

gppn

global public policy
network on water
management



Water and Climate Change Adaptation: Top Textual Priorities

GPPN response to:

Draft Text on AWG-LCA 8, item 3, Adaptation 1 (c) – as
of 15th December 2009@ 9.00am

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About the GPPN

The Global Public Policy Network on Water Management (GPPN) is a joint initiative of Stakeholder Forum and Stockholm International Water Institute, working with global stakeholders to identify priorities for the international water agenda, and communicate those priorities to decision-makers. The GPPN is working actively to raise the profile of water in the climate change negotiations in the run-up to the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December 2009.

General Comments on the Draft Text on Adaptation as of 9am on 15th December

In this document, the GPPN is responding to the Draft Text on Adaptation as released on 15th December 2009 at 9.00am. The GPPN has outlined below the aspects of the current Draft Text that it supports, as well as providing recommendations for stronger language.

Progress

It is helpful that there is a reference to water resources as an area for adaptation. There are also numerous references to integrating adaptation with national plans, which can extend to water management plans. The emphasis on building resilience of ecological systems, and sustainable management of natural resources also indirectly captures the importance of protecting freshwater ecosystems and managing water resources sustainably across competing users.

Limitations

In addition, GPPN would like to see **specific reference to Integrated Water Resources Management** as an adaptation action, as capacity must be built in this area, especially in many developing countries, and resources must be channelled accordingly. It would also be helpful to have stronger references to the supra-national, regional and international dimensions of adaptation, which is critical in the context of transboundary water resources. Many of the helpful phrases in this area have unfortunately been either weakened or removed altogether. There is also no longer any reference to enhancing the Nairobi Work Programme, which will be important for enhanced knowledge-sharing across sectors and disciplines.

Contact

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Top Textual Priorities

Words and sentences in **bold** are existing parts of the text that the GPPN supports.

Words and sentences in brackets and **[highlighted in bold and italics]** indicate additions/deletions from the text.

Paragraph	Content	Comment
3.	<i>Affirms</i> that enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention and the provisions thereunder; follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory approach to adaptation; be based on and guided by the best available science, traditional knowledge, as appropriate, and good governance and mutual accountability; with the aim of integrating adaptation actions into relevant social, economic and environmental policies. [ADD – and recognizing the regional and international dimensions of adaptation]	This is generally a helpful paragraph, especially the reference to integration of adaptation with other policies which captures water policies. However, the regional and international dimensions of adaptation responses are not recognized here, and a stronger emphasis is important in the context of climate change impacts on transboundary waters.
4(a)	Planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions, including specific projects and programmes..... FOOTNOTE – Including in the areas of water resources [ADD – management] , health, agriculture and food security, infrastructure and settlements, ecosystems, oceans and coastal zones	This paragraph is critical in identifying areas and priorities for adaptation action, and identifies water resources specifically. It would be helpful to add 'management' after water resources to clarify the need for good water management for adaptation.
4 (c)	Strengthening institutional capacities and promoting enabling environments for adaptation planning and implementation, including through the integration of adaptation actions into sectoral and national planning.	The reference to integration is important for capturing the need to integrate adaptation into water management plans among others.
4 (e)	Building resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems , including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.	This captures freshwater ecosystems, as well as water and sanitation supply and infrastructure. Sustainable management of natural resources can also encompass Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
5. Option 1	Decides that developing country Parties should be provided with long-term, scaled-up, adequate, new and additional to official development assistance commitments and predictable grant-based finance to implement urgent, short-, medium-, and long-term adaptation actions, programmes and projects at local, national, sub-regional and regional [ADD – and international] levels, in and across different economic and social sectors and ecosystems...	GPPN supports Option 1 relating to finance, that it should be new and additional to meet requirements. However there should be a specific reference here for finance to be directed also to international adaptation actions, as climate change impacts will not respect national and political boundaries.

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6. Option 1 (c)	[Enhancing and sharing of information, knowledge, including traditional knowledge, experience and good practices, at local, national, regional and international levels;]	Whatever the form of the institutional arrangement for adaptation under the UNFCCC, an objective should be to share knowledge on all levels.
6. Option 1 (d)	Providing advice on the integration of adaptation actions into sectoral and national planning and other ways to enable climate-resilient development .	Adaptation is not a stand-alone concept, but should be the <i>process</i> of building resilience for development, across sectors and national plans.
8.	Establishes an international mechanism to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts FOOTNOTE – Including inter alia, sea level rise, increasing temperatures, ocean acidifications, glacial retreat and related impacts, salinization, land and forest degradation, [ADD - droughts, floods and water scarcity] loss of biodiversity and desertification.	GPPN supports the footnotes to paragraph 8, but it is critical that any international mechanism addressing loss and damage should also apply to droughts, floods and water scarcity. Climate change impacts will predominantly be felt through the water cycle, and the lack of reference to water here is a major omission.
10. Option 1	Agrees that regional centres will be strengthened and, where necessary, established in developing country regions with support provided by developed country Parties. Such centres will be designated, guided and controlled by the countries they are to serve and shall facilitate and enhance action on adaptation, building upon and complementing national adaptation action, especially between countries with shared natural resources, where appropriate.	Regional centres will help to enhance supra-national cooperation. The reference here to the positive role they could play especially where countries share natural resources is welcome, as it promotes adaptation institutions that could also address transboundary issues.
After Para 10 reinstated Para 18 of Draft Text as of 12 th December	[ADD - The scope of activities undertaken under the Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is to be enhanced, [ADD - including through a sectoral focus] building upon its outcomes and lessons learned, with a view to developing it into a hub of knowledge and information sharing and capacity-building to assist all countries, in particular developing country Parties.]	Focussing on the need for an enhanced scope of the Nairobi Work Programme opens the possibility of the NWP taking a sectoral approach to encourage integrated adaptation planning. Addition of 'including through a sectoral focus' would help to reinforce this objective.