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Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement

Synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

At its fifty-sixth session, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice will conduct a stocktake of the operational and institutional modalities of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The stocktake will assess the performance and effectiveness of the programme in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement. The stocktake will also identify ways of strengthening its operational and institutional modalities for scaling up adaptation action. To inform the stocktake, Parties, UNFCCC constituted bodies and Nairobi work programme partner organizations submitted their views on this matter. This report contains a synthesis of the views expressed in those submissions.



Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
COP	Conference of the Parties
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
GCF	Green Climate Fund
LAKI	Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDC	least developed country
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SIDS	small island developing State(s)
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
WIM Executive Committee	Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts

I. Executive summary

1. SBSTA 56 will take stock of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP. The stocktake will assess the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement with a view to identifying ways of strengthening its operational and institutional modalities for scaling up adaptation action through knowledge.
2. To inform the stocktake, Parties, constituted bodies and NWP partner organizations submitted their views on the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement.
3. The synthesis of views in the submissions highlighted that:
 - (a) A large, diverse global network of expertise and experience has been built and institutional linkages have been established under the NWP;
 - (b) The secretariat has a convening role in generating new partnerships through NWP thematic expert groups, LAKE and the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, which has helped to address key gaps in adaptation knowledge;
 - (c) LAKE has provided an interactive, localized approach to understanding adaptation needs and fostering the exchange of knowledge on and good practices for adaptation action at the subregional level;
 - (d) Work under the NWP can support implementation of the adaptation-related mandates and the workplans of UNFCCC constituted bodies, which is facilitated by long-term strategic engagement with them.
4. Submissions conveyed insights into constraints, challenges and opportunities for enhancing the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement. The following needs emerged:
 - (a) Take into account the barriers that limited financial and human resources pose to effective implementation of mandated work under the NWP when reviewing the performance and effectiveness of the NWP;
 - (b) Strengthen the engagement of countries, including UNFCCC national focal points, other government representatives and non-Party stakeholders, in identifying areas in which target knowledge users need knowledge and the type of knowledge products most useful to them for enhancing adaptation action;
 - (c) Apply a consistent approach to monitoring and evaluation of work under the NWP in order to understand baselines and thereby more effectively assess progress in closing knowledge gaps to help scale up adaptation action.
5. The following suggestions for strengthening the role of the NWP in scaling up adaptation action in countries were made in the submissions:
 - (a) Apply a systematic approach to delivering specific, practical knowledge to users under the NWP, which will facilitate the scaling up of adaptation action through knowledge in all countries, in particular developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDS;
 - (b) Develop long-term strategic engagement with constituted bodies that places more focus on supporting them in areas that align with their mandates and workplans;
 - (c) Increase understanding of the needs, preferences and barriers faced by networks that implement adaptation actions in countries, and provide relevant, practical information about specific adaptation practices for such networks and in response to Party needs;
 - (d) Identify complementary areas of work under the NWP and in the mandates and workplans of the constituted bodies, for example the provision of technical support and guidance for adaptation planning and implementation, including finance, technology and capacity-building support, at the national and subnational level.

II. Introduction

A. Nairobi work programme

6. Established at COP 11 as the first stakeholder engagement mechanism under the Convention, the NWP is a demand-driven knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience under the guidance of the SBSTA Chair. The challenges of adaptation and resilience are addressed through the NWP in collaboration with the constituted bodies and over 450 partner organizations.¹

7. The NWP partner network includes United Nations agencies, academic and research institutions, global and regional centres and networks, and civil society organizations. These partner organizations represent a diversity of knowledge and expertise, coalitions and existing networks working in different thematic areas, sectors, regions and countries.

8. The objective of the NWP is to assist Parties, in particular developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDS. The NWP does this through (1) improving their understanding and assessment of climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; and (2) making informed decisions related to implementing measures in response to climate change on the basis of sound scientific, technical and socioeconomic information and with due consideration of observed and anticipated climate change and variability.²

9. Under the NWP, various institutional and operational modalities for work that enhances adaptation action through knowledge have been developed, for example:

(a) Curating information under priority thematic areas in collaboration with thematic expert groups, by applying a knowledge-to-action methodology;

(b) Strengthening partnerships with academic and research institutions and university networks to close adaptation knowledge gaps in countries and subregions, through the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme;

(c) Prioritizing and closing adaptation knowledge gaps in subregions through collaborative action with subregional networks of partners, universities and experts in the context of LAKE.

B. Mandate

10. SBSTA 56 will take stock of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP. The stocktake will assess the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement with a view to identifying ways of strengthening its operational and institutional modalities for scaling up adaptation action through knowledge.³

11. To inform the stocktake, SBSTA 52–55 invited Parties, constituted bodies, NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations to submit their views on the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement⁴ and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on these submissions for consideration at SBSTA 56.⁵

12. Further, SBSTA 52–55 proposed the following questions to guide the stocktake of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP:⁶

¹ See <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

² Decision 2/CP.11, annex, para. 1.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 28, and FCCC/SBSTA/2021/3, para. 29.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2021/3, para. 30(a).

