–6	3
II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme	7–40	4
A. Engaging organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector.....	8–17	4
B. Collaboration between Parties, Nairobi work programme partner organizations and the private sector	18–28	6
C. Disseminating outputs	29–40	9
III. Next steps	41–46	11
Annex		
Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, deliverable activity, climate hazard and sector		12

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.¹

B. Background

2. The overall objective of the Nairobi work programme is 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 to climate change and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socioeconomic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.²

3. Upon completion of the first and second phases of the Nairobi work programme,³ the SBSTA, in line with decision 2/CP.11, paragraph 6(e), undertook, during its thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions, a review of the work programme. The review took into account the outcomes of the informal meeting of representatives of Parties and organizations and experts to consider the outcomes of completed activities under the Nairobi work programme,⁴ the summary report on the implementation of the second phase of the work programme and the views of Parties and relevant organizations on the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme.⁵

4. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 6/CP.17, mandated further activities to be implemented under the Nairobi work programme, with the outcomes to be considered at SBSTA 37 and 38, respectively. More details on those activities can be found in chapters II and III.

5. During its thirty-sixth session, the SBSTA took note of the work being carried out by the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, and encouraged the secretariat to continue its efforts.⁶

6. The progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 36 in the different areas of work is described in previous progress reports.⁷

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

² Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

³ Summaries of the results of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme during its first and second phases are contained in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2008/12 and FCCC/SBSTA/2010/10, respectively.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/12.

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.8 and Add.1 and FCCC/SBSTA/2011/MISC.3.

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/2, paragraph 13.

⁷ 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 and FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.1.

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

7. The activities and expected outputs of the Nairobi work programme are structured around the two thematic areas of impacts and vulnerability, and adaptation planning, measures and actions, as set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.11, and the nine areas of work identified at SBSTA 25.⁸ This chapter provides information on the progress made in implementing activities in those areas, including through the engagement of Nairobi work programme partner organizations, on mandated activities carried out since the last progress report and on new publications and outputs that the secretariat has made available.

A. Engaging organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector

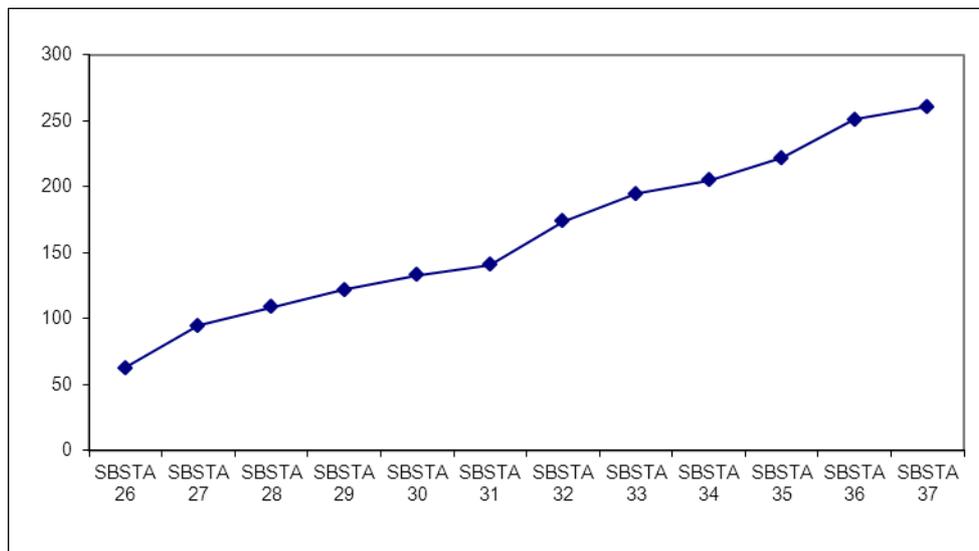
1. Partner organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector

8. The SBSTA, at its thirty-sixth session, took note of the work being carried out by the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, inter alia on further enhancing the outreach of the Nairobi work programme, and encouraged the secretariat to continue its efforts. The SBSTA also noted the engagement and contribution provided by Nairobi work programme partner organizations.⁹

9. Partner organizations undertake to align their activities with the objectives of the Nairobi work programme, and to carry out, including through action pledges, where appropriate, initiatives aimed at enhancing adaptive capacity or reducing vulnerability. Figure 1 illustrates the continuous rise in the number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over the years, with a further increase since the publication of the previous report.

