

OUTREACH

a multi-stakeholder magazine on environment and sustainable development.



COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION

BY SALEEMUL HUQ AND SABRINA CHESTERMAN

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
CALL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
TO BE PROTECTED

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OUTREACH

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An individual's article is the opinion of that author alone, and does not reflect the opinions of all stakeholders.

Community Based Adaptation:

helping the poorest and most vulnerable communities adapt to climate change

By
Saleemul Huq and
Sabrina Chesterman

PHOTO: Stock.XchnG

While negotiators from developed and developing countries in Cancun are discussing ways to support adaptation to climate change, and in particular how to spend the so called fast start finance for adaptation as promised in the Copenhagen Accord last year, the poorest and most vulnerable people are already suffering the adverse impacts of climate change which is not of their making.

The negotiators in Cancun, both from the developed countries offering finance as well as the developing countries representing those most vulnerable, have a responsibility to come to an agreement that enables the latter to gain access to the finance. This needs to be in the form of a flow from global to national level.

It needs to be highlighted that highly vulnerable communities are not sitting idle and waiting for the next climate disaster to strike as is often conjured up, instead these communities are taking control and being pro-active about finding effective ways to adapt to the impacts of climate change. One key aspect of this is a growing movement around Community Based Adaptation(CBA).

Community resilience

CBA relates to community led action based on community priorities, needs, knowledge and capacity to empower people which results in context specific climate adaptation projects. As climate change is predicted to have serious impacts across different regions, such as increasing intensity of weather extremes like flash floods and extended droughts, community leadership on adaptation is pivotal.

Community based adaptation aims to reduce the vulnerability of communities by educating and empowering people to use indigenous and local knowledge to help prepare for the range of climate change related afflictions. The focus of CBA is to use existing institutions such as local governments and NGOs to help give communities information and to integrate this with existing knowledge systems in a pragmatic and effective manner.

CBA uses innovative and dynamic means of communication such as art, theatre, story telling and key community member's stories to describe the local context. Once a link has been made between local

communities and relevant institutions, appropriate adaptation strategies are identified.

Importantly, this paves the way for the establishment of projects sitting at the nexus of development and climate change, but driven by community needs. The adaptation element of chosen projects introduces communities to climate change, risk and vulnerability and importantly how to integrate climate resilience into their livelihood strategies.

The growth of CBA

Within a few years the CBA has grown from a few pilots to many hundreds which include activities such as water harvesting in drought prone conditions in Kenya and Tanzania to floating gardens to prevent losses from flooding in Bangladesh.

CBA in action – Lesotho

An example of a CBA Project comes from Lesotho which aimed to understand climate vulnerabilities and was implemented in the southern lowland districts (Mohale's Hoek, Mafeteng) and a mountain district (Thaba

Tseke) in Lesotho. The CBA methodology focused on household surveys and focus groups in different sub-catchments of the regions to evaluate key issues.

Key outcomes from Lesotho

The surveys & focus groups showed that farmers wanted technical context specific advice and access to appropriate technologies, so they could make better decision on what and when to plant. It was also found communities accepted the need for crop diversification and wanted training in suitable methods of soil management as they were aware of erosion and its effects. The CBA study also helped communities understand the value in information sharing and creating ways to share knowledge to achieve better success in farm output.

Positive outputs & the future of CBA

The lessons learned from CBA projects with the involvement of local and regional government allow practical local solutions for adaptation such as water collection and

storage, access to irrigation equipment and schemes to prevent erosion such as tree planting to be implemented.

An essential development of CBA needs to be an information pathway with feedbacks from local policy, and in the Least Developed Countries where schemes may be implemented, a careful tracking of the inclusions of National Implementing Entities to government that will allow streamlined and effective absorption of finance. Some of this can subsequently be channelled to CBA related national and local development. The opportunities for sustainable commercial and private sector bolstered partnerships that can contribute to CBA schemes also need to be pursued.