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2021/3, para. 30(b).

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2021/3, para. 28.

(a) Which lessons learned, gaps, opportunities and challenges are associated with the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP in assisting Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement?

(b) How has work under the NWP enhanced adaptation through knowledge, including through:

(i) Engagement and coordination of national and subnational governments and NWP partner organizations in a manner that is demand-driven and responsive to the adaptation and resilience needs of all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDS?

(ii) Use and integration of diverse knowledge systems, including local and indigenous knowledge?

(c) How are countries engaging under the NWP and communicating their adaptation knowledge needs and how could their engagement be strengthened?

(d) How has the NWP supported constituted bodies in assisting Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement in line with the outcomes of SBSTA 44 and 50,⁷ including in relation to supporting their activities addressing knowledge gaps related to capacity-building, finance and technology?

(e) How does the secretariat monitor and evaluate work under the NWP, including the dissemination and uptake of knowledge products by national, subnational and community-level knowledge users, and how can this be improved?

(f) Which additional thematic areas should be considered under the NWP, taking into account the different types of vulnerable ecosystem in different geographical regions, including mountainous regions?

C. Scope of the report

13. This report contains a synthesis of the views expressed in the submissions from Parties, constituted bodies and NWP partner organizations in response to the invitation referred to in paragraph 11 above. A list of the submissions is contained in the annex, and the submissions themselves are available via the submission portal.⁸

III. Synthesis

14. The findings of the synthesis, presented in this chapter, are structured in line with the guiding questions for the stocktake referred to in paragraph 12 above.

A. Lessons learned, gaps, opportunities and challenges associated with the operational and institutional modalities of the Nairobi work programme

15. It was noted that the secretariat makes use of the flexible, inclusive operational and institutional modalities of the NWP to implement work under the programme with the aim of addressing the needs of Parties and constituted bodies.

16. Limited financial and human resources were recognized in some submissions as barriers to effective implementation of mandated work under the NWP; in this context, the need to be pragmatic when reviewing the performance and effectiveness of the NWP was raised.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, para. 13, and FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 22.

⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type “NWP”).

17. An iterative knowledge-to-action methodology is applied under the NWP to generate useful knowledge for implementing adaptation action. The relevance of the knowledge-to-action role of the NWP was acknowledged in many submissions.

18. For the NWP to strengthen its role as a knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience and expand its approach to catalysing action through knowledge, the following suggestions were made:

(a) National needs and priorities could continue to inform the workplan of the NWP, and the workplan could add value for Parties by articulating how they will benefit from the knowledge generated from each activity included in it, that is, how the knowledge will inform their national climate adaptation action;

(b) Work under the NWP could focus on supporting Parties in increasing their understanding of the networks of experts and organizations involved in implementing adaptation actions in countries, which requires a systematic approach to managing adaptation knowledge and one that considers national circumstances and the needs and preferences of Parties as well as the specific barriers faced by organizations implementing adaptation actions;

(c) Regarding the role of the NWP in curating relevant, practical adaptation knowledge, knowledge-brokering, which is critical to tailoring available knowledge to users to ensure it is accessible, actionable and useful for decision-making, could be implemented (noted in a Party submission);

(d) For the NWP to strengthen its responsiveness to the needs of Parties, its work could adopt a systematic, proactive approach to understanding and closing their adaptation knowledge gaps;

(e) Work under the NWP could shift to the development of relevant, practical information that enhances specific adaptation actions implemented around the world in collaboration with NWP partners, including research universities and civil society groups, and in doing so, this work could build on existing evidence for adaptation solutions, including that in reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (noted in one submission);

(f) Work under the NWP has contributed, directly or indirectly, to addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement, and NWP annual reports to the SBSTA could report on the progress of the NWP in supporting mandates related to Parties' implementation of the Paris Agreement, as well as evidence of progress (highlighted in some submissions).

1. Modalities of work with Nairobi work programme partners

19. The need for the secretariat to enhance its coordination with Parties, including through line ministries, UNFCCC national focal points and adaptation experts, and with NWP partner organizations and other organizations involved in initiatives under the NWP was noted in some submissions. Strong coordination supports networking, the leveraging of expertise and the exchange of knowledge, which could improve the performance and efficiency of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement.

20. One NWP partner noted the convening power of the secretariat in bringing together Parties, expert networks, researchers and civil society representatives at meetings and events to discuss common interests and share knowledge.

