



United Nations

FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.4



Framework Convention on
Climate Change

Distr.: General
2 May 2016

English only

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Forty-fourth session

Bonn, 16–26 May 2016

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. It also provides an overview of activities since the forty-third session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and includes possible areas of future work resulting from those activities. It describes the core functions and features of the work programme and the continued engagement of Parties, partner organizations, regional centres and networks, experts and communities of practice in the implementation of activities thereunder, as well as highlighting collaborative activities undertaken with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group. It concludes with a brief overview of next steps.

GE.16-07140(E)



* 1 6 0 7 1 4 0 *

Please recycle 



Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–5	3
A. Mandate	1	3
B. Background	2–5	3
II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme	6–25	5
A. Core functions and features of the Nairobi work programme	7–9	7
B. Overview of progress made in relation to the collection and synthesis of information and knowledge to inform adaptation planning processes at all levels and scales	10–14	7
C. Overview of progress made in relation to promoting learning and the sharing and dissemination of information and knowledge, as well as to facilitating learning from adaptation experience at all levels and scales	15–25	14
III. Developing linkages with adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention	26–34	15
A. Activities undertaken in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group	26–29	15
B. Activities proposed by the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to be undertaken under the Nairobi work programme	30–34	16
IV. Developing new partnerships and strengthening engagement and collaboration with Nairobi work programme partner organizations, global and regional centres and networks and practitioners	35–42	19
A. Overview of Nairobi work programme partner organizations and action pledges	36–39	19
B. Development of new partnerships and engagement of and collaboration with partner organizations and regional centres and networks under the Nairobi work programme	40–42	20
V. Next steps	43–46	21
 Annex		
Distribution of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category		24

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, requested the SBSTA to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the NWP and to further elaborate additional activities, including the timing of such activities, at SBSTA 44.³ SBSTA 44 is also to consider and elaborate relevant activities under the NWP that support the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs).⁴

3. In addition, COP 19 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.⁵ Furthermore, COP 19 requested the SBSTA to consider, under the NWP, the issues of ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health.⁶

4. In accordance with decision 17/CP.19, SBSTA 40 agreed on a set of activities to be undertaken under the NWP prior to 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.⁷

5. Relevant activities and deliverables scheduled for 2016, as mandated at COP 19⁸ and at SBSTA 40, 41 and 43,⁹ are summarized in figure 1.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

² Information on progress made between SBSTA 28 and 43 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, FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.2 and FCCC/SBSTA/2015/INF.8.

³ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 13(b).

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 17.

⁵ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 1.

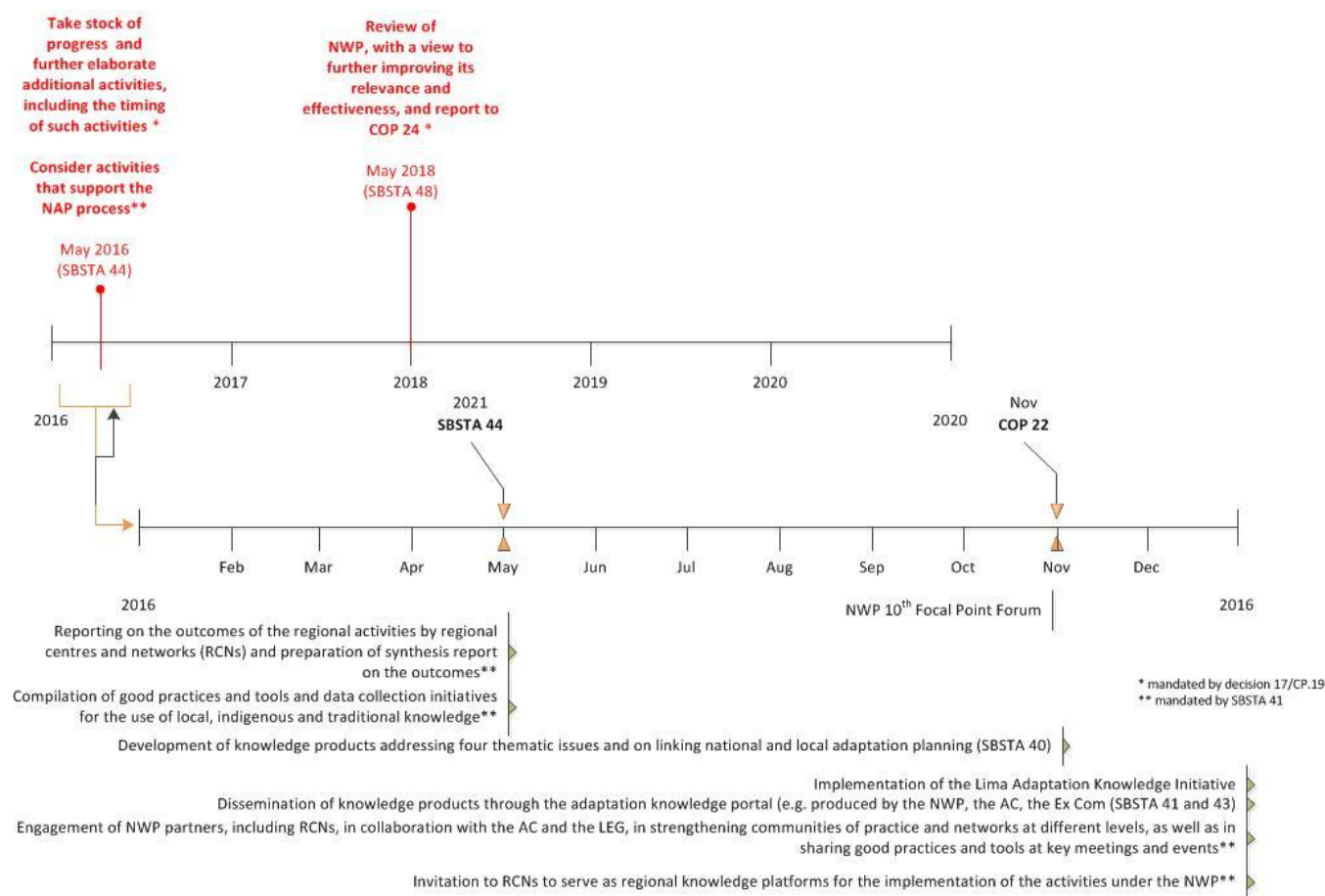
⁶ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 5.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 19.

⁸ Decision 17/CP.19.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5 and FCCC/SBSTA/2015/5.