As the Lesotho example shows, CBA uses existing local knowledge to produce simple local solutions for the very complex global problem of climate change.

It is imperative that as the CBA community grows under the umbrella of the Global Initiative on Community based Adaptation (GICBA) knowledge must be shared from CBA initiatives occurring across a transect of vulnerable countries. This will allow improved knowledge management,



capacity development in local communities and with effective dissemination to the Parties and within relevant text, policy and institutional reform.

Saleemul Huq - Senior Fellow, Climate Change Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development.

Sabrina Chesterman - Climate Scientist at OneWorld Sustainable Investments.

Back on the roller coaster

By Philip Pearson,
Trade Union Congress (TUC), UK,
with the ITUC Cancun delegation



If all we were to get out of this UN process was an agreement on “robust functioning markets” and “cost-effective” solutions to climate change, then we would indeed have been wasting our time. Yesterday, the ITUC delegation looked down in dismay at the UN’s latest draft text, extolling the virtues of the market and cutting out counterbalancing references to a socially just transition to a low carbon future.

Our goal at Cancun is to secure ‘Just Transition’ language as a decision and

to ensure that it is embedded in the implementation sections as well. “Our goals are simple: a voice, a cleaner planet and good jobs.”

So, as we scurry about, fixing anxious meetings with Government delegations, we learn that the chair’s new text isn’t particularly liked for what it leaves out.

We are told that slimming the text down a bit will, however, focus minds on the contentious text that is left in. Later on, the

earlier paragraphs that are not contentious, like ‘Just Transition’, ‘the right to a voice’, “can be reinstated”.

Do we have confidence in this process? No. But then, if union negotiations were that easy, perhaps members wouldn’t pay their dues.

To follow **Philip Pearson’s** blog please go to <http://www.touchstoneblog.org.uk/>

Mexico's Challenges towards a Comprehensive Adaptation Response



By Arnoldo Matus Kramer

Mexico has invested substantial resources to develop first generation climate change impact and vulnerability assessments. In addition, pilot adaptation activities have also been implemented. However, its only in the last few years that the Mexican Government has started to move from stand-alone adaptation projects to a more structured national adaptation response to climate change.

Institutional architecture

The key element to build national adaptation institutional architecture in Mexico is the development of State Climate Change Strategies. However two major challenges to a comprehensive adaptation program in Mexico are: (a) creating incentives for adaptation at the local level and (b) the selection of criteria to allocate limited resources for adaptation in a country with very diverse local socioeconomic conditions and extensive social inequalities.

In 2005, Mexico established an Inter-ministerial Climate Change Commission composed of seven Ministries and organized across different working groups. The Working Group on Adaptation is lead by the Ministry of Environment and was established with the mandate to develop national strategies and policies for adaptation. This group has expanded its members to other relevant ministries such as Ministries of Interior, Health, Tourism, Education and Marine.

Climate change has also been identified as a development priority in the Mexican National Development Plan 2007-2012. Moreover, in 2007 a National Climate Change Strategy was developed, the operation of which has been complemented with a Special Program on Climate Change running between 2008 to 2012.

The Climate Change Program

This Climate Change Program has identified seven main areas of investment for adaptation and one additional activity aimed at transforming disaster risk management, crucial for the region where hurri-

canes are a regular occurrence. The key areas of investment that were flagged by the Program include water resources management; agriculture, cattle, forestry and fisheries; ecosystems; energy, industry and services; transport and communications infrastructure; land-use management and urban development; health sector; and lastly disaster risk management.

One main component of the Strategy and the Program to mainstream adaptation at the regional and local levels is linked to the creation of State Climate Change Strategies. This process has already started in 22 out 32 States. Three States, including, Nuevo Leon, Veracruz and Mexico City have completed their programs. There are other 18, which are developing their Strategies and one that is on an initial planning stage.

