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Progress in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

Report by the secretariat*

Summary

This report provides an overview of activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, the UNFCCC knowledge-to-action hub for adaptation and resilience, conducted between May 2023 and March 2024. It documents progress and outcomes of activities in subregions (under the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative) and countries (under the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme), under priority thematic areas (such as mountains) and in collaboration with UNFCCC constituted bodies. It highlights efforts during the reporting period to curate and disseminate knowledge to help achieve transformational adaptation and resilience, including at the regional level, through engagement with Parties, Nairobi work programme partners, constituted bodies, thematic expert groups, universities, and relevant networks and communities of practice. The report concludes with next steps for the Nairobi work programme. In addition, it contains an indicative workplan for the programme for 2024–2025.

* The present report was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline owing to the limited resources of the secretariat.



Abbreviations and acronyms

COP	Conference of the Parties
FWG	Facilitative Working Group
GCF	Green Climate Fund
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LAKI	Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative
LCIPP	Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
LDC	least developed country
NAP	national adaptation plan
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SIDS	small island developing State(s)
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

I. Executive summary

1. The activities implemented under the NWP during the reporting period of May 2023 to March 2024 reflect new and extended mandates and are consistent with the evolving adaptation and resilience landscape under and outside the UNFCCC process. **The secretariat focused on enhancing country- and region-specific adaptation action, and on engaging Parties, NWP partners, UNFCCC constituted bodies, thematic expert groups, universities, and relevant networks and communities of practice in curating and disseminating adaptation-related knowledge.**
2. **The outcomes and lessons learned since the inception of the NWP indicate that regional partnerships have been strengthened.** The NWP enhanced understanding of resilience, and ways to strengthen resilience and implement practical, effective, priority adaptation action in regions were identified. The NWP is strategically positioned to further support the UNFCCC process in terms of provision of adaptation knowledge and forging of strategic partnerships in the regional and transboundary space.
3. **Approaches and tools were developed, implemented and refined for risk assessment and adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.** The secretariat has developed or refined various innovative approaches and tools, such as in the context of LAKI, the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme and priority thematic areas. The approaches and tools offer stepwise, systematic and iterative ways to foster collaboration among partners and to develop, scale up and monitor tailored regional action, and have been replicated in many regions and ecosystems and refined over time taking into consideration lessons learned and challenges. They help to ensure that work under the NWP remains fit for purpose and aligned with the evolving adaptation and resilience landscape under and outside the UNFCCC process.
4. **Resources are required for implementing mandated work under the NWP in a systematic and coherent manner,** which is critical to fulfilling the objective under the NWP of enhancing country- and region-specific adaptation action.
5. **The NWP continued to focus strongly on thematic areas.** Priority thematic areas include agriculture and food security, and mountains, as well as a focus on shared ecosystems within subregions. The thematic work under the NWP continues to add value to the UNFCCC process. It is the only work programme that focuses on curating knowledge in thematic areas in close collaboration with Parties, thematic expert groups and constituted bodies. The focus on ecosystems within subregions has led to the sharing of evidence-based knowledge and the curation of ‘new’ knowledge that is context-specific and tailored to the unique needs of knowledge users and the challenges in different regions and ecosystems. This includes knowledge on ecosystem-based approaches and nature-based solutions.
6. **Collaboration with constituted bodies under the NWP continued.** For example, the secretariat, under the NWP, supported the FWG of the LCIPP in delivering the mandated LCIPP annual round table on Indigenous curricula and materials, and explored synergies between the LCIPP and the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme.

II. Introduction

A. Mandate

7. SBSTA 48 requested the secretariat to provide a concise annual report with an executive summary on progress in implementing activities under the NWP for consideration by the SBSTA at its first regular session of each year.¹

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 27.

8. SBSTA 52–55 requested the secretariat to document lessons learned and challenges in implementing the NWP workplans and apply the lessons learned in carrying out activities under the NWP.²

B. Scope

9. This report presents progress, outcomes, lessons learned and challenges related to the implementation of activities under the NWP, in accordance with its workplan, mandates and functions, between May 2023 and March 2024. The report concludes with proposed next steps for the NWP.

10. An indicative NWP workplan for 2024–2025 is contained in the annex. The workplan takes into account progress and lessons learned in implementing previous workplans and proposes opportunities for further enhancing adaptation action.

C. Background and context

11. The NWP, as the UNFCCC knowledge-to-action hub for adaptation and resilience, seeks to advance both transformational and long-term incremental adaptation towards reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience.³ During the reporting period, the secretariat curated and disseminated knowledge under the NWP towards achieving both transformational and long-term incremental adaptation, including at the regional level, through engagement with Parties, NWP partners, constituted bodies, thematic expert groups, universities, and relevant networks and communities of practice.

