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

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

Note by the secretariat

Summary

This report provides an overview of the progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change since the thirty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It describes the continued engagement of Parties, organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector in the activities of the Nairobi work programme, and gives examples of the collaborative activities between Nairobi work programme partner organizations, Parties and the private sector that are currently being carried out. It concludes with a brief overview of mandated next steps.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

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

B. Background

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

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

4. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 6/CP.17, mandated further activities to be implemented under the Nairobi work programme, with the outcomes to be considered at SBSTA 37 and 38. Details of these activities are provided in chapter II of this report.

5. During its thirty-seventh session, the SBSTA adopted conclusions on the Nairobi work programme⁶ welcoming the organization of a technical workshop on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies, and the report on the workshop,⁷ as well as a compilation of case studies on national adaptation planning processes.⁸ Parties welcomed the engagement of, and contributions provided by, Nairobi work programme partner organizations, and noted the development of new user-friendly knowledge products and the challenges faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in accessing such products.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

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

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

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/12.

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

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/5, paragraphs 10–17.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/4.

⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.6.

6. The progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 37 in the different areas of work is described in previous progress reports.⁹

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

7. The activities and expected outputs of the Nairobi work programme are structured around the two thematic areas of impacts and vulnerability, and adaptation planning, measures and actions, as set out in the annex to decision 2/CP.11, and the nine areas of work identified at SBSTA 25.¹⁰ This chapter provides information on the progress made in implementing activities in these areas, including through the engagement of Nairobi work programme partner organizations, on mandated activities carried out since the last progress report and on new publications and outputs that the secretariat has made available.

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

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

8. The Nairobi work programme is implemented by Parties, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector, communities and other stakeholders. In this regard, the Nairobi work programme has engaged relevant organizations as partner organizations, which undertake to align their activities with the objectives of the Nairobi work programme, and to carry out, including through action pledges and collaborative initiatives, where appropriate, initiatives aimed at enhancing adaptive capacity or reducing the vulnerability of the natural environment and human society.

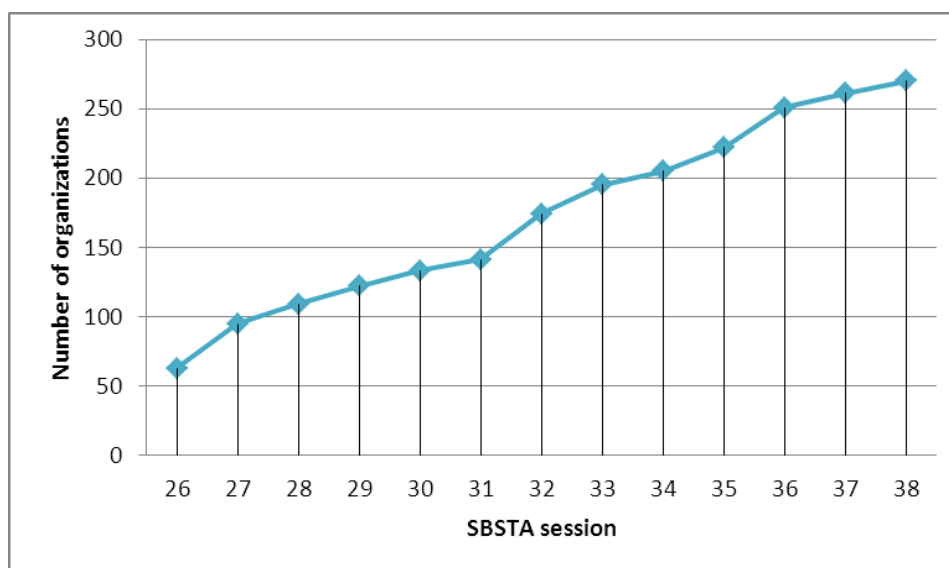
9. Figure 1 illustrates that since the publication of the last progress report, the number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations has risen by 11, to a total of 272, including partners of the Nairobi work programme private-sector initiative (PSI).