Figure 1

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time



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

⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraphs 32–71.

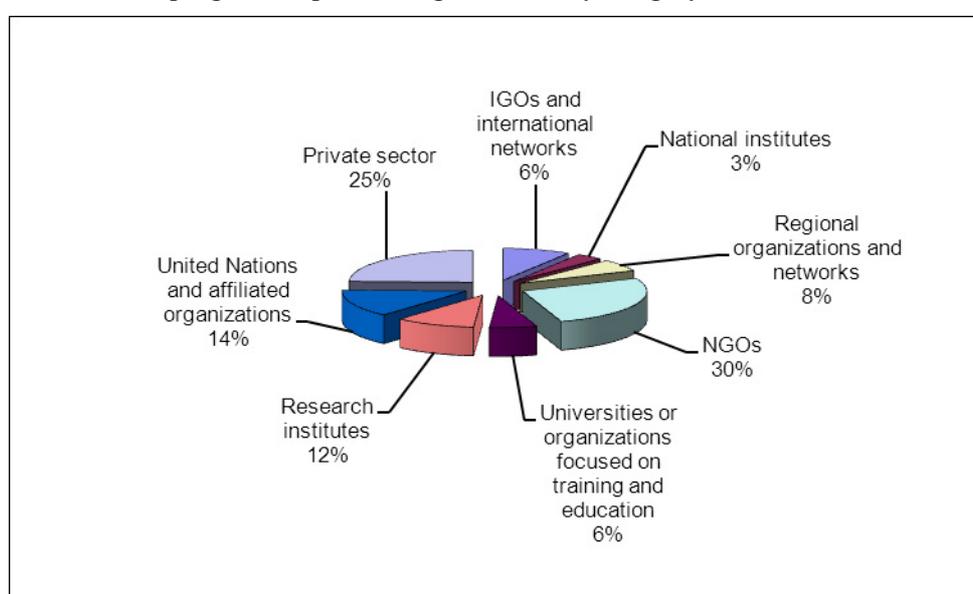
⁹ As footnote 6 above.

10. Figure 1 shows that since the publication of the last progress report, the number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations has risen by 10, to a total of 261, including partners of the Nairobi work programme private-sector initiative (PSI). The newly enrolled partner organizations and enterprises are the following: Action by Churches Together Alliance; Camara Films; Groupe d'Initiative Commune des Agriculteurs Réunis Cameroon; International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology; KPMG South Africa; Mountain Partnership Secretariat; Perspectives; Southern Africa Faith Communities Environment Institute; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Department of International Development in Kenya; and the Urban Climate Change Research Network.

11. The implementation of the Nairobi work programme largely depends on partner organizations that focus on all aspects of adaptation and with diverse organizational and institutional backgrounds. The steadily increasing number of partner organizations ensures that the spectrum of experience and knowledge gathered under the Nairobi work programme is continuously broadening. Figure 2 provides an overview of the Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 24 October 2012.

Figure 2

Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 24 October 2012



Abbreviations: IGOs = intergovernmental organizations, NGOs = non-governmental organizations.

12. More detailed figures showing Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, deliverable activity, climate hazard and sector are contained in the annex.

13. The secretariat is currently developing an improved online system to facilitate the engagement of new organizations under the work programme. The new and user-friendly features include a simplified enrolment process and allow partner organizations to manage their own entry page and to create, upload and update action pledges and illustrations quickly and elegantly. It is expected to be launched in the run up to COP 18.

14. The new online system will be an improvement to the current database of partners, experts and action pledges on the UNFCCC website.¹⁰ In addition to the new features, it will contain all current information, such as the full list of partner organizations to the

¹⁰ <<http://unfccc.int/5005>>.