12. The NWP was established at COP 11 as the first stakeholder engagement mechanism under the Convention to assist Parties in:⁴

(a) Improving their understanding and assessment of climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation;

(b) 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.

13. During the reporting period, work under the NWP focused on curating adaptation knowledge in various thematic areas. By fostering an in-depth understanding of ecosystems and the culture, practices and underlying causes of vulnerability of peoples and communities, vulnerability can be reduced and adaptive capacity and resilience enhanced. Activities under the NWP are informed by science, and communities of practice. Indigenous Peoples and local communities, academic institutions and NWP partners provide perspectives on the realities, needs and available expertise on the ground, especially in curating and disseminating adaptation knowledge for use at all levels – local, subnational, national, subregional, regional and global.

14. Over the years, the priorities of the NWP have changed to align with the evolving adaptation and resilience landscape under and outside the UNFCCC process, and work under the NWP has become more responsive to Parties' needs and mandates arising from decisions.

III. Activities in regions and countries

A. Introduction

15. LAKI is a joint action pledge under the NWP between the secretariat and UNEP through its Global Adaptation Network. The aim of LAKI is to enhance adaptation action in

² FCCC/SBSTA/2021/3, para. 12(a).

³ For more information on the NWP, see <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2022/4, para. 12.

subregions by closing priority knowledge gaps in all countries, but particularly in developing countries, including the LDCs, SIDS and African States.⁵

16. The UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme under the NWP was launched at the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020. The Programme is designed to strengthen collaboration between the United Nations and academic and research institutions, especially in the global South, for addressing adaptation knowledge gaps in subregions and countries, particularly in developing countries. The Programme strives for a regional balance in its activities.⁶

17. LAKI lays the foundation for work under the NWP on identifying, understanding and closing priority adaptation knowledge gaps at the regional and subregional level; while the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme supports the efforts under LAKI to close priority knowledge gaps in subregions and countries.

B. Outcomes

18. During the reporting period, NWP activities were undertaken in four subregions: Hindu Kush Himalayas, North Africa, Pacific SIDS and Southern Africa. The outcomes of LAKI and the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme are presented by subregion in the remainder of this chapter.

1. Hindu Kush Himalayas

19. LAKI in this subregion covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.⁷ Four of these countries are LDCs.

20. The priority-setting workshop held for the subregion in 2016 led to the identification of 16 priority knowledge gaps. Unlike the gaps of other subregions, several of the priority knowledge gaps of the Hindu Kush Himalayas are geographically specific to the subregion and related to Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and local knowledge systems.

21. Since 2022, activities have focused on understanding and identifying ways to address those priority knowledge gaps and increase resilience in the subregion. During the reporting period, the secretariat, UNEP and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development co-led an exercise that involved regional partners and universities in mapping relevant organizations and their initiatives in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, which was followed by one-on-one engagement with experts from those organizations. The findings from the exercise will be disseminated via the adaptation knowledge portal,⁸ and the exercise has led to an understanding of the opportunities for scaling up existing initiatives in the subregion.

22. Two virtual technical expert meetings were convened with relevant partners and institutions in the subregion to discuss progress in addressing the subregional priority knowledge gaps and to co-design further collaborative actions. The most recent virtual technical expert meeting convened 20 experts from nine institutions and resulted in 15 such actions.⁹ The actions include (1) scaling up to other countries in the subregion a framework for a forest landscape-based vulnerability assessment approach developed by RECOFTC (an international non-profit organization working to increase the resilience of local forest communities) and tested in Nepal, and (2) showcasing disaster impacts and risks for key sectors under different climate scenarios ('business as usual', and 1.5 and 2 °C global temperature increase) and developing an automated impact-based forecasting tool for detailed analysis of the impacts by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

⁵ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/laki.aspx>.

⁶ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/university-partnerships.aspx>.

⁷ For information on LAKI in the subregion, see

https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/LAKI_HKH.aspx.

⁸ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/LAKI-HKHII-second-meeting>.

23. The next steps for the subregion include facilitating the implementation of the actions identified to close knowledge gaps in partnership with the UNEP Global Adaptation Network, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Regional Collaboration Centre Middle East and North Africa and South Asia, and other partners in the subregion.

2. North Africa

24. LAKI covers five North African countries: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.¹⁰

25. The priority-setting workshop for the subregion, held in 2017 in collaboration with Bibliotheca Alexandrina, resulted in the identification of 18 priority knowledge gaps. Some gaps focus on coastal zones and one gap relates to insufficient information and knowledge about the interconnections between desertification and socioeconomic development.