The State Climate Change Strategies already show some success in creating regional institutional structures responding to the demands climate change is afflicting. Furthermore, this dynamically evolving process has illustrated great value in integrating relevant regional sectors, universities and local leaders from the private sector and civil society to engage and actively participate in climate change activities. An example of this, Nuevo Leon, one of the main industrial States in Mexico, has initiated its Strategy with a central focus on mitigation. However, the damages caused by Hurricane Alex in 2010, which devastated large areas of Nuevo Leon's transport infrastructure forced the State to reconsider its Strategy and be cognizant and pragmatically embrace the need for adaptation. This has been through a State Adaptation Strategy with a vision to 'climate proof' strategic infrastructure and the regional development process.

Tourism Sector

Focusing specific analysis on the tourism sector considering the location of COP 16 and example of Cancan, local governments in Mexico have an important mandate in strategic adaptation areas like land-use and urban planning. However,

adaptation face serious barriers at the local level. Firstly, political and economical incentives are lacking at this local level to incentivise, integrate and commit to a long-term vision and planning. This is an essential element, to include climate change knowledge and information in the local decision-making process. Secondly as with many government departments the issue of a high turn over of technical personnel is affecting the sustained effort to build capacity for local level adaptation. In addition the allocation of resources amongst vulnerable individuals most at risk is a balancing act local and national government must grapple with.

Mexico is an emerging economy with a young, dynamic and rapidly growing population. Although some regions are not afflicted by poverty chronic examples of maladaptation to climate change are detrimentally altering the vulnerability status of these areas at a rapid rate. For example, the fast growing coastal municipalities in the Mexican Caribbean are an example of this. Early investments to climate proof land-use and urban planning could reduce costs associated with more intense tropical storms impacts and future sea-level rise. Consequently it is imperative, in order for Mexico to move successfully to a rigorous and structured approach to climate change, that examples of maladaptation are addressed as well as a dedicated focus on vulnerable poor communities, most at risk of the implications of climate change.

Arnoldo has worked as an adaptation consultant in the Environment Directive at the OECD as well as an advisor on climate change at the National Institute of Ecology in Mexico, where he participated as a Mexican Delegate to the UNFCCC and the IAI. Arnoldo has also worked as an adviser for the Committee of Environment and Natural Resource in the Mexican Parliament, UNDP and the UK government.

It's all about inter-generational equity



The **YOUNGO**
Youth Constituency

How are young people participating in the climate negotiations? Is the current UNFCCC framework able to secure inter-generational equity? Can the older delegates learn something from the younger delegates? How can we comprehensively include the concerns of youth in any future agreements?

Youth are critical stakeholders in the climate negotiations, as they will have to deal with the impacts of climate change long into the future. They are also the frontrunners when it comes to creating innovative solutions and bringing climate-issues to the broader community.

The **YOUNGO** Youth Constituency offers a space for young people and youth organisations to assemble and build a unified movement, to amplify their voices and increase their visibility and impact during the negotiations.

The Young and Future Generation Day (YoFuGe Day), organized on Thursday, 2 December, will highlight many of these advocacy efforts. A plethora of events including debates, workshops and actions have been organized to allow for interaction between delegates of all ages. YoFuGe Day gives participants an oversight of different youth initiatives occurring throughout COP16. It also offers an opportunity to take a pleasant break from the official talks.

The series of youth related side events include:

Living up to the education challenge of Article 6: Preparing children and young people for climate change, 5:00—16:30, Jaguar Room.

The World Associations of Girl Guides

and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and the Earth Child Institute, together with UNESCO, UNEP, FAO, British Council and UNICEF will share knowledge and practices in climate change education in an attempt to prepare children and young people for climate change.

Non-formal peer education and article 6: youth-organisations lead the way to tackle climate change, 16:45—18:15, Jaguar Room.

The European Youth Forum and WAGGGS will highlight the inclusion of youth representatives in national delegations as best practice example for ensuring youth participation in decision-making and present recommendations on integrating non-formal education to achieve the ultimate goal of the UN Climate Change Convention.

Key note addresses from Moise Alvarez, Dominican Republic, Jean Pascal van Ypersel, Article 6 focal point of Belgium, Jennifer Rubis, UNESCO and Jean Paul Affana, youth delegate Cameroon.

