

UNFCCC Meeting Report (Workshop)

Prepared by: Michael Atlas and Sam Pensiero, Washington University in St. Louis

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Session/Agenda Item: 14th Focal Point Forum of the Nairobi Work Programme on Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation

Location: UNFCCC COP 26 - Glasgow, Scotland, observed virtually

Room Number: Meeting Room 8

Date and Time: 11/3/2021 19:15-21:45

Notes/Summary:

- Opens with keynote speakers
 - Tina Birmipili, Deputy Executive Secretary of the Convention to Combat Desertification
 - Ecosystems need to be the focus of our green restructuring
 - Land restoration in connection with sustainable agriculture
 - Developing countries need finance and capacity to conserve and revive ecosystems
 - Vel Gnanendran, Climate & Environment Director of the UK
 - Adaptation planning needs to be central to economic development
 - Knowledge sharing is always important
 - Nature needs to be at the core of adaptation
 - What they have done for nature adaptation
 - Political commitment to end deforestation by 2030
 - Collective global forest financing pledge
 - At \$14B
 - Forest and agriculture commodity trade dialogue
 - Endorsed by 28 countries
 - Pairs producers with consumers to sustainably meet demand
 - Nature day
 - Agricultural subsidy discussions
 - Making subsidies nature positive
 - Reforming finance to be more nature positive
 - Discussion on MDB interaction with nature
- Technical Segment

- Narrated by Ambassador Felson of Belize, Strategic Advisor to AOSIS
- Objectives
 - Share knowledge, perspectives, and technical insights about solutions
 - Ecosystem based
 - Create synergies through collaboration
 - Catalyze new partnerships
- Overview of the NWP
 - Presented by Fatema Rajabali
 - Vision
 - Knowledge to action hub
 - Supports developing countries in meeting adaptation priorities
 - Helps formulate and implement NDCs
 - Responds directly to knowledge needs of parties and constituted bodies with engagement from partners
 - Knowledge to action methodology
 - Scope issues to find knowledge gaps
 - Create expert groups to help fill gaps
 - Develop and review scoping papers
 - Co-design actions to address gaps
 - Works across a number of thematic groups
 - Experts belong to thematic groups
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems
 - Big issue is governance and participation
 - Countries can't achieve ambition due to weak governance
 - Finance and capacity building must take a long-term approach that includes local engagement
 - Forest and grasslands
 - Different ways of appraising adaptation options
 - Knowledge gaps exist in achieving collective action
 - Challenges in scaling up work
 - Collaborative action solutions
 - Demand driven
 - Build long term strategies
 - Combine synergies across thematic groups
 - Exchange information, experience, challenges, and best practices
 - Engage with communities and relevant processes both inside and outside the UNFCCC
- Technical Segment: Biodiversity and Adaptation Plans

- Rosa Morales of Peru: Forests and Indigenous Peoples
 - Peru employs adaptation measures related to ecosystems and land-use in its NDC
 - Co-benefits of biodiversity
 - They also employ a program that works with indigenous people
 - Rewards groups for preserving forests
 - Monitors indigenous ambition to preserve
 - Contains a platform that allows the national adaptation plan to include the needs and voices of indigenous populations
 - Barriers
 - Adaptation is local, but it's hard to make central decisions align locally
 - Different ecosystems and cultures make it hard to align a national strategy
 - Need to show local communities how nature can bring solutions
 - Don't have enough concrete information
- Radha Wagle of Nepal: Forests and Grasslands in Mountainous Regions
 - Nepal has a very diverse collection of ecosystems
 - Best lesson is to conserve biodiversity through participatory conservation program
 - Good development requires good adaptation outcomes
 - Engage with communities to implement adaptation efforts
 - Increasing knowledge in local communities
 - Producing local level data to help local governments integrate planning
 - Going to scale up a focus on critical ecosystems
 - Such as mountain ecosystems
 - Barriers
 - Not enough data on how climate change impacts specific components of the environment
 - Just local level information
 - Would be useful for local communities
 - Lack of long-term research investment
 - Very necessary for upholding forest ecosystem programs
 - Nepal is changing its governmental system
 - Difficult to roll out policies during the transition
- Technical segment: Collaborative Actions