26. Under the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, The British University in Egypt, in partnership with the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics and the Soil, Water and Environment Research Institute, undertook research to analyse the interconnections between desertification and socioeconomic factors in Egypt's delta region.

3. Pacific small island developing States

27. LAKI covers 14 Pacific SIDS, 3 of which are LDCs: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.¹¹

28. The priority-setting workshop held in 2021 for the subregion led to the identification and prioritization of adaptation knowledge gaps using the LAKI methodology.¹² During the reporting period, the secretariat extended its strategic partnerships with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the UNEP Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, under which relevant organizations were brought together to implement activities that guide the development of new and innovative ways to address knowledge gaps. A regional event was held during Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023 to discuss progress, share case studies and highlight action taken in relation to bridging knowledge gaps in the Hindu Kush Himalayas and Pacific SIDS.¹³

29. Under the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, the University of Michigan, in partnership with the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership and the UNEP Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, conducted research on how to address limitations on access to climate knowledge, including early warning information, for scaling up climate action in Pacific island countries. In addition, Cornell University studied coastal and marine adaptation in Tonga.

4. Southern Africa

30. LAKI in Southern Africa covers Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.¹⁴

31. The priority-setting workshop, conducted in 2015 in partnership with SouthSouthNorth, resulted in the identification of 16 priority knowledge gaps, most focusing

¹⁰ For information on LAKI in the subregion, see <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/LAKI-NorthAfrica.aspx>.

¹¹ For information on LAKI in the subregion, see [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-\(LAKI\)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-(LAKI)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx).

¹² For information on the LAKI methodology, see <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/News/Pages/LAKI-methodology.aspx>.

¹³ See <https://unfccc.int/news/closing-adaptation-knowledge-gaps-in-asia-pacific>.

¹⁴ For information on LAKI in the subregion, see <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/LAKI-SouthernAfrica.aspx>.

on agriculture and food security. One gap relates to lack of knowledge on the sensitivity of agroecological zones across the subregion to historical and future climate change.

32. Under the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, the University of Michigan, in partnership with the Global Water Partnership Southern Africa and the University of Namibia through the Namibia Water Partnership, conducted a study to assess the potential for innovation in climate-smart agriculture and capability to implement such solutions in order to strengthen adaptation solutions for agricultural development. The Challenge-driven, Accessible, Research-based, Mobile European University, in partnership with the International Water Management Institute in Southern Africa, analysed the sensitivity of agroecological zones in Botswana to historical and future climate change. Cornell University, in partnership with the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture and experts, implemented a project on climate-smart agriculture in Zambia.

IV. Priority thematic areas

33. SBSTA 48 concluded that future NWP thematic areas should focus on 10 emerging issues in relation to climate change.¹⁵ SBSTA 50 requested the secretariat to prioritize the following NWP thematic areas: extreme weather events such as heatwaves, flash floods, sand and dust storms, cyclones and heavy precipitation; drought, water scarcity and land degradation neutrality; forests and grassland; ocean, coastal areas and ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves; and agriculture and food security.¹⁶

34. SBSTA 56 concluded that additional thematic areas under the NWP should focus on mountains; circular economy or circularity in the context of adaptation action; and adaptation possibilities in high-latitude areas and the cryosphere.¹⁷ These thematic areas naturally lend themselves to regional action as they focus on ecosystems shared by two or more countries.

35. Application of the iterative knowledge-to-action methodology¹⁸ has led to the formation of strategic partnerships under the NWP with constituted bodies and NWP thematic expert groups and to the monitoring and evaluation of national and regional action aimed at closing knowledge gaps. It has also helped to improve understanding of knowledge gaps and in identifying opportunities for coordinated action on addressing gaps across countries and regions. Engagement with thematic expert groups has helped to foster synergies with relevant processes and initiatives under and outside the UNFCCC in order to promote the coherence of work on enhancing adaptation action through knowledge.

A. Mountains

36. Mountains, with their rich biological and cultural diversity, play a crucial role in the livelihoods of millions of people. In 2010, almost 10 per cent of the global population – around 671 million people – lived in high mountain regions, a number expected to reach 736–844 million by 2050.¹⁹ With climate change having a significant impact on these regions, access to context-specific knowledge is essential for mountainous countries to implement effective adaptation action.

37. In preparing for an event on understanding and closing adaptation knowledge gaps in mountains, high-latitude areas and the cryosphere²⁰ held as part of the 16th NWP Focal Point Forum at COP 28, the secretariat engaged with institutions and experts from mountainous regions in order to (1) understand how climate change affects ecosystems, as well as the lives and livelihoods of people and communities, (2) learn about the adaptation practices applied

¹⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 21.

¹⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 18.

¹⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2022/6, para. 18.