U.S.A., Canadian and South Asian youth climate perspectives, local solutions and global actions, 11:30—13:00, Jaguar Room.

SustainUS, together with Tides Canada Initiatives Society and Clean Energy Nepal, hosts an interactive event on youth climate perspectives and solutions.

YOUTH-CLIMATE

According to the UN Programme on Youth, "youth participation in decision making [...] leads to better policy formulation, implementation and evaluation." This has been demonstrated time and time again at past UNFCCC meetings, where young people appeared to be constructive partners in the negotiations.

Intergenerational inquiry, 13:20—14:40, Jaguar Room

The UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Christiana Figueres, will host a discussion with young people, scientists, and key negotiators from developed and developing countries to foster collective solutions to climate challenges.

The **YOUNGO** Youth Constituency warmly welcomes you to join and support Young & Future Generation Day. Generational equity concerns have to be included at all levels of the negotiations. Now is the time to build a long-term vision together with Youth, to bring our future back at the core of the negotiations.

The YOUNGO Youth Constituency

SHOW US POLITICAL WILL

By Uchita de Zoysa
Convenor – Climate Sustainability PLATFORM



Two weeks before Cancun COP16, rain started pouring into the Capital City Colombo in Sri Lanka crippling life activities and destroying roads, walls, houses, vehicles, etc. To start with, the parliament went under water and the MP's had to be rescued by the armed forces. The flood waters came rushing through the road to my house and the neighbours' parapet wall collapsed onto mine.

The Few miles away my friends home went under water and he called me and said "so this is what climate change is going to be like and we now need to adjust to the new conditions". Many in the city had similar and sadder stories and all ended with new hardships and extra expenses. All of us down here are already preparing for the now frequent climate disasters; adaptation is already costing us!

Equity, mitigation and adaptation

Speaking to me on Cancun responsibilities, former Vice Chair of IPCC-AR4 Prof. Mohan Munasinghe demanded that political will to raise the resources to accelerate adaptation is demonstrated during the current round of climate negotiations. He said;

"Even if progress on mitigation is slow, there is no excuse to delay more rapid progress on agreements to reduce climate change vulnerability and promote adaptation among the poorest and hardest hit groups in all countries. We know what needs to be done. We have the frameworks like Sustainomics, tools, policies and practical examples to start this process immediately, but sadly, the political will is lacking. Adaptation can be accelerated dramatically using funding amounting to just a small fraction of the USD 5 trillion that was raised so quickly to halt the recent financial meltdown. Equity and ethical principles should be used when negotiators consider how the burdens of both climate change impacts/adaptation and

mitigation are distributed. The most effective way of addressing climate change is to integrate both adaptation and mitigation measures into sustainable development strategy. Civil society and business need to be more pro-active in pushing governments to take action now."

UN climate change negotiations are failing

International climate change negotiations are failing because they are not based on such foundations that offer equity, wellbeing and happiness of all. These negotiations at the United Nations are designed as a process of bargaining led by short sighted political leadership and their representatives. It is a bargaining place for the managers of the prevailing erroneous global governance and economic system.

UN negotiations are not places where the countries congregate with mutual trust or confidence. Each of them tries to bargain for their own best share, rather than for the betterment of the planet. Therefore, these negotiations can hardly provide hope of a radical change in the approach or attitude towards creating a different system for a better world.

If the international climate negotiations continue to fail in reaching an implementable agreement very soon, we would be allowing our global leadership to design for us an ultimate destiny to perish.

The frequency of natural disasters

We are already experiencing natural disasters at a regular frequency across the world like no other time in human history. Seeing highly developed cities in USA and Europe getting submerged in flood waters, regular landslides in China, and earth quakes in Pakistan, tsunami's in the sea close to Indonesia is driving fear in the minds of millions. If we are to believe the fourth assessment report of the IPCC

and the warnings by the climate scientists, then we may well get ready for a life on earth filled with catastrophic natural calamities.