10. The new partner organizations are as follows: African Climate Policy Center; Association for Promoting Sustainability in Campuses and Communities; Association pour la Gestion de l'Environnement et du Développement (Association for Environmental and Developmental Management); Complexitas; International Centre for Climate Change and Development; International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements; Pyrenees Climate Change Observatory; Save the Environment, Pakistan; Twin; International Institute of Agri-Food Security, Curtin University; and World Business Council for Sustainable Development.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.3, FCCC/SBSTA/2009/INF.5, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2010/INF.7, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.9, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.1 and FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.5.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraphs 32–71.

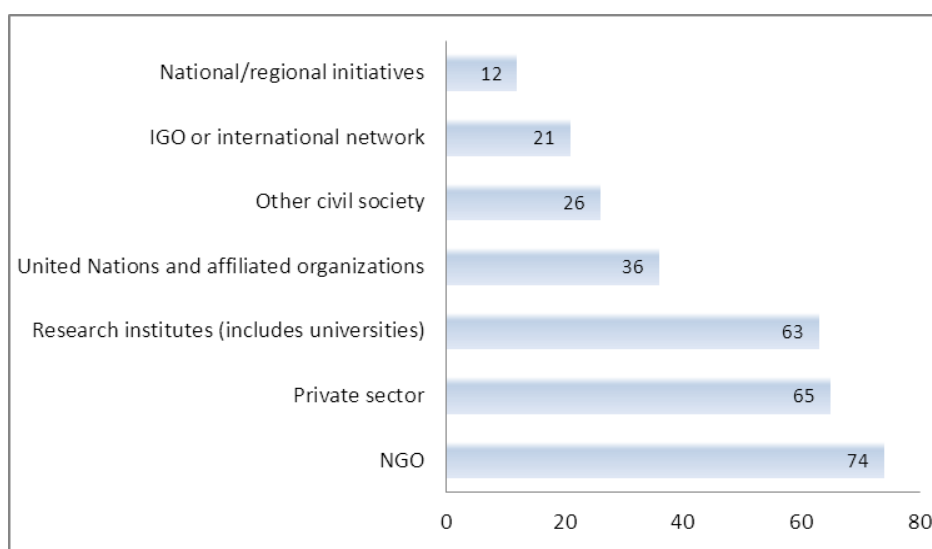
Figure 1

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time

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

11. Partner organizations play an important role in implementing the Nairobi work programme. The steadily increasing number of partner organizations creates a broader spectrum of expertise, experience and knowledge under the Nairobi work programme. This has strengthened the capacity of the work programme to enhance the provision and dissemination of information on and knowledge of adaptation. Figure 2 provides an overview of the Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 15 April 2013.

Figure 2

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 15 April 2013

Note: A partner organization can cover more than one category.

Abbreviations: IGO = intergovernmental organization, NGO = non-governmental organization.

12. A further breakdown of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, scope of activity, climate hazard and sector is presented in figures 4–7 in the annex.

