

# UNHABITAT CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE BULLETIN

November 2018

## UN-Habitat Discusses with Governments and Experts How Best to Address Urban and Human Settlements Issues in National Adaptation Plans

UN-Habitat organized an expert group meeting in the margins of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Bangkok Climate Change Conference in September 2018. Over 20 national government representatives and experts met to review and discuss the supplementary guide titled "Addressing Urban and Human Settlements Issues in National Adaptation Plans". The group advanced with the drafting of the guide towards potential approaches that could meet countries' needs to more strongly consider cities in the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes. Knowledge and experiences were shared. The structure and the content of the publication were reviewed, and this led to building a small community of practice on national adaptation and human settlements. This meeting allowed UN-Habitat to gain valuable insights into this emerging topic and forge strong partnerships for national and local implementation with key partners in this field.

NAPs are essential in articulating the adaptation needs and priorities of countries. The process of formulating such plans helps countries to



*NAP-HS Expert Group Meeting in Bangkok © UN-Habitat*

identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and to develop, scale up and implement strategies and programmes to address them. Formulating and implementing NAPs is also necessary to scaling up planning and attracting investment for adaptation actions.

Addressing urban and human settlements issues in NAPs enables countries to reduce the vulnerability of people living in human settlements to climate change related impacts. The new guide responds to a call by Least Developed Countries Expert Group of the UNFCCC, inviting international actors to "...come forward in drafting

supplementary sectoral guidelines to the NAP Technical Guidelines...", the overarching guidance on formulating NAPs.

The guide will be launched at the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24) to the UNFCCC, in Poland, on 10th December 2018 at the UN Side Event on Sustainable Cities and Communities, and will be a contribution from UN-Habitat under the NAP Global Support Programme <http://globalsupportprogramme.org/nap-gsp>.

## Leveraging Participatory Informal Settlements Upgrading for Climate Finance

UN-Habitat is present in Fiji since 2010, supporting the Government in policy development and informal settlements upgrading. Informal settlements communities in Fiji, currently 20 percent of the urban

population, are not only facing challenges in terms of tenure security, housing, access to infrastructure and services but are particularly at risk of climatic events. Informal settlements are mainly located on the coast

and along rivers and are exposed to cyclones, storm surges, coastal and riverine erosion, landslides and already occurring sea level rise. Mangrove deforestation and coral reef extraction to accommodate urban

## Leveraging Participatory Informal Settlements Upgrading for Climate Finance (continued)

development and income generation are increasing the vulnerability of settlements to coastal hazards. Both mangrove forests and coral reefs provide effective barriers against storm surges and cyclones. In peri-urban areas informal settlements communities engage in agriculture and fisheries thus climate change already poses a risk to existing livelihood practices. In addition to supporting informal settlements upgrading, national policy and action plans at the country and local level, UN-Habitat engaged in a city-wide vulnerability assessment and the implementation of targeted priority actions.

The Post Disaster Needs Assessment in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Winston, an extremely destructive Category 5 cyclone that struck Fiji in February 2016, confirmed the vulnerability of informal settlements. Entire communities were destroyed and approximately 40,000 people required immediate assistance following the cyclone. 31,200 houses, 495 schools and 88 health and medical

facilities were damaged or destroyed. All stakeholders agreed on the urgent need to develop models for more resilient communities. A partnership between the Fiji Climate Change Division, the Ministry of Housing and the towns of Lautoka, Sigatoka, Nadi and Lami and 16 particularly vulnerable informal settlements was created. The communities of 16 vulnerable informal settlements are currently developing comprehensive climate change action plans. Strong emphasis is placed on working with all community members, in particular the most vulnerable and creating opportunities for women and youth. Town are recruiting resilience officers to ensure that community efforts are backed up by local governments. Universities are involved at different levels, to support the vulnerability assessments and developing the skills of youth in parallel to enable them to support adaptation processes at the local and national levels. Based on the action plans, construction and/or adaptation of community infrastructure is envisaged, as well as early warning systems, alternative

and sustainable livelihoods and new resilient housing options. Throughout the project implementation communities, the local authorities and the national government will work together.

Communities are engaging in the project with enthusiasm as they realize that climate change is not an abstract concept but something tangible that increasingly affects their life. But while they evaluate their needs and vulnerabilities, they are also invited to capitalize on their strengths and prepare for the change.

