

MARKET PLACE OF TOOLS

Focus:

"Facilitating the development, dissemination and application of adaptation knowledge: potential role of the NWP as an adaptation knowledge hub under the UNFCCC"

Summary:



Figure. The Nairobi work programme as an effective interface between the Parties to the UNFCCC and the diverse range of organizations and experts involved in adaptation

Background/Context:

The 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:¹

- improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; and
- 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.

As a multilateral initiative under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Nairobi work programme has been effective in engaging and motivating Parties and a wide range of stakeholders in activities relating to all four components of the adaptation process:

- It provides a valuable interface for direct interactions between UNFCCC Parties and a large number of organizations and experts, through which the needs/demands of Parties and activities and expertise supplied by organizations are identified, shared and communicated widely (see figure);
- Capitalizing on its unique convening power and facilitative role, the Nairobi work programme has been effective in catalysing targeted adaptation actions, and promoting knowledge sharing and learning on adaptation

During recent SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice) 38 in Bonn,² Parties considered enhancing the Nairobi work programme and agreed to continue discussion on this issue at SBSTA 39 (November 2013) on the basis of, inter alia:

- Sequencing activities so that they build on each other, and engaging adaptation practitioners;
- Developing linkages with adaptation-related work streams and bodies under the Convention, including Subsidiary Body for Implementation, as appropriate.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

² < <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/sbsta/eng/109.pdf>>.

Key points:

- On unique selling point of the work programme (with relation to many other adaptation knowledge platforms and networks) when it comes to serve the evolving knowledge needs under the Convention, participants recognized that the work programme could serve as a useful gateway of information related with practical experiences of adaptation actions on the ground to policy makers;
- On enhancing existing implementation modalities (e.g. engaging partner organizations, calls for action, action pledges, focal point forum, workshops etc) or new implementation modalities if it were to be the central knowledge hub under the Convention, participants provided following thoughts:
 - The work programme could be more flexible and informed by scientific information;
 - The knowledge products could be user-friendly and translated into other languages (other than “English”);
 - The technical workshops and expert meetings could be conducted in other UN languages;
 - Need to establish synergy with outcomes from Rio+20;
 - The work programme could foster strategic partnerships with adaptation experts and practitioners, in particular existing regional networks, institutions and knowledge platforms and private sector. On issues related with transboundary water, it will be useful for the work programme to establish linkage with UNECE knowledge hub on transboundary water.