

Submission from Colombia of Views on proposals on upcoming activities under the Nairobi work Programme – NWP.

The Colombian Government welcomes the opportunity to present its views on potential activities under the Nairobi Work Programme - NWP on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and presents recommendations on the following issues:

General suggestions:

The dissemination of the NWP products, guidelines and workshops has largely been targeted at policy makers at national levels, and has not been as responsive to the information and knowledge needs at local levels. Thus has constituted a barrier to assisting local stakeholders to implement and formulate adaptation actions in line with national policies. Therefore renewed efforts would need to be undertaken, focused on local stakeholders and promoting methodologies that take into account regional and sub-national circumstances.

Main issues to take into account for further activities on the implementation of the Nairobi Work Program:

In order to involve directly communities and decision makers at local levels on workshops and other activities under the NWP, Colombia would like to highlight the elements below:

The definition of specific country focal points of the NWP is an essential tool that should be strengthened in order to guarantee that all the information and products produced for the NWP, really reach the community and decision makers at local levels. This initiative could be developed in a better way, defining a roadmap among focal points, which would be tasked with disseminating activities, selected for each country in order to achieve the objectives of diffusion and awareness of the NWP.

More focus needs to be placed on targeting local audiences, and developing facilitating tools for community based adaptation.

Upcoming activities proposal:

Development and assessment of current methodologies and practices for measuring and monitoring adaptation actions, especially regarding the definition and use of different policy impact indicators in order to facilitate the establishment and harmonization of objectives both at national and local levels. This assessment should specifically integrate environmental, social and economic indicators for measuring vulnerability, resilience and adaptive capacities in policy implementation.

Given that Technology Transfer would be considered as one of the central financing windows under the Green Climate Fund, and the significant linkages of the Technology mechanisms with the Adaptation Committee, NAPs and other elements under the Convention, there are concerns regarding the implementation of technology transfer projects for adaptation. Programming under GEF clearly reflects the significant imbalance between adaptation and mitigation technology transfer projects, and this is largely due to limited understanding in developing countries regarding appropriate technologies for adaptation and what exactly is a “technology” when is about adaptation. Hence, there should be a clear linkage between the products and upcoming activities under the NWP with the functions developed by the Technology Mechanism.

Therefore, Colombia expresses the urgent need to continue working on strengthening the capacity building for adaptation technology needs assessment, which still requires further development, as evidence that countries still have a poor understanding of what adaptation technologies can encompass.

Furthermore, knowing the still persisting difficulties and weakness regarding climate scenarios information, scale and uncertainty, Colombia would like to encourage the integration of assessments, guidance and recommendations on no-regrets measures that generate multiple gains for adaptation, national development goals, and more broadly, the global environment.

In addition, Colombia recommends evaluating the definition of workshops and guidelines produced by the NWP to other developing countries aimed to address the new arrangements under the Cancun Agreement in reference to the NAPS and the process for other developing countries to employ the modalities formulated to support LDCs on the formulation and implementation of NAPs.

Given that adaptation is an inordinately complicated process which requires no less than full mainstreaming of climate change considerations into all levels of sectoral and territorial planning, and in-depth changes in behavior and productive practices, Colombia encourages the NWP to promote the participation of other Ministries and agencies such as planning, agriculture, energy among others in the formulation, development and implementation of adaptation projects as well as in the participation with lessons learned and experiences sharing.