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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

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

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

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

This report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The elements of its second phase were defined by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) at its twenty-eighth session. The report describes progress made under the different areas of work and how organizations, institutions, experts and the private sector have been engaged in the activities under the work programme during the intersessional period from SBSTA 28 until the date of publication. It also contains summary accounts of how the secretariat is disseminating outcomes to stakeholders of activities relating to the work programme undertaken outside the secretariat. The report concludes with a list of mandated activities that will be addressed before the thirtieth session of the SBSTA.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1–6	3
A. Mandate .....	1	3
B. Background.....	2–5	3
C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.....	6	3
II. PROGRESS MADE IN IMPLEMENTING ACTIVITIES UNDER THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.....	7–34	3
A. Progress made under the nine areas of work of the Nairobi work programme.....	8–13	4
B. Engaging organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector.....	14–26	5
C. Dissemination of outcomes .....	27–34	9
III. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE.....	35–41	10
IV. NEXT STEPS ON MANDATED ACTIVITIES.....	42	11
<u>Annex</u>		
Call for action: Promoting the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change.....		13

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twenty-eighth session, requested the secretariat to provide a report for consideration at each of its sessions, starting from SBSTA 29, on progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.<sup>1</sup>

### **B. Background**

2. The overall objective of the Nairobi work programme is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.<sup>2</sup>

3. A comprehensive plan of activities<sup>3</sup> up to SBSTA 28 was agreed upon at SBSTA 25. A summary of the results of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme during this first phase is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/12.

4. At its twenty-eighth session, the SBSTA agreed on further activities for inclusion in the Nairobi work programme up to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), taking into account views of Parties on further activities, the report of the meeting of representatives from Parties on the outcomes of completed activities under the Nairobi work programme,<sup>4</sup> the outcomes of additional activities completed by that session, information presented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other new scientific information, as well as relevant activities by international and regional institutions.<sup>5</sup>

5. Since SBSTA 28, the secretariat has received financial contributions from the Governments of Austria and Norway to support the mandated activities under the Nairobi work programme.

### **C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

6. The SBSTA may wish to consider this progress report at its twenty-ninth session.

## **II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

7. The activities and expected outputs envisaged in the second phase of the Nairobi work programme build upon the results of its first phase. They continue to be structured around the two

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraphs 13–71.

<sup>4</sup> The meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 7 to 9 April 2008 and the report is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/5.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraphs 10–74.

thematic areas “Impacts and vulnerability” and “Adaptation planning, measures and actions”, as set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.11, and the nine areas of work identified at SBSTA 25.<sup>6</sup>

### **A. Progress made under the nine areas of work of the Nairobi work programme**

8. As described in paragraphs 9 and 11 below, the secretariat was requested to prepare two technical papers. The information contained in these papers is relevant for the consideration of the two areas of work “Climate-related risks and extreme events” and “Adaptation planning and practices” of the Nairobi work programme, as well as for consultations on decision 1/CP.10 under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. Both papers also contain information relevant to the consideration of elements of the Bali Action Plan<sup>7</sup> and to a workshop that will take place during the fourth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA).<sup>8</sup>

#### 1. Climate-related risks and extreme events

9. Under this area of work, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a technical paper, before its twenty-ninth session, on physical and socio-economic trends in climate-related risks and extreme events in the context of their implications for sustainable development, paying particular attention to the most vulnerable developing countries, especially LDCs and SIDS.<sup>9</sup> The technical paper is contained in document FCCC/TP/2008/3.

10. This paper also contains useful information for the consideration of a technical paper mandated to be available before the fourth session of the AWG-LCA (FCCC/TP/2008/9).<sup>10</sup> That document elaborates on mechanisms, including innovative insurance tools, that can be used to manage financial risks from direct impacts of climate change in developing countries.

#### 2. Adaptation planning and practices

11. Under this area of work, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare, by its twenty-ninth session, a technical paper on integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies, such as those included in the Hyogo Framework for Action, into national policies and programmes.<sup>11</sup> The technical paper is contained in document FCCC/TP/2008/4.