21. Some submissions suggested:

(a) Convening adaptation knowledge dialogues at the national and subnational level under the NWP;

(b) Facilitating intersessional engagement and stronger ties with adaptation networks to exchange information about specific adaptation practices and results;

(c) Applying approaches that engage target knowledge users in work under the NWP and delivering practical knowledge relevant to enhancing adaptation action;

(d) Engaging stakeholders to enact adaptation in countries.

22. As noted in one submission, although these approaches have operational costs and human resource requirements, they constitute an area where the secretariat can contribute meaningfully to supporting decision-making on practical adaptation action in countries.

23. In other submissions, the convening role of the secretariat in generating new partnerships through thematic expert groups, LAKE and the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, despite limited resources, was recognized.

(a) Thematic expert groups

24. Working closely with the secretariat, the thematic expert groups under the NWP have helped to address key adaptation knowledge gaps through collaboration with constituted bodies and relevant communities of practice.

25. Regarding the scaling up of adaptation action under priority thematic areas, the view was expressed that collaboration under the NWP with thematic groups of experts representing different regions and areas of knowledge and diverse organizations, as well as with constituted bodies, has proven useful for enhancing the technical understanding of thematic areas and the knowledge needs of Parties.

26. One submission highlighted, as an example of scaling up adaptation action under priority thematic areas, a report prepared by the NWP expert group on oceans in collaboration with the GCF and the LEG that provides insights for developing countries relevant to implementing NAPs to increase resilience to extreme climatic events.⁹ The report identifies entry points and financial instruments for enhancing access to GCF finance for implementing coastal and marine nature-based solutions.

27. It was noted that the NWP expert group in each thematic domain is diverse and multidisciplinary, and that expert group members have expertise in and deep insight into specific topics under their thematic area. Submissions conveyed the following needs:

(a) Take stock of and strive to ensure balance across substantive expertise, geographic representation and diversity of partners in the NWP network, and ensure that the partners that join thematic expert groups reflect this balance;

(b) Increase participation in the thematic expert groups from all developing country Parties, including those in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to produce highly relevant country- and context-specific outputs;

(c) Increase networking among NWP partners and information exchange with Parties through relevant and useful formats.

28. The submissions offered insights into how the thematic expert groups could enhance their role, such as by:

(a) Generating practical, operationalizable information under thematic areas that responds to priority adaptation needs of countries;

(b) Establishing a clear mandate for thematic expert groups, including scope, work and duration of engagement;

(c) Ensuring an effective flow of relevant information between the expert groups and countries. This would help ensure that adaptation knowledge needs are addressed through work under the thematic areas. One NWP partner highlighted that identification of the needs of Parties enabled the NWP expert group on oceans to provide country-specific support for climate adaptation action at the local and national level, as well as to be more efficient and effective in providing that support;

(d) Sharing lessons learned, exchanging information on gaps and exploring opportunities for collaboration. For example, for the NWP expert group on oceans, this could be done at the annual dialogue on ocean-based action, the first of which is to be held at

⁹ UNFCCC. 2021. *Coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions for the implementation of NAPs: Considerations for GCF proposal development*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/278047>.

SBSTA 56.¹⁰ In the context of the growing momentum for integrating ocean-based climate action into the UNFCCC process, it was recognized that the NWP expert group on oceans has contributed to supporting work under the ocean–climate nexus. This group is well positioned to address needs identified by Parties related to ocean-based climate action through the annual dialogue. In the joint submission from several members of the NWP expert group on oceans, it was noted that work undertaken by the group on oceans should continue in a way that strengthens linkages between the ocean and climate.

(b) UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme

29. The UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme is designed to strengthen collaboration between the United Nations and academic and research institutions, especially in the Global South.

30. One university partner in the Programme highlighted in its submission several examples of the secretariat’s engagement with local and subregional partners to support them in addressing knowledge gaps identified under LAKI. For one project in the Indian Ocean island countries subregion, which commenced in 2018, engagement included partnering with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change and Environment of Seychelles to address a priority knowledge gap identified in the context of LAKI: evaluating the impacts of sea level rise and storm surges on critical infrastructure in coastal areas in the country.

31. In the submission, the partner also noted that the secretariat could enhance its work with subregional NWP partners (e.g. the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, which has a strong local presence in the Hindu Kush Himalayas). These subregional partners could (1) help the secretariat to effectively engage networks of local organizations and (2) facilitate the transfer of knowledge products and other outputs from NWP activities to networks of those knowledge users in countries in that subregion.

(c) Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forums

32. The submissions included insights into how the design and focus of the NWP Focal Point Forums could be enhanced.

33. One Party highlighted that its participation in these Forums, including the 14th NWP Focal Point Forum, on biodiversity and climate change adaptation, held at COP 26, was useful to the government representatives who attended in strengthening their understanding of actions and results in thematic areas.