While such dangerous climate change can still be evaded, there is simply no faith, trust and confidence in the current global leadership in making commitments required to face that challenge. Even if promises are made by them, there is no assurance that they will actually meet the commitments made.

The next generation

So we do fear our fate on earth. The worst part of this fear is not really for me or my generation, but to understand that my daughter and her generation will suffer a destiny of uncertainty and destitution. My daughter is only eleven years old. In 2050 she will be over fifty years and would have gone through all the changes in the climate as predicted by scientists of our times.

Worst is that she might have to face the consequences of the mistakes made by our generation. By that time my daughter would be having her own children and perhaps grand children as well, and she would be living in a state of constant worry for her family. Her worries will be much greater than mine; and that worries me no end. I am just one father of several billion who worries about the future of their children. Can leaders in Cancun show more compassion towards our children and their futures? Can that compassion become the fuel necessary to ignite the political will that we desperately seek?

Send your comments to:
uchita@sltnet.lk and for more information visit: <http://www.climatesustainabilityplatform.blogspot.com> and <http://climatesustainability.blogspot.com/>

The Green Economy Needs Women Leaders



Kathleen Rogers,
President, Earth Day Network

At the climate change conference in Cancun, women are beginning to position themselves as major players in the emerging green economy.

Until recently, women have represented a tiny minority at these conferences and have been almost entirely absent from major gatherings of green entrepreneurs.

Women bring a unique perspective

Today, women find themselves in a different position than they were during the advent of the industrial revolution when they didn't have the right to vote and education was sparse. Women are also better represented in the fields of science and technology. We are now better educated, more global in our perspective, and more willing to stand up for sustainability. It is important that women don't miss this opportunity to be leaders at the inception of the most important economic revolution since the industrial revolution.

Women can bring a unique perspective to the development of the green economy. As studies have demonstrated, women entrepreneurs and business leaders bring to the business world an expertise on managing risk with an eye on long term priorities such as sustainability.

Shifting towards a low carbon economy

The conventional business model represents the epitome of risk because it encourages businesses to sacrifice everything from long term growth, to climate stability, to future access to natural resources, for the sake of short-term profits. To avoid our current path's economic risk forecast by the consensus of scientists and economists, we need to shift our business model from short term gains to perpetual sustainability. To make this shift

we need to foster a culture in the private sector that understands risk and knows how to manage it.

Women leaders in the private and public sectors are committed to this mission and are already making real progress. Mindy Lubber, president of the Ceres sustainable investment coalition and the Investor Network on Climate Risk, is leading investors to demand that governments address climate change. Her army of investors representing \$15 trillion in capital recognizes that climate change will jeopardize economic recovery and climate solutions will present opportunities in clean technology innovation.

Member-investors such as Barbara Krumsiek's Calvert agree: "Investors are concerned with the risks presented by climate change to regional and global economies and to individual assets. At the same time, investors are interested in the large potential economic opportunities that the transition to a low carbon economy present."

Climate change impacts are not gender-neutral

It is not surprising that women want to lead the effort to stop climate change because, as the United Nations has noted, "the threats of climate change are not gender-neutral." Women understand that their gender is more susceptible to the disruptions and disease associated with climate change. But they also recognize that women in most countries are also less likely to be in decision-making roles as regards to how a country's economic resources are used or how government regulates climate and business.

Even in Western countries, less than 15 percent of the leadership positions in civil society, business and government are held by women and in other countries this number is closer to zero.

Women's leadership in a new economy

It is vital that a critical mass of women lay the framework for the next economy. If the new economy aims to avoid the risky pitfalls of our current model, the framers of the new green economy need to manage risk. For example, we cannot gamble on risky false solutions such as nuclear, "clean coal," and corn ethanol biofuels. Such ideas exacerbate our sustainability challenges or at the very best, trade one environmental problem for another. Lack of forethought about these risks will keep us on our current unsustainable path. Women's leadership in this new economy can help fill this void.