2. Action pledges

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

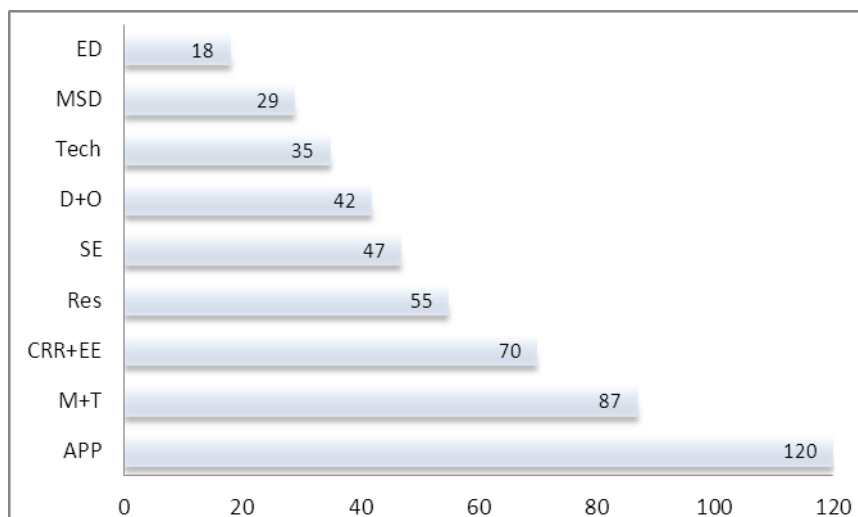
14. Action pledges provide a useful means for partner organizations to share information on specific adaptation actions they are carrying out in support of the work programme. To date, 178 such action pledges have been made by partner organizations. Since the last progress report, four new action pledges have been received from the following partner organizations: the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV), each with a single action pledge; and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with two action pledges.

15. The IFAD action pledge on adaptation for smallholder agriculture focuses on making poor smallholder farmers more resilient to climate change through financing relevant activities. FGV pledged to organize a regional adaptation event to promote climate change adaptation actions as a part of the business strategy of Latin American companies. The first action pledge of FAO aims to help the agriculture sector at the national level to prepare rural communities to better cope with climate risks and to develop tools and approaches to assist vulnerable households, while the second action pledge is on an e-learning tool for planning for community-based adaptation to climate change. With these two new action pledges, FAO has made a total of nine action pledges.

16. An overview of the action pledges submitted by partner organizations, as at 15 April 2013, covering all nine areas of the work programme, is provided in figure 3.

Figure 3

Number of action pledges under the Nairobi work programme by area of work as at 15 April 2013



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

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

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

1. Activities organized by the secretariat

Technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change

17. By decision 6/CP.17, the COP requested the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other relevant organizations, a technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change before the thirty-eighth session of the SBSTA. Under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, such a workshop was held from 21 to 23 March 2013 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.¹¹ This workshop was attended by over 70 participants representing Parties, Nairobi work programme partner organizations, United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations.

18. Experts from the World Bank and relevant institutions jointly prepared a background note on ecosystem-based approaches, representing an effective mode of collaboration among partner organizations in developing and disseminating relevant knowledge resources for the benefit of workshop participants. In addition, an expert round-table meeting was held during October 2012 in collaboration with, and hosted by, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as part of its action pledge on furthering the consideration of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change in the context of the Nairobi work programme.¹² This expert meeting was helpful in gathering inputs from relevant experts for the planning of the workshop.

19. A balanced representation of a broad range of backgrounds, expertise and regions at the workshop facilitated enriching discussions and knowledge-sharing. The workshop considered the role of ecosystems, including forests, in adaptation; vulnerability and impacts in ecosystems; and the implementation and benefits of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation. Through discussions taking place at plenary, expert panel and parallel breakout sessions, Parties and expert organizations enhanced their understanding of key aspects relating to ecosystem-based approaches, identified areas of further work, and shared best practices and lessons learned, including in the context of the Rio Conventions. Cross-cutting themes, including the applicability of indigenous and traditional knowledge and the need for gender sensitivity in ecosystem-based approaches, were discussed at the workshop. Discussions and recommendations arising from the workshop are included in a report on the workshop prepared for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-eighth session.¹³

20. The workshop provided a good opportunity for networking, collaborative action and support for the work being carried out under the Nairobi work programme on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change. The secretariat will continue to facilitate dialogue and collaboration among experts and organizations to enhance the work on this matter in the context of the Nairobi work programme and relevant adaptation actions under the Convention.

Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum

21. The sixth Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum, which took place on 27 November 2012 in Doha, Qatar, was attended by over 80 representatives of Parties, partner organizations and other relevant organizations.¹⁴ The Forum was held under the guidance of

¹¹ Information on workshop is available at <<http://unfccc.int/7379.php>>.