UN-Habitat has recently started similar projects, also funded by the Adaptation Fund in Solomon Islands and Mongolia and is developing several more in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. Climate Change Finance provides informal settlements with the resources to build inclusive, safe, sustainable and resilient communities.

## Planners for Climate Action Moving Forward in Advocating Better Planning and Joint Action

Since its launch on 11 November 2017 in Bonn at COP-23, Planners for Climate Action (P4CA) has not stood still. From the 12 to the 14 September 2018, the Global Climate Action Summit took place in San Francisco, and side events were held from the 10th. The P4CA side meeting was held on that day with the presence of Robert Kehew, from UN-Habitat's Climate Change Planning Unit. It was the occasion for urban practitioners to share results from researches, insights, experiences and best practices.

Almost a month later, the annual ISOCARP Congress was held in the city of Bodø, Norway, on the 2 October. Five hundred planners congregated to debate on 'Cool Planning' and address the growing challenges of climate change. P4CA was part of them and was presented in a side event lead by ISOCARP and UN-Habitat, where participants



*P4CA initiative presentation at the annual ISOCARP Congress, October 2018*  
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discussed the need to incorporate climate change in planning practices worldwide. Didier Vancutsem, Isocarp Secretary General opened the side event and Christine Auclair, from UN-Habitat Climate Change Planning Unit presented the initiative, inviting participants to join so that climate change be at the heart of planning worldwide to reduce emissions, adapt and prepare cities and territories to upcoming hard events.

The Partnership is also working on a syllabus repository on urban and territorial planning for climate change. UN-Habitat and UNI, its global partnership with universities are developing a structured central repository of training courses related to climate change that can be easily shared. To enrich the content and to enhance collaboration between academic institutions and research centres. The ambition is to launch it in early 2019.



# Low-carbon, Climate Resilient in Nepal with the Global Covenant of Mayors

What does low-carbon, climate resilient development look like in Nepalese municipalities? This was the focus of a 3-day training that took place in Kathmandu on 1-3 October, organized by UN-Habitat under the auspices of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and in partnership with the Municipal Association of Nepal. Nepal ranks 176 out of 196 countries globally in terms of its per capita carbon emissions, and therefore the country has virtually no emissions to "mitigate". However, avoiding emissions increases remains a development concern. Why? Avoiding rapid future increases in emissions that harm health and lock Nepal into a high-carbon development pathway, is in Nepal's development interest. In addition, the continued attainment of improved human development is threatened by projected climate changes – that could also undermine and rollback the development gains that have been made in recent times. In this sense, "action on climate change is development" (ODI, 2015).

Through a rich exchange with participants, the training addressed key resilience issues and how municipality can promote low-carbon, climate resilient local development. Participants were taken through a comprehensive process to answer key questions, including "What key steps can be taken?" "What financial resources exist to support action?"



**All the municipalities present signed the Expression of Interest letter to the GCoM © UN-Habitat**

"How does one conduct a climate and vulnerability risk assessment?" Maria Adelaida Cea, from UN-Habitat Regional office for Asia Pacific, took participants through the beginning stages of such a risk assessment. The session practically demonstrated the data required and the steps required, to understand how climate change might affect local development practices. Local climate change experts Bhushan Tuladhar and Batu Uprety led a discussion about low-carbon development and climate resilience in the context of Nepal and shared case studies to explain how cities can take initiatives to put these principles into practice.

The training, which was organized as part of UN-Habitat's partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM), had a total of 32 participants, including 4 Mayors, 3 Deputy Mayors and 25 technical officers from 18 different

municipalities in Nepal. Signatories to the GCoM commit to integrate climate change action into their municipal planning, by conducting baseline research, developing climate change action plans, and setting targets. All the Mayors, Deputy Mayors and representatives of the 18 municipalities present signed an Expression of Interest to the GCoM, committing to take the issues and initiative back to their councils for further endorsement. There was a rich understanding and enthusiasm among participants, and UN-Habitat hopes to continue to partner with them to make progress on their initial commitment to the GCoM.

