



---

## **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

**Thirty-sixth session**

**Bonn, 14–25 May 2012**

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 since the thirty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice. It describes the continued engagement of organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector in the activities of the Nairobi work programme, as well as examples of collaborative activities between Nairobi work programme partner organizations, Parties and the private sector that are currently being carried out. This report further provides information on the dissemination of outputs produced under the Nairobi work programme. It concludes with a brief overview of mandated next steps.

## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction.....	1–5	3
A. Mandate.....	1	3
B. Background .....	2–5	3
II. Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme .....	6–34	4
A. Engaging organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector .....	7–15	4
B. Collaboration between Parties, Nairobi work programme partner organizations and the private sector .....	16–29	7
C. Disseminating outputs .....	30–33	9
III. Next steps .....	34–40	10

## **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 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 socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.<sup>2</sup>

3. Upon completion of the first and second phases of the Nairobi work programme,<sup>3</sup> 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,<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

4. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 6/CP.17, requested the secretariat to continue the development of user-friendly knowledge products, to enhance their dissemination, and to continue its efforts to further engage stakeholders in the Nairobi work programme, as described in more detail in chapter II. It also invited Parties to disseminate the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme that are deemed useful for the assessment and implementation of adaptation actions, and to support their translation into other United Nations languages. By the same decision, the COP mandated further activities to be carried out under the Nairobi work programme, with the outcomes to be considered at SBSTA 37, 38 and 39, respectively. More details on these activities can be found in chapter III.

5. The progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 35 in the different areas of work is described in previous progress reports.<sup>6</sup>

---

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2010/12.

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

<sup>6</sup> 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 and FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.9.

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

6. 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.<sup>7</sup> This chapter provides information on the progress made in implementing activities in those 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

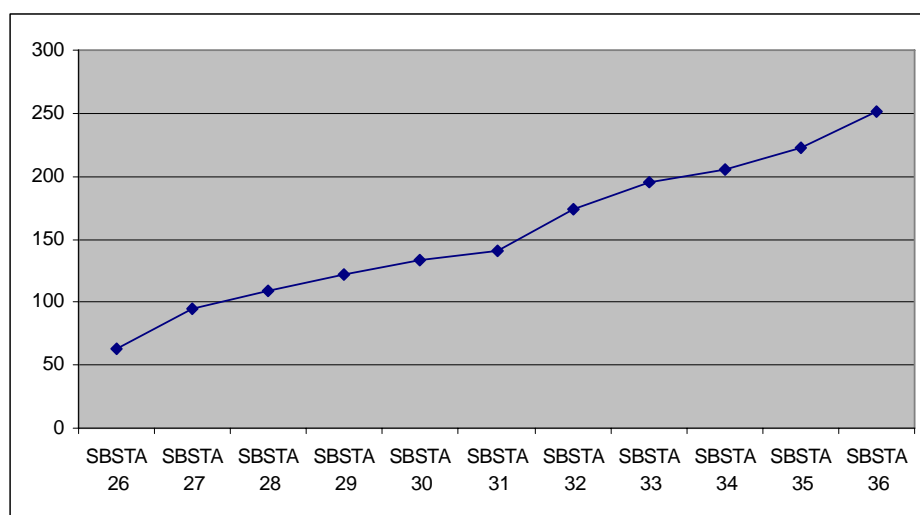
#### 1. Partner organizations, institutions, experts, communities and the private sector

7. The COP, by decision 6/CP.17, requested the secretariat to continue its efforts to further engage stakeholders in the Nairobi work programme. The Nairobi work programme is recognized as a leading resource of information and knowledge-sharing on all aspects relating to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

8. Partner organizations undertake to align their activities with the objectives of the Nairobi work programme, and to carry out, including through action pledges, where appropriate, initiatives aimed at enhancing adaptive capacity or reducing vulnerability. Figure 1 illustrates the continuous rise in the number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over the years, with a further increase since the last United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Durban, South Africa, in December 2011.