¹² Information on the UNEP action pledge is available at <https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:8023756247390112::NO::P31_ID:222>.

¹³ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/2.

¹⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/4300.php>>.

the Chair of the SBSTA. Information on collaborative activities undertaken towards the implementation of the Nairobi work programme was shared by two partner organizations: the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices representative presented its regional initiatives to strengthen links between Parties and organizations; and the UNEP representative shared information on activities related to ecosystem-based approaches and its recent action pledge to the Nairobi work programme on this matter, as referred to in paragraph 18 above.

22. Participants discussed opportunities for strengthening collaboration between all adaptation stakeholders for enhanced action on adaptation within the context of the evolving work areas of the Nairobi work programme. Representatives of Parties and partner organizations acknowledged the ongoing stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the work programme, and the future value of such engagement in informing relevant processes under the Convention and the wider adaptation community through the provision and dissemination of scientific and technological advice. Participants also identified opportunities to enhance the uptake of knowledge generated under the work programme through identifying innovative ways to repackage and disseminate knowledge to a wide range of stakeholders at the regional, national and community levels. Many participants underscored the need for the work programme to build on ongoing stakeholder activities and catalyse increased collaboration among partner organizations.

Side event on the private-sector initiative of the Nairobi work programme at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

23. The first side event of the PSI of the Nairobi work programme, held during COP 18 in Doha, attracted more than 100 participants to discuss adaptation activities and related challenges in the private sector.¹⁵ After the welcome address by the Executive Secretary, the Global Adaptation Institute provided a comprehensive overview of the current engagement of private-sector entities in adaptation initiatives, and highlighted the need for the scientific community to engage with the private sector on adaptation. The United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme presented methods and tools that support businesses in implementing their adaptation strategies. Following updates on the PSI presented by the secretariat, two companies presented the results of adaptation actions on the ground: Nestlé Middle East shared the outcomes of its experience of helping farming communities to adopt new practices for the cultivation of coffee and cocoa; and Coca-Cola FEMSA shared information on its innovative partnership strategy to enhance the management of water resources. Participants concluded the event by discussing some of the challenges and opportunities for enhancing the engagement of the private sector in adaptation.

2. Collaborative activities initiated by Nairobi work programme partner organizations

24. In line with its action pledge referred to in paragraph 15 above, FGV, a partner organization of the PSI of the Nairobi work programme, will host, in partnership with the secretariat, a dedicated event to promote business engagement on climate change adaptation. The aim of the regional event is to foster the strengthening of climate change adaptation actions as part of the strategy of businesses in Latin America. The event will take place on 25 and 26 June 2013 in São Paulo, Brazil, and will bring together participants from the private sector, governments and civil society organizations in Latin America.¹⁶

¹⁵ For more information on the PSI side event, see <<http://unfccc.int/4623>>.

¹⁶ More information on the regional event is available at <<http://gvyces.com.br/index.php?r=site/CapaSecao&id=24>>.

C. Provision and dissemination of information and knowledge

1. Online knowledge platforms

Database of action pledges and partner organizations

25. As a part of the work programme's mandate to work towards enhanced development, dissemination and use of knowledge from practical adaptation, a more user-friendly and dynamic online database of partner organizations and action pledges was launched in December 2012.¹⁷ The new database facilitates both effective access to information by Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations and the management of information by Nairobi work programme partner organizations.

Private-sector initiative – database of actions on adaptation

26. The recent call on businesses and companies to showcase their engagement in climate change adaptation activities has expanded the database of case studies under the PSI of the Nairobi work programme, which now contains nearly 90 business adaptation practices.¹⁸ These case studies of activities aimed at helping businesses to adapt to climate change, and/or helping vulnerable communities to adapt, are carried out by a range of companies, including BASF, Bayer, CaféDirect, Coca-Cola FEMSA, Dow, Syngenta and Unilever. The new case studies, which cover all global regions, mainly focus on the management of water resources; the enhancement of crops' resistance to pests, diseases and droughts; and conservation practices to increase the resilience of ecosystems.