Cancun will host dozens of meetings to begin to create a strategic process that will even the playing field and grow a new generation of women entrepreneurs. This movement is not just taking place at UN conferences. The World Economic Forum, consultation for Rio Plus 20, and dozens of other private sector meetings are also addressing this issue.

These leaders, representing the business, political, and creative worlds, can develop solutions and mobilize women all over the world to promote new innovative solutions. We need to get it right this time and we need to provide the new economy with a stable, value-oriented upbringing.

Indigenous Peoples call for human rights to be protected



Indigenous delegates, representing over 360 million Indigenous Peoples from around all regions of the world, announced a number of minimum requirements for their human rights to be protected in any climate change accords coming out of the current UN Climate Change Conference.

Indigenous delegates stressed that any texts adopted in Cancun must respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as recognized in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2007. Indigenous delegates welcomed the statement by Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who recognized human rights as an important part of the Climate Change negotiations,

particularly the right to a clean environment.

“The threats to our survival and the violations of our human rights as a result of climate change are increasing on a daily basis. Market-based mitigation strategies such as the Clean Development Mechanism and carbon offsets, including forest offsets and REDD, further threaten our human rights, including our right to free prior and informed consent,” declared Adelfo Regino Montes, of Mexico, in the opening session of the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP 16) on Monday on behalf of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC).

The group advocates that COP 16 must produce a framework for a legally-binding

outcome to subsequently be agreed at COP 17. The IIPFCC rejects the Copenhagen Accord as a totally inadequate response to the current climate crisis.

“Countries must guarantee Indigenous Peoples’ full, effective and direct participation in all processes related to climate change, at local, national, regional and global levels,” declared Miguel Palacin, of Peru, in an address to the Long-Term Cooperative Action working group, tasked with coming up a global climate change agreement.

“We support a binding emissions reduction target for developed countries of at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 95% by 2050,” Samwel Naikada of Kenya stated in a press release.

Profile



Philip Pearson

Nationality: UK

Country of residence: UK

Organisation: Trade Union Congress (TUC)

Current Position: Senior Policy Officer

How long have you been in this position? 6 years

What prompted your early interest in environment?

Growing up on the edge of a town.

Describe your first attempt to ‘save the planet’:

Possibly helping my grandmother’s bird rescues.

Favourite quote:

“The best laid plans of mice and men go oft astray” Burns

What jobs have you held that have led to the role you are in today?

An example would be chair of a local council environment committee when we rolled out a Local Agenda 21 programme.

What do you believe should be achieved at COP16?

Governments should as a minimum resolve the Fast Track and long term finance commitments to the South and accountabilities; resolve to implement a new KP as a bridge to a full shared vision; and reinstate their commitment to a Just Transition.

What do you consider the most significant hurdle to achieving an international agreement to succeed the Kyoto Protocol?

Probably the intransigence of Republican America.

What timeline is reasonable for an international agreement to be achieved? And what should this look like?

We have until December 2012. It should emerge as a treaty that civil society can own, because we’ll either back. It or in the end, fight it. So it must include labour and human rights, and strong roles for civil society stakeholders.



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The Reformed Financial Mechanism & Accounting of Climate Finance

Friday, 3rd Dec, 16.45 - 18.15, Room Monarca, Cancunmesse



Introduction "**Governing & accounting Climate Finance**" & moderation by
J. Timmons Roberts / David Cipler (Brown University / AidData)

Presentations;

The Reformed Financial Mechanism (Benito Mueller, U Oxford)

Do aid flows really address climate change? (Axel Michaelowa, U Zurich)

Climate Finance promises: "new and additional"? (Saleemul Huq, IIED;
contributions by Achala Chandani, IIED & Martin Stadelmann, U Zurich)

Discussants;

Shardul Agrawala
OECD

Stefan Schwager
Swiss delegation

Farrukh Khan (TBC)
Chairman, Adaptation Fund Board

Subnational Governments at the Forefront of Climate Action

50 percent to 80 percent of the adaptation and mitigation actions needed to tackle climate change is or will be implemented at the subnational level of governance, according to UNDP.