12. The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to enhance the web-based interface on adaptation practices by its thirtieth session, in order to provide access to information on specific adaptation practices; to enable adaptation practitioners to share information on and experiences with different adaptation practices; and to disseminate good practices and lessons learned in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of adaptation practices.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraphs 32–71.

<sup>7</sup> Decision 1/CP.13, paragraphs 1 (c) (ii) (Risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance) and 1 (c) (iii) (Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change).

<sup>8</sup> Workshop on risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance (FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/3, annex I).

<sup>9</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 48.

<sup>10</sup> FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/8, paragraph 28 (b).

<sup>11</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 56.

<sup>12</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 65.

13. The secretariat is currently operationalizing this enhanced adaptation practices interface.<sup>13</sup> The interface will provide information and links to adaptation practices, as well as relevant publications, online assessment tools, workshops and national adaptation strategies. It will identify adaptation practices, as well as implementation activities already occurring through bilateral cooperation, at community, national and international level by Parties and partners of the Nairobi work programme, as well as by relevant additional organizations. The information will be searchable, but can also be filtered according to the type of organization undertaking the adaptation practice, regional focus, the work focus and the means of delivery of the adaptation practice.

## **B. Engaging organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector**

### **1. Organizations, institutions, experts and communities**

14. The focus of implementation of the Nairobi work programme is on catalysing actions on adaptation, and on ensuring that products and deliverables are directed to stakeholders at all levels and across all sectors.

15. One of the focus areas of the second phase of the Nairobi work programme is continuing efforts to engage organizations, institutions, experts, communities and members of the private sector, including those active at the community level and those undertaking education, training and awareness-raising.<sup>14</sup> Emphasis is also put on encouraging organizations and institutions that have national and regional representation to develop specific activities at the national and regional level in support of the Nairobi work programme, and to make information on the results achieved available to the SBSTA for its consideration.<sup>15</sup>

16. The secretariat has initiated the process of engaging organizations in undertaking activities as outlined in paragraph 15 above. Several organizations have already responded favourably and a comprehensive approach on how to operationalize that mandate will be elaborated in early 2009 under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA.

17. The secretariat has continued its efforts to engage organizations as was done during the first phase of the Nairobi work programme. As a result of these efforts, 14 more organizations and institutions have appointed a focal point since SBSTA 28 and expressed their interest in participating in the Nairobi work programme, bringing the total number to 122 as of 28 October 2008.

18. The newly joined partner organizations are: Care International; Center of Atmospheric Sciences, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); Christian Aid; Conservation International; Community Enterprise Forum International; Ecologic – Institute for International and European Environmental Policy; German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV); National Institute for Water Resources, Cuba; International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); North-South University, Bangladesh; Poverty in Africa Alternative (POVINAA); Pro-Act Network; and the Rockefeller Foundation.

### **2. Action pledges**

19. The SBSTA, at its twenty-eighth session, reiterated its appreciation of the actions undertaken by organizations in support of the objective of the Nairobi work programme. It encouraged organizations to

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<sup>13</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/4363.php>>.

<sup>14</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 26.

<sup>15</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 30.

submit action pledges to the secretariat, and to make the information on the results achieved available to the SBSTA.<sup>16</sup>

20. During the period between SBSTA 28 and the publication date of this report, the secretariat has received 30 new action pledges from the seven organizations shown in table 1 below.