¹⁸ For information on the methodology, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2022/4, paras. 18–20 and figure 1.

¹⁹ IPCC. 2022. High mountain areas. *In*: H-O Pörtner, DC Roberts, V Masson-Delmotte et al. (eds.). *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press. pp.131–202. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/>.

²⁰ See <https://unfccc.int/event/nwp-fpf-mountains-high-latitude>.

and the challenges faced and (3) explore ways to address adaptation knowledge gaps in order to reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity and resilience. The Forum brought together experts and representatives of countries and of global, regional and local institutions relevant to mountainous regions such as the Andes, the Arctic and the Hindu Kush Himalayas. At the event, the need to promote cases of successful adaptation and transboundary cooperation in mountainous regions was emphasized by participants. Participants also highlighted the importance of developing tailored solutions for these regions, including adjusting global impact indicators to national and local contexts and strengthening national, regional and international policy frameworks, including NAP frameworks.

38. In an effort to understand the needs and priorities of countries in mountainous regions, the secretariat reviewed NAPs, national communications and nationally determined contributions of countries located in or sharing ecosystems in the Alps, the Andes, the Carpathians, Central Asia, East Africa, the Hindu Kush Himalayas, the Pyrenees, the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans, among others. Each region has unique ecological characteristics, and the key issues that emerged reflect the diverse challenges, needs and good practices of the countries included in the review. Some key findings from the review are as follows:

(a) Countries sharing mountainous ecosystems are at risk from direct and indirect impacts of climate change. The Andes, Central Asia, the Hindu Kush Himalayas, the South Caucasus and the Western Balkans face particularly daunting challenges due to climate change. These include glacier melting, frequent drought and diminished water flow, which, in turn, have effects on agriculture, infrastructure and energy supply in the countries that share these mountainous ecosystems;

(b) Needs relating to research and systematic observation include enhancing climate models, strengthening disaster risk forecasting, employing methods for downscaling climate models to render them applicable at a more granular scale and expanding observation networks to collect data that will help to improve understanding and therefore management of climate impacts. Countries are investing in satellite, remote sensing and geographic information system technologies for monitoring ecosystems and assessing agricultural vulnerabilities;

(c) Regarding the implementation of adaptation action:

(i) Some countries are implementing ecosystem-based adaptation by protecting and restoring ecosystems (e.g. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia and Mexico in the Andean region) and others by combating land degradation (Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in Central Asia), while prioritizing sector-specific climate plans;

(ii) Some countries are implementing ecosystem restoration and conservation through community-led initiatives that blend traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices, such as reforestation and sustainable agriculture, while focusing on climate-resilient infrastructure to combat climate-induced disasters (China, Myanmar and Nepal in the Hindu Kush Himalayas);

(d) Regarding means of implementation:

(i) In terms of financial support, some countries have implemented innovative approaches to mobilizing finance. The Bhutan Climate Fund was established to support Bhutan (in the Hindu Kush Himalayas) in meeting its commitments under the nationally determined contribution, adaptation needs and overall development objectives, which it has complemented with capacity-building, training and awareness-raising efforts to enhance understanding of and action on climate change. For many countries, insufficient budget allocation for critical adaptation-related activities such as biodiversity conservation, heavy reliance on international funding due to limited domestic resources, and limited private sector engagement in climate action constitute gaps in sustainable financial self-sufficiency and make meeting the substantial investment required for climate action challenging;

(ii) In terms of capacity-building, while there is an emphasis on enhancing data management and coordination, gaps remain. Needs exist for improved scientific and

technical expertise, institutional capacity, and public awareness and engagement, all of which are essential for comprehensive programmes and research addressing climate change;

(iii) In terms of technology transfer, although initiatives promoting the adoption of climate-resilient and low-carbon technologies are in place, challenges persist in ensuring the widespread availability of technologies owing to high costs, intellectual property issues and the need to modify technologies to suit specific regional needs and contexts. Critical needs are enhanced international cooperation on technology access and adoption, predictable financing and inclusive strategies to facilitate technology transfer and localization, all of which will contribute to a more resilient and sustainable response to climate change in mountainous regions.

