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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-eighth 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 under the Nairobi work programme, and highlights examples of the collaborative activities between Nairobi work programme partner organizations, Parties and adaptation practitioners 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.^{1,2}

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.³

3. Upon completion of the first and second phases of the Nairobi work programme,⁴ 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 activities completed under the Nairobi work programme,⁵ the summary report on the implementation of the second phase of the work programme and views of Parties and relevant organizations on the effectiveness of the Nairobi work programme.⁶

4. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 6/CP.17, paragraph 1, requested SBSTA 38 to reconsider the work areas of the Nairobi work programme, with a view to making recommendations to COP 19 on how best to support the objectives of the work programme. That 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.

5. SBSTA 38 considered enhancing the Nairobi work programme and agreed to continue discussion of the issue at SBSTA 39 on the basis of, *inter alia*:

(a) Considering the scope of work of the Nairobi work programme, as agreed in the annex to decision 2/CP.11, through additional cross-cutting issues;

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 18.

² Information on the progress made between SBSTA 28 and SBSTA 38 is contained in documents 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, FCCC/SBSTA/2012/INF.5 and FCCC/SBSTA/2013/INF.1.

³ Decision 2/CP.11, annex, paragraph 1.

⁴ 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.

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/12.

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.8 and Add.1 and FCCC/SBSTA/2011/MISC.3.

(b) Sequencing activities so that they build on each other, and engaging adaptation practitioners;

(c) Developing linkages with adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention, including the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), as appropriate.⁷

6. SBSTA 38 initiated its reconsideration of the work areas of the Nairobi work programme in line with the mandate contained in decision 6/CP.17. It agreed to continue its consideration of the matter at SBSTA 39, based on, inter alia, the draft text contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3/Add.2.⁸

7. In addition, SBSTA 38 welcomed the engagement of, and contributions provided by, Nairobi work programme partner organizations, and invited them to continue to undertake concrete actions and programmes in support of adaptation.⁹

8. SBSTA 38¹⁰ invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 2 September 2013, their views on ways to enhance the relevance of, and to support the objective of, the work programme, taking into account paragraph 5 above.¹¹

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

9. This chapter provides information on the progress made during the reporting period on implementing the work programme in relation to engaging stakeholders, catalysing action by partner organizations, and adaptation knowledge sharing and management.

A. Engagement of partner organizations

1. Partner organizations

10. Parties to the Convention, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and individual experts have all been contributing to the implementation of the Nairobi work programme. To that end, the work programme has engaged relevant organizations as partner organizations, committed to aligning their activities with the objectives of the Nairobi work programme and to carrying out initiatives, including through action pledges and collaboration, where appropriate, to inform climate risk assessment, adaptation planning and implementation.

11. Figure 1 illustrates that, during the reporting period, the number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations has increased to a total of 278, including 67 partners of the Nairobi work programme private-sector initiative. The new partner organizations are: Environmental Protection and Management Services, Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change, Germanwatch, Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change (Korea Environment Institute), Studio Navarra, International Equity and WayCarbon.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 16.