34. NWP Focal Point Forums could tailor their dialogues to deliver knowledge relevant to networks who enact adaptation. One Party, noting the usefulness of the report prepared by the NWP expert group on oceans referred to in paragraph 26 above, suggested that a Forum on the theme of coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions could be a tailored dialogue among NWP experts, GCF focal points, and fisheries and environment officials, resulting in tangible, useful knowledge-to-action outcomes.

35. One submission highlighted that the 14th NWP Focal Point Forum, on biodiversity and climate change adaptation, has promoted the knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples in strengthening adaptive capacity and resilience at the local level.

36. In one submission, the importance of exploring platforms other than or in addition to the sessions of the COP for hosting the NWP Focal Point Forums, given that relevant communities of practice often do not participate in the sessions of the COP, was noted. These potential platforms could include the regional climate weeks. Sustained exchange of technical information and discussion outside the Forums could also be supported at the regional and subregional level to deliver actionable adaptation knowledge.

¹⁰ Decision 1/CP.26, paras. 58–61.

2. Modalities of work to support the constituted bodies

37. The following institutional and operational modalities have been established under the NWP to support the work of the constituted bodies (see chap. III.D below) for more information):

(a) **Supporting the workplans and mandates of the constituted bodies:** curating and sharing knowledge relevant to adaptation-related mandates arising from the Paris Agreement through long-term strategic engagement with the constituted bodies, including supporting them in implementing their mandates and workplans;

(b) **Technical support in formulating and implementing NAPs:** providing the LDCs with technical support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs through long-term strategic engagement with the LEG.

38. In two submissions, the establishment of a joint mechanism of the SBSTA and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to support the coordinated uptake and use of knowledge products and tools developed under the NWP, and their translation into action, was recommended.

39. In a number of submissions, potential linkages between work under the NWP and under other UNFCCC processes were noted, including:

(a) The findings of the NWP stocktake (e.g. lessons learned, and gaps, opportunities and challenges identified in implementing the Paris Agreement and enhancing adaptation action through knowledge) could provide valuable inputs to the global stocktakes;

(b) The knowledge gaps identified through work under the NWP and the knowledge products created to close these gaps could inform work under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation;

(c) The formation of communities of practice among NWP partners could be useful in sharing knowledge and expertise in response to the needs in their field of expertise identified by Parties and thereby in achieving the global goal on adaptation;

(d) Support for the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, in particular the priority area on capacity-building, knowledge management and communication in the action plan.

B. Enhancing adaptation through knowledge

40. Appreciation for work under the NWP was expressed in the submissions, as was recognition of the progress of this work since SBSTA 48¹¹ in closing knowledge gaps, which has enhanced the understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation related to climate change and enabled informed decision-making when implementing climate actions relevant to adaptation and resilience.

1. Enhancing action in subregions through knowledge: the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative

41. The submissions contained views about scaling up adaptation action in subregions through LAKI, including with NWP partners and under the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme.

42. LAKI was recognized as an initiative under the NWP that is unique in providing a platform for countries to identify, categorize, prioritize and then address adaptation knowledge gaps in countries and subregions.

43. In their joint submission, partners involved in the second phase of LAKI in the North Africa and West Asia/Gulf Cooperation Council subregions noted that one of the main lessons learned from their work is that collaboration and sustained coordination among

¹¹ SBSTA 48 encouraged the NWP to enhance its role as a knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience (FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 16).

organizations and other stakeholders working on a specific adaptation knowledge gap can maximize the benefits from shared experience and optimize the use of available resources.

44. Exploring opportunities for addressing priority knowledge gaps in a more consolidated way through the NWP than is currently done was suggested in several submissions. By systematically closing knowledge gaps that correspond to national priorities, the NWP could indirectly contribute to mobilizing investments for adaptation actions.

45. Closing knowledge gaps without the effective engagement of national and subnational governments and collaboration with relevant subregional organizations was mentioned as being highly challenging. The need to facilitate local actions under LAKI to ensure vertical linkages in regional, national and subnational adaptation action planning and implementation processes in subregions, something that was noted for the North Africa and West Asia/Gulf Cooperation Council subregions in particular, is of utmost importance.

46. In submissions from Parties, the need to scale up LAKI in Latin America and other subregions of Africa was noted.

2. Diverse knowledge systems

47. The submissions provided some insight into how diverse knowledge systems, including the knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, could be used in and integrated into adaptation action planning and implementation.

48. The submissions recognized the role of the NWP in fostering dialogue among various knowledge holders, scientific communities and policymakers on initiatives focusing on ecosystems and adaptation planning.

49. There was also recognition that the recommendation for integrating gender considerations into work under the NWP on knowledge gaps had been acted on. One Party highlighted the positive impact this had on improving understanding of the gender-differentiated impact of and vulnerabilities to climate change and on integrating this knowledge into climate action.