Figure 1

**Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time**



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

9. Since the publication of the last progress report, the number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations has risen by 25 to a total of 251, including partners of the

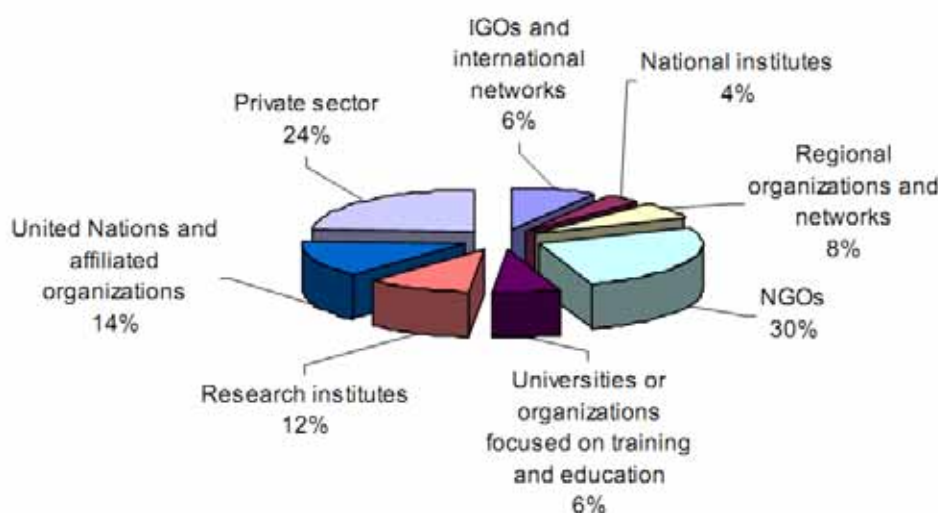
<sup>7</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2006/11, paragraphs 32–71.

Nairobi work programme Private Sector Initiative (PSI). Newly enrolled partner organizations and enterprises include the following: the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation; the American Council on Renewable Energy; the Business Council for Sustainable Energy; Caribbean and Central America Foods; the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies; the Doctors for Humankind Foundation; Ecofys; Ecoprogresso – Consultores em Ambiente e Desenvolvimento; EnterpriseWorks/VITA; Fundação Getúlio Vargas; the Global Adaptation Institute; Hidro+ Hydrodynamic Power Technology; the Institute for Environment and Sanitation Studies, University of Ghana; the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre; the International Council on Mining and Metals; Irbaris LLP; the Jambo Africa Tourism Organization Network; Microsoft Corporation; Nestlé; PepsiCo South America; RECOFTC – the Center for People and Forests; Terracon Ecotech Pvt. Ltd.; URS Corporation; Wildlife Works; and the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters.

10. The steadily increasing number of partner organizations with focuses on various aspects of adaptation and with diverse organizational and institutional backgrounds ensures that the spectrum of experience and knowledge gathered under the Nairobi work programme is continuously broadening. Figure 2 provides an overview of the Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 13 April 2012.

Figure 2

**Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 13 April 2012**



*Abbreviations:* IGOs = intergovernmental organizations, NGOs = non-governmental organizations.

11. The searchable database of partners, experts and action pledges on the UNFCCC website<sup>8</sup> contains a full list of all partner organizations to the Nairobi work programme, including details of adaptation experts nominated by partner organizations. Partner organizations and experts are encouraged to complete their profiles in the database and keep them updated.<sup>9</sup> All entries in the database can be sorted in a user-friendly way, by type of organization, regional focus, sector, adaptation delivery activity, Nairobi work

<sup>8</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/5005>>.

<sup>9</sup> This can be done by filling out the respective forms on the UNFCCC website, which are available at <[http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nwp\\_organizations\\_form](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nwp_organizations_form)> for organizations and at <[http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nwp\\_experts\\_form](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nwp_experts_form)> for associated experts.

programme work area and climate hazard. This enables stakeholders to easily identify partner organizations for possible collaboration.