39. The work in the thematic area of mountains is continuing in 2024, including by extending the exercise on needs and priorities of countries in mountainous regions to a review of UNFCCC and other relevant reports; establishing an NWP expert group on mountains, with the group to focus on action, including within shared ecosystems, in mountainous regions; and identifying relevant linkages with and inputs to the work of constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the UNFCCC.²¹

B. Ocean

40. During the ocean and climate change dialogue that took place in conjunction with the fifty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies,²² the collaboration of the NWP expert group on oceans with the Technology Executive Committee to strengthen ocean-based action was highlighted in a presentation on their joint initiative, in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation, on innovative approaches to strengthening coastal and ocean adaptation. The publication produced under the initiative explores innovative adaptation approaches that combine technology and nature-based solutions to enhance resilience in coastal and ocean-dependent communities, including ecosystem-based adaptation, coastal flood mapping and early warning systems, and highlights case studies from around the world.²³

C. Ecosystems and water resources

41. Through the engagement of the UNFCCC Executive Secretary, contribution was made under the NWP to the United Nations 2023 Water Conference and its outputs, the key one of which is the Water Action Agenda of the United Nations Secretary-General. The secretariat coordinated an action pledge under the NWP as part of the Water Action Agenda, strategically including the NWP as part of efforts under the Agenda. The action pledge will facilitate synergistic collaboration of entities working under the NWP with entities of the United Nations system and relevant communities of practice and leverage the comparative advantages of organizations such as the GCF and WMO. The action pledge has three major pillars – knowledge, innovation and action. The aim of the pledge is to catalyse and strengthen communities of practice to address knowledge gaps, unlock innovation and scale up action to address water–climate nexus challenges in developing countries.²⁴

42. During the Conference, the secretariat held a side event on enhancing collaborative efforts towards knowledge and innovation for action in the water–climate nexus.²⁵ The event, co-organized by the GCF and WMO, showcased the partnership under the NWP with UN-Water organizations and communities of practice, the aim of which is to facilitate

²¹ Further information is available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/mountains.aspx>.

²² The informal report on the dialogue is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/631689>.

²³ UNFCCC and International Union for Conservation of Nature. 2022. *Innovative Approaches for Strengthening Coastal and Ocean Adaptation: Integrating Technology and Nature-based Solutions*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/tclear/coastalzones>.

²⁴ See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/News/Pages/The-NWP-at-the-UN-2023-Water-Conference.aspx>.

²⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/event/water-climate-nexus>.

transformative action to address water-related climate challenges in developing countries. The event also laid the foundation for the envisioned long-term engagement of the secretariat with the GCF and WMO on water and climate.

V. Collaboration with UNFCCC constituted bodies

A. Supporting constituted bodies in implementing mandated activities

43. Further to the mandates from the SBSTA regarding collaboration under the NWP with the FWG,²⁶ the secretariat, under the NWP, partnered with the FWG in organizing the Indigenous curricula and materials round table held under the LCIPP at COP 28.²⁷ One of the objectives of the round table was to identify and foster synergies between the LCIPP and other UNFCCC processes and institutional arrangements, such as the NWP. The event also provided an opportunity to strengthen linkages between the LCIPP and the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme.

B. Supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

44. The secretariat, under the NWP, continued to support developing countries in formulating and implementing NAPs through engagement in the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on addressing the gaps and needs of developing countries related to the NAP process. Experts and NWP partners were mobilized to provide up-to-date information on the NAP process to the LDCs.

45. NAPs submitted by countries in mountainous regions will be key to understanding their unique needs and priorities (see para. 38 above).

C. Communicating opportunities for engagement with constituted bodies

46. Information on opportunities for engagement with constituted bodies is shared regularly with UNFCCC national focal points and NWP partners via the adaptation knowledge portal, the quarterly NWP Bulletin and social media, as well as through targeted outreach for participation in events and calls for submissions and inputs.

D. Identifying further opportunities for engagement with constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the UNFCCC

47. The Adaptation Committee, at its 25th meeting, discussed collaboration under the NWP and considered its further advice on possible areas where the NWP could support the Committee in implementing its workplan.²⁸

48. Consistent with the outcomes of the first global stocktake and the global goal on adaptation, unique opportunities, such as strengthening knowledge on transboundary action and providing knowledge-related inputs for the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience, exist for further engagement in work under the NWP for constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the UNFCCC. Through such engagement, the NWP could contribute and add value to efforts to achieve long-term transformational and incremental adaptation, thereby helping to reduce vulnerability and enhance adaptive capacity and resilience. Such contribution is particularly relevant to implementing action in the priority thematic area of mountains in 2024.

²⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2021/3, para. 17(f); and FCCC/SBSTA/2023/4, para. 24(d).

²⁷ See <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/events/indigenous-curricula-and-materials-round-table-dialogue-0>.

²⁸ For the agenda and summaries of outcomes of the meeting, see <https://unfccc.int/event/AC-25>; see, in particular, agenda sub-item 5(c) on collaboration with NWP partner organizations.

49. The secretariat, under the NWP, will pursue long-term strategic engagement with constituted bodies to support implementation of their workplans and adaptation-related mandates.²⁹ The NWP will continue providing relevant knowledge and expertise to constituted bodies, on request, to support them in undertaking their work related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including in relation to finance, capacity-building and technology transfer at the subnational and national level.