UN-Habitat is equipped with a set of training materials on low-carbon, climate resilient development, which can be tailored for different contexts, to be delivered in comprehensive trainings. To find out more, contact us at [unhabitat-ccci@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-ccci@un.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*The 24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP24), Katowice, Poland (3 - 14 Dec 2018)*

During this year's COP, UN-Habitat will be leading or participating in a number of human settlement focussed events. Highlights include (the schedule may be subject to change):

- 10:00-10:30, 5 Dec - Cities for Climate Urban Summit Official Opening

- 17:00-18:15, 6 Dec, NDC Partnership Pavilion - Finding Common Ground – Linking Cities, NAPs and NDCs
- 10:00-13:00, 7 Dec, Global Climate Action Area Lubelskie - Human settlements action event under the UNFCCC's Marrakesh Partnership
- 10:00-11:30, 8 Dec, African Development Bank Pavilion - Financing Urban Resilience - Solution for a Multi-Level Problem
- 14:00-15:00, 8 Dec, Action Hub - Enabling Urban Sustainability Transitions: Policy Integration and Access to Finance for Local Authorities
- 11:00-12:00, 10 Dec, Action Hub -

Addressing the Most Vulnerable First: Building Climate Change Resilience in Informal Settlements

- 13:45 – 14:45, 10 Dec, Room Bug - One UN for Climate Compatible Cities: Resilient Cities Driving Risk Informed Sustainable Development, Launch of *Addressing Urban and Human Settlements Issues in National Adaptation Plans*
- 16:45-18:15, 10 Dec, Room Pieniny - The CitiesIPCC Research and Action Agenda for Effective Urban Responses to Climate Change
- 10 Dec - Access to Finance and Project Preparation Support for Local

Climate Action, Supporting GCoM Committed Cities

- 10:45-15:00, 11 Dec - High level roundtable of the Talanoa Dialogue
- 16:00, 11 Dec - Climate Clean Air Coalition High Level Assembly

- 10:00-15:00, 12 Dec - Side and Training Event Urban-Rural Linkages to Advance Integrated Territorial Development: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action"
- 12 Dec - UNFCCC, UNCCD and

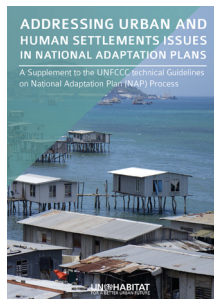
CBD Approaches to Urban & Rural Linkages

- Date TBC - Multi-level Governance for Climate Action: Different Approaches

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

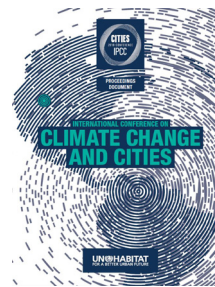
*Addressing Urban and Human Settlements Issues in National Adaptation Plans - A supplement to the UNFCCC technical Guidelines on National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process*

Addressing urban and human settlements issues in NAPs enables countries to reduce the vulnerability of people living in human settlements to climate change related impacts. This guide aims to support countries in integrating human settlements into their NAPs.



*Proceedings Document International conference on Climate Change and Cities*

This publication presents the key findings from the CitiesIPCC Conference (March 2018 Edmonton, Canada). This conference seeks to contribute to a positive and integrated engagement between the scientific community, urban practitioners and policy-makers.



*Addressing the Most Vulnerable First – Pro-Poor Climate Action in Informal Settlements*

This Thematic Guide is intended to be the first of a series of resources for those with an interest in the opportunities for building resilience and addressing the challenges of informality hand-in-hand. This Thematic Guide is aimed at national and municipal government officials and civil society leaders in low- and middle-income countries.



## ABOUT US

Headquartered at UN-Habitat in Nairobi, the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) involves the participation of more than 40 cities worldwide. It targets medium sized cities in developing and least developed countries, and emphasizes good governance and practical initiatives for the municipalities and their citizens.

The CCCI team has adapted participatory processes developed

previously by UN-Habitat so as to specifically address climate change issues within the city. A complementary set of tools has been developed to support cities in assessing vulnerabilities, analyzing baseline emissions, and prioritizing mitigation and adaptation actions. Since 2008, CCCI has been generously supported by the Governments of Norway, Germany and Sweden, the United Nations Development Account, the Cities Alliance, and

other sources of global, regional, national and local funding.

Bulletins of the Cities and Climate Change Initiative are periodically published electronically. For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, contact [unhabitat-ccci@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-ccci@un.org) or visit [www.unhabitat.org/ccci](http://www.unhabitat.org/ccci).

## CCCI Cities and Countries