Nairobi work programme and related information, as well as details of adaptation experts nominated by partner organizations.

2. Action pledges

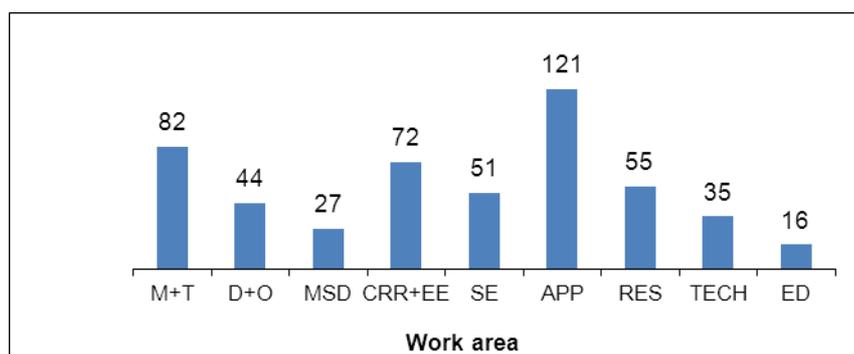
15. The COP, by decision 6/CP.17, encouraged Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other stakeholders to further enhance their efforts through the better alignment of action pledges with the needs of Parties and, through the secretariat, to periodically provide updates to Parties on the implementation of their action pledges.

16. Action pledges provide a useful means for partner organizations to clearly describe the activities they are carrying out in support of the work programme. The number of action pledges has risen by seven since the publication of the last progress report and now amounts to 175. New action pledges have been received from the following partner organizations: Action by Churches Together Alliance; the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN); the German Committee for Disaster Reduction (two pledges); the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre; KPMG South Africa; and the United Nations Environment Programme. An action pledge update has been received from the World Meteorological Organization and its cosponsor bodies, the Global Climate Observing System and the World Climate Research Programme.

17. An overview of the action pledges submitted by partner organizations, as at 24 October 2012, covering all nine areas of the work programme, is provided in figure 3.

Figure 3

Action pledges under the Nairobi work programme by area of work



Note: One action pledge can cover more than one work area.

Abbreviations: APP = adaptation planning and practices, MSD = climate modelling, CRR+EE = climate-related risks and extreme events, D+O = data and observations, ED = economic diversification, M+T = methods and tools, scenarios and downscaling, Res = research, SE = socioeconomic information, Tech = technologies for adaptation.

B. Collaboration between Parties, Nairobi work programme partner organizations and the private sector

1. Activities organized by the secretariat

Technical workshop on water, climate change impacts and adaptation strategies

18. By decision 6/CP.17, the COP requested the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other relevant organizations, a technical workshop on water, climate change impacts and adaptation strategies before the thirty-seventh session of the SBSTA. The workshop was organized in collaboration with

the National Water Commission of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico and was held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 18 to 20 July 2012.

19. Workshop participants considered issues related to climate change impacts on water resources, including the multidimensional aspects of water in the context of livelihoods, related sectors and ecosystems, data and observation needs and opportunities, and adaptation planning and practices to reduce the vulnerability of water resources to climate change at multiple levels.

20. Workshop participants discussed stakeholder engagement, knowledge-sharing and management, as well as collaboration at different levels, to enhance the resilience of water resources to climate change. Cross-cutting themes included the applicability of indigenous knowledge and coping strategies and the need for gender sensitivity when developing adaptation strategies involving water resources. The report on the workshop contains recommendations identified by participants for follow-up and further consideration in the context of the Nairobi work programme.¹¹

Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum

21. The COP, by decision 6/CP.17, noted the value of the Focal Point Forum in facilitating information exchange and collaboration between partner organizations. It invited Parties and relevant organizations to continue to facilitate such exchanges, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. The sixth Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum is scheduled to be convened, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, during SBSTA 37 in November 2012. The aim of the forum is to identify a range of opportunities to catalyse collaborative action among Parties and partner organizations and to build on ongoing activities under the Nairobi work programme. The sixth Focal Point Forum will focus on stimulating discussions on the current and evolving role of the Nairobi work programme in enhancing stakeholder engagement.