VI. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

A. Monitoring the uptake and impact of knowledge products

50. In response to mandates from the SBSTA,³⁰ monitoring and evaluation approaches are integrated into work under the NWP with the aim of enhancing and facilitating the dissemination of knowledge products to, and the uptake of these products by, knowledge users at the community, subnational and national level. Monitoring, evaluation and learning is also integrated within the NWP knowledge-to-action methodology.

51. The secretariat has implemented various tools and approaches for soliciting feedback from knowledge users, including UNFCCC national focal points, to help it to understand the relevance of knowledge outputs and how they can be enhanced to inform adaptation action, including regional action.

52. On the basis of the findings of a survey on the accessibility, applicability and clarity of NWP knowledge products³¹ conducted in 2019–2020 in response to a request of the SBSTA,³² the secretariat has continuously since then developed and applied solutions to address the gaps and challenges identified by respondents, including by:

- (a) Improving the identification and profiling of users in countries and regions to respond better to their knowledge needs;
- (b) Examining the relevance of content and determining the best approach to ensuring that knowledge products are responsive to the needs of users in countries and regions;
- (c) Developing NWP knowledge products and using diverse tools and modalities to disseminate them to targeted users in countries and regions.

53. Further, the secretariat has conducted interviews with knowledge users and NWP partners to solicit feedback and has shared the feedback widely with Parties and partners.³³

B. Disseminating knowledge and fostering learning

54. NWP knowledge products are disseminated via NWP partner networks, UNFCCC national focal points and the UNEP Global Adaptation Network, and work has been undertaken to enhance the uptake of adaptation knowledge by target users involved in implementing adaptation action in countries and regions.

1. Adaptation knowledge portal

55. The aim of the adaptation knowledge portal is to provide knowledge of practice to Parties and communities in an accessible and user-friendly manner to assist countries in scaling up adaptation action. The portal provides information on NWP partners and their

²⁹ In accordance with document FCCC/SBSTA/2022/6, paras. 15–16.

³⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 17; FCCC/SBSTA/2021/3, para. 27(d); and FCCC/SBSTA/2022/6, para. 16(d).

³¹ There were 84 respondents to the survey, including eight UNFCCC national focal points. The survey results are available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/274671>.

³² FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 16.

³³ For example, interviews on the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme are available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLO53OADzZ4>.

adaptation action in countries, as well as on opportunities for NWP partners and experts to engage in work under the NWP, including with constituted bodies.

56. The adaptation knowledge portal has seen an increase in traffic, with views increasing from 43,000 in the previous reporting period to 105,000 in the current one – a more than twofold increase. The number of knowledge resources on the portal has also increased, resulting in over 1,402 resources, including 512 case studies and 417 methods and tools, being available on the portal as at 25 March 2024.

57. Information on activities, by region (under LAKE and the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme) and by thematic area, is regularly updated and shared via the portal.

2. Communication tools

58. Launched in 2017, the “Adaptation exchange by the NWP” X (formerly Twitter) account (@AdaptXChange) gained around 4 per cent more followers in the reporting period. Its followers include NWP partners, national Governments, practitioners, researchers, academics and journalists. Regular tweets showcase work under the NWP, collaboration with constituted bodies and NWP partners, and adaptation action and results in subregions. During the reporting period, 75 tweets were posted, with 69 retweets, and the account achieved 196 likes and 23,200 impressions.

59. Knowledge-sharing and learning in relation to the NWP is promoted through UNFCCC communication platforms, including the Adaptation Exchange Facebook page, which has more than 19,000 followers.

60. One issue of the NWP Bulletin was published during the reporting period,³⁴ highlighting progress and opportunities for engagement under the NWP and providing information on knowledge resources and forthcoming events.

61. The NWP web pages³⁵ on the UNFCCC website are regularly updated to include resources and outputs recently developed under the NWP. In the reporting period, five news articles showcasing activities under the NWP, including collaboration with NWP partners and constituted bodies, were disseminated via the adaptation knowledge portal. Further, two news articles were published via the UNFCCC Newsroom.³⁶

62. Outcomes and learning from work under the NWP are documented and shared in official reports to the SBSTA and NWP knowledge products.

3. Events

63. During the reporting period, the secretariat convened both in-person and virtual regional events and meetings, in partnership with NWP partners and constituted bodies, including during regional climate weeks and the NAP Expo.