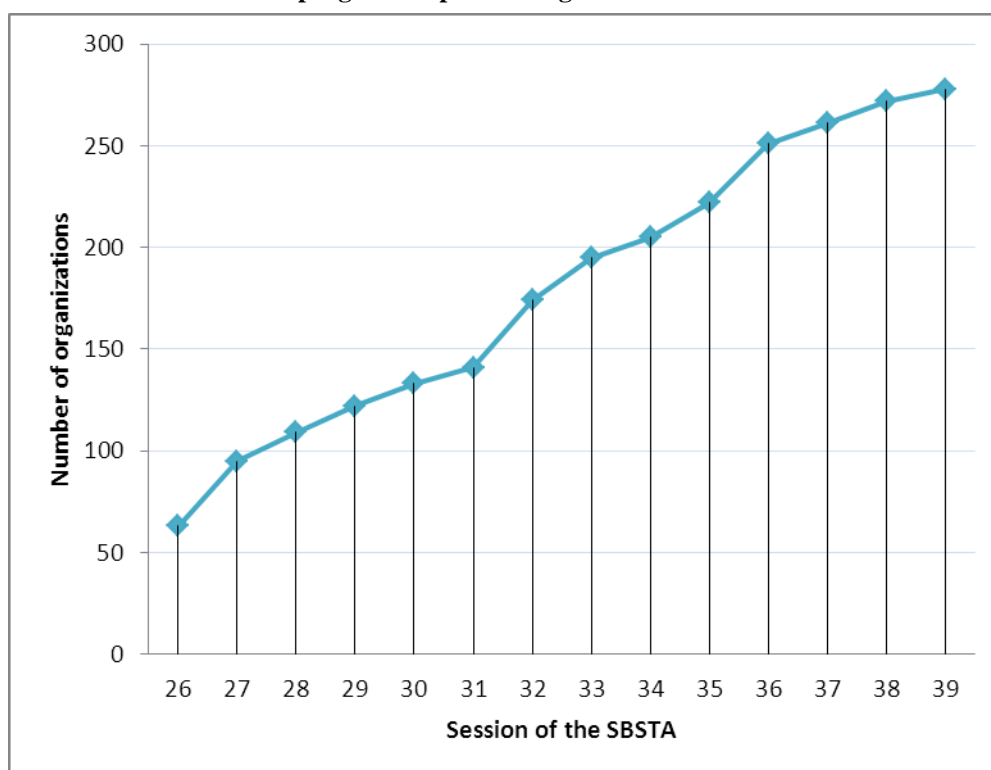
⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 20.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 15.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 19.

¹¹ Submissions from Parties are available at <<http://unfccc.int/5901>>, while those from relevant organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/7482>>.

Figure 1

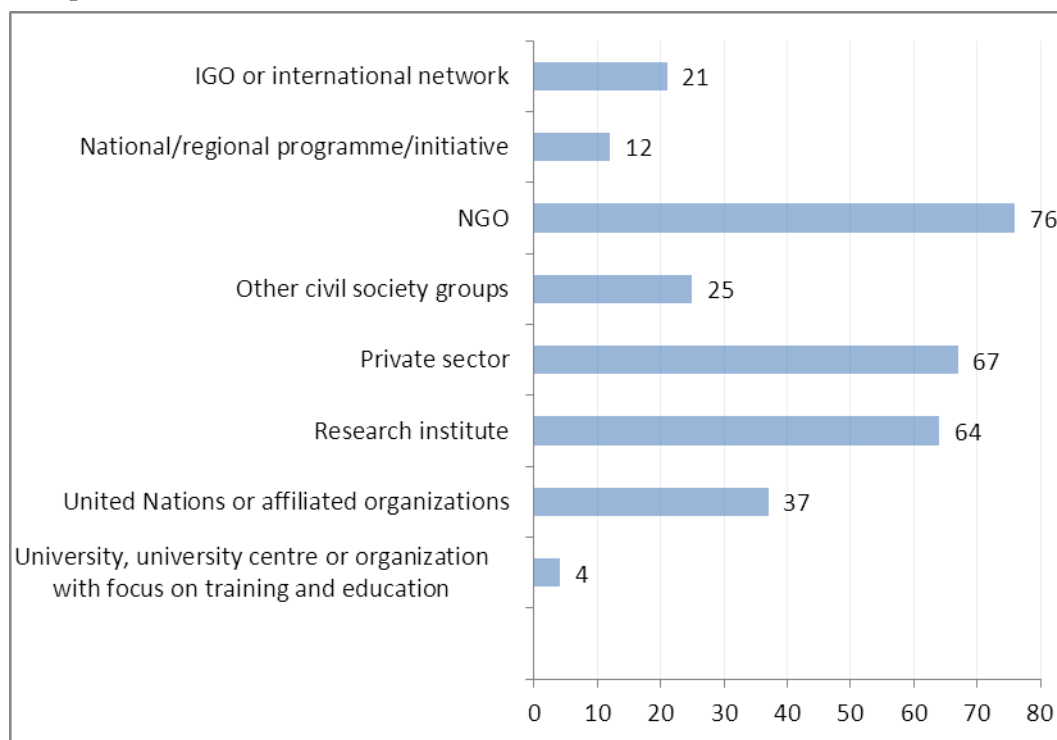
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations over time

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

12. Partner organizations represent a broad spectrum of expertise, experience and knowledge and play an important role in implementing the Nairobi work programme. The work programme has been effective in catalysing targeted adaptation actions and has strengthened its capacity 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 30 September 2013.