## 2. Action pledges

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

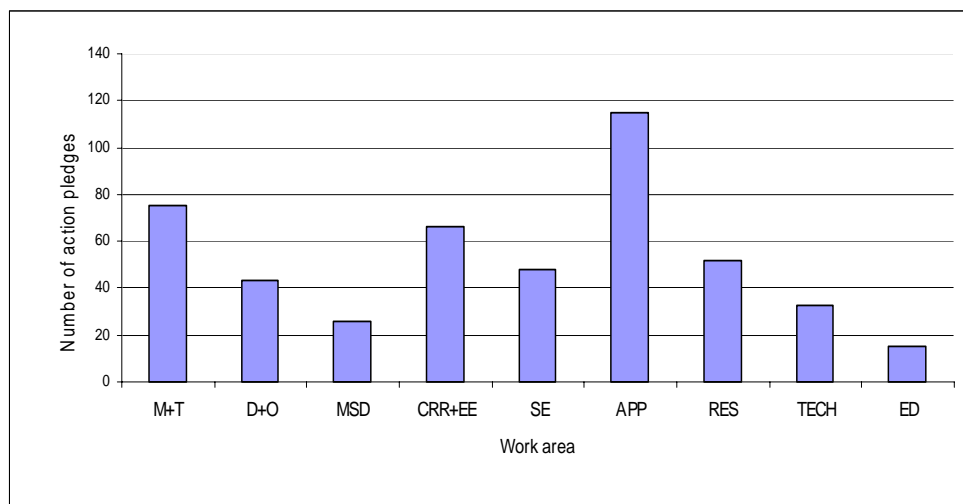
13. As a result, the number and range of action pledges, which are detailed in the database mentioned in paragraph 11 above, has again increased during this reporting period by an additional eight, with the total number now amounting to 168 pledges from 74 partner organizations. Action pledges provide an essential means for partner organizations to clearly describe the activities they are carrying out in support of the work programme.

14. New action pledges have been received from the following partner organizations since the publication of the last progress report: the Adaptation Partnership (three pledges); the Global Water Partnership; RECOFTC – the Center for People and Forests; Wildlife Works; the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters; and the World Bank. In addition, the secretariat has received an update on the progress made with regard to pledged activities from one partner organization.

15. Figure 3 provides an overview of the action pledges submitted by partner organizations, covering all nine areas of the work programme.

Figure 3

### Action pledges under the Nairobi work programme by area of work



*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, M+T = methods and tools, MSD = climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling, RES = research, SE = socio-economic information, TECH = technologies for adaptation.

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

### **1. United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban**

16. During the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, Parties, in various contexts, expressed their strong interest in enhancing the role of the Nairobi work programme and in capitalizing on its central role as a hub for exchanging and sharing knowledge and enhancing collaboration in the area of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. By decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 99, the COP requested the Adaptation Committee to engage and develop linkages through the COP with all adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions under the Convention, including, among others, the Nairobi work programme, as appropriate.

17. During the same conference, and following a mandate from the SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session,<sup>10</sup> a joint SBSTA/Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in-session workshop was held to consider the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme and highlight the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change most relevant to the SBI.

18. In addition to discussing what information and advice arising from the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme should be considered by the SBI, participants also reflected on the need to ensure linkages between the Nairobi work programme and the Cancun Adaptation Framework, in particular the Adaptation Committee, national adaptation plans and the work programme on loss and damage, as these provide new avenues for the implementation of adaptation actions on the ground. It was also recognized that the Nairobi work programme could be refocused as a knowledge hub to facilitate the implementation of adaptation actions in support of the Cancun Adaptation Framework. Suggestions were also put forward for possible further areas of work under the Nairobi work programme. The full report on the workshop is available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>11</sup>

19. The fifth Nairobi work programme focal point forum also took place during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban. The aim of the forum was to identify a range of opportunities to catalyse collaborative action among Parties and partner organizations, building on ongoing activities under the Nairobi work programme. This was achieved by dividing the participants into three interactive groups to discuss the following topics:

- (a) Making use of strategic communications for adaptation;
- (b) Technical support for national adaptation plans;
- (c) Application of monitoring and evaluation approaches: experimentation and shared learning.<sup>12</sup>

20. The COP, by decision 6/CP.17, noted the value of the focal point forum in facilitating information exchange and collaboration between partner organizations. It invited Parties and relevant organizations to continue to facilitate such exchanges, with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. The sixth Nairobi work programme focal point forum will be convened, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, during SBSTA 37 in Doha in November/December 2012.

<sup>10</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 23(d).

<sup>11</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/sbsta/eng/crp01.pdf>>.