In the last few years, subnational governments have concretely shown that they take their climate change responsibilities very seriously. Their accomplishments in this area have grown tremendously in sophistication, effectiveness and relevance.

The important lessons being learned at subnational level – which particularly well placed for identifying the needs and strengths of our societies in the challenge of climate change - can often feed into and improve national policy and shape more ambitious and innovative responses to climate change.

Either through competences-sharing arrangements or constitutional attribution of powers, subnational governments are often responsible for developing and implementing laws, policies, strategies, standards, programs, and fiscal mechanisms in areas with direct influence in GHG emissions and adaptation to climate change, such as energy, the environment, transport, industry, agriculture, land and resource management, as well as civil security. Subnational governments also make public investment decisions that directly affect the level of global GHG emissions.

Subnational governments have exclusive or shared responsibilities with their national governments on a whole range of areas relating to adaptation, such as:

- Risks and vulnerabilities identification and assessment, including for forests and ecosystems;
- Development and implementation of risk reduction and prevention strategies;
- Disaster relief (such as compensation and rehabilitation policies), clean-up and reconstruction;
- Information gathering about climate conditions, variability and trends to help reduce unpredictability;
- Air and water quality monitoring and management;
- Health care, especially for vulnerable citizens;
- Public security and civil protection action plans, and
- Education and awareness campaigns.

Subnational governments often have the necessary skills, leadership, and expertise to help communities adapt to climate change, strengthen resilience and, in extreme situations, rebuild those communi-



Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

ties after disaster has struck. They also have the capacity to respond quickly to a climate change crisis, notably because they are close to the affected populations and have the most intimate knowledge of their needs.

Risk patterns and trends are often specific to a particular locality or region. In developing a strategic and systematic approach to reducing vulnerabilities, reducing disaster risks and building capacity to adapt to climate change, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 has recognised that fact, and suggested that responsibilities and resources for disaster risk reduction are decentralized to the subnational level as appropriate. The Hyogo Framework further recommended also developing subnational risk and vulnerability indicators, in order to better assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of potential disasters.

Last, it is important to note that subnational governments, particularly in developed countries, are sharing or willing to share their experiences, technologies and best practices on adaptation in a North-South context and among themselves. They would, however, welcome an international agreement on climate change that would foster further cooperation.

The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD works tirelessly to champion the work of subnational governments on sustainable development, including climate action. International organisation representing over 600 subnational governments* (namely federated states and regional governments) at the global level; nrg4SD promotes understanding, partnerships and projects in sustainable development and seeks greater international recognition the important contribution of subnational towards sustainable development. Member of the Forum Global d'Associations de Régions (FOGAR), nrg4SD is the voice of FOGAR in the field of sustainable development.

Today nrg4SD's big family keeps growing with new members - amongst with Buenos Aires Province (Argentina), Fatick (Senegal), Rhône-Alpes (France) or Québec (Canada) - and our eyes are already

set on the preparation of UNFCCC COP 17. Rendez-vous in Lyon (France) on 20-21 October 2011 for the big European pre-COP event of the year, organised by the French region of Rhône-Alpes in close partnership with the organisation The Climate Group and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development nrg4SD.

Where to find nrg4SD in COP 16 Cancún:

• From Monday 6 December - Exhibition stand 197 (Cancun Messe – Hall 3)

• Wednesday 8 December – 11.00-12.30 – “Subnational Governments at the Forefront of Climate Action – An international exchange of good practice” co-organised by Mexican ANAAE and CONAGO and nrg4SD Venue: Great Parnassus Hotel, Blvd. Kukulcan km 16.9

• Thursday 9 December – 18.30-20.00 – “Plans and Pilots: An International Axis for Low Carbon Development Strategies at Subnational Level”, co-organised by The Climate Group and nrg4SD Venue: Cancun Messe, Room Sandia