Figure 2

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by category as at 30 September 2013



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

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

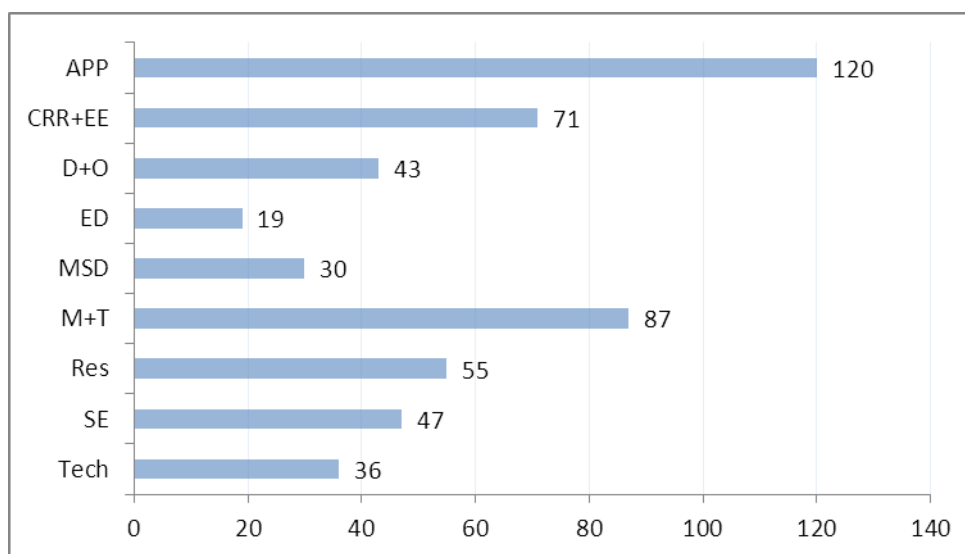
13. A further breakdown of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, scope of activities, climate hazard and sector is presented in figures 4–7 in the annex.

2. Action pledges

14. Action pledges provide a useful means for partner organizations to share information on specific adaptation actions that they undertake in support of the work programme. The COP, by decision 6/CP.17, paragraph 11, 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 periodically provide updates to Parties, through the secretariat, on the implementation of their action pledges. To date, 178 such action pledges have been made by partner organizations.

15. An overview of the action pledges submitted by partner organizations, as at 30 September 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 30 September 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. Collaborative actions of partner organizations

1. Provision of inputs to the development of technical papers under the Nairobi work programme, the work programme on loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, and activities within the workplan of the Adaptation Committee

(a) A technical paper on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

16. The secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, is collaborating closely with relevant organizations on preparing a technical paper on indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices and gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation to climate change, as mandated by SBSTA 38.¹²

17. The technical paper will include a review and synthesis of information on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools, drawing examples from different regions, countries and sectors. The paper will provide inputs to a technical expert meeting, which will take place before SBSTA 40, on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, with a view to developing relevant recommendations for practitioners.

¹² FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 17.

18. To enable a robust and comprehensive review in the technical paper, the secretariat requested Nairobi work programme partner organizations and other organizations with relevant expertise and experiences to provide inputs. In response to that request, 42 examples of gender-sensitive approaches and 35 examples of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation were contributed by partners and relevant organizations. Those contributions, together with additional relevant sources of information, will be used to support the review and analysis within the technical paper.

(b) A technical paper under the work programme for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, and activity five of the three-year workplan of the Adaptation Committee

19. In response to request from the secretariat, Nairobi work programme partner organizations also provided inputs to the development of a technical paper on gaps in existing institutional arrangements within and outside of the Convention to address loss and damage associated with climate change, including those related to slow onset events.¹³

20. In addition, relevant Nairobi work programme partner organizations supplied inputs on the support for adaptation that they are currently providing to developing countries in support of the implementation of activity five of the three-year workplan of the Adaptation Committee.¹⁴

2. Organization of adaptation knowledge-sharing events

(a) Side event at the thirty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies

21. The side event jointly organized at SBSTA 38 and SBI 38 by Nairobi work programme partner organizations, namely the Stockholm International Water Institute, the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, the Water and Climate Coalition, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Conservation International, as well as by the Netherlands and Switzerland, brought together country delegates and intergovernmental, non-governmental and United Nations organizations to discuss, in an informal setting, possible future structures and modalities of the Nairobi work programme. Participants highlighted, among other matters, the need for the work programme to be more relevant to local-level implementation and to engage in dialogue with other relevant workstreams under the Convention, in particular the Cancun Adaptation Framework. Participants viewed the role of the work programme as a platform for cooperation between Parties, experts and practitioners, as well as a knowledge centre for adaptation (which could be further enhanced), responding to the urgent need to enhance adaptation actions.

(b) A regional event on adaptation in Latin America

22. The Nairobi work programme partner organization Fundação Getúlio Vargas held the first Latin American Forum on Climate Change Adaptation on 26 June 2013. Stakeholders from national and subnational governments, academia, the private sector and civil society from all over Latin America met, shared experiences and showed enthusiasm for learning more about how to tackle the impacts of climate change, reduce risks and build resilience, while profiting from business opportunities.

23. The forum established solid foundations that will allow the different stakeholders to continue exchanging knowledge at different levels and continue building resilience to the impacts of climate change in the region. The event served to strengthen the reach of the Nairobi work programme, and in particular its private-sector initiative, in the Americas.

¹³ See <<http://unfccc.int/7749>>.

¹⁴ The Adaptation Committee's three-year workplan is available at <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/work_plan_final.pdf>.

Over 30 case studies from the region were submitted to the private-sector initiative database in response to a call from the organizers of the event.

C. Development and dissemination of information and knowledge and sharing of adaptation experiences

1. Online knowledge platforms

(a) Database of action pledges and partner organizations

24. As part of the work programme's mandate to work towards the enhanced development, dissemination and use of adaptation knowledge, a more user-friendly and dynamic online database of partner organizations and action pledges was launched in December 2012.¹⁵ 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. The database has been continuously improved and updated.

(b) Private-sector initiative – database of actions on adaptation

25. The recent call for businesses and companies to showcase their engagement in climate change adaptation activities has expanded the database of case studies under the private-sector initiative of the Nairobi work programme, which now contains nearly 100 business adaptation practices.¹⁶ Such practices aimed at helping businesses and vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change and have been carried out by companies such as BASF, Bayer, CaféDirect, Coca-Cola FEMSA, Dow, Syngenta and Unilever. The new case studies, which cover all global regions, focus mainly on the management of water resources, the enhancement of crop resistance to pests, diseases and drought, and conservation practices to increase the resilience of ecosystems.

(c) Database of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation and database of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation

26. As referred to in paragraph 18 above, Nairobi work programme partner organizations and relevant organizations contributed 42 examples of gender-sensitive approaches and 35 examples of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation. With the permission of the contributing organizations, a database of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation¹⁷ and a database of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation have been developed to disseminate those case studies.¹⁸

2. Nairobi work programme eUpdate

27. The latest issue of eUpdate, a regular newsletter disseminated to Parties and Nairobi work programme partner organizations, was published and made available in July 2013.¹⁹ The eUpdate highlights relevant activities and events related to adaptation under the Convention. The next issue will be made available in November 2013.

¹⁵ <<http://unfccc.int/nwp>>.

¹⁶ <<http://unfccc.int/6547>>.

¹⁷ <<http://unfccc.int/7769>>.

¹⁸ <<http://unfccc.int/7786>>.

¹⁹ <<http://unfccc.int/4628>>.

3. New publications

28. A calendar has been prepared for 2014, showcasing 12 examples of climate change related impacts and vulnerability, as well as practical adaptation measures to address them in various regions and sectors. It aims to raise awareness and highlight examples of a wide range of adverse climate change impacts and practical actions undertaken to adapt to them. The calendar will be made available to delegates at COP 19.

4. Nairobi work programme seventh Focal Point Forum

29. 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 seventh Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum is scheduled to be convened, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, during SBSTA 39. The aim of the seventh forum is to identify potential modalities and opportunities for enhancing the relevance and catalytic role of the work programme, as it evolves into a more comprehensive knowledge hub, in response to evolving needs in the context of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, and for developing linkages with adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention. Through them, the engagement of Parties, partner organizations and adaptation practitioners could be further strengthened in the evolving context of the work programme.