Figure 1
Nairobi work programme activities and deliverables scheduled for 2016 and beyond

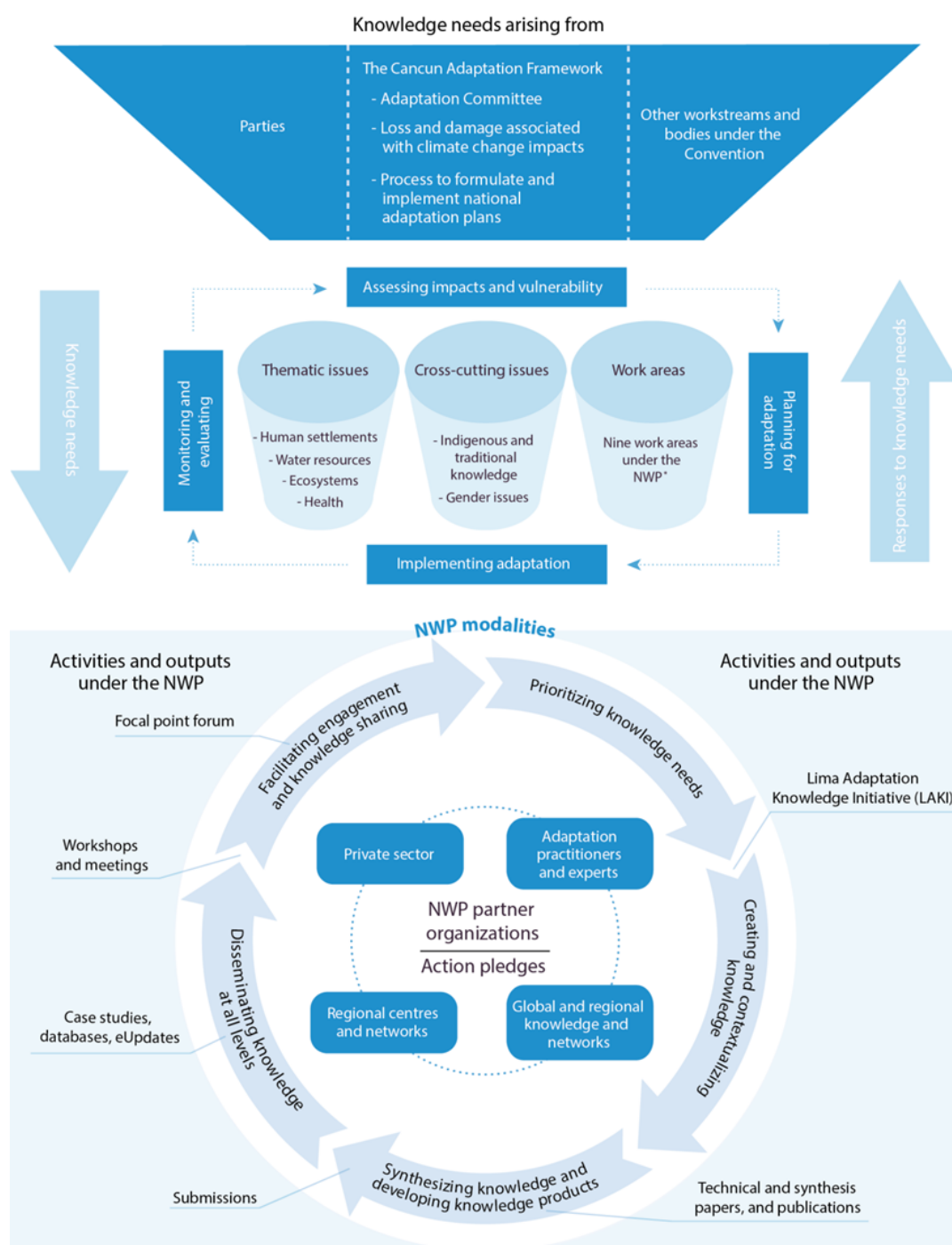


Abbreviations: AC = Adaptation Committee, COP = Conference of the Parties, Ex Com = Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, LEG = Least Developed Countries Expert Group, NAP = national adaptation plan, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, SBSTA = Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

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

6. This chapter describes the core functions and features of the NWP and provides an overview of progress made in the implementation of activities thereunder. In relation to the collection and synthesis of information and knowledge, this chapter provides information on the outcomes of activities addressing: the four thematic areas of human health, ecosystems, water resources and settlements; structures and processes for linking national and local adaptation planning; and the cross-cutting considerations of gender and indigenous and traditional knowledge. It also provides information on recent activities undertaken under the NWP that promote learning and the sharing and dissemination of information and knowledge and that facilitate learning from adaptation experience at all levels and scales. In addition, it provides information on recent activities undertaken in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) that have helped to strengthen the linkages with those constituted bodies.

Figure 2
Nairobi work programme mandates and modalities for knowledge support on adaptation under the Convention



* Nine work areas: 1. Methods and tools; 2. Data and observation; Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling; 4. Climate related risks and extreme weather events; 5. Socio-economic information; 6. Adaptation planning and practices; 7. Research; 8. Technologies for adaptation; 9. Economic diversification.

Source: Adaptation Committee. *Navigating the Landscape of Support for the Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans: 2015. Overview for Developing Countries*. Available at http://unfccc.int/adaptation/knowledge_resources/publications/items/6997.php#AC.

Abbreviation: NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

A. Core functions and features of the Nairobi work programme

7. The NWP, in its role as the UNFCCC knowledge hub on adaptation, provides a unique opportunity to link relevant institutions, processes, resources and expertise outside the Convention in order to respond to adaptation knowledge needs (see figure 2). The stakeholder engagement effort under the NWP is one of its core operating modalities. NWP partner organizations include over 300 non-state actors with regional and country presence. These non-Party stakeholders are often pioneers in the field of adaptation at the national and local levels, including many providing direct support to national governments and institutions.

8. Various flexible, collaborative and innovative approaches have been used by the secretariat in engaging and collaborating with NWP partner organizations, global and regional centres and networks and constituted bodies under the Convention in order to implement activities under the NWP.