50. Work under the NWP has focused on addressing regional adaptation priorities and on the importance of traditional knowledge and the knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities for integrating biodiversity into NAPs.

51. The FWG submission proposed to enhance meaningful engagement with indigenous peoples and local communities to inform the process to formulate and implement NAPs, finance, capacity-building and technology – by applying the knowledge that has been provided in line with user needs.

52. In some submissions, it was noted that efforts to integrate diverse knowledge systems into adaptation planning require an increase in financial and technical investment. One proposal in this regard was to broaden the membership of the NWP thematic expert groups to include indigenous experts, national universities and local adaptation knowledge holders.

3. Knowledge products

53. It was noted that the knowledge products developed under the NWP, which include scoping papers on thematic areas, case studies, policy briefs, and technical papers integrating lessons learned and good practices, have played a role in advancing adaptation action in developing countries. The following aspects were highlighted in the submissions:

(a) These knowledge products have provided information relevant to addressing climate change vulnerabilities and impacts as well as adaptation-related issues at all levels – national, subnational and local;

(b) The usefulness of the information on good practices in linking national and subnational adaptation planning was highlighted in one submission;

(c) The positive impact of work under the NWP, including through its thematic expert groups, in enhancing knowledge about nature-based solutions for climate change adaptation was highlighted in one submission;

(d) Knowledge products developed under the NWP, including by its partners, have helped to increase the resilience of countries, by, for example, providing guidance on accessing finance and technical information for formulating and implementing NAPs.

54. Parties noted in their submissions the following ways to shift the role of the NWP to provide practical actionable knowledge to scale up adaptation action in countries:

(a) Continue to both localize and expand NWP outputs. Work under the NWP should shift from providing general insights under thematic areas towards providing practical information that can be applied at the national and subnational level. Parties expressed the need for work under the NWP to help translate knowledge into concrete adaptation outcomes that avert and minimize the worst impacts of climate change in countries;

(b) Produce knowledge products that are practical, tailored and accessible to target users, particularly the LDCs, to ensure that these products contribute to enhancing specific adaptation action in developing countries;

(c) Focus on generating knowledge that aims to close the adaptation knowledge gaps, including on how to assess impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, and share best practices on addressing challenges related to the implementation of adaptation actions; generating knowledge and information for assessing vulnerability and needs to support preparation of adaptation communication in NDCs; and generating information for enhancing synergies between efforts in adaptation priority areas and efforts towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

55. The secretariat conducted a survey in 2019–2020 on NWP knowledge products. Building on the feedback received from the survey,¹² the submissions included the following suggestions for enhancing the accessibility and applicability of NWP knowledge products:

(a) Localize and expand knowledge products in order to ensure their applicability at both the national and the subnational level and thus assist in translating knowledge into concrete adaptation action;

(b) Disseminate knowledge products regularly at meetings, workshops and other events held under the NWP and jointly with other UNFCCC workstreams, using them to engage a diverse group of stakeholders, including subnational and local partners, civil society organizations and academic institutions;

(c) Strengthen communication and outreach using platforms and opportunities both within and outside the UNFCCC, such as with the constituted bodies (e.g. the AC) and the Santiago network;

(d) Disseminate knowledge to decision makers in formats that can inform and support the preparation of their adaptation action and its implementation;

(e) Ensure that there are structured processes for knowledge-sharing, including of traditional knowledge, and for engaging with all stakeholders at different levels within countries;

(f) Strengthen the linkage between national policies and local knowledge and action, through for example regular knowledge exchange among all members of the community, scientists, researchers, civil society organizations and policymakers to inform the decision-making process and make it more inclusive.

56. The usefulness of the adaptation knowledge portal in providing relevant knowledge of practice that helps to address the knowledge needs of developing country Parties and communities for scaling up adaptation action was noted in the submissions. Suggestions to improve the relevance and accessibility of the adaptation knowledge portal include:

(a) Update existing resources continuously and identify new resources that are tailored to the evolving knowledge needs of countries, covering diverse themes, multiple scales and wide geographical distribution, and undertake targeted outreach to knowledge providers to ensure that their resources are disseminated via the portal;

¹² The survey report is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/274671>.

(b) Disseminate diverse knowledge products generated by Parties, constituted bodies, NWP partners and other stakeholders, which can further enhance the performance and effectiveness of the portal in addressing vulnerabilities and impacts related to climate change and adaptation-related issues. One submission from a United Nations entity noted the need to integrate and tailor hydrological and meteorological data in knowledge products, which can support adaptation planning and the development of proposals for climate finance as well as strengthen the capacity of stakeholders to incorporate climate science into climate adaptation policies, plans and projects;

(c) Enhance user access, such as by improving the visibility of and ease of navigation to content on the portal, and monitor use of the portal, including by tracking the number of visits to the portal and impressions and engagements via the Adaptation Exchange NWP Twitter account (@AdaptXchange).