III. Developing linkages with adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention

30. SBSTA 38 expressed its readiness to support the Adaptation Committee in the implementation of relevant activities of its workplan through the Nairobi work programme. The SBSTA invited the Adaptation Committee to provide recommendations in its next report to the COP on how the work programme could provide such support.²⁰

31. The Adaptation Committee discussed the possible support to its work to be provided by the Nairobi work programme during its 4th meeting, held from 5 to 7 September 2013 in Nadi, Fiji. Aided by a background note,²¹ the Adaptation Committee discussed opportunities for collaboration and synergy with the Nairobi work programme in undertaking specific activities laid out in its three-year workplan, including undertaking joint activities, the provision of information and knowledge, and stakeholder engagement. Given that the Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi work programme are either already mandated by the COP and/or the SBSTA to undertake similar or related activities or could be expected to do so, activities relating to indigenous practices and knowledge and to national adaptation planning within the Adaptation Committee's workplan that would benefit from the support of the work programme were identified.

32. Following deliberations at its 4th meeting, the Adaptation Committee will provide recommendations in its report to COP 19 on how the Nairobi work programme could provide support to its work.

²⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 18.

²¹ Available at
<http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/nwp_support_for_ac_16august.pdf>.

IV. Next steps

33. In line with the mandate contained in decision 6/CP.17, the SBSTA will continue its reconsideration, at SBSTA 39, of the work areas of the Nairobi work programme, with a view to making recommendations to COP 19 on how best to support the objectives of the work programme. The reconsideration will be based on, inter alia, the draft text contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3/Add.2. This process will 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.

34. As mandated by the SBSTA, the secretariat continues its efforts in engaging and collaborating with Nairobi work programme partner organizations and adaptation practitioners and in enhancing the development, dissemination and sharing of information and knowledge to inform climate risk assessment, adaptation planning and implementation.

Annex

Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus, scope of activities, climate hazard and sector