9. The NWP has, over the years, established expertise in organizing technical meetings and workshops and, more generally, in disseminating knowledge on adaptation on the ground. For example, 14 workshops and expert meetings on various adaptation-related topics, engaging relevant experts and institutions globally, have been undertaken under the NWP since its inception, often leading to recommendations for possible sets of action. In addition, nine Focal Point Forums, held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, have provided a useful platform for promoting learning and exchange of information on adaptation between NWP partner organizations and Party representatives. The adaptation knowledge portal, an online portal launched in December 2015, is meant to provide a gateway to the sharing and dissemination of knowledge on adaptation, including the information generated by different bodies and workstreams under the Convention as well as by NWP partner organizations and other stakeholders.¹⁰

B. Overview of progress made in relation to the collection and synthesis of information and knowledge to inform adaptation planning processes at all levels and scales

10. COP 19 requested the SBSTA to consider ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health under the NWP and also decided that activities under the NWP should integrate gender issues, indigenous and traditional knowledge and the role of and impacts on ecosystems.¹¹ In accordance with decision 17/CP.19, SBSTA 40 agreed on a set of activities to be undertaken under the NWP, prior to 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.¹²

11. Several activities have been undertaken under the NWP since 2011 that focused on the collection, synthesis, sharing and dissemination of information addressing the four thematic areas and the cross-cutting considerations referred to in paragraph 10 above, including:

(a) An information note providing a synthesis of the outcomes of the knowledge-sharing activities undertaken by the regional centres and networks and international organizations at the regional level, which focus on sharing and disseminating knowledge on

¹⁰ The adaptation knowledge portal is available at <<http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP>>.

¹¹ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraphs 5 and 7.

¹² FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 19.

good practices and lessons learned in relation to ecosystems, water resources, health and human settlements and on linking national and local adaptation planning (see para. 41 below for further information);¹³

(b) A synthesis of case studies on good practices and lessons learned in relation to adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health and to processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning;¹⁴

(c) A synthesis report on methods and tools for, and good practices and lessons learned relating to, adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health, as well as on good practices and lessons learned related to processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning;¹⁵

(d) A meeting held jointly with the AC on available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, the needs of local and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation;¹⁶

(e) A technical paper on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;¹⁷

(f) A technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation to climate change;¹⁸

(g) A technical workshop on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies;¹⁹

(h) A compilation of information on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation;²⁰

(i) A technical paper on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.²¹

12. The above-listed activities have led to the identification of: existing information and knowledge; available tools and methods; good practices and lessons learned; challenges and success factors; and possible next steps for scaling up adaptation planning and actions and for enhancing knowledge support. The key messages resulting from the activities are available in seven synopses.²²

13. In addition to key findings, the synopses highlight key aspects of what it takes to scale up adaptation planning and action and the possible next steps for enhancing knowledge support, drawn from the relevant activities undertaken under the NWP, including proposed activities for making knowledge more relevant and accessible as well as for addressing critical knowledge gaps (see the table below).

¹³ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.1.

¹⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/4.

¹⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/4.

¹⁶ The report on the meeting is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11.

¹⁷ FCCC/TP/2013/11.

¹⁸ The report on the workshop is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/2.

¹⁹ The report on the workshop is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/4.

²⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.8.

²¹ FCCC/TP/2011/5.

²² The synopses are available at <<http://unfccc.int/adaptation/6997>>.

14. However, owing to the limited technical work on human settlements and health undertaken under the NWP to date, a limited number of activities have been proposed as possible next steps for enhancing knowledge support in relation to those two thematic areas. This could be addressed, for example, through the consideration of further relevant technical work addressing human settlements and health under the NWP.

Possible next steps for enhancing knowledge support

Making knowledge relevant and accessible

Addressing critical knowledge gaps

Thematic/cross-cutting area: adaptation planning and processes, including processes and structures for linking national and local adaptation planning

- Reaching out to practitioners through:
 - Relevant activities and knowledge products
 - Regional learning workshops and forums that facilitate a South–South learning exchange
 - Regional and global adaptation knowledge management initiatives for sharing knowledge and experiences, learning and collaboration
- Supplementing the co-production of knowledge (i.e. scientific, local and traditional knowledge) with effective training, ongoing learning and the communication of the results and outcomes of adaptation projects and practices to the knowledge holders
- Establishing a regular review of the knowledge base on adaptation planning and action, in the light of new knowledge, as well as changes in institutional arrangements, sociopolitical contexts and capacity at different levels
- Specific guidance, measures and mechanisms are needed to link local experience with national priority-setting exercises under the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans
- Disaggregated measures of effectiveness to demonstrate the impact on reducing the vulnerability of different groups, sectors and locations should be investigated
- An understanding of the time required to obtain positive results in relation to the goals of different adaptation approaches should be developed
- The information required for assessing the replicability of adaptation approaches, such as the resources required, and more detailed information on the scale of the intervention and how this relates to the scale of the impacts should be investigated in order to ensure effective adaptation planning and practices

Thematic/cross-cutting areas: ecosystem-based adaptation and adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems

- Developing targeted knowledge products to facilitate the planning and implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation, including:
 - A compilation and synthesis of existing guidelines on ecosystem-based adaptation
 - A compilation and synthesis of existing guidelines on integrating ecosystems into climate change vulnerability assessments
 - A synthesis of best practices in, and an evidence base for, ecosystem-based adaptation (including lessons learned and benefits) by capturing lessons learned from pilot initiatives with respect to institutional frameworks, knowledge needs, donor coordination and results frameworks
 - A synthesis of best practices in relation to linking indigenous and traditional knowledge with biodiversity, sustainable land management and adaptation
- Fostering dialogue between policymakers and expert organizations on knowledge production and dissemination, as well as between policymakers and the private sector
- Facilitating South–South cooperation to share best practices and lessons learned, including by:
 - Enhancing understanding of methodological, technical and scientific aspects related to ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, including with respect to:
 - Information on existing vulnerability assessment tools and the experience of developing the tools that consider ecosystems
 - Access to data and downscaled climate data analysis to promote a better understanding of the vulnerability and future risk of various ecosystems in relation to climate change
 - Assessing how ecosystem-based adaptation can be integrated into climate change adaptation strategies
 - Guidance on developing robust indicators to monitor and evaluate ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation

- Establishing and promoting champions in ecosystem-based adaptation
- Engaging regional platforms and networks in the regional dissemination of best practices and the enhancement of dialogue