<sup>12</sup> The full report of the fifth focal point forum under the Nairobi work programme is available on the UNFCCC website  
<[http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/nwp\\_fpf\\_2011\\_summary\\_note.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/nwp_fpf_2011_summary_note.pdf)>.

21. Decision 6/CP.17 also contains a list of new mandates to be carried out under the Nairobi work programme (see chapter III for further details).

## **2. Recent activities**

22. One of the new mandates referred to in paragraph 21 above is for the secretariat to organize, in collaboration with Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other relevant organizations, two workshops, informed by the information contained in annex I to the report of the SBSTA on its thirty-fourth session<sup>13</sup> and subsequent views of Parties, and to include indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation and gender-sensitive tools and approaches as cross-cutting issues.

23. The first of these technical workshops is to be organized before the thirty-seventh session of the SBSTA, and is to discuss issues relating to water, climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.<sup>14</sup> This request to organize a workshop focusing on a specific sector corresponds to a request by the SBSTA, at its thirty-fourth session, to discuss the impacts of climate change on water resources and integrated water resource management under the Nairobi work programme.<sup>15</sup>

24. As part of its action pledge, the Global Water Partnership, a partner to the Nairobi work programme, hosted an expert round table meeting on 9 March 2012 to generate insight from water experts on possible thematic inputs in planning this technical workshop.<sup>16</sup> Twenty-one experts from 16 global and regional organizations working on water and climate change adaptation shared their knowledge and expertise, and made recommendations to help plan the technical workshop, and discussed next collaborative steps in furthering the discourse of water issues under the Nairobi work programme.

25. The Nairobi work programme PSI aims to catalyse the involvement of the private sector in the wider adaptation community. The unique expertise of the private sector, its capacity to innovate and produce new technologies for adaptation and its financial leverage constitute a valuable potential contribution to the work of the Nairobi work programme.

26. The latest development in the PSI is the PSI database of actions on adaptation,<sup>17</sup> which was formally launched during COP 17. This database features nearly 100 case studies of sustainable and profitable climate change adaptation activities pioneered by private companies. Businesses are encouraged to contact the secretariat<sup>18</sup> to join the PSI and add case studies to the PSI database.

27. In addition to work initiated by the secretariat, Nairobi work programme partner organizations have continued in their efforts to carry out relevant activities that contribute to achieving the aims and objectives of the Nairobi work programme. One example of collaborative efforts is the creation of the World Bank's Climate Change Knowledge Portal. This portal has been developed to enhance access, synthesis and integration of useful climate-related information, data and tools through an online platform. It is a web-based service to assist development practitioners to better integrate climate variability, climate change and risk management in development plans and their implementation.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2.

<sup>14</sup> This workshop is currently scheduled to take place in Mexico City, Mexico, from 23 to 25 July 2012.

<sup>15</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 6.

<sup>16</sup> See the Global Water Partnership's action pledge and the report of the expert round table at <[http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi\\_work\\_programme/partners\\_and\\_action\\_pledges/items/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=200](http://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/partners_and_action_pledges/items/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=200)>.

<sup>17</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/6547>>.

<sup>18</sup> E-mail <[nwp@unfccc.int](mailto:nwp@unfccc.int)>.

<sup>19</sup> Please see the World Bank's action pledge number 3 for more details



28. The creation of the Adaptation Partnership and its three action pledges to the Nairobi work programme is another example of enhanced collaboration initiated by partners. At the Petersberg Ministerial Climate Dialogue, held in May 2010, Costa Rica, Spain and the United States of America identified a need for catalysing adaptation actions. The three countries took on the role of creating a global Adaptation Partnership. Since then, over 50 developing and developed countries have participated in the Adaptation Partnership in order to identify common adaptation priorities and improve regional coordination of efforts to scale up action and financing for adaptation. The three resulting action pledges describe in detail the following:<sup>20</sup>

(a) Regional workshops to convene stakeholders involved in the scaling up of adaptation efforts to highlight regional priorities and gaps, identify opportunities for enhanced cooperation and share lessons learned;

(b) A review of planned and existing adaptation activities in 12 subregions across Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean;

(c) The support of communities of practice by promoting the connection of practitioners and planners undertaking similar types of adaptation activity.