57. One Party, in its submission, expressed an interest in providing a voluntary contribution to enhance the adaptation knowledge portal, such as improving its user interface, and presenting practical examples to facilitate the effective use of existing resources.

C. Strengthening the engagement of countries in work under the Nairobi work programme

58. It was noted in several submissions that work under the NWP should further enhance engagement of countries (including their UNFCCC national focal points) in different ways:

(a) Applying an interactive, localized approach to understanding adaptation needs. Parties outlined their experience of engaging under LAKI, with one Party highlighting its participation in a priority-setting workshop for Pacific SIDS held under LAKI in 2021. The Party noted that the subregion-specific scoping paper was useful. The scoping paper reviewed existing national and sectoral adaptation priorities and used the knowledge gained to prioritize adaptation knowledge needs for the subregion during the priority-setting workshop.¹³ Furthermore, analysing existing information to prioritize knowledge gaps brought international good practices closer to local contexts;

(b) Fostering the ongoing exchange of knowledge and identification of information gaps, experiences, and results of specific adaptation practices. One Party recognized the value of knowledge generated through case studies and synthesis reports, including lessons learned and best practices, for informing adaptation and avoiding maladaptation;

(c) Providing context-specific knowledge that informs adaptation action. For example, in one submission it was noted that the Government of Seychelles has benefited from a partnership with the University of Michigan in the United States of America, facilitated through the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme (see para. 30 above).

59. Several views were expressed regarding strengthening the engagement of countries under the NWP. Possible ways of achieving this were noted, including:

(a) Strengthening country engagement through UNFCCC reporting vehicles aimed at assessing and encouraging adaptation implementation, as noted in one group submission. Parties communicate their adaptation knowledge needs through their NAPs, national communications, NDCs and other national climate change strategies and plans. The biennial update report process does not yet include specific consideration of adaptation, and biennial transparency reports similarly focus on mitigation but could include adaptation information in the future;

(b) Integrating work under the NWP to build awareness of adaptation-related decisions and provisions to inform collective progress through the global stocktake and global goal on adaptation workshops and outcomes;

¹³ See <https://unfccc.int/documents/268775>.

(c) Reviewing existing sources of information on country priorities, such as NAPs, NDCs and adaptation communications, in order to guide development of the NWP workplan towards facilitating the translation of knowledge into action in countries;

(d) Involving country representatives, including UNFCCC national focal points, other government representatives and non-Party stakeholders, more robustly in identifying areas in which target knowledge users need knowledge and the type of knowledge products most useful to them for enhancing adaptation action in countries;

(e) Soliciting feedback, via questionnaires, surveys, and other tools and approaches, from knowledge users to better understand the impact of knowledge products, including how they inform adaptation action in countries;

(f) Strengthening institutional capacity of developing countries, in the LDCs, SIDS and African countries;

(g) Providing resources and facilitating access to funding;

(h) Providing support to countries to repackage or translate new knowledge products to be used at the local level.

60. Parties, in one group submission, requested the secretariat to strengthen its engagement in work under the NWP in the LDCs by initiating collaborations with the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience, the Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development, and the Least Developed Countries Universities Consortium on Climate Change.

D. Supporting constituted bodies in assisting Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement

61. The submissions from constituted bodies included acknowledgements of the contributions of NWP partners in response to surveys and calls for case studies, including on methodologies and tools. The constituted bodies noted that these diverse stakeholders representing the NWP partner network were useful in providing different perspectives and sharing experience on various topics.

62. As noted in the submissions, work under the NWP, by leveraging the expertise of NWP partners, has supported constituted bodies in implementing their mandates and workplans in the context of implementing the Paris Agreement. For example, collaboration with NWP partners has supported the work of the AC, the LEG and the TEC.

1. Collaborating with constituted bodies in response to mandates

63. The substantive contributions of NWP partners to a range of deliverables mandated by the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, including those relating to methodologies for assessing adaptation needs,¹⁴ adaptation communications,¹⁵ and methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support¹⁶ and recognizing adaptation efforts of developing country Parties,¹⁷ were highlighted in the AC submission. NWP partners also contributed to the inclusive process of the AC for finalizing a technical paper on approaches to reviewing overall progress in achieving the global goal on adaptation,¹⁸ which was welcomed by Parties and was key to negotiations leading to the establishment of the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme at COP 26.¹⁹

64. The TEC highlighted in its submission the value provided by collaborations with individual experts and organizations that are part of the NWP global network of partners, including collaboration with the NWP expert group on oceans, through which issues of

¹⁴ Decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 15–17.

¹⁵ Decision 9/CMA.1, para. 15.

¹⁶ Decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 35–36.