Thematic/cross-cutting area: water resources

- Building networks and collaborative partnerships that effectively connect knowledge holders by:
 - Creating a learning environment in the form of a ‘living lab’, where stakeholders and scientists have the opportunity to explore adaptation measures through dialogue, experimentation and fieldwork
 - Focusing on recent events and stakeholder knowledge and moving beyond discussions on uncertainty in order to help shift the discussion from research-based towards action-oriented adaptation solutions
- Establishing synergies between different networks, as well as between international conventions and mechanisms (e.g. the UNFCCC, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the Global Climate Observing System and the Global Framework for Climate Services), research and scientific institutions (e.g. the United States Geological Survey), universities, the private sector and river basin commissions with respect to sharing data and relevant information
- Exchanging good practices at multiple levels, in particular those that have the potential to be scaled up and that are science- and evidence-based and those related to transboundary and regional cooperation on adaptation
- Establishing a water and adaptation help desk to facilitate information sharing at multiple levels
- Compiling and synthesizing information on economic analyses, demonstrating the economic impacts of climate change and adaptation actions (i.e. the costs and benefits of adaptation options and the costs of non-action)
- Disseminating information to diverse groups of stakeholders, including policymakers, using various types of communication tool
- Developing localized science in order to draw attention to the local impacts of climate change and facilitate decision-making at the regional, national and subnational levels. This might include efforts to develop scenarios downscaled to the level of managing water resources and methods to develop narrative climate scenarios based on key climate vulnerabilities
- Improving the available analytical tools to capture how human interactions with hydrology produce positive or negative outcomes for the economies and ecosystems that human communities depend on
- Developing research on extreme events and long- and longer-term climate change and their transboundary dimensions to raise awareness of the need for transboundary cooperation on adaptation
- Assessing water-relevant adaptation policies and aspects concerning sustainable water management, addressing long-term impacts to ensure coherence and prioritizing adaptation actions at the national level
- Investing in the appropriate coverage of monitoring systems on different scales
- Establishing mechanisms for filling in data gaps in data-scarce areas with advanced tools, where needed
- Enhancing the establishment of data information systems through data platforms, clearing houses and meta-databases of observational data

Thematic/cross-cutting area: human settlements

- Building networks and collaborative partnerships that effectively connect knowledge holders
- Closing the gap between research outputs and the operational needs of users, regarding in particular downscaled climate data and local social and economic data, so as to integrate climate change vulnerability considerations into the planning process
- Developing clear measures of effectiveness to demonstrate the impact of adaptation planning and action on reducing the vulnerability of different groups, sectors and/or locations

Thematic/cross-cutting area: health

- Developing ‘community of practice’ groups for both geographical regions and climate and health topics, allowing for the useful exchange of information and best practices among stakeholders
- As early warning systems are implemented, it could be helpful to include discussions on how often the systems should be re-evaluated to determine how thresholds, timing and responses remain relevant and/or need to be flexible in a changing climate

Thematic/cross-cutting area: indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation

- Supporting the collection and sharing of tools, good practices and lessons learned through:
 - An inventory of available data collection initiatives, such as the World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies
 - A publication on indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, to be produced in all official United Nations languages, by the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio Conventions
 - Documentation to raise awareness, including policy briefs on local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices and local narratives and toolkits using appropriate information and communication technology
 - Communities of practice and networks bringing together communities, intermediaries, regional organizations and regional donors so as to facilitate direct exchanges during field visits, meetings and other events
- Formulating guidelines, procedures and approaches to bring the consideration of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices into decision-making processes. In relation to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, it would mean developing:
 - A range of participatory information and communication technology tools used for vulnerability analyses that encourage the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities
 - Methodologies to fully understand the linkages between indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices and adaptation
- Establishing regional and/or national observatories incorporating indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices into forecasting and other similar areas

Thematic/cross-cutting area: gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation to climate change

- Systematically documenting and widely sharing case studies that demonstrate the benefits of applying gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation at the global and regional levels and in different sectors
 - Facilitating close collaboration between practitioners and local communities in developing or adapting gender-sensitive tools to reflect the specific social and cultural context. Tools and guidelines for gender-responsive activities need to be translated into local languages beyond major languages such as English, French and Spanish
 - The secretariat could facilitate learning and the sharing of experience as well as capacity-building efforts among different groups of stakeholders and different communities of practice by creating a network of experts
 - Developing guidance, tools and approaches to enhance explicit gender considerations in all phases of adaptation processes; more particularly:
 - Methodologies and approaches for applying available gender-sensitive approaches and tools in the adaptation context
 - Concrete approaches as to how to ensure gender sensitivity in all phases of vulnerability assessments
 - Guidance on how to ensure the effective participation of women in consultations
 - Gender-sensitive indicators for the adaptation planning process
 - A framework for monitoring gender sensitivity at different stages of the adaptation process
 - Gender-sensitive resilience frameworks for adaptation initiatives
 - Guidance on developing gender strategies and action plans
 - Guidance on gender budgets, including on their use as effective gender-sensitive management tools
 - Developing guidance to facilitate the consideration of gender aspects in key national adaptation processes, including the national adaptation planning process. Expert groups could be created under the UNFCCC to develop tools and approaches for including gender considerations in the national adaptation plan process
 - Establishing a systematic assessment process to test the usefulness and applicability of existing tools and approaches and to promote new approaches. Scientists, researchers and academia would need to be involved (particularly through South–South collaboration) in order to:
 - Elucidate the linkages between successful adaptation and the consideration of gender sensitivity
 - Monitor, test and validate the application of various gender-sensitive approaches and tools for risks and vulnerability assessment and capacity-building
 - Monitor and assess the benefits associated with the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation across different levels
 - Develop curricula for different target groups
 - Strengthening the technical work related to the monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation that integrate the consideration of gender
-

C. Overview of progress made in relation to promoting learning and the sharing and dissemination of information and knowledge, as well as to facilitating learning from adaptation experience at all levels and scales

1. The 9th Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum

15. The Focal Point Forums, held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP, have provided a useful platform for promoting learning and exchange of information between NWP partner organizations and Party representatives on adaptation.²³

16. The 9th Focal Point Forum, held during SBSTA 43, focused on achieving a common understanding of what is the most effective way of facilitating learning on adaptation that can be promoted through the NWP in its function as a knowledge hub on adaptation.²⁴ Adaptation learning could cover both good practices and lessons learned. The forum was chaired by the Chair of the SBSTA, Ms. Lidia Wojtal, and attended by over 70 representatives of Parties and NWP partner organizations.

17. A review group comprising representatives of the LEG and the AC and thematic experts from NWP partner organizations (with relevant expertise addressing water resources, human health, settlements and ecosystems) selected the case studies using the criteria for good adaptation practices developed by the LEG as initial input. Selected case studies from the review group exercise were used to provide contextual input to the discussions.

