

THE NINE WORK AREAS OF
THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME

4 CLIMATE RELATED RISKS AND EXTREME EVENTS

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 CLIMATE RELATED RISKS AND EXTREME EVENTS REFER TO IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME?

Work area 4 aims to promote understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate variability and change and the frequency, intensity and impact of extreme events. Risks include changes in temperature and precipitation causing drought or crop loss as well as events occurring at a particular location and time such as tropical storms, wildfires and flash floods. The work area assists in sharing, analyzing and using this information for assessing, planning and implementing risk management in the context of adaptation and sustainable development. It also considers new and novel mechanisms for climate risk assessment and management.

HOW DOES THE WORK AREA OF CLIMATE RELATED RISKS AND EXTREME EVENTS CONTRIBUTE TO THE EFFORTS OF STAKEHOLDERS?

The disaster risk reduction approach to adaptation is important as it focuses on the assessment and reduction of impacts. Undertaking activities in work area 4 can assist integration of this approach into risk management and development planning by stakeholders at international, regional, national and local levels, particularly in the most vulnerable countries. The work area promotes sharing of experience and knowledge on methods and tools, improving access to information on risk sharing mechanisms such as insurance, exploring and expanding risk management measures such as early warning systems, and integrating traditional knowledge including via partnerships.



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

- Submissions from governments and organizations to the UNFCCC secretariat;
- A workshop in Cairo, Egypt in 2007;
- A technical paper on integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and programme;
- A technical paper on physical and socioeconomic trends in climate-related risks and extreme events, and their implications for sustainable development;
- Availability of traditional knowledge via the UNFCCC's local coping strategies database.

Related work under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention includes:

- A technical paper on mechanisms to manage financial risks from direct impacts of climate change in developing countries;
- An in-session workshop on risk management and risk reduction strategies, including risk sharing and transfer mechanisms such as insurance, held in Poznan, Poland, 2008.

A Call for Action on this work area is available that highlights gaps and needs, and aims to catalyze a number of activities by stakeholders. These include: linking the adaptation and risk management communities, building capacity for the integration of traditional knowledge, and climate based and socio-economic information to assist planning and risk management, and exploring novel mechanisms for coping with climate variability and risk, including insurance.

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

For the latest information on climate related risks and extreme events, and accompanying documentation:

<http://unfccc.int/3952.php>

