



## WWF Global Climate and Energy Initiative

November 2012

### WWF Adaptation Recommendation for COP 18

#### Laying out the ambitious adaptation decisions for Pre and Post 2020 climate regime

Millions of people around the world and the critical ecosystems that their livelihoods depend on are already experiencing the negative impacts of climate change. As countries continue to fail to fulfill their climate change mitigation responsibilities, climate change impacts will continue to increase in frequency and severity. All countries will feel the impacts but the greatest burden will have to be taken by vulnerable developing countries that have the least capacity and resources to reduce vulnerability and who are least responsible for. The very survival of climate vulnerable people and ecosystems is dependent on mitigation action and adaptation support from developed countries who are most responsible for climate related vulnerability and loss and damage.

At COP 18 Leaders need to recognize this growing crisis and take appropriate decisions to raise their ambition levels in delivering climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. In Doha, parties need to operationalize the adaptation decisions taken in Cancun and Durban, ensuring that adaptation ambition is ramped up in both the pre and post 2020 climate regime and further strengthen the adaptation framework by adopting decisions on:

#### **A Second phase of work programme on Loss and damage:**

Loss and damage of property, territory, biodiversity, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods results from insufficient climate change mitigation action and when adaptation measures fail or are no longer feasible. There are limits to the extent that communities and ecosystems can adapt to climate change impacts. Loss and damage occurs if those limits are exceeded, for example if sea level rise inundates a community or island and inhabitants can no longer live there or if coral bleaching wipes out a reef ecosystem. With limited current mitigation ambition, climate change is going to get worse. This will mean more loss and damage from slow onset events as well as extreme events. Scientists are already predicting that we are heading towards a 4 degree plus world (global average) above pre-industrial levels. There is an undeniable need to address loss and damage as well as increase mitigation ambition and rapidly scale up adaptation finance and actions.

In Durban, Parties fleshed out the details of a work programme on loss and damage as mandated by Cancun decisions (1/CP 16). The work plan included organizing regional experts meetings to better understand the issues and challenges. The outcomes of these regional experts meetings will be summarized by the SBI and provide recommendations to COP 18 on a way forward. Therefore, COP 18 must provide a comprehensive response on this issue. Given the dire forecasts of the science and the continued lack of any ambition on mitigation, COP 18 must agree on the following measures to address Loss and Damage.

1. Establish an International Mechanism on Loss and Damage;
2. A second phase of the work program on loss and damage to elaborate the principles, functions and institutional arrangements of an International Mechanism on loss and damage that includes an International compensation and rehabilitation mechanism; and
3. Request the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) to elaborate the procedures and modalities of the international mechanism on Loss and Damage, to become operational by COP 20.

### **Three-Year Work Programme of Adaptation Committee:**

At COP 17 in Durban, parties agreed on the composition of, and modalities and procedure for the Adaptation Committee. Sixteen Members of the Adaptation Committee met for the first time in Bangkok from 7 to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Considering its mandate to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, the Adaptation Committee must deliver a concrete work programme without any further delay. To this end, Parties must adopt a three-year work programme for the Adaptation Committee in Doha. The work programme should ensure support for adaptation actions in developing countries incorporating the following elements:

1. Greater coherence among the various adaptation institutions within the UNFCCC, including the Standing Committee, Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), and Green Climate Fund as well as outside the UNFCCC process (such as the Hyogo Framework for Action, CBD, and UNCCD).
2. Developing an overview, identify adaptation planning & implementation gaps and establishing/strengthening regional centers and networks to address the gaps;
3. Facilitating discussion among Parties to explore ways to effectively address regional, cross-border, trans-boundary and common sub-regional adaptation issues through promoting ecosystem and community based approaches;
4. Developing the guidelines and modalities for the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) Process for non- LDC countries and national institutional arrangements for adaptation;
5. Organizing a biannual adaptation conference with diverse stakeholders to create a platform for sharing new knowledge, practices and experiences; and
6. Provide input from an adaptation perspective into the ADP negotiations towards a 2015 agreement.

### **Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) Work Programme:**

Adaptation must have a rightful place in a post 2020 climate regime. To ensure this, the ADP must bring adaptation into its work programme. The adaptation discussion under the ADP can and should build on the findings of the IPCC fifth assessment report, adaptation financing needs, the work programme on loss and damage and the implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). Key elements that should be incorporated include unfinished business from the past years of negotiation as well as identification of adaptation needs for post 2020. Amongst other issues, the ADP should include.

- The means of implementation for adaptation (finance including for 2012- 2020, technology and capacity building)
- The establishment of an International Compensation and Rehabilitation Mechanism to address the loss and damage resulting from the slow onset of climate change impacts.

Parties must also agree that post 2020 adaptation needs will be periodically reviewed based on assessment reports from developing countries, the best available science and impacts reviews and developed countries' mitigation actions.

### **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):**

In Doha, Parties need to adopt the guidelines and modalities for the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The draft guidelines and modalities developed during COP 17 has been elaborated further by the Least Developed Country Expert Group (LEG). Now parties need to finalise these guidelines and modalities for NAPs, adopt it at COP 18. Beyond this, LDCs should also be provided with financial and technical support for the preparation and full implementation of NAPs. To ensure this, In COP 18 Parties need to adopt a decision on the funding modalities for the preparation of NAPs. This is necessary in order to scale up the work immediately as well as to secure financial resources for its implementation.

Identifying and supporting the adaptation needs for Non-LDC developing countries, Parties need to agree on a timeline that enables the Adaptation Committee to develop the guidelines and modalities for National Adaptation Planning Measure for these. Furthermore, Parties also need to agree on the financial arrangements for the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Planning Measure for Non-LDC Developing Countries.

Full implementation of National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and NAPs should be a key element for the pre and post 2020 agreement. Developed countries also need to sustain an adequate level of support to the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) for the implementation of NAPAs (fulfilling existing commitments).

### **Adaptation Finance:**

Parties need to ensure that there will be an adequate treatment of adaptation in the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The allocation of funds for adaptation should be balanced, equitable and adequate. The access of funding should be easy and direct, in the form of grants and not loans without co-financing element. Developed countries should significantly scale up the pre-2020 adaptation financing from at-least 15 billion USD annually from 2013 and gradually scale it up to at-least 50 billion USD annually

by 2020. The majority of adaptation finance must be channeled through the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and Least Developed Country Fund.

The scale of adaptation finance should be reviewed periodically based on the best available and or the most recent assessment reports of the adaptation needs in developing countries, science and impacts reviews and developed countries mitigation ambitions.

### **Regional Centers and Networks:**

At COP 18, Parties need to further deepen work on the adaptation centers and networks as part of the decision. They should adopt a decision on strengthening and, where necessary, establishing regional centers and networks for adaptation. They also need to take a decision on establishing designated national-level institutional arrangements where appropriate for adaptation. These decisions should enhance national, regional and trans-boundary adaptation actions in vulnerable developing countries. Developed country parties should provide financial and technical support for these adaptation centers and networks in developing countries.

### **Nairobi Work Programme (NWP):**

At COP 18, Parties need to investigate the potential future areas for the work of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) under SBSTA that would support the Cancun Adaptation Framework and also contribute to the content of a 2015 agreement. They should start to consider the work areas from the submissions provided by parties and other organizations on potential future areas of work, the technical workshop report on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies and case studies on national adaptation planning.

WWF recommends that the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in human adaptation be included as one of the potential future work areas of NWP. Others include climate change & water and integrated ecosystem based adaptation approach.

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