**Table 1. Action pledges received since the twenty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Pledges</b>
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA)</li> <li>• Congo Basin Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (CoFCCA)</li> </ul>
Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ibero-American Programme on Adaptation to Climate Change (PIACC), which is the framework in which initiatives and activities carried out by RIOCC on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change are planned and implemented. The paper describing PIACC contains 18 action pledges</li> </ul>
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring and prediction of sea level rise and extremes through the Global Ocean Observing System</li> <li>• Supporting adaptation to climate change in the coastal zones of West Africa</li> </ul>
United Nations Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing country-level climate profiles</li> <li>• Applying climate information for adaptation decision-making</li> <li>• Establishing an adaptation learning mechanism</li> </ul>
United Nations Environment Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Climate Change Adaptation Network</li> </ul>
Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional visualization and monitoring system</li> </ul>
World Food Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to climate-related emergencies</li> <li>• Scaling up local and community-based projects to reduce vulnerability</li> <li>• Provision of global public goods for adaptation</li> </ul>

21. A list of all action pledges received to date (63 pledges from 21 organizations), as well as the full texts of all pledges, may be found on the UNFCCC website.<sup>17</sup>

22. Several organizations have provided the secretariat with an update on progress made on their previously pledged action. An overview of the feedback received on this is contained in table 2. Full texts of the progress reports provided by organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3996.php>>.

<sup>16</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 14.

<sup>17</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/3996.php>>.

**Table 2. Progress reported on action pledges**

Organization	Project	Progress reported
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing methods and tools relating to agro-climatology               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AgroMetShell (food security early warning software packages)</li> <li>○ RADAR (Rapid Agricultural Disaster Assessment Routine)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Farm Adaptive Dynamic Optimization (FADO)</li> <li>• Assisting Nigeria to assess adaptation requirements in the agriculture sector</li> </ul>	<p>New tools have been developed</p> <p>In pilot phase</p> <p>In development phase</p> <p>Project well under way</p>
Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-governmental organization group in Nepal</li> <li>• Capacity Strengthening of Least Developed Countries for Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC)</li> <li>• Publication of bulletin</li> </ul>	<p>Group active, number of member organizations increased</p> <p>Fellowship programme well under way</p> <p>Bulletins produced and distributed. Reader panel established</p>
Office of Agricultural Risk (ORA), Argentina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing and disseminating tools for assessment and reduction of agricultural risk</li> </ul>	<p>Development of tools in progress. Results available online</p>
Practical Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documenting and publishing experiences from work on community-based adaptation in South Asia</li> <li>• Producing and disseminating audio-visual material</li> <li>• Using participatory video to help capture local knowledge</li> <li>• Continuing projects to establish best practice</li> <li>• Developing an analytical framework to guide planning and analysis of adaptation</li> </ul>	<p>Book to be published in early 2009</p> <p>Work ongoing</p> <p>Project in development phase</p> <p>Proposal under development</p> <p>Framework in advanced draft state</p>
United Nations Environment Programme/GRID-Arendal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MSV (Many Strong Voices): adaptation in the Arctic and small island developing States</li> </ul>	<p>Network being expanded. Events, workshops and multiple projects planned</p>
World Food Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responding to climate-related emergencies</li> <li>• Scaling up local and community-based projects to reduce vulnerability</li> <li>• Providing global public goods for adaptation</li> </ul>	<p>Numerous operations carried out worldwide. Preparedness and response mechanisms continuously being improved</p> <p>Wide range of activities carried out. Preparedness for risk of hunger improved. Resilience and adaptive capacity of households and communities increased</p> <p>Information sources updated. Countries and regional organizations successfully involved. Early warning and disaster risk management capabilities improved</p>

### 3. Dialogue between focal points and Parties

23. The SBSTA, at its twenty-eighth session, took note of the first forum of focal points of engaged organizations and institutions, convened by the Chair of the SBSTA in Bali, Indonesia, on 10 December 2007. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to regularly organize such meetings with representatives of interested Parties during the sessions of the COP, with a view to taking stock of activities undertaken by organizations and institutions in support of the objective of the Nairobi work programme and to promoting a periodic dialogue between Parties and partner organizations and institutions.<sup>18</sup>

24. The second forum of focal points and Parties is to take place on the margins of the twenty-ninth session of the SBSTA. This meeting will focus on the new activities under the Nairobi work programme as adopted at SBSTA 28, including those mentioned in paragraph 15 above. A further enhancement of the exchange between Parties, organizations and institutions will be discussed. This discussion should, inter alia, result in suggestions on how organizations and institutions will make information on results achieved available to the SBSTA. The meeting will also aim to further strengthen the function of focal points so that they may play a more prominent role in catalysing adaptation initiatives towards achieving the objective of the Nairobi work programme. An informal report on the outcomes will be made available on the Nairobi work programme pages of the UNFCCC website<sup>19</sup> and the results will be summarized in the progress report prepared for SBSTA 30.

