



## The Nairobi Work Programme in the NENA region

The Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change was established in response to Decision 2/CP.11 taken during the Eleventh session of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 11) in 2005 in Montreal.

NWP is a five-year programme (2005-2010) of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) under the UNFCCC, that aims at assisting all Parties, and in particular developing countries, “to 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.” Among the over 130 organizations involved figure some of those implementing activities in the NENA region.

### **The nine areas covered by the Nairobi Work Programme:**

- 1) Methods and tools
- 2) Data and observations
- 3) Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling
- 4) Climate related risks and extreme events
- 5) Socio-economic information
- 6) Adaptation planning and practices
- 7) Research
- 8) Technologies for adaptation
- 9) Economic diversification.

The programme implementation was designed in two phases: 2006-June 2008 and the current second phase from June 2008 to December 2010

During the first phase, Parties and organizations were asked to provide highlight on their field experience,, including but not limited to practices, their activities and strategies, their views and needs for each thematic. Synthesis reports were elaborated based on the submissions, with additional inputs during the second phase.

In the NENA region, only Morocco and Saudi Arabia provided submissions, Morocco’s dealing with “Climate related risks and extreme events”, and Saudi Arabia’s focusing on economic diversification. Morocco submission specifically highlighted certain regional activities.

All along the NWP implementation, expert meetings and technical workshops were held to cover most of the areas. Those scheduled for late 2009-2010 will give a special attention to the data creation and sharing, the elaboration of methodologies, and the good practices in adaptation. Several workshops addressed NENA region specific concerns and issues that are relevant to Africa in general.

During the workshop held in Rome in September 2007 on adaptation planning and practices, incentives were made to strengthen certain regional initiatives, and in particular the Nile Basin Initiative, led by the Council of Ministers of Water Affairs of the Nile Basin states. The Nile River issue was also addressed during another workshop that focused on climate related risks and extreme events in Egypt in June 2007.

Amongst the issues highlighted during this series of meetings, the lack of data regarding climate and its impacts on African socio-economic systems was stressed. Initiatives such as the Climate for Development in Africa, an African Development Bank program that generates and disseminates climate information in Africa, therefore received special attention.

### **Concrete outcomes of the Nairobi Work Programme**

The Development of an updated, user-friendly version of the UNFCCC Compendium on Methods & Tools to Evaluate Impacts of, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change.

The release of two technical papers: Physical and Socio-Economic Trends in Climate-Related Risks and Extreme Events including their implications for sustainable development; and Integrating Practices, Tools and Systems for Climate Risk Assessment and Management and Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies into National Policies and Programmes.

A web-based interface, which is currently being updated, provides detailed information on existing adaptation practices and local strategies for adaptation (inc. in the NENA region).

A database of submissions on adaptation planning and practices which currently displays only 13 submissions, none of which being from NENA countries.

The technical paper on physical and socio-economic trends in climate-related risks contains projections for Africa and Asia, including African Least Developed Countries (LCDs) that are highly vulnerable to climate change. Amongst the physical trends for Africa we find increased temperature, decreased rainfall and increased intensity of droughts and resulting in an increased water scarcity and food insecurity. Poverty is named as one of the major socio-economic trends.

Several synthesis reports and submissions refer to activities touching Africa or some NENA countries such as the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (CCAA) research and capacity development program launched in 2006 by the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom.. The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) also has research activities on drought assessment and mitigation in the region. Current IWMI projects include a drought risks assessment in Iran and an evaluation of climate change impacts on irrigation schemes in Morocco. Two projects of climate modelling and forecast touching Africa are mentioned: the CLIPS (Climate Information and Prediction Services) project initiated by the World Meteorological Organization and the CLIVAR (Climate Variability and Predictability) project within the World Climate Research Programme.

### **References and further reading about the Nairobi Work Programme:**

[www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

[www.nilebasin.org](http://www.nilebasin.org)

<http://www.idrc.ca/ccaa>