18. A working group of interested participants was set up at the end of the forum with a view to following up on critical actions emerging from the discussions. Possible action points for the group include but are not limited to:

(a) On the basis of the discussions at the forum, developing a guidance note on documenting adaptation practices to facilitate learning under the NWP;

(b) Exploring effective ways to facilitate learning under the NWP in 2016 and beyond, including on the basis of the case studies contributed by Parties and partner organizations under the NWP in 2015 (this could include the development of user-friendly knowledge products, learning events to be hosted by partner organizations and Parties, etc.).

2. The adaptation knowledge portal, an initiative under the Nairobi work programme

19. The adaptation knowledge portal was developed as a gateway for sharing information on activities undertaken under the NWP, by adaptation-related bodies and workstreams under the Convention and by NWP partner organizations and broader adaptation communities of practice, as well as for facilitating adaptation planning and actions at all levels.

20. Launched at COP 21, the user-friendly online portal facilitates the answering of comprehensive as well as targeted queries regarding information on adaptation. SBSTA 43 recognized its role in enhancing the dissemination of knowledge developed under the NWP, the AC 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.²⁵

²³ Summaries of previous forums are available at <<http://unfccc.int/6989>>.

²⁴ The summary note on the 9th Focal Point Forum is available at <<http://unfccc.int/9357>>.

²⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/5, paragraph 14.

3. Implementation of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative

21. The COP 20 President endorsed the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI), an action pledge under the NWP,²⁶ as a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the secretariat. The initiative is aimed at prioritizing and catalysing responses to subregional and theme-specific adaptation knowledge needs. Following the implementation of the pilot initiative in the Andean subregion, priority-setting workshops have been held for the Gulf Cooperation Council subregion in collaboration with the Abu Dhabi Global Environmental Data Initiative and the Government of the United Arab Emirates and for the Southern Africa subregion in collaboration with NWP partner organization SouthSouthNorth in 2015.²⁷

22. SBSTA 41 encouraged the implementation of the initiative in other subregions, particularly in vulnerable developing countries such as the least developed countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa.²⁸

23. SBSTA 43 welcomed the ongoing work under the LAKI and welcomed the commitment of UNEP, through its Global Adaptation Network, to implementing the LAKI in other subregions in 2016, in response to the conclusions of SBSTA 41.^{29, 30}

24. The next priority-setting workshop will be held for Pacific island States in 2016.

4. Nairobi work programme eUpdate

25. The latest issue of eUpdate, a regular NWP newsletter disseminated to Parties and NWP partner organizations, was published and made available in December 2015.³¹ It highlights activities carried out under the NWP showcasing the role of the NWP as a knowledge hub, including activities undertaken by Parties, NWP partner organizations and regional centres and networks. The eUpdate also provides information on opportunities for NWP partner organizations to engage with other workstreams and bodies under the Convention. The next issue will be made available in May 2016.

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

A. Activities undertaken in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

26. Over the years, several activities have been undertaken under the NWP, either jointly with the AC, in collaboration with the AC and the LEG, or in response to recommendations of the AC, that have helped to develop and strengthen the linkages with these constituted bodies. Some activities include:

(a) The joint meeting with the AC on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, best practices and needs of local

²⁶ Details on the action pledge are available at

<https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31_ID:461>.

²⁷ See <https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:1727277722569461::NO::P31_ID:521>.

²⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 19.

²⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 19.

³⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/5, paragraph 13.

³¹ Available at <<http://unfccc.int/7565>>.

and indigenous communities and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;³²

(b) Case studies on good practices and lessons learned in relation to ecosystems, water resources, health and human settlements and to linking national and local adaptation planning, in collaboration with the AC and the LEG;³³

(c) Supporting the AC 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,³⁴ with inputs from 31 NWP partner organizations. A total of 11 NWP partner organizations participated in the expert meeting, which was held on 7 and 8 September 2015.³⁵

27. Most recently, the AC and the LEG provided inputs to the organization of the 9th Focal Point Forum, referred to in paragraph 16 above.

28. In response to the conclusion of SBSTA 41 that the secretariat should disseminate existing and future relevant knowledge products produced by the AC in order to inform adaptation planning and actions at all levels,³⁶ information on regional centres and networks has been disseminated via the adaptation knowledge portal. The secretariat will continue disseminating relevant knowledge products produced by the AC via the portal.

29. The following activities have been mandated for the secretariat to undertake under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration with the AC and the LEG and with contributions from relevant NWP partner organizations:³⁷

(a) Making publicly available a compilation of good practices and tools and available data collection initiatives for the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, for consideration at SBSTA 44, building on existing knowledge-sharing platforms, including the database of best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation;³⁸

(b) Engaging relevant NWP partner organizations, including regional centres and networks, in strengthening communities of practice and networks at different levels, as well as in sharing good practices and tools at key meetings and events, as appropriate;

(c) Considering, in relevant knowledge products under the NWP, the importance of integrating gender-sensitive approaches and tools and local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices into NAPs, including by involving the holders of such local, indigenous and traditional knowledge, as appropriate.

B. Activities proposed by the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to be undertaken under the Nairobi work programme

30. In response to an invitation from the Chair of the SBSTA to the AC and the LEG for the consideration of activities to be undertaken under the NWP, both the AC and the LEG

³² Further details on the meeting are available at <<http://unfccc.int/8020.php>>.

³³ FCCC/SBSTA/2015/4.

³⁴ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 16(a), for the mandate.

³⁵ Further information on the expert meeting is available at <<http://unfccc.int/9030.php>>.

³⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 16(b).

³⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 18.

³⁸ The compilation will be made available on the UNFCCC website at <<http://unfccc.int/9556>> and on the adaptation knowledge portal before SBSTA 44.

provided concrete proposals on activities and highlighted the importance of further institutionalizing their collaboration in order to avoid the duplication of efforts and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of adaptation activities under the Convention.

31. In relation to new categories of NWP partner organizations that could be engaged under the NWP to better support the work of the AC following the outcomes of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, the AC proposed enhancing engagement with regional centres and networks, as well as with subnational governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In addition, it also proposed engaging the private sector, as well as organizations involved in innovative financing, in particular for the application of technologies for adaptation efforts to address negative climate impacts, and for capacity-building. Other target groups include insurance and reinsurance companies involved in risk management.