COP 18 side event on the private sector initiative of the Nairobi work programme

22. The PSI of the Nairobi work programme will host a side event during COP 18. The event will showcase successful adaptation activities carried out in the private sector and also highlight related challenges.

2. Collaborative activities initiated by Nairobi work programme partner organizations

23. Partner organizations to the Nairobi work programme have continued their efforts to carry out relevant activities in line with the aims and objective of the work programme. One example is the participation of a representative of the Institute of Development Studies in the Durban Forum on capacity building, sharing experiences and observations from the perspective of a Nairobi work programme partner on mobilizing knowledge and strengthening capacity under the work programme.¹²

24. In addition to the technical workshop described in paragraph 18 above, the COP, by decision 6/CP.17, also requested the secretariat to organize, before the thirty-eighth session of the SBSTA, a technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change, taking into account the role of ecosystems, including forests, in impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in ecosystems, the implementation and benefits of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation and lessons learned, including through the three Rio Conventions.

25. In preparation for the further work in this area, and to generate input from relevant experts for the planning of this workshop, an expert round table meeting was held in

¹¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/4.

¹² For more information about the Durban Forum, see <<http://unfccc.int/6905>>.

Nairobi, Kenya, on 3 October 2012. The meeting was organized in collaboration with, and hosted by, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as part of its action pledge on furthering the consideration of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change in the context of the Nairobi work programme. Fifteen international experts from fourteen organizations shared their knowledge and expertise, made recommendations to help plan the technical workshop and discussed follow-up collaborative action to further the work on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change under the Nairobi work programme.

26. Another example of a collaborative activity initiated by Nairobi work programme partner organizations is contained in the action pledge from CDKN. CDKN, in collaboration with Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, convened over 30 participants to their Climate Knowledge Brokers Workshop, held in Bonn, Germany, from 18 to 20 May 2012. The workshop aimed to establish closer collaborative links between climate knowledge brokers working in the climate and development area and gave participants an opportunity to improve their access to reliable information and robust methods, as well as the possibility of exchanging experiences and lessons learned.¹³

27. Another example is further work carried out by the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC). During its seventh annual meeting in September 2010, RIOCC concluded that there was a need to disseminate and promote the use of knowledge products developed under the Nairobi work programme for systematic action at regional and national levels, and highlighted the importance of strengthening the dissemination of products.¹⁴ In line with those conclusions, RIOCC identified 'national disseminators' for several of its member States, with the aim of facilitating and enhancing the dissemination and use of technical documents and information products, including web-based resources, made available through the Nairobi work programme at the national level.¹⁵

28. A representative of the secretariat participated in the ninth annual meeting of RIOCC, which took place in Santander, Spain, from 2 to 5 October 2012. The secretariat provided information on current progress of the Nairobi work programme, including in the broader UNFCCC context, on knowledge products that are available under the Nairobi work programme and on recent and ongoing collaboration efforts.¹⁶ Special emphasis was given to the RIOCC initiative of 'national disseminators', leading towards the creation of a regional network of Nairobi work programme disseminators. RIOCC evaluated that initiative positively and encouraged RIOCC members that have not yet done so to nominate national disseminators and to complete a survey that was developed to enhance the initiative. The survey, a joint initiative with the secretariat, entails national disseminators identifying adaptation needs at the subnational and national levels within RIOCC member States; and means by which knowledge-sharing under the Nairobi work programme, as well as technical support provided by the Nairobi work programme partner organizations, could be enhanced in the region. RIOCC also encouraged the secretariat to continue to explore, in collaboration with RIOCC, ways of support, including capacity-building efforts that would contribute to the initiative.¹⁷

¹³ <<http://unfccc.int/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=201>http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/partners_and_action_pledges/items/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=201>.

¹⁴ The conclusions of that meeting, in Spanish, are available at <http://www.lariocc.es/es/reuniones-documentos/reuniones/vii_encuentro_riocc_tcm25-173706.pdf>.

¹⁵ See also FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.9, paragraph 35.