¹⁷ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

¹⁸ Decision 1/CMA.2, para. 14.

¹⁹ Decision 7/CMA.3.

common interest were addressed. The TEC encouraged future collaborations with partner organizations such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation.

65. The collaboration of the TEC and the NWP expert group on oceans, which focused on developing recommendations for scaling up specific, innovative and integrated approaches to adaptation action that achieve multiple benefits for communities and nature, was highlighted in one submission. The key recommendations included promoting the meaningful participation of local communities and vulnerable groups, including youth, women and indigenous peoples, at all stages of adaptation interventions – design, planning, implementation and monitoring.

66. The FWG of the LCIPP, in its submission, acknowledged the support provided by NWP partners in implementing the LCIPP workplan. Such support took the form of, for example, involving indigenous experts as members of thematic expert groups (e.g. the NWP expert groups on biodiversity and climate change, and on agriculture and food security), and convening a joint event on integrating indigenous and local knowledge into adaptation action.²⁰

2. Supporting developing countries in formulating and implementing national adaptation plans

67. The LEG noted in its submission that technical support was provided by NWP partners for its work on addressing the gaps and needs of developing countries related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs and built a case for a long-term collaboration. Examples provided include:

(a) Development of technical guidance and advice on considerations regarding vulnerable communities, groups and ecosystems in adaptation planning and implementation;

(b) Collaboration in the application of a supplement to the NAP technical guidelines, prepared by the NWP expert group on oceans, with input from the LEG. The supplement was launched to assist countries in developing proposals on coastal and marine nature-based solutions through the GCF;

(c) Collaboration on the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme on matters relating to the formulation and implementation of NAPs in LDCs.

68. The LEG noted in its submission that it leverages the wide network of NWP partners that are also part of the NAP technical working group. The cross-membership of organizations and experts enhances synergies, reduces duplication of work and enhances exposure to both processes.

69. Work under the NWP priority thematic areas was considered useful by Parties in supporting them in closing knowledge gaps in the context of formulating and implementing NAPs.

3. Sharing opportunities for engagement with constituted bodies

70. It was noted in some submissions that the constituted bodies benefit from communication and outreach efforts under the NWP. NWP partners and Parties are invited to contribute to and engage with the UNFCCC process via information disseminated through the adaptation knowledge portal.²¹ The portal, as well as the quarterly NWP bulletin²² and social media, is also used to share with NWP partners and Parties information on events, calls for input to knowledge products and engagement opportunities with the constituted bodies. The PCCB highlighted in its submission the role of the NWP in supporting implementation of the communication aspects of the PCCB workplan and in enabling the PCCB to enhance the reach of its work.

²⁰ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/joint-event-integrating-indigenous-and-local-knowledge-adaptation-action>.

²¹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/contribute-resource.aspx>.

²² See <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/adaptation-newsletters>.

71. Constituted bodies noted their appreciation for the role of the NWP in facilitating the participation of relevant NWP partners and experts as panellists and speakers at their events. For example, the TEC engaged the International Water Management Institute, an NWP partner, to share information about its regional Innovation Hub for the Middle East and North Africa at a TEC event.

72. In their submissions, constituted bodies also noted the value of the NWP in supporting the delivery of the mandates of constituted bodies by linking work under the NWP with UNFCCC technology and capacity-building processes.

73. The FWG noted the efforts made by the secretariat to encourage indigenous peoples organizations to become NWP partners and thus share their expertise in addressing and responding to climate change.

4. Proposed areas of joint work

74. The following proposals were made in the submissions of constituted bodies, Parties and partners in regard to strengthening the long-term strategic engagement of the constituted bodies under the NWP, in line with their workplans and mandates:

(a) Continue aligning work under the NWP priority thematic areas with the support provided to constituted bodies through, for example, establishing collaborations of constituted bodies with NWP partners on strategic areas of joint work that would benefit from the partners' expertise;

(b) Pursue the opportunity of PCCB collaboration with NWP partners on the Capacity-building Hub to be held at COP 27 and on the PCCB network, in the context of addressing capacity-building gaps and needs across various areas of climate action (noted in the PCCB submission);

(c) Develop a long-term strategic engagement of the FWG in engaging ethically with and making use of diverse knowledge systems to address climate change more effectively and in implementing the LCIPP workplan;

(d) Collaborate with the FWG through the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme to promote greater understanding of indigenous knowledge and its importance in relation to addressing and responding to climate change;

(e) Collaborate with the WIM Executive Committee, for example, through the focal point forums to identify common areas to address knowledge gaps in capacity-building, finance and technology for managing climate risks comprehensively in the context of developing countries and showcase good practices on associated solutions;²³

(f) Collaborate with the WIM Executive Committee to turn highly technical products of expert groups, technical expert groups and task force of the Executive Committee into user-friendly, audience-specific knowledge products;²⁴

(g) Support the WIM Executive Committee through work under the NWP by, for example, contributing to technical guides, mobilizing expertise, sharing knowledge with the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;

(h) Establish modes of regular engagement between NWP partners and constituted bodies, which could help partners respond to the evolving mandates of the constituted bodies, thus enabling them to support the constituted bodies more effectively in their mandated work.