32. In relation to new categories of NWP partner organizations that could be engaged under the NWP to better support the work of the LEG, the LEG proposed that regional centres and networks that are supporting countries in the process to formulate and implement NAPs could be engaged under the NWP to respond to the specific activities that the LEG has proposed in paragraph 34 below. The LEG could also benefit from engaging with NWP partner organizations when implementing its mandate on gender and vulnerable communities, to broaden involvement to new partners with recognized expertise on these issues.

33. The following activities were proposed by the AC to be undertaken in collaboration with relevant NWP partner organizations under the NWP:

(a) The AC agreed to consult, including through a side event organized at the forty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies with inputs from the technical work under the NWP and its partner organizations as well as from the LEG, and through targeted outreach with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, on collaboration in the area of provision of technical support, building on the work completed through the regional assessment performed under the first workplan, and drawing from the work carried out under all workstreams of the AC. The side event could be the first step towards building a potential partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. As the most immediate step, the AC proposed to collaborate on the forthcoming side event and the potential partnership platform under the NWP and encouraged the secretariat to coordinate such activities accordingly;

(b) The AC agreed to identify follow-up activities on livelihoods and economic diversification, taking into account activities under the technical examination process on adaptation. This work is to be undertaken by the AC task force on national adaptation plans; contributions from NWP partner organizations will be useful;

(c) The AC also agreed to prepare a report, in 2017, on various approaches to adaptation, such as community- and ecosystem-based adaptation, taking into account livelihoods and economic diversification. In view of the mandate of the NWP and its excellent position to respond to the knowledge needs identified by Parties and relevant bodies, the report could be prepared under the NWP, with the support of the secretariat;

(d) The AC further agreed to prepare an inventory of ongoing monitoring and evaluation work, including work undertaken by the LEG, the Global Environment Facility and other initiatives outside of the Convention. This inventory is planned for the second half of 2016. The AC requested the support in compiling and verifying the inventory. On the basis of the analysis of the inventory, the AC will agree on additional work on monitoring and evaluation systems and impact evaluations. The AC also agreed to convene, in 2018, a meeting to exchange views on national adaptation goals and indicators and how they relate to goals and indicators for sustainable development and for disaster risk

reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The AC requested that this meeting be carried out under the NWP;

(e) With regard to the technical support and guidance provided to Parties on means of implementation (finance, technology and capacity-building), the AC agreed to identify, in 2017 authoritative actors within the private sector, including a mapping of their influence. On the basis of this work and building on the Private Sector Initiative under the NWP, the AC will identify next steps. The AC is planning to convene a meeting in 2018 to encourage a greater contribution from the private sector to the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The AC also requested inputs, in particular to identify authoritative actors, propose next steps for the consideration of the AC and organize the planned meeting;

(f) For the technical examination process on adaptation, the AC will link with the above-mentioned partnership platform to further help with outreach and strengthen high-level engagement in the implementation of policy options and actions arising from the technical examination process on adaptation. The AC is still in the very early stages of scoping this process and will identify specific ways for the NWP to contribute in the future.

34. The LEG identified the following activities, to be undertaken as part of the NWP by the secretariat under the overall guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, by catalysing knowledge support from NWP partner organizations:³⁹

(a) A list of partner organizations that are directly involved in supporting the least developed countries (LDCs) in the process to formulate and implement NAPs could be shared with the LEG for its consideration when inviting regional centres and networks to nominate focal points for its work;

(b) Recognizing the experience gained under the NWP on issues of gender and vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems, existing NWP partner organizations could be encouraged to collaborate with the LEG on organizing a technical session on these subjects during the 2016 NAP Expo, to aid the LEG in further assisting the LDCs in considering these issues in adaptation planning and implementation. This will culminate in a technical paper and the LEG will greatly benefit from inputs from NWP partner organizations;

(c) NWP partner organizations could be invited and engaged to submit action pledges in support of the process to formulate and implement NAPs on areas such as: information on available tools; case studies on practical implementation of adaptation measures; and inputs on the best available tools for engaging stakeholders at the national level;

(d) NWP partner organizations can contribute, as appropriate, to the Open NAP case studies⁴⁰ and to the training on NAPs and considering organizing regional NAP Expos based on the global NAP Expos;

(e) With a view to enhancing knowledge and resource management, case studies developed under the NWP on NAPs could be shared for publication on NAP Central⁴¹ as part of the available resource materials on NAPs;

³⁹ The above-mentioned issues are also captured in the report on the 29th meeting of the LEG contained in document FCCC/SBI/2016/7. The specific items relevant to the NWP can be found in paragraph 58 of that document and in the rolling work programme of the LEG for 2016–2017 contained in the annex to that document.

⁴⁰ See document FCCC/SBI/2016/7, paragraph 44.

⁴¹ <<http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/Home.aspx>>.

(f) NWP partner organizations can share information on their upcoming activities and events relevant to NAPs, to be included on the global calendar of NAP activities maintained on NAP Central, in order to facilitate navigation by the NAP teams to a range of support activities. This can include activities over the last one to two years as a means to facilitate navigation to online materials that are still relevant to NAPs.

IV. Developing new partnerships and strengthening engagement and collaboration with Nairobi work programme partner organizations, global and regional centres and networks and practitioners

35. This chapter provides an overview of NWP partner organizations and action pledges and of engagement and collaboration with such partner organizations and regional centres and networks under the NWP.

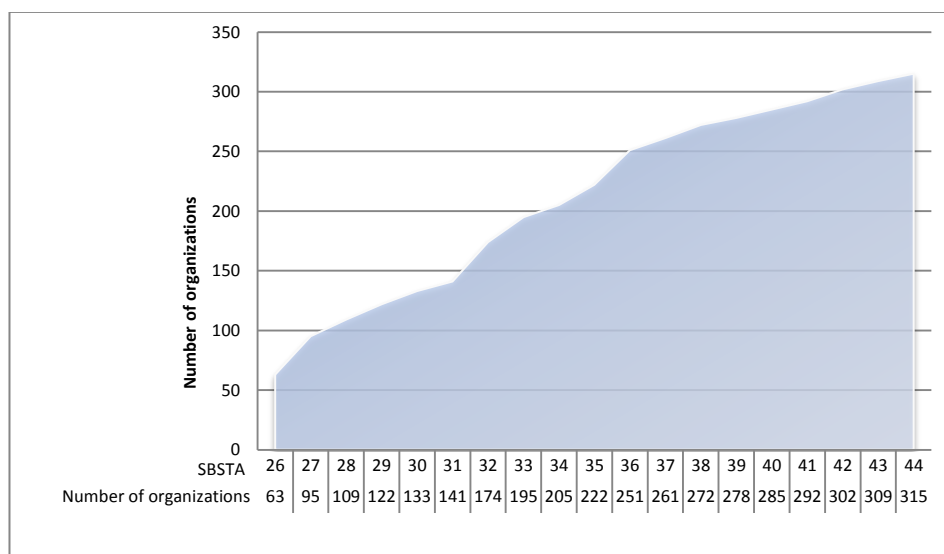
A. Overview of Nairobi work programme partner organizations and action pledges

36. Parties, intergovernmental and NGOs, regional centres and networks, community-based organizations, the private sector, practitioners and individual experts have all been contributing to the implementation of the activities under 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 and knowledge on climate risk assessment and adaptation planning and implementation.