*nrg4SD subnational government

members: Açores (Portugal), Aquitaine (France), Aragón (Spain), Basque Country (Spain), Bourgogne (France), Bretagne (France), Buenos Aires Province (Argentina), Callao (Peru), Canarias (Spain), Cantabria (Spain), Catalonia (Spain), Chaco (Argentina), Équateur (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Fatick (Senegal), Flanders (Belgium), Fundación Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), Goiás (Brazil), Kaunas (Lithuania), Lusaka Province (Zambia), Mbale District (Uganda), North Burkina Faso (Burkina Faso), North Sumatra (Indonesia), Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (France), Québec (Canada), Quintana Roo (México), Réunion (France), Rhône-Alpes (France), Riau (Indonesia), Santa Fe (Argentina), São Paulo (Brazil), Sofala Province (Mozambique), Timbuktu (Mali), Toscana (Italy), Tulcea (Romania), Wales (United Kingdom), Wallonia (Belgium), West Java (Indonesia), Western Cape (South Africa) – nrg4SD associations of subnational governments members: ABEMA (Brazil), ANAAE (Mexico), CONAGO (Mexico), CONCOPE (Ecuador), Congreso de Intendentes de Uruguay (Uruguay), CRPM (France), Northern Forum (United States of America), OLAGI (Ecuador), PRODIPAN (Bangladesh) – nrg4SD observer governments: Somaliland (Somalia), Taipei City (Taiwan).

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carbons Cities Climate Registry captures local climate actions

By Yunus Arikan,
Manager, Cities Climate Center,
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability



The carbonn Cities Climate Registry (cCCR) is a key component of the Global Cities Covenant on Climate (the Mexico City Pact) which has been adopted at the World Mayors Summit on Climate on November 21 in Mexico City and, has so far been signed by 142 cities around the world. Cities know climate action can not wait and the cCCR puts this idea in motion by becoming the hub for cities to report such activities.

Five 'Pioneer' cities, Calgary, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Mexico City and Nagpur, have already registered their data with the cCCR prior to its official launch and the signing of the Pact. Among the 142 cities that have signed the Mexico City Pact, and committed to reporting through the cCCR, are Bogota, Johannesburg, Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Rio de Janeiro, Barcelona, Jakarta, Sao Paulo, Nagoya, Montreal, Curitiba, Dakar, Los Angeles, Quito and Nagpur.

"The world's cities must join together and put their data in the same pot," says Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City and Chair of the World Mayors Council on Climate Change. "Consolidating our challenges

and accomplishments will help cities figure out where we are now in relation to where we must go."

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), recognized the new carbonn Cities Climate Registry as an important tool to "facilitate transparency and accountability of local climate actions, and help local governments to demonstrate leadership in climate action."

The cCCR will support the leadership of local governments in tackling climate change as it helps to effectively plan, implement and monitor climate actions. The reporting mechanism of the cCCR aims to increase global recognition and encourage access to global resources for local players.

In a year's time, data collected by the cCCR will feed the Climate 100 – a scheme that will publicly acknowledge cities whose climate actions and commitments are particularly outstanding. Featuring the best performing, most improved, most

comprehensive data reporting and most climate committed cities, the Climate 100 will be a simple way to underline that cities are leading by example.

ABOUT THE cCCR

The cCCR is operated by the Bonn Center for Local Climate Action and Reporting – carbonn, which was launched by ICLEI and UNEP at Copenhagen Climate Summit in December 2009. carbonn is the technical engine behind the cCCR. User registration, climate data reporting and searchable information about cities and their climate commitments will all be available through the carbonn website. Please visit www.citiesclimateregistry.org and www.carbons.org for more information.

JOIN US - ICLEI side event @ COP16

Introducing global mechanisms for measurable, reportable, verifiable local climate action.

Friday 3 December 2010, 20.15 – 21.45, Room Monarca. Visit www.iclei.org/climate-roadmap for more information on the ICLEI side event, Daily COP16 Reports and much more.

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