### 4. Private sector

25. Since the beginning of 2008 the secretariat has been furthering the engagement of the private sector in line with decision 2/CP.11, and has developed an initiative to enhance relations with the business sector.<sup>20</sup> As a first step, the secretariat is compiling information that can inform businesses, governments and other stakeholders of the work being undertaken by the private sector relating to adaptation. The secretariat has been contacting businesses and requesting them to register their interest in being linked to the Nairobi work programme and to provide information on the work that they are doing on adaptation via a dedicated page<sup>21</sup> under the Nairobi work programme section of the UNFCCC website and a questionnaire. A number of businesses have expressed their interest in this initiative and are currently preparing the relevant information on their ongoing work.

### 5. Lessons learned in involving experts

26. The SBSTA, at its twenty-seventh session, requested the secretariat to prepare a report on lessons learned in involving experts in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme, for consideration at its twenty-ninth session.<sup>22</sup> This report, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/10, reviews the way in which experts have been involved in all activities of the Nairobi work programme, from mandated submissions and workshops to activities aiming to catalyse new and innovative adaptation action. The assessment indicates the need to continue and enhance an active involvement of experts from Parties and organizations, as well as individual experts, in the Nairobi work programme. This involvement of experts should remain flexible and the pool of experts from which the Nairobi work programme draws should continue to grow, in terms of both the number of experts and the range of areas covered.

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<sup>18</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 29.

<sup>19</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/3633.php>>.

<sup>20</sup> Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 3 (b) (iv); and FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 26.

<sup>21</sup> <[www.unfccc.int/4291.php](http://www.unfccc.int/4291.php)>.

<sup>22</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2007/16, paragraph 21.



### C. Dissemination of outcomes

27. The SBSTA, at its twenty-eighth session, welcomed the wide dissemination to relevant stakeholders of outputs resulting from the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. It requested the secretariat to continue, in consultation with Parties, to develop user-friendly outputs and accessible forms of disseminating these outputs, to enhance the Nairobi work programme pages on the UNFCCC website, and to develop further activities aimed at reaching adaptation practitioners at the national and subnational level, in particular in developing countries.<sup>23</sup>

28. The SBSTA agreed to promote, both under the UNFCCC process and among relevant organizations, institutions, experts and communities, the consideration of recommendations and calls for action that result from workshops and expert meetings, with a view to undertaking activities at international, regional, national and subnational levels aimed at addressing the gaps and needs identified.<sup>24</sup>

29. In addition to the six calls for action that were endorsed at SBSTA 28, one new call for action has been produced. It is based on the recommendations made by participants during the in-session workshop on climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling that was held during SBSTA 28.<sup>25</sup> This call for action is included in the annex to this report for endorsement by Parties.<sup>26</sup> A list of all calls for action produced to date is available on the Nairobi work programme pages of the UNFCCC website.<sup>27</sup>

30. The Nairobi work programme web pages serve as a central platform for collecting and disseminating relevant information. The pages are continuously being updated to reflect the latest contributions and activities by partner organizations and the most recent outcomes of the negotiation process under the SBSTA.