37. As figure 3 illustrates, the number of NWP partner organizations now stands at 315. During the reporting period, the following six organizations or entities joined the NWP as new partner organizations: Yale University Science Communications with Impact Network; SouthSouthNorth; the South African National Biodiversity Institute; the Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index; the SLYCAN Trust; and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research.

Figure 3

Total number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time up to 20 March 2016



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

38. 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 and knowledge on adaptation. A further breakdown of NWP partner organizations by regional focus, climate hazard, scope of activities and sector is presented in the annex to this document (figures 5 and 6).

39. Action pledges are targeted adaptation actions that NWP partner organizations undertake in response to knowledge needs and gaps identified under the work programme. COP 19 encouraged NWP partner organizations to support the effective implementation of the work programme by reporting on the actions and outcomes associated with the fulfilment of action pledges and addressing calls for action.⁴² To date, 186 such action pledges have been made by NWP partner organizations.

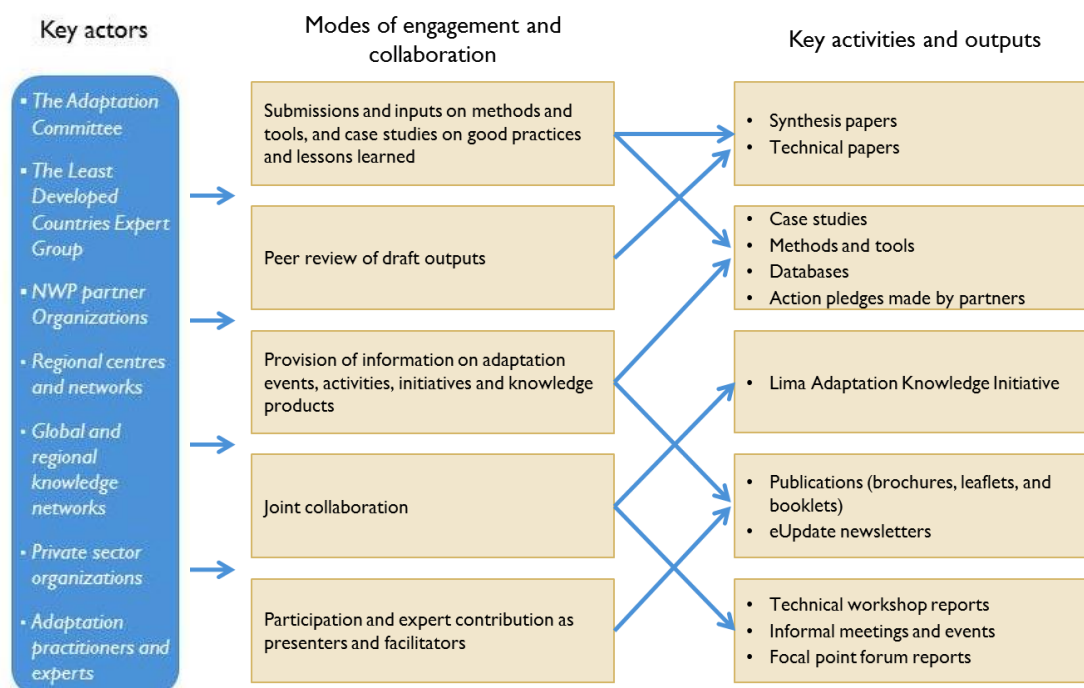
B. Development of new partnerships and engagement of and collaboration with partner organizations and regional centres and networks under the Nairobi work programme

40. The secretariat has used various flexible, collaborative and innovative approaches in engaging and collaborating with NWP partner organizations, global and regional centres and networks and constituted bodies under the Convention in order to provide support for adaptation planning and implementation at different levels (regional, national and subnational), including through the collection and synthesis of information and knowledge and the development of knowledge outputs (technical papers and synthesis reports) addressing good practices and lessons learned to inform adaptation planning processes on multiple scales (see figure 4).

⁴² Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 9.

Figure 4

Modes of engagement and collaboration in the implementation of activities under the Nairobi work programme



41. In addition to the engagement of NWP partner organizations and global and regional centres and networks in the implementation of the LAKI and the organization of the 9th Focal Point Forum, in line with the conclusions of SBSTA 40⁴³ the secretariat developed new partnerships with regional centres and networks with a view to them undertaking regional activities in 2015. As a result, a total of 68 submissions were provided by 21 organizations, including 19 NWP partner organizations, which focus on sharing and disseminating knowledge on good practices and lessons learned in relation to ecosystems, water resources, health and human settlements and on linking national and local adaptation planning.⁴⁴ Among the 21 organizations, 13 are regional centres and networks and 8 are international organizations with regional offices or regional activities. An information note providing a synthesis of the outcomes of the knowledge-sharing activities undertaken by the regional centres and networks and international organizations at the regional level will be made available for consideration by Parties at SBSTA 44.⁴⁵

42. The mandate referred to in paragraph 40 above 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.

V. Next steps

43. In accordance with the relevant mandates (see figure 1), the secretariat will be implementing activities under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, in collaboration

⁴³ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraphs 25 and 26.

⁴⁴ The submissions will be made available at <<http://unfccc.int/9557.php>> before SBSTA 44.

⁴⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/INF.1.

with relevant entities, including the AC and the LEG, Parties, NWP partner organizations and regional centres and networks. The implementation of the activities referred to in paragraphs 29 and 30 above will in particular help to strengthen the linkages with the AC and the LEG.