Adaptation practices interface

27. The adaptation practices interface, which contains summary information on adaptation practices from around the world, has recently been updated with a contribution from the Adaptation Partnership, a Nairobi work programme partner.¹⁹ The Adaptation Partnership is an initiative jointly chaired by Costa Rica, Spain and United States of America, which started in 2010 at the Petersberg Climate Dialogue. It has contributed 160 new adaptation practices to the adaptation practices interface – totalling about 300 examples of adaptation practices worldwide.

2. Nairobi work programme eUpdate

28. The latest issue of eUpdate, a regular newsletter disseminated to Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations, was published and made available in March 2013.²⁰ The next issue will be made available in July 2013.

III. Next steps

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

30. By the same decision, the COP invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 17 September 2012, their views on potential future areas of work of

¹⁷ <<http://unfccc.int/nwp>>.

¹⁸ <<http://unfccc.int/6547>>.

¹⁹ <<http://unfccc.int/4555>>.

²⁰ <<http://unfccc.int/4628>>.

the Nairobi work programme. The compilation of these submissions has been made available for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-eighth session in order to inform the process mentioned in paragraph 29 above.²¹

²¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/MISC.2.

Annex

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

Figure 4

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus

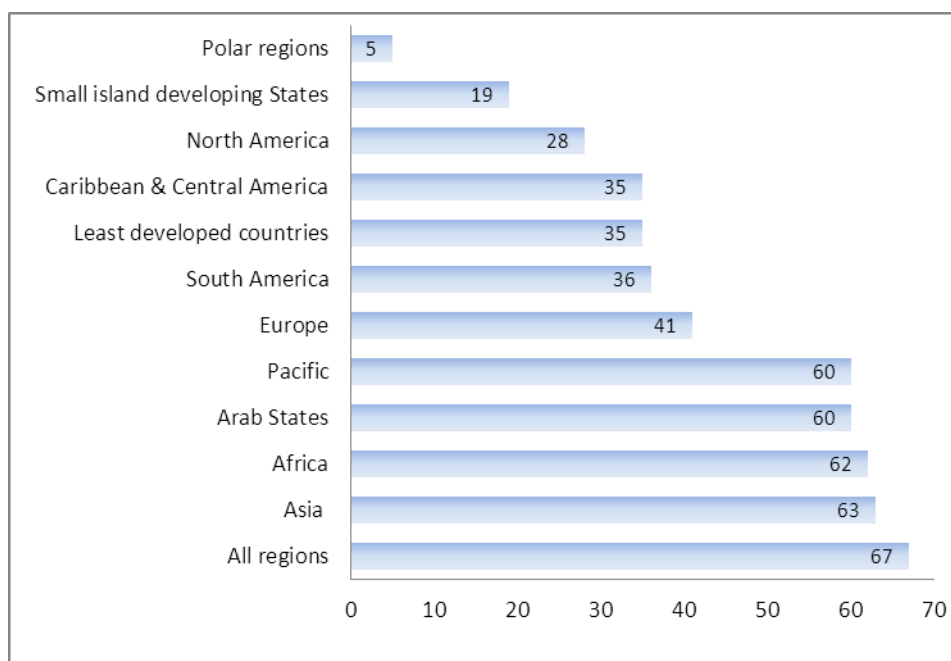
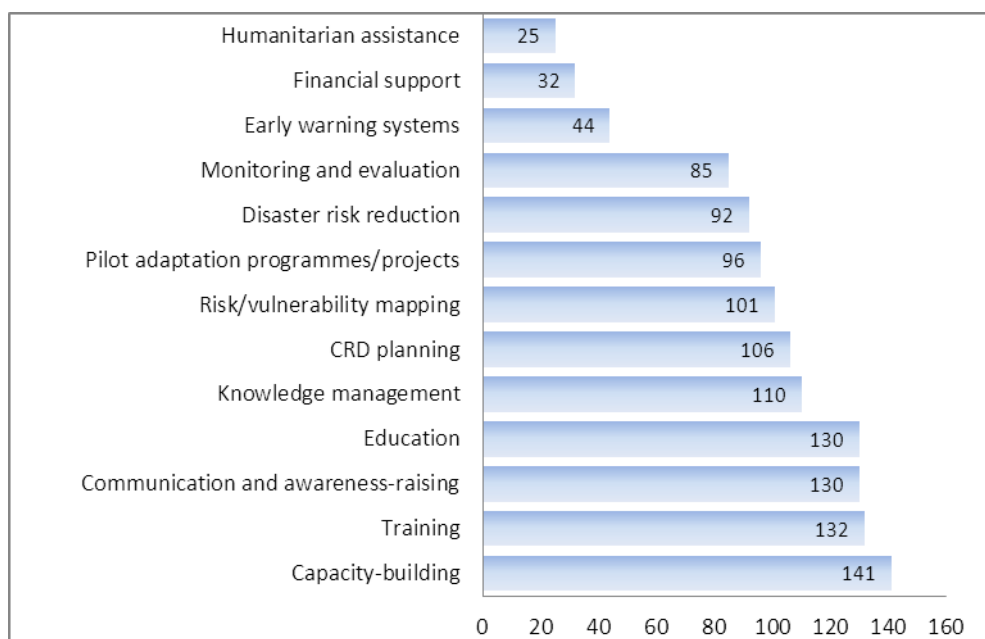