31. The secretariat produces an electronic newsletter which is sent to all focal points of partner organizations to the Nairobi work programme, as well as to the climate community registered with the electronic mail distribution list of the International Institute for Sustainable Development.<sup>28</sup>

32. A brochure providing a short summary of the history of the work programme and detailing the transition of the programme from its first phase to the second phase has also been produced by the secretariat. This is the third in a series of brochures on the Nairobi work programme. An electronic version of the new brochure, as well as the two previous ones, is available on the Nairobi work programme web pages.<sup>29</sup>

33. A publication based on the substantive outcomes of the activities undertaken under the Nairobi work programme is currently being prepared. The objective is to make available to the wider public the knowledge generated and shared in the implementation of the activities undertaken under the Nairobi work programme so far.

34. Finally, the secretariat has produced a leaflet briefly introducing the two sub-themes and nine areas of work of the Nairobi work programme. The main purpose of this leaflet is to raise awareness of the work programme among a wide range of stakeholders. It will be introduced to focal points during the

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<sup>23</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 34.

<sup>24</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 15.

<sup>25</sup> The report on this workshop is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/9.

<sup>26</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2006/6, paragraph 18.

<sup>27</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.

<sup>28</sup> <<http://www.iisd.ca/email/climate-1.htm>>.

<sup>29</sup> <[www.unfccc.int/3633.php](http://www.unfccc.int/3633.php)>.

forum mentioned in paragraph 24 above, with the aim of providing the organizations with outreach material to further promote the Nairobi work programme.

### **III. Other relevant information relating to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change**

#### **1. Activities organized by Parties and organizations**

35. Parties and organizations have initiated, independently of the UNFCCC secretariat, a process of organizing activities supporting the objective of the Nairobi work programme. For example, a workshop on the assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation projects in the Ibero-America region took place at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 6–8 October 2008. It was co-organized by the Governments of Colombia and Spain, financed by the Government of Spain and held within the framework of the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices (RIOCC). Colombia announced this workshop during SBSTA 28 as an activity supporting the Nairobi work programme.<sup>30</sup>

36. The Government of Brazil, in collaboration with RIOCC, held a training activity at the National Institute for Space Research, Brazil, on 13–18 July 2008, on the regional climate model Eta/CPTEC, involving experts from 17 Latin American countries and Spain. Brazil announced this training activity during the in-session workshop on climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling, held at SBSTA 28, as an activity supporting the Nairobi work programme.<sup>31</sup>

37. Another example is the United Kingdom Met Office Hadley Centre which, over the past years, has been organizing hands-on workshops on regional climate modelling in developing countries to support these countries' efforts in meeting their UNFCCC commitments using the PRECIS (Providing REgional Climates for Impacts Studies) system.<sup>32</sup> The 2008 workshop focused specifically on enhancements to the PRECIS system allowing users to develop a much wider range of climate scenarios and providing more comprehensive data analysis and processing tools. These were developed so that PRECIS could better support the objectives of the Nairobi work programme.

38. The German Development Institute together with the Stockholm Environment Institute will hold an international expert workshop titled "Adaptation to climate change: Strengthening capacities in Africa" in Bonn from 26 to 27 November 2008. The workshop will first focus on research findings in the fields of agriculture and water, for example, on bringing climate information to farmers and decision makers and on adaptive water management, in order to identify further research gaps and needs. It will then address the question of how to support capacity-building for research on adaptation to climate change in Africa. Workshop participants will discuss recommendations on the possible roles and functions of regional centres on adaptation to climate change within the UNFCCC framework.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, footnote 7.

<sup>31</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/9, paragraph 44.

<sup>32</sup> PRECIS is a tool for generating high-resolution regional scenarios of future climate. It has been developed at the Hadley Centre with support from the United Kingdom Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Department for International Development (DfID), and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). See <<http://precis.metoffice.com>>.

<sup>33</sup> Further information can be obtained at <[www.die-gdi.de](http://www.die-gdi.de)>.

39. One more example is the Global Climate Change Adaptation Network under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).<sup>34</sup> The network is designed to meet the increasing demands for global efforts aimed at adaptation to climate change, drawing on the world's increasing knowledge and technology, through mobilizing resources and expertise of existing ground facilities, regional institutions and scientific and expert networks. The network will have a strong focus on supporting the implementation of the Nairobi work programme, supporting work under each of its nine areas of work, and the integration of these areas. It will consist of a series of selected ground facilities, regional centres and an international support group of technical institutions, building upon existing networks of facilities and centres.