44. SBSTA 44 will take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the NWP and further elaborate additional activities, including the timing of such activities.⁴⁶ In addition, SBSTA 44 will consider and elaborate relevant activities under the NWP that support the process to formulate and implement NAPs.⁴⁷

45. SBSTA 44 will also consider improved approaches to engaging and collaborating with NWP partner organizations.⁴⁸

46. SBSTA 44 could consider activities that provide consolidated support in the areas of knowledge on and stakeholder engagement in the new climate regime following the outcomes of the Paris Conference, through new and enhanced modalities and areas of work, including by:

(a) Developing new, strategic and long-term partnerships with global, regional and national institutions, centres and networks, private-sector actors (including in finance and insurance) as well as adaptation actors at the national and subnational levels, including local NGOs working with indigenous peoples and communities, and local universities and research centres. Such partnerships, in the context of the NWP, could be useful for providing constituted bodies and other workstreams under the Convention with direct access to these entities, closing adaptation knowledge gaps and co-producing knowledge in support of scaling up actions at different scales and governance levels;

(b) Providing consolidated support in the areas of adaptation knowledge and related stakeholder engagement to other workstreams and constituted bodies and new processes under the Paris Agreement;

(c) Providing a science–policy–practice interface for closing knowledge gaps by fostering South–South and North–South collaborations between the different groups of partners: scientists, researchers, practitioners, policymakers and financial institutions;

(d) Promoting learning and the exchange of information (e.g. by organizing learning events and enhancing the annual Focal Point Forum) between Parties and non-Party stakeholders across different regions and subregions;

(e) Employing the adaptation knowledge portal as an interactive gateway for the generation, compilation and sharing of information, good practices and lessons learned, by adaptation-related constituted bodies and workstreams under the Convention, Parties, NWP partner organizations and broader adaptation communities of practice. Translating the information into different languages would also greatly help to ensure wider public outreach and knowledge dissemination;

(f) Strengthening the LAKI as an innovative modality to address some of the barriers to accessing relevant and actionable knowledge, which impede the implementation and scaling up of adaptation actions. Building on its initial positive momentum, and having implemented priority-setting workshops in three subregions as part of a UNEP action pledge, the next steps will involve further refining the modality in prioritizing strategic knowledge gaps and catalysing concrete response actions to fill the identified gaps in subregions and areas of vulnerability;

⁴⁶ Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 13(b).

⁴⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, paragraph 17.

⁴⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 18(d).

(g) Enhancing the technical work addressing various themes and sectors, building on the activities undertaken under the NWP to date, including: the four mandated thematic areas (water resources, ecosystems, health and human settlements); structures and processes for linking national and local adaptation planning; cross-cutting issues such as gender and local and indigenous knowledge; and possible new thematic areas based on the possible areas of work referred to in chapter II.B above.

Annex

Distribution of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category

Figure 5

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by deliverables, climate hazards and sectors up to 20 March 2016

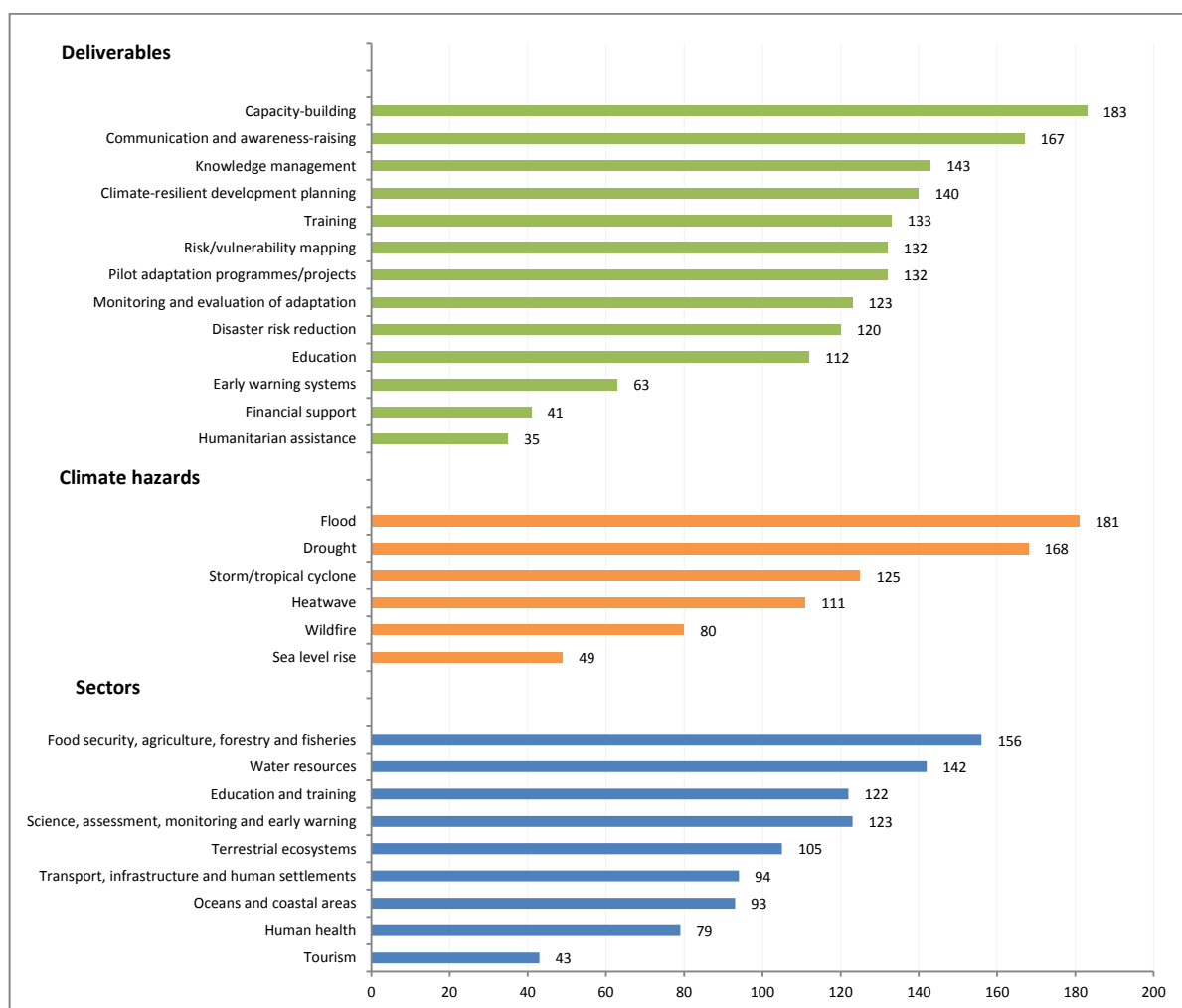


Figure 6
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations categorized by region, by specific group of countries and by type of organization as at 20 March 2016