Figure 5

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by deliverable activity



Abbreviation: CRD = climate-resilient development.

Figure 6

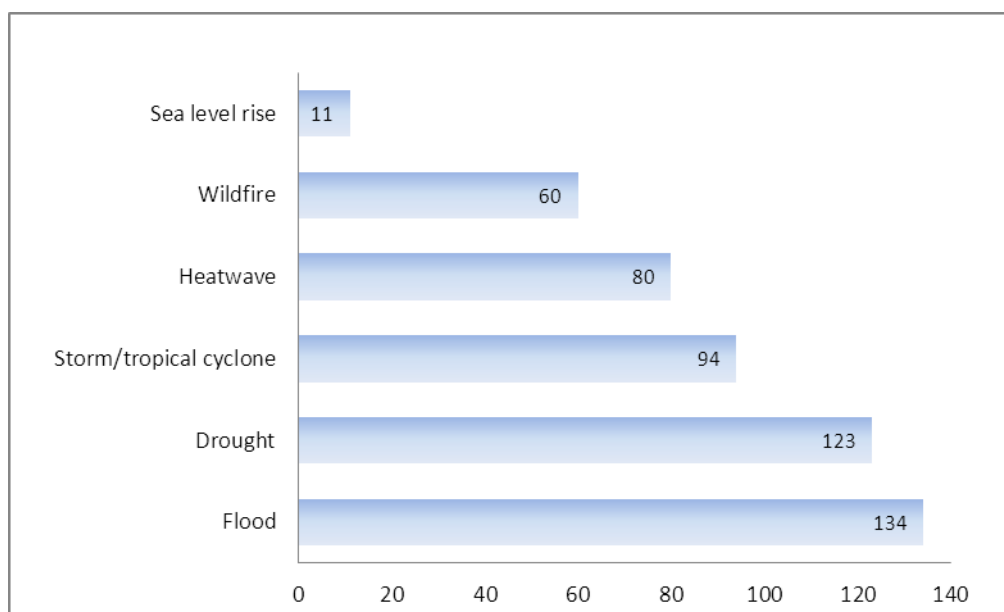
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by climate hazard

Figure 7

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by sector