75. Several strategic areas of joint work that can respond to the needs and mandates of the LEG and engage with the secretariat and NWP partners were noted in the submissions from the LEG and Parties:

²³ Views from the WIM Executive Committee were provided through a letter from its Co-Chairs to the SBSTA Chair on 13 May 2022.

²⁴ As footnote 23 above.

- (a) Information events on topics relevant to the work of the LEG in supporting the LDCs on adaptation;
- (b) Active engagement by and contribution of NWP partners in promoting adaptation-related events organized by the constituted bodies, including NAP Expos, NAP workshops organized by the LEG, adaptation forums and relevant meetings of the constituted bodies;
- (c) Elements of the gaps and needs published by the LEG that relate to the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
- (d) Collaboration for organizing NAP Expos and NAP workshops, to contribute to presentations and resources on science, methods and tools, including for specific sectors and themes;
- (e) Collaboration for the uptake of the findings of the NWP by those formulating and implementing their NAPs;
- (f) Solicitation of information from NWP partners on support to countries on NAPs to form part of the annual progress report.

E. Monitoring and evaluating work under the Nairobi work programme

76. While monitoring and evaluation approaches, including the dissemination and uptake of knowledge products, by different knowledge users have been integrated into work under the NWP to assess progress in closing knowledge gaps, Parties, in their submissions, noted the need to apply a consistent approach in an effort to understand baselines. This approach could be helpful to understand the impact of work under the NWP, including its impact in terms of scaling up adaptation action. In one submission, a Party noted that NWP partners could contribute to building capacity on ways to monitor and evaluate adaptation action.

F. Additional thematic areas for the Nairobi work programme

77. In one submission, the suggestion was made that an appropriate approach to identifying thematic areas under the NWP could be to align with the expertise of NWP partners, the needs of Parties, and the mandates and workplans of the constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the UNFCCC.

78. Several new, complementary and cross-cutting thematic and other areas for work under the NWP were highlighted in the submissions, including:

- (a) Technical support and guidance for adaptation planning and implementation, including finance, technology and capacity-building support and guidance, at the national and subnational level;
- (b) Technical support and guidance on reviewing subnational, national and overall adaptation progress, including adaptation monitoring, assessment, evaluation and learning;
- (c) Gender-responsive adaptation planning and action;
- (d) Adaptation-related traditional knowledge, indigenous peoples' knowledge and local knowledge systems;
- (e) Private sector engagement;
- (f) Climate justice;
- (g) The climate change–economy nexus and related adaptation measures;
- (h) Energy, transport and infrastructure.

79. With regard to existing thematic areas under the NWP,²⁵ suggestions were made to consider additional topics in implementing work under these thematic areas:

- (a) Cattle raising as part of agriculture and food security;
- (b) Fisheries and aquaculture as part of oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, and as part of livelihood and socioeconomic dimensions in relevant sectors;
- (c) The circular economy as part of economic diversification;
- (d) Climate risk management as part of extreme weather events and slow onset events.

IV. Conclusion

80. The submissions from Parties, constituted bodies and NWP partners provided a range of views on the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement. These submissions and the synthesis report will be useful in informing the stocktake of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP at SBSTA 56.

²⁵ As mandated at SBSTA 48 (FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 21) and prioritized at SBSTA 50 (FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 18).

Annex

Submissions of views on the performance and effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement¹

<i>Submitter</i>	<i>Date of submission</i>
Parties and groups of Parties	
Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States	1 April 2022
Chile on behalf of the Independent Association for Latin America and the Caribbean	30 March 2022
European Union	24 March 2022
Japan	17 March 2022
Kenya	5 April 2022
Nigeria	31 March 2022
Senegal on behalf of the LDCs	2 May 2022
United States of America	2 May 2022
Vanuatu	1 April 2022
Zambia on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators	13 May 2022
UNFCCC constituted bodies	
AC	5 May 2022
FWG	24 May 2022
LEG	20 May 2022
PCCB	5 May 2022
TEC	31 March 2022
NWP partners	
International Union for Conservation of Nature	1 April 2022
The Nature Conservancy on behalf of the NWP expert group on oceans	31 March 2022
Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania	27 March 2022
World Meteorological Organization	31 March 2022
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	17 May 2022
University of Michigan	25 May 2022
World Meteorological Organization	31 March 2022

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Note: The submissions are available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (in the search field, type “NWP”).

¹ As footnote 23 above.