Figure 4

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by regional focus

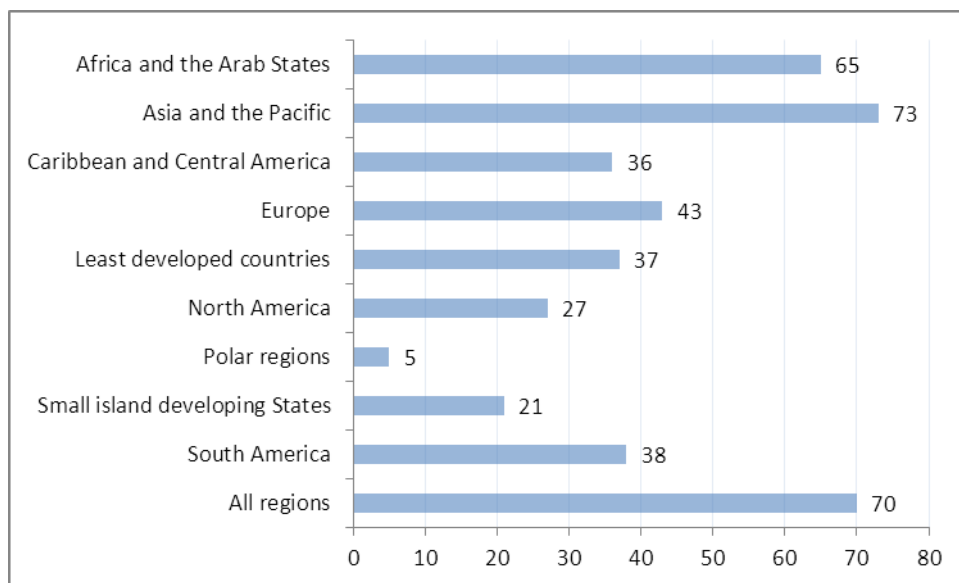
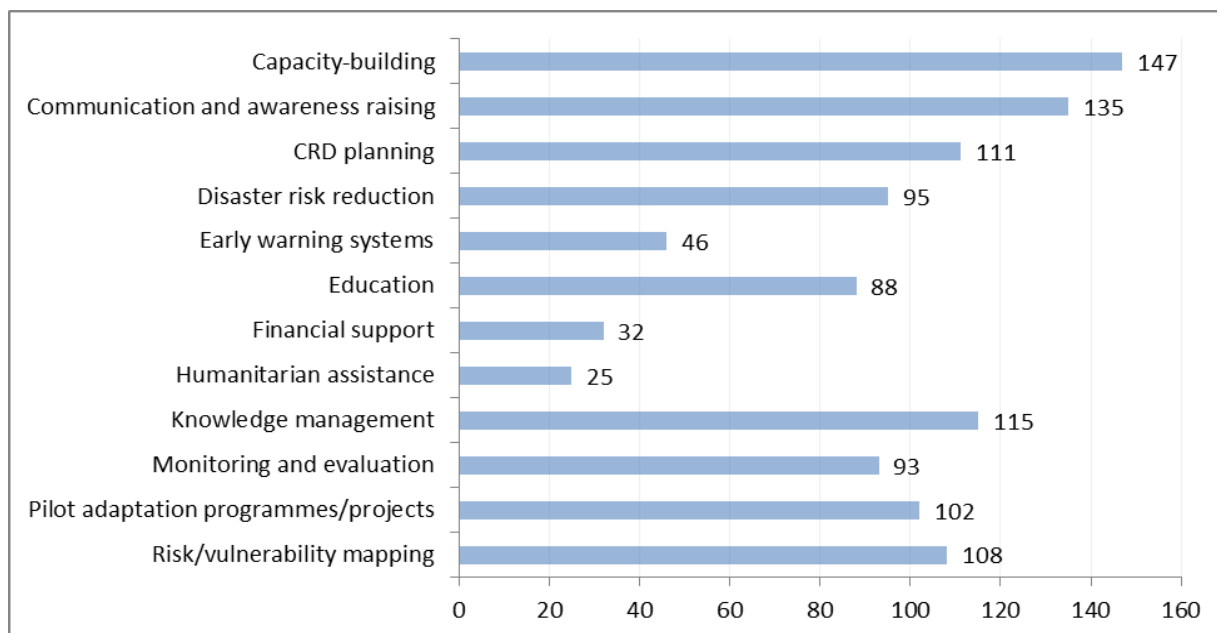


Figure 5

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by scope of activities



Abbreviation: CRD = climate-resilient development.

Figure 6

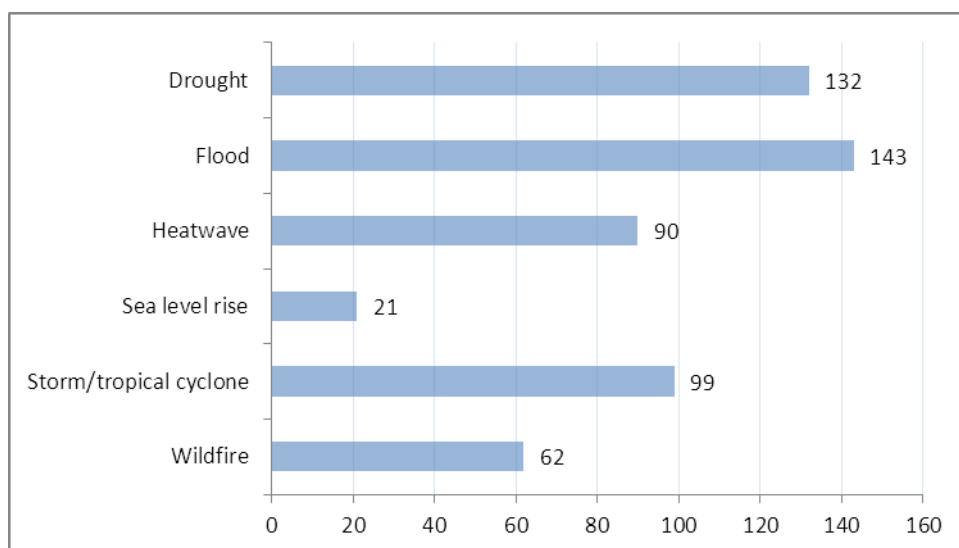
Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by climate hazard

Figure 7

Number of Nairobi work programme partner organizations by sector