

**UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(UNFCCC)**

Support to NEPAD

Period of Report: July 2007 to June 2008

Support to preparation of national communications to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

All Parties to the Convention have an obligation to submit, on a regular basis, national communications containing information on national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions, measures to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and other information such as capacity-building, technology transfer and financial and technical needs. Presently 50 African countries are in the process of preparing either their initial or second national communications. Each country received US\$ 405,000 and additional US\$ 15,000 for project preparation as part of expedited financing of national communications.

In 2007, the Secretariat supported two workshops to assist experts in improving the preparation of the national communications. In September 2007, 16 experts representing nine countries from Africa attended a workshop in Cairo, Egypt, on exchange of experiences and good practices among non-Annex I Parties in preparing national communications and on cross-cutting issues. The workshop was aimed at identifying challenges in preparing national communications and how to address them including processes in integrating the results of national communications into national development plans. The Indonesian government, in collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat, organized a training workshop on developing adaptation strategies for the Asia and Africa Regions. Twenty-one experts from 21 African countries were trained on vulnerability and adaptation assessments and developing project proposals on adaptation to climate change. As countries intensify their work on national communications, it is expected that additional training will be provided to enhance the skills and knowledge of experts in technical assessments and project development particularly on mitigation projects.

Measures relating to adaptation to climate change

Workshops and consultations were organized to implement the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures (decision 1/CP.10) and the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (decision 2/CP.11). In September 2006, 35 experts from 35 countries in Africa took part in a regional workshop aimed at exchanging information and identifying specific adaptation needs and concerns of Africa. Meanwhile, in the context of the implementation of the Nairobi work programme, experts from 31 countries in Africa attended various workshops on methods and tools and data and observation, on socio-economic information and climate-related risks and extreme events, to name a few. The Nairobi work programme was developed to help countries improve their understanding of climate change impacts and vulnerability and to increase their ability to make informed decisions on how to adapt successfully.

National Adaptation Programmes of Action

Fifteen Least Developed Countries (LDCs) from Africa submitted their national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) from July 2007 to present. NAPA is a process whereby LDC countries identify their priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change. It employs a bottom-up approach such as local coping strategies in assessing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.

The reports contain information such as the framework for adaptation programme, identification of key adaptation needs, description of the NAPA process and criteria for selecting priority adaptation needs. The countries have identified the following priority areas for adaptation: agriculture and food security, human health, water and energy sector, natural resources (wildlife and forest sector), coastal zones and capacity-building and public awareness. The reports may be accessed on the web site of the UNFCCC secretariat.¹

Clean Development Mechanism

A total of 25 projects from seven African countries have been registered for the Clean Development Mechanism since 2005. These projects represent 2.24% of total projects registered for CDM with an expected reduction of 40,599,826 tons of CO₂, comprising 3.14% of total expected reductions until 2012. Only four projects have been registered from July 2007 to the present.

In 2006, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank Group, African Development Bank, and the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) initiated the Nairobi Framework to assist developing countries, especially those in Sub-Saharan Africa, to improve their level of participation in the CDM. Several projects are underway to implement capacity-building in several countries in Africa, in addition to support for a forum for DNAs (one for Africa took place in April 2008), and a web-based CDM Bazaar, in collaboration with UNEP, to assist developing countries market their CDM projects.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/napas/items/2679.php>