64. Furthermore, the secretariat and NWP partners participated in several UNFCCC and external regional events specific to LAKE, including those organized by constituted bodies, to showcase current work and promote opportunities for collaboration on scaling up adaptation action in countries and regions. Examples include an event on closing adaptation knowledge gaps, focusing on the Hindu Kush Himalayan and Pacific SIDS subregions, that was held during Asia-Pacific Climate Week 2023, and virtual meetings with partners and experts in the Hindu Kush Himalayas. Regional events specific to LAKE have laid the groundwork for its future; in this context, recommendations made by participants at events include repositioning adaptation knowledge to address the full spectrum of thematic areas under adaptation and resilience, and building long-term strategic partnerships of the secretariat with regional networks and organizations in regions.

³⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/adaptation-newsletters>.

³⁵ <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

³⁶ Available at <https://unfccc.int/news>.

VII. Findings from the implementation of workplan activities

A. Lessons learned

65. **Long-term strategic engagement of NWP partners with constituted bodies leads to a deep understanding of regional issues, including those common to and transcending ecosystems.** Such engagement involves co-designing adaptation interventions for areas with shared ecosystems. Regular engagement between NWP partners and constituted bodies helps partners to understand the evolving mandates of the constituted bodies, while the regional knowledge and expertise of partners informs and supports implementation of the work of constituted bodies.

66. **The success of LAKI is a testament to the importance of subregional work in understanding and addressing climate change.** The engagement under LAKI of partner organizations operating in countries and subregions (e.g. UNEP Global Adaptation Network nodes, regional centres and networks, and regional collaboration centres) has led to collaborative design and delivery of actions for closing knowledge gaps in these countries and subregions.

67. **Ensuring the continuous building of relationships between the secretariat and experts is central to maintaining the long-term partnerships of the secretariat with thematic expert groups.** Continuity of contact and maintenance of relationships has been achieved through the ongoing coordination, including the organization of virtual meetings, of networks by the secretariat under the NWP. It is crucial for the secretariat to continue nurturing these institutional partnerships, which have taken a long time to forge.

B. Challenges

68. **Financial resources dedicated to scaling up work under the NWP are lacking.** During the reporting period, work that could be done virtually and remotely was prioritized. While having a mandate to do so, the secretariat has been unable to scale up LAKI in all subregions with the resources available, necessitating the limitation of work to one to two subregions per year. In implementing the mandate, the focus has been on leveraging partnerships of the secretariat with thematic expert groups and LAKI regional partners in implementing the work under the NWP. Scaling up LAKI in all regions through engagement with partners will require a long-term approach and investment of human and financial resources. This challenge continues to hinder the ability to close knowledge gaps.

69. **More opportunities to meaningfully engage with technical experts at the regional level are needed.** The lack of financial resources to hold in-person regional meetings, including the mandated regional NWP Focal Point Forums, contributes to the lack of opportunity to connect with experts who have on-the-ground knowledge that could inform the well-defined knowledge-to-action methodology that underpins the NWP.

70. **Systematic approaches to understanding targeted knowledge users and their needs and delivering practical knowledge relevant to enhancing regional adaptation action are required.** Work to ensure that knowledge products are useful and accessible to target users through the adaptation knowledge portal, virtual events, and in-person events during regional climate weeks and the NAP Expo is ongoing. However, the lack of translation of these products hinders their wide use, especially by peoples in front-line communities who speak languages other than English or another United Nations language.

71. **There is a lack of global and region-specific funding opportunities and supporting partners for action aimed at closing knowledge gaps.** NWP partners, including those engaged under the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme, have identified the lack of financial resources as a barrier to taking action to close knowledge gaps in subregions. Exploring funding opportunities could help in mobilizing financial resources in order to expedite closure of knowledge gaps. Further resources are required for translating the knowledge products produced under the NWP and disseminating them to target users.

VIII. Next steps

72. The IPCC found that “adaptation planning and implementation has progressed across all sectors and regions, with documented benefits and varying effectiveness. Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist and will continue to grow at current rates of implementation. Hard and soft limits to adaptation have been reached in some ecosystems and regions”.³⁷ Further, the IPCC noted that “as adaptation options often have long implementation times, accelerated implementation of adaptation in this decade is important to close adaptation gaps”.³⁸ To this end, the NWP, through its work at the national, subregional and regional level, could play an important role in closing adaptation knowledge gaps.

73. Under the NWP, as the UNFCCC knowledge-to-action hub for adaptation and resilience, mandates will continue to be implemented with a view to enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, including at the national, regional and subregional level. To achieve this, partnerships will continue to be strengthened at the regional and transboundary level, including through work in priority thematic areas, and there will be a focus on understanding ways to strengthen resilience and implement practical, effective, priority adaptation action in regions.