¹⁶ <http://www.lariocc.es/es/reuniones-documentos/reuniones/5._CMNUCC_RIOCC_Iniciativa_divulgadores_tcm25-224233.pdf>.

¹⁷ The conclusions of that meeting, in Spanish, are available at <http://www.lariocc.es/es/reuniones-documentos/reuniones/Conclusiones_del_IX_ENCUESTRO_RIOCC_tcm25-225829.pdf>.

C. Disseminating outputs

1. Documents and brochures

Compilation of case studies on national adaptation planning processes

29. A compilation of case studies on national adaptation planning processes will be made available for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-seventh session.¹⁸ The report is mandated by decision 6/CP.17, which requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation of case studies, including tools and approaches used for the prioritization and implementation of actions, building also on previous adaptation planning activities implemented in the context of the Nairobi work programme.

30. The focus of the compilation is on existing strategies and plans that countries have developed to enable adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly on the elements of prioritization and implementation of adaptation activities. It includes a selection of case studies on national adaptation planning processes as well as a synthesis of relevant adaptation planning and practices undertaken in the context of the Nairobi work programme.

31. The COP, by decision 6/CP.17, also requested the secretariat, in order to enable Parties to make better use of knowledge products and information generated under the Nairobi work programme:

(a) To continue the development of user-friendly knowledge products and outputs, including those contributed by partner organizations;

(b) To enhance the dissemination of information and knowledge products developed under the Nairobi work programme.

32. In response to those mandates the secretariat prepared the following:

(a) A leaflet on the Nairobi work programme PSI showcasing examples of applied adaptation activities undertaken by private-sector enterprises that are engaged under the PSI.¹⁹ The leaflet also provides an overview of the Nairobi work programme PSI and highlights the benefits of joining the PSI;

(b) A leaflet on community radio as a knowledge tool in responding to climate change, prepared in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies, a Nairobi work programme partner organization. The leaflet is intended to inform policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of the benefits of community radio as a medium of communication where other means of dissemination of information and knowledge is limited.²⁰ Community radio can be used to raise awareness and share local knowledge and coping strategies that can be replicated in different parts of the developing world in ways that local people can readily understand and deploy. The leaflet highlights relevant issues, experimental evidence and case studies on community radio and adaptation.

2. Online systems

33. In addition to the Nairobi work programme's database of partners, experts and action pledges, referred to in paragraph 14 above, the following online systems have been further developed and updated:

¹⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.6.

¹⁹ <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/private_sector_initiative/application/pdf/psi_flyer_2012.pdf>.

²⁰ <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/291012_nwp_cr_leaflet_final.pdf>.

Private sector initiative – database of actions on adaptation

34. The online database of private-sector case studies on sustainable and profitable adaptation provides information on good practices and profitable activities relating to adaptation to climate change that are undertaken by private companies (sometimes in collaboration with other actors) in a range of regions and a variety of sectors.²¹ Currently, the database contains over 80 case studies. More information is contained in a report produced by KPMG South Africa, one of the PSI partner organizations.²² Based on the PSI database, the report provides an overview of climate change adaptation activities in the private sector and identifies the main business drivers for adaptation. KPMG South Africa also looked at the types of private-sector organizations undertaking adaptation activities, and compared them across regions.

35. As part of the work in the run up to COP 18, the secretariat will soon launch a call for new business case studies to be integrated in the online database.

Database on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation

36. The user-friendly database on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation under the Nairobi work programme intends to provide complementary information to that in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.8.²³ This knowledge product aims to ensure accessibility to relevant and useful examples of ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation.

37. Since SBSTA 36, two new projects have been included in the database, addressing the issue of climate change governance capacity and the issue of improving livelihoods and the conservation of biodiversity. They were implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the Conservation International Foundation, respectively, in collaboration with the Federal Environment Ministry of Germany.