## 2. Acknowledgement of the Nairobi work programme

40. The Nairobi work programme has become increasingly recognized as a leading resource of knowledge-sharing in the area of adaptation among a wide range of stakeholders, including Parties and international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations involved in climate change issues. This rising awareness of the work programme is reflected in the way it is mentioned in public statements, declarations and publications, including on the Internet.

41. As one example, the leaders of the major economies, in their statement of 9 July 2008 on energy security and climate change, publicly agreed to support the implementation of the Nairobi work programme.<sup>35</sup> Another example would be that the Adaptation Fund Board, during its third meeting, explicitly mentioned Parties' consideration of information generated under the Nairobi work programme as a strategic priority when developing projects and programmes to be funded under the Adaptation Fund.<sup>36</sup> These examples are two of the latest of several acknowledgements from Parties and organizations that have been promoting and supporting the Nairobi work programme.

## IV. Next steps on mandated activities

42. The secretariat will provide its next report on progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme, including calls for action, for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirtieth session. Activities to be undertaken between SBSTA 29 and SBSTA 30 include:

### *Methods and tools*<sup>37</sup>

- (a) Initiation of the development of a user-friendly version of the UNFCCC Compendium on methods and tools;

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<sup>34</sup> In partnership with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Columbia University (International Research Institute), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, the International Institute for Environment and Development, International Long Term Ecological Research, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Keio University, the Korea Environment Institute, the National Institute of Environmental Research (Korea), the Stockholm Environment Institute, UNDP, UNFCCC, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the World Meteorological Organization, WWF, and others.

<sup>35</sup> <[http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/doc/doc080709\\_10\\_en.html](http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/doc/doc080709_10_en.html)>.

<sup>36</sup> <[http://www.adaptation-fund.org/images/AFB.B.3.L.1\\_Report\\_of\\_the\\_Third\\_Meeting\\_of\\_the\\_Adaptation\\_Fund\\_Board.pdf](http://www.adaptation-fund.org/images/AFB.B.3.L.1_Report_of_the_Third_Meeting_of_the_Adaptation_Fund_Board.pdf)>.

<sup>37</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 41.

*Adaptation planning and practices*<sup>38</sup>

- (b) A technical workshop on integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and programmes. The workshop should involve representatives from Parties and relevant organizations, and experts, with a view to identifying examples of successful use of such tools and integrating such practices into national policies and programmes;
- (c) Submission from Parties, by 20 March 2009, of views and information on approaches to and experiences in integrating and expanding adaptation planning and action at national, subnational, community and local levels, including scaling up of local and community-based adaptation, and the compilation by the secretariat of these submissions into a miscellaneous document;
- (d) Submission from Parties, by 20 March 2009, of views on lessons learned, good practices, gaps, needs, barriers and constraints to adaptation, including implementation of adaptation projects, and the compilation by the secretariat of these submissions into a miscellaneous document;
- (e) Further enhancement of the web-based interface on adaptation practices, in order to provide access to information on specific adaptation practices, to enable adaptation practitioners to share information on and experiences with different adaptation practices, and to disseminate good practices and lessons learned in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of adaptation practices;

*Economic diversification*<sup>39</sup>

- (f) Submission from Parties, by 20 March 2009, of additional information on examples of measures, methodologies and tools on increasing economic resilience to climate change and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors, including through economic diversification, and the compilation by the secretariat of these submissions into a miscellaneous document;
- (g) A technical workshop on increasing economic resilience to climate change and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors, including through economic diversification, with the participation of representatives from Parties, businesses and communities, and of experts. The workshop should be held with a view to promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools for increasing economic resilience, including the understanding of social aspects, and shall take into account:
  - (i) Previous submissions from Parties and relevant organizations on this matter and the synthesis report thereon;
  - (ii) The submissions referred to in paragraph 42 (f) above.