29. A third example is detailed in an action pledge from Wildlife Works. Wildlife Works engages vulnerable communities in the protection of threatened forest ecosystems, improving their understanding of climate change impacts and supporting the development of local adaptation actions that account for current and future climate variability. In its action pledge entitled “Pioneering community and wildlife adaptation through forest protection”, Wildlife Works pledged to engage vulnerable communities in the protection of at least five million hectares of threatened forest ecosystem.<sup>21</sup>

## C. Disseminating outputs

30. The COP, by decision 6/CP.17, requested the secretariat, in order to enable Parties to make better use of knowledge products and information generated under the Nairobi work programme:

(a) To continue the development of user-friendly knowledge products and outputs, including those contributed by partner organizations;

(b) To enhance the dissemination of information and knowledge products developed under the Nairobi work programme.

31. The COP invited Parties, in order to enable them to make better use of knowledge products and information generated under the Nairobi work programme, to disseminate the outcomes of the Nairobi work programme that are deemed useful for the assessment and implementation of adaptation actions, and to support their translation into other United Nations languages.

32. In response to these mandates the following two new brochures are currently being prepared:

---

<<http://unfccc.int/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=191>>.

<sup>20</sup> Please see the Adaptation Partnerships three action pledges for more details  
<<http://unfccc.int/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=195>>,  
<<http://unfccc.int/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=196>> and  
<<http://unfccc.int/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=197>>.

<sup>21</sup> Please see the Wildlife Works action pledge for more details  
<<http://unfccc.int/5005.php?nwp=act&turn=n&detail=j&id=192>>.

(a) A leaflet on the Nairobi work programme's PSI. The secretariat is producing a leaflet that showcases some examples undertaken by private-sector enterprises that are engaged under the PSI of the Nairobi work programme in adapting to climate change. The leaflet also highlights benefits for joining the PSI;

(b) A leaflet on community radio. Work under the Nairobi work programme has recently taken place in Africa and elsewhere on developing strategies for social learning on climate change and adaptation using the medium of community radio, which usually broadcasts in the local vernacular and in ways that local people can readily understand and make use of. A leaflet on community radio and adaptation is being prepared in collaboration with the Institute of Development Studies, a Nairobi work programme partner organization, to inform policymakers and other relevant stakeholders of the unique role of community radio as a novel and unique medium of communication to raise awareness and share local knowledge and coping strategies that can be replicated in different parts of the developing world, where access to other means of dissemination of information and knowledge are limited. The knowledge product highlights relevant issues, experimental evidence and case studies on community radio and adaptation. This leaflet will be available in May.

33. The latest eUpdate, the regular newsletter disseminated to Nairobi work programme partner organizations and Parties, was published in March 2012.<sup>22</sup> The next issue will be made available in July 2012.

### III. Next steps

34. This chapter provides information on a range of activities that the COP, by decision 6/CP.17, requested the SBSTA, Parties, partner organizations and the secretariat to carry out before the end of 2013.

35. In addition to the technical workshop mentioned in paragraph 23 above, the COP requested the secretariat to organize a technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change, before the thirty-eighth session of the SBSTA, taking into account the role of ecosystems, including forests, in adaptation; vulnerability and impacts in ecosystems; the implementation and benefits of ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation; and lessons learned, including through the three Rio Conventions.

36. The COP further requested the SBSTA to reconsider, at its thirty-eighth session, the work areas of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change with a view to making recommendations to the COP at its nineteenth session on how best to support the objectives of the Nairobi 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.

37. In this context, 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 the Nairobi work programme. It requested the secretariat to compile those submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-eighth session in order to inform the process mentioned in paragraph 36 above.

38. The COP also requested the SBSTA to consider, at its thirty-ninth session, relevant information and advice on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts,

---

<sup>22</sup> <<http://unfccc.int/4628>>.

vulnerability and adaptation to climate change arising from the implementation of the Nairobi work programme for consideration by other relevant bodies under the Convention.

39. The COP further requested the secretariat to prepare a compilation of case studies on national adaptation planning processes, including tools and approaches used for the prioritization and implementation of actions, building also on previous adaptation planning activities undertaken under the Nairobi work programme to date, by the thirty-seventh session of the SBSTA.

40. Progress made in the implementation of these new activities will be reflected in the next progress report, which will be made available before the thirty-seventh session of the SBSTA.

---