Adaptation practices interface

38. The adaptation practices interface is a gateway to information on adaptation practices from around the world.²⁴ It provides a summary of adaptation practices developed by a wide range of organizations, agencies and businesses, along with descriptions, relevant links and details of publications. The interface was first mandated by the SBSTA at its twenty-fifth session and revised for the SBSTA at its thirtieth session.²⁵ New examples of adaptation practices have been included on a regular basis. Most recently, the Adaptation Partnership, a Nairobi work programme partner, has provided new examples of adaptation practices for the interface. Those entries will be included in the updated database before COP 18.

3. New publications

39. The latest eUpdate, a regular newsletter disseminated to Nairobi work programme partner organizations and Parties, was published in July 2012.²⁶ The next issue will be made available in November 2012, before COP 18.

40. A calendar for 2013 will showcase 12 examples to raise awareness of climate change-related impacts and vulnerability in various regions and sectors. It will highlight

²¹ Available at

<http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/private_sector_initiative/items/6547.php>.

²² Available at <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/private_sector_initiative/application/pdf/kpmg_psi_database_report.pdf>.

²³ <<http://unfccc.int/6227>>.

²⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/4555>>.

²⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraph 59.

²⁶ <<http://unfccc.int/4628>>.

examples of actions undertaken to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. The calendar will be made available at COP 18 to Parties and Nairobi work programme partners, as well as other participants. Further copies of the calendar may be requested from the secretariat.

III. Next steps

41. This chapter provides information on a range of activities that the COP, by decision 6/CP.17, requested the SBSTA, Parties, partner organizations and the secretariat to carry out before the end of 2013.

42. As indicated in paragraph 24 above, the COP, by decision 6/CP.17, requested the secretariat to organize a technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change, before the thirty-eighth session of the SBSTA. That workshop is scheduled to take place in early 2013 and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has kindly offered to host the meeting. The report on the workshop will be made available for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-eighth session.

43. Also by decision 6/CP.17, the COP requested the SBSTA to reconsider, at its thirty-eighth session, the work areas of the Nairobi work programme with a view to making recommendations to the COP at its nineteenth session on how best to support the objectives of the work programme. This process will further inform the organization of potential future areas of work that could also support the scientific and technical work under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, as appropriate.

44. In that context, the COP invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 17 September 2012, their views on potential future areas of work of the Nairobi work programme.²⁷ It requested the secretariat to compile those submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-eighth session in order to inform the process mentioned in paragraph 43 above.

45. The COP also requested the SBSTA to consider, at its thirty-ninth session, relevant information and advice on the scientific, technical and socioeconomic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change arising from the implementation of the Nairobi work programme for consideration by other relevant bodies under the Convention.

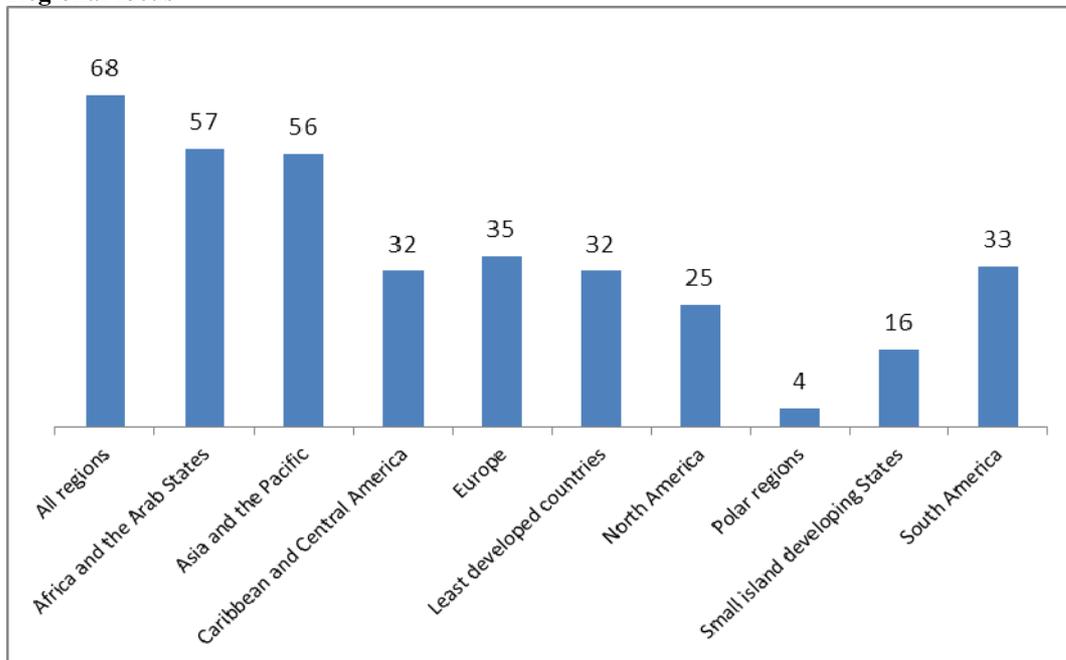
46. Progress made in the implementation of those new activities will be reflected in the next progress report, which will be made available before the thirty-eighth session of the SBSTA.

