

THE NINE WORK AREAS OF
THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

2 DATA AND OBSERVATIONS

WHAT IS THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME?

The Nairobi work programme, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), aims to assist countries that are party to the Convention, particularly developing countries, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and to make informed decisions thereon.

WHAT DOES DATA AND OBSERVATIONS REFER TO IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME?

Work area 2 assists in improving the collection, management, exchange, access to, and use of data and observations for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. Data and observations are required to monitor the climate, to detect and attribute climate change, and to assess the impacts of climate variability and change. They are used to support research towards improved understanding, modelling and prediction of the climate system. Support is needed, particularly in developing countries, to maintain observation networks, recover historical data, provide training, and improve capacity for managing data and information. This includes taking stock of national data holdings and developing integrated management and collection systems.

HOW DO DATA AND OBSERVATIONS CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF STAKEHOLDERS?

Work area 2 can assist stakeholders at international, regional, national and local levels with the implementation of systematic observation relating specifically to impacts and vulnerability. Taking the data-needs of stakeholders into account is very important in the Nairobi work programme, as is the need to enhance capacity for supplying and using data, especially at the regional and national levels. Work area 2 can assist stakeholders to improve their capacity for collecting, managing and using observational data, and identify practical ways to enhance technical capacity. It can also help them exchange information on observed climate change impacts, including those provided through traditional knowledge.



DATA AND OBSERVATIONS

WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WHAT UPCOMING ACTIVITIES CAN BE EXPECTED?

Progress includes:

- Submissions and activities undertaken by a number of partner organizations including the World Meteorological Organization and the Global Climate Observing System to help forward the work of the Nairobi work programme.
- An expert meeting in Mexico City in March 2008.

Activities mandated during 2008 – 2010 include:

- Consideration of relevant issues from this work area, along with information on methods and tools and climate modelling, downscaling and scenarios, in a technical workshop on how regional centres and networks that are undertaking work relevant to climate change can collaborate.
- Increased web-based links and sources of information on the UNFCCC website to identify, describe, apply and make accessible terrestrial, atmospheric, oceanic, climatic and other relevant data and observations.

A Call for Action relating to this work area is available that highlights gaps and needs, and aims to catalyze a number of activities by stakeholders. These include: defining needs for data and observations; recommending networks to deal with adaptation needs; evaluating data from an adaptation perspective; improving awareness of data and information already available; creating regional web-based resources; engaging with, and promoting dialogue between, stakeholders; and incorporating local and indigenous knowledge into adaptation.

At the beginning of 2009, 14 Action Pledges related to this work area had been received. Action pledges provide an interactive way for Nairobi work programme partners to contribute actions towards the goals and objectives of the Nairobi work programme.

For the latest information on data and observations, and accompanying documentation:

<http://unfccc.int/3923.php>