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<sup>38</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraphs 55–64.

<sup>39</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraphs 71–74.

Annex**Call for action: Promoting the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change<sup>1</sup>****GAP/NEED TO WHICH ACTION IS RESPONDING**

Advances in understanding of the physical processes of the climate system and climate modelling have led to a considerable increase in confidence in projecting future climate change at continental and larger scales. However, spatial and temporal resolution associated with outputs from climate modelling carried out to date have been inadequate to support policy-relevant impact and vulnerability assessments at country level. Large gaps remain in providing outputs at finer spatial (regional, national and local) and various temporal (sub-daily, daily, monthly, annual or decadal) scales for shorter time horizons (5, 10, 15 years).

There is a need to improve the availability of, and access to, high quality observational data as they are critical for model calibration and validation, and are also essential for sectoral sensitivity analyses (e.g. for identifying critical climatic thresholds). This calls for a range of actions, including establishing new climate data recording facilities as well as sustaining existing ones; creating and maintaining networks of national and regional experts; and promoting the dissemination of existing local knowledge and data.

Given the inherent natural variability of the climate system, the wide range of assumptions that different models make and inconsistencies between model projections and observations, it is crucial to understand the context and the limitations of data produced by climate models. Challenges remain in improving the ability of users to interpret complex model outputs and effectively make use of them in impact and vulnerability assessments. This requires closer interaction between data providers (e.g. climate modellers, impact assessors) and adaptation practitioners, and a more effective integration of climate science into adaptation policymaking processes.

**ACTIVITIES**

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) requested the secretariat to strive to engage a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. The SBSTA urged relevant organizations and other stakeholders to undertake their own activities in support of the objective and themes identified in decision 2/CP.11 and to share outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The secretariat has prepared this call for action following guidance from the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It aims to facilitate the implementation of recommendations resulting from the Nairobi work programme workshops and expert meetings by a wide range of stakeholders. The information is taken from the report of the workshop on climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling, held on 7 June 2008 in Bonn, Germany (FCCC/SBSTA/2008/9). Details on related ongoing work is available at <<http://unfccc.int/4430.php>>.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraph 17.

Activities identified under the focus area of **climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling** include:

- Continuing efforts in the development and dissemination of climate information that is more conducive to adaptation decision-making, including by:
  - Providing climate projections at finer spatial scales that are consistent with typical administrative or geographical scope of adaptation decision-making (e.g. national, provincial, or river basin);
  - Making climate information at higher temporal resolution widely available for the analyses of extreme events;
  - Enhancing climate projections for shorter time horizons (e.g. 5 or 10 years) compatible with short-term planning horizons.
- Increasing the availability of high quality observational data to support model development, including by:
  - Enhancing the observation of the current climate system (e.g. development of new observatory networks, maintain existing observatory networks);
  - Promoting open or easy access to data from observations and models as well as strengthening networks of regional and national experts;
  - Enhancing support for the dissemination of existing local knowledge and data.
- Increasing the understanding of model outputs, including regarding uncertainties associated with projections, by:
  - Providing and disseminating guidance on climate models, downscaling methods, and potential applications of resulting data in user-friendly formats, including in languages other than English;
  - Facilitating dialogues between data providers and the adaptation community, including policymakers;
  - Developing a collaborative platform to facilitate the sharing of good practices and feedback on available data sets, and on downscaling methods and tools;
  - Enhancing the technical capacity of stakeholders, including through the provision of long-term comprehensive training opportunities, to develop models and to analyse and apply model outputs for supporting adaptation planning.
- Improving the accuracy of climate projections by strengthening research on biophysical and physical climate systems, and by continuing efforts to quantify and reduce uncertainty within and across climate models.
- Strengthening the role of regional centres to promote effective knowledge sharing and transferring, collaboration on scenario development, and capacity-building at regional and national levels.

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