²⁷ Views from Parties are available at <<http://unfccc.int/5901>>, views from intergovernmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3714>> and views from non-governmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3689>>.

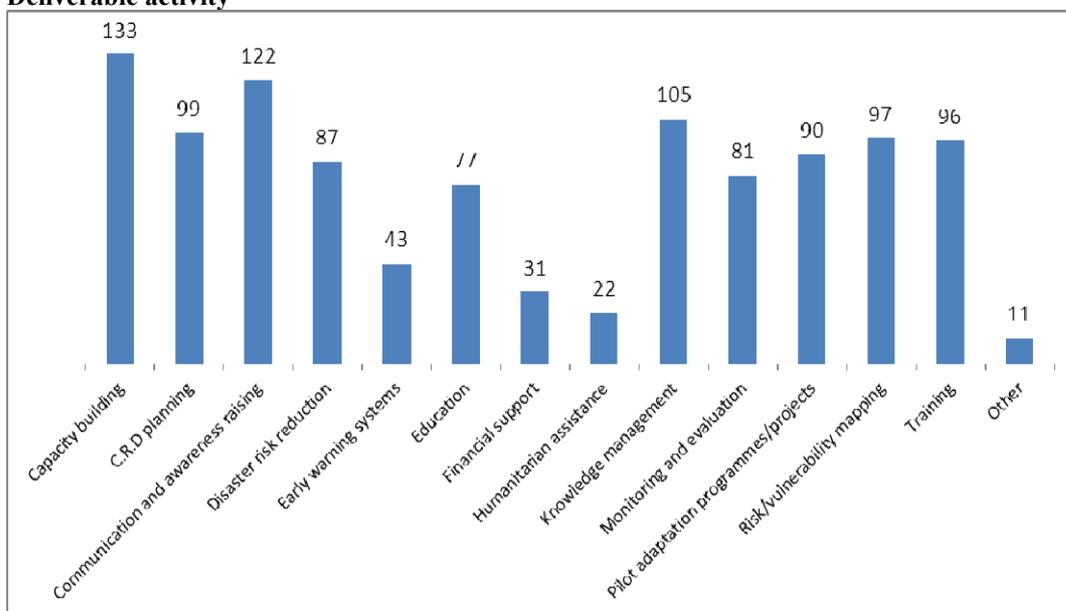
Annex

Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, deliverable activity, climate hazard and sector

