

UN HABITAT CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

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Partnership between water operators in Sri Lanka and Australia focuses on adaptation to climate change

Across Asia and the Pacific, some 340 million people still lack access to safe water and more than 680 million do not have access to sustainable sanitation services. Intensified weather events linked to climate change are expected to worsen these water and sanitation access challenges by disrupting urban water and sanitation service provision, as witnessed widely across the Philippines following the recent Hurricane Haiyan, affecting lives and livelihoods, especially among already vulnerable populations. Even without acute events, prolonged droughts and degraded water quality from intense rainfall, increased temperatures and sea water intrusion will put stress on water and sanitation service provision.

A small island nation, Sri Lanka is one of the countries particularly prone to the effects of climate change, and increased rainfall, sea level rise, drought and other extreme weather phenomena are already putting strain on its water supply and sanitation service provision. The National Water and Sewerage Development Board (NWSDB), the government agency responsible for the provision of water services throughout Sri Lanka and sewerage in several cities, is struggling to adapt. While climate change adaptation programs and initiatives have been introduced in Sri Lanka, there has been limited effort to create awareness on the impacts of climate change to the water sector, in general and water service provision, in particular. The



Officials inspecting water pipes in Sri Lanka © Yolanda Gomez

same can be said in the area of building capacity in climate change adaptation among water service providers.

While climate change scenarios are geographically specific and require locally adapted responses, the steps required to plan for mitigation and adaptation can be generalized to provide a framework for peer support activities, even between utilities experiencing climate change in different ways. Peer support has therefore been noted as a useful way of building capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) are peer support partnerships in which experienced peers can serve as guides, mentors and trainers who support the recipient utility in a process of assessment, learning and action.

UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) and Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, together with Waterlinks, a regional network of water services operators, are putting in place a WOP between an Australian water operator and the NWSDB of Sri Lanka, focusing on strengthening the adaptive capacity of NWSDB to cope with climate change impacts. Over the next 15 months, the partnership will build awareness and capacity of NWSDB staff to understand and prepare for potential consequences of climate change within their utilities.

Building on the experience of this WOP in Sri Lanka, the collaboration will also result in a resource that other operators can use in carrying out adaptation themed WOPs.

CCCI supports piloting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Protocol in Kampala and elsewhere

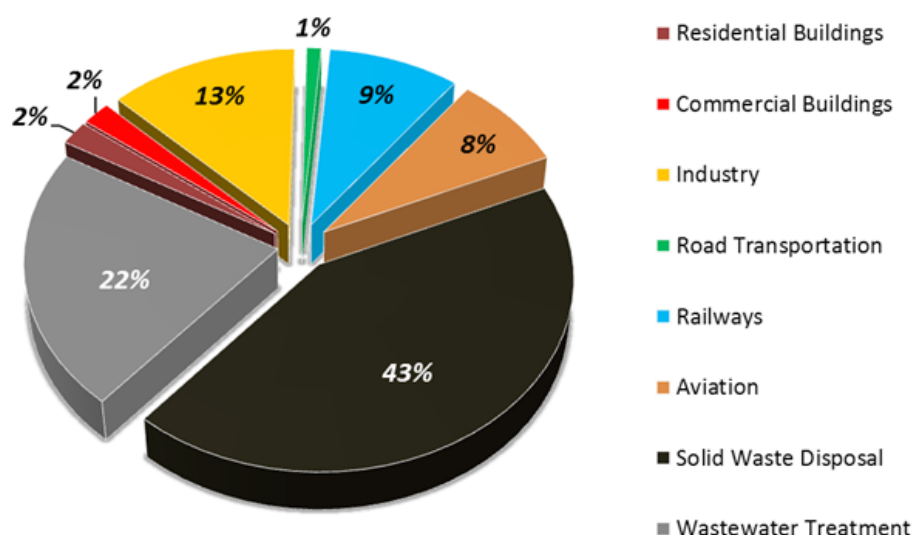
The Kampala Capital City Authority, with support from Makerere University and CCCI, recently completed an inventory of its urban greenhouse gas emissions. Kampala is championing this initiative because it acknowledges the need for climate action planning to develop city mitigation and adaptation plans. In the spirit of 'You can't manage what you don't measure', local leaders sought transparent and scientific baseline data as a basis for target-setting, benchmarking and ultimately, decision making processes for future climate action.

According to Dr. Shuaib Lwasa, the project's scientific coordinator, the big surprise which came out of the greenhouse gas (GHG) baseline inventory exercise in Kampala is "the share of CO₂ by the waste sector". The inventory reveals that solid waste disposal contributed 43% of total GHG emissions, while wastewater treatment accounted for another 22% of emissions (see graphic). Emissions from waste incineration and open burning also contribute. This finding points to some priorities in emissions reduction, such as the use, reuse and rechanneling of energy "hidden" in the waste stream.

The emissions inventory for Kampala was carried out following the newly developed Global Protocol for Community-Based GHG Emissions (GPC), launched in May 2012 by the World Resources Institute, ICLEI and C40, along with other partners including UN-Habitat (see CCCI June 2012 Newsletter). One of the strengths of GPC is the inclusion of activity data of community-scale emission sources, enabling collection and calculation of emissions from both formal and informal activities, possibly making it the most relevant and accurate known global protocol for cities in developing countries.

This Global Protocol is now in its

Emissions by Sub-Sector (tCO₂)



"Version 1.0" pilot phase. CCCI sees its role during this phase as helping to ensure that cities in the Global South including Kampala are adequately represented and fully participate in the piloting – a proposed contribution that the leaders of the piloting effort, WRI and ICLEI, were quick to embrace. With CCCI's support, proponents have organized a series of regional training workshops for cities participating in the piloting. As a member of the Advisory Committee of the GPC initiative, UN-Habitat will continue to look for ways to actively involve secondary cities in developing countries in the pilot phase, so as to ensure that the tool evolves into a robust global standard which is applicable to cities from all geographical and socioeconomic backgrounds.

The piloting of the GPC in a city such as Kampala reveals the advantages as well as the challenges of trying to apply this Protocol in a city in the Global South. The biggest challenges, according to Dr. Lwasa, are data availability and the disaggregated level at which data scaling is needed for accurate

estimates. But, on the positive side, he points out that "the GPC allows us to attribute emissions to particular geographical areas, and the importance of understanding and getting the data on the activities in those areas". In other words, distributing emissions both by area and sector also gives insight into entry points and 'low-hanging fruit' for mitigation and further climate action planning. In addition to attention to the solid waste management sector, the major options for reducing the emissions that would otherwise obtain in Kampala are related to how the city develops and expands in the decades ahead.

To learn more about the GPC pilot project, please visit: www.ghgprotocol.org.

To access the Kampala GHG Inventory Report, please visit the Report section under: www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

UN-Habitat at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 19) in Warsaw

The UN-Habitat delegation to the 2013 UN Climate Conference in Warsaw was led by the Deputy Executive Director (DED), Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, with two branch coordinators and other staff members also participating.

The Conference opened against a sobering backdrop: UNEP reported that the chances of holding global warming to an increase of only 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial levels were growing “ever more elusive”; meanwhile Typhoon Haiyan had just devastated the Philippines, becoming the “strongest storm recorded at landfall”. At the same time pessimism grew about the resolve of world leaders and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process to deliver a strong global agreement by 2015. Despite these