74. As mandated, subregional work and work related to shared ecosystems and transboundary areas will continue to be strengthened and prioritized under the NWP. This will include scaling up work on region-specific action, including scaling up LAKE in all regions towards achieving the objective of the Convention and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

75. The secretariat will continue refining methodologies and engagement models to ensure that the activities under the NWP are in line with the evolving adaptation and resilience landscape under and outside the UNFCCC process.

76. The secretariat will also continue to seek financial support for the full and effective implementation of the mandates under the NWP in a systematic and coherent manner.

77. In accordance with the mandate for new linkages to be established under the NWP with processes under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, such as the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation and the global stocktake, as appropriate, with a focus on the provision of relevant knowledge or inputs to support work under these processes,³⁹ work under the NWP could contribute to the attainment of the global goal on adaptation⁴⁰ and the global stocktake,⁴¹ and the targets set under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience,⁴² established at COP 28. These outcomes of COP 28 recognize that “climate change impacts are transboundary in nature, thereby requiring regional consideration and knowledge-sharing, climate-informed transboundary management and cooperation on global adaptation solutions”. In addition, targets have been set under the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience in relation to the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle, while recognizing the need to enhance adaptation action and support at all levels and strengthen regional and international cooperation to scale up adaptation action and support among Parties, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

³⁷ IPCC. 2023. Summary for Policymakers. In: Core Writing Team, H Lee and J Romero (eds.). *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Geneva: IPCC. Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>.

³⁸ IPCC. 2023. *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. Core Writing Team, H Lee and J Romero (eds.). Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>.

³⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2022/6, para. 16(b)(ii).

⁴⁰ See decision 2/CMA.5.

⁴¹ See decision 1/CMA.5.

⁴² Decision 2/CMA.5, paras. 9–10.

78. The NWP, building on its outcomes and achievements over the years, is uniquely placed to continue supporting adaptation action at the regional and subregional level, especially in areas with shared and/or common ecosystems.

Indicative Nairobi work programme workplan for 2024–2025

Area of work and activities	2024		2025	
	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	First quarter	Second quarter
A. Strengthening and prioritizing work on shared ecosystems and transboundary areas				
1. Focusing on the priority thematic area of mountains				
Establish a thematic expert group on mountains	x			
Engage with the thematic expert group on mountains through virtual and in-person meetings	x	x		
Identify areas of collaboration with UNFCCC constituted bodies and work programmes	x	x	x	x
Develop knowledge products in useful formats, undertake outreach and disseminate products to targeted knowledge users			x	x
2. Refining the NWP knowledge-to-action methodology on the basis of lessons learned				
Document lessons learned in applying the methodology to date and refine the methodology accordingly	x	x	x	x
B. Scaling up adaptation action in subregions through LAKI and the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme				
1. Closing priority knowledge gaps				
Continue implementing the second phase of LAKI in the Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion	x	x	x	x
Continue collaborating under the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme with universities, from both the global South and the global North, and regional centres and networks to address knowledge gaps in countries and subregions	x	x	x	x
Collaborate with NWP partners in providing information to developing countries and support mobilization of resources to enable universities and NWP partners to implement action to address priority knowledge gaps	x	x	x	x
Share the outcomes of LAKI at regional and global NWP Focal Point Forums and other events	x	x	x	x
2. Scaling up LAKI to additional subregions				
Convene priority-setting workshops in additional subregions (to be determined)			x	x
C. Supporting the work of constituted bodies and under institutional arrangements under the UNFCCC				
Mobilize NWP partners to collaborate with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in implementing its work programme (including implementing NAP-related activities and providing support to the LDCs)	x	x	x	x
Contribute to the work of the relevant constituted bodies	x	x	x	x

<i>Area of work and activities</i>	2024		2025	
	<i>Third quarter</i>	<i>Fourth quarter</i>	<i>First quarter</i>	<i>Second quarter</i>
Solicit inputs from constituted bodies on areas of knowledge and expertise in which the NWP could provide them with assistance in undertaking their work, including in relation to finance, capacity-building and technology transfer at the subnational and national level	x	x		
Engage relevant NWP partners, thematic expert groups and communities of practice in implementing activities in agreed areas of work	x	x	x	x
D. Applying monitoring, evaluation and learning approaches to measure the uptake of knowledge by users and assess the impacts of NWP activities on the enhancement and scaling up of adaptation action				
Develop and apply approaches to measuring the uptake of knowledge products and assessing the impact of activities under the NWP	x	x	x	x
Disseminate knowledge and foster learning by improving the relevance, accessibility and user-friendliness of the adaptation knowledge portal	x	x	x	x
Organize and participate in events to showcase the progress of NWP activities and promote opportunities for engagement with partners and constituted bodies	x	x	x	x