Regional focus

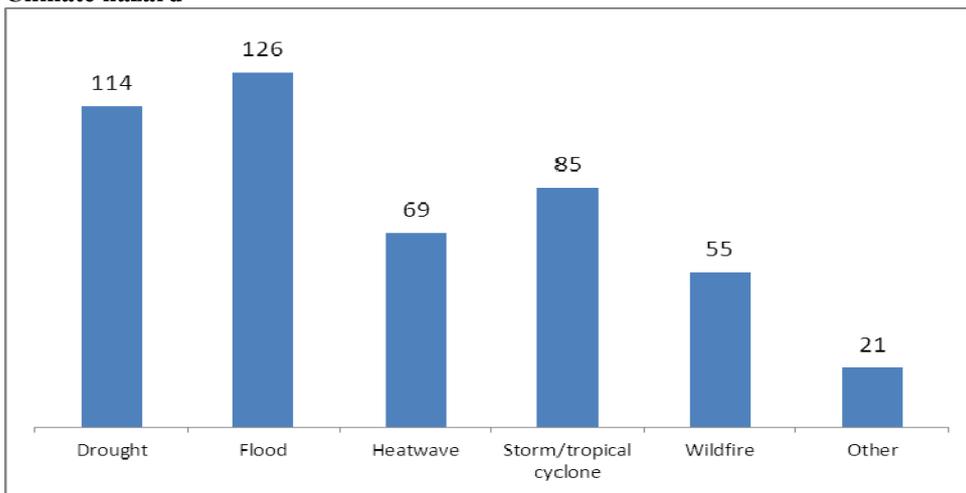


Deliverable activity

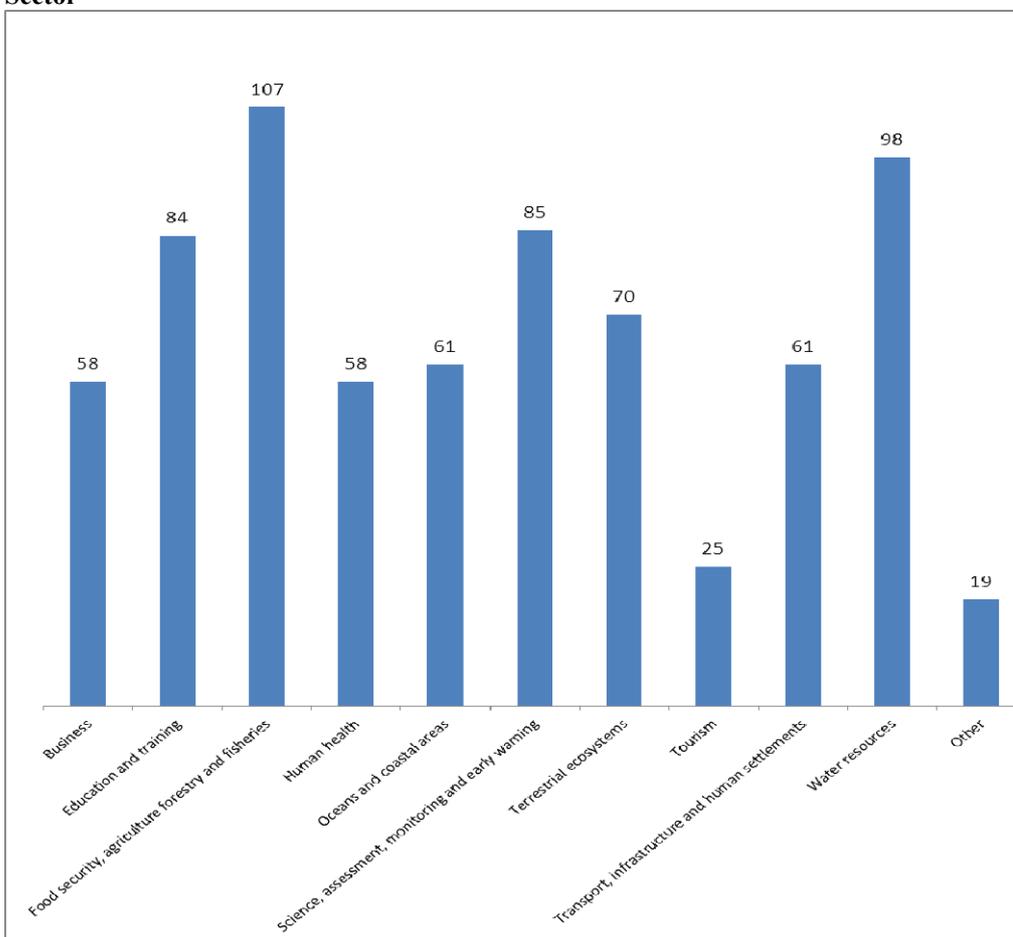


Note: C.R.D = climate-resilient development

Climate hazard



Sector



Note: One action pledge can cover more than one work area.