- Coastal adaptation and nature-based solutions for the implementation of NAPs (Led by Lisa Schindler Murray)
 - Collaborative action to supplement knowledge on how to access finance from the Green Climate Fund for NAPs
 - Assessed multiple benchmarks for accessing financing
 - Provided guidance and examples for how to do so
 - Reader friendly
 - Ecosystem based
 - Made it easier to develop proposals for projects
 - Intended to be applicable beyond the GCF
- Integrating innovative technologies to build resilience (led by Dorte Herr)
 - Aims to build cross-sectoral solutions through partnerships
 - Policy frameworks can facilitate or limit the feasibility of implementing hybrid adaptation approaches
 - Scaling up integrated climate adaptation demands global vision and collaboration
 - Public, private, and blended finance can play a crucial role in hybrid adaptation approaches
- Synergies for biodiversity and adaptation national planning (led by Valerie Kapos)
 - Deals with the challenges of governance
 - Work aims to find synergies between biodiversity strategies and national adaptation plans
 - Strong synergies exist
 - Also aims to facilitate efficiency in the implementation of both plans at the national level
 - Very similar processes that need to be viewed together
 - Builds on existing guidance and good practice examples
 - Synthesizing pre-existing information with practical experience
- Addressing gender inequities in adaptation in forest communities (led by Houria Djoudi)
 - Developing 10 actions that build nature based solutions for adaptation while fostering gender equity
 - Explores the benefits of increasing gender integration
 - Addresses the challenges that hinder gender mainstreaming
 - Showcases good practices

- Expected outcome
 - Share evidence-based knowledge surrounding gender responsive adaptation
 - Create synergies by aligning gender adaptation in national priorities
 - Leverage new partnerships
- Plenary Discussion
 - What info do countries need about biodiversity to scale up actions
 - Mexico
 - What are the general goals of biodiversity
 - Financing comes from two separate funds for biodiversity and adaptation, so where should countries turn?
 - Especially since everything is so interconnected
 - IPCC
 - Emphasizes the constraints of what the NWP is discussing
 - Natural environments are already changing, so how can we use nature to adapt if nature itself needs help adapting
 - Should be a core element of future work
 - Support of biodiversity is not free and should not be taken for granted
 - India
 - Nature is being packaged as a dustbin for excessive emissions
 - This concept must be debunked
 - There must be more focus on mitigation
 - Adaptation will not be perfect
 - It won't stop loss and damage
 - While a welcome step, adaptation won't save anyone
 - India has enhanced biodiversity
 - What are the challenges and opportunities for integrating biodiversity, including ecosystem based adaptation strategies, into national planning processes?
 - Mexico
 - Challenges exist in ensuring that efforts to conserve don't actually lead to negative effects
 - Trinidad and Tobago
 - Trinidad adopted a pathways approach to adaptation

- Biodiversity is assessed
 - Has secured funding to scale up system to collect data for improving governance related to climate change
 - For future adaptation efforts
 - Seeking to synchronized reporting processes
- UN University
 - Mobilized network of members to collect case studies
 - To implement policies for landscape and seascape approaches, fair participatory processes are essential
 - Needs indigenous and local knowledge
 - When we talk about coastal management, land-sea interaction needs to be a focus
- Are there any specific actions that can be undertaken under the NWP to close knowledge gaps?
 - Nepal
 - Mountain ecosystems are not covered well under the NWP
 - Needs more info for biodiversity and how people are affected
 - Mexico
 - Countries need more research and funding for functional ecology
 - Needs to learn how to improve ecosystem services
 - Typical emphasis is on number of species, which is not always effective
 - Countries need to learn to be patient with certain ecosystems
 - Keep investing to build
 - Expand the time frame, don't give up if restoring an ecosystem takes time
 - University of Munich
 - Wants to see uptake statistics for knowledge products
 - Social researcher
 - Wants more knowledge on hotspots
 - Areas where species adaptation is more possible
- Reporting back
 - Knowledge needs
 - Nature is only part of the solution for us to survive
 - Cannot bear the brunt or else it will fail us
 - Siloes present a very big challenge

- Need to know how to best integrate biodiversity and adaptation
- Especially with finance

Follow-up:

Take Aways:

- Local engagement is crucial for both preserving biodiversity and building adaptation
 - This makes governance a huge challenge
 - Strong synergies exist between biodiversity and national adaptation plans
 - The two go hand and hand and should be implemented jointly
 - Huge opportunity for efficiency
 - However, organizational silos prevents this from being implemented effectively
 - Especially when it comes to finance
 - Multiple parties feel strongly that adaptation is becoming too important, and is beginning to overshadow mitigation
 - Adaptation will not save us, just push off eventual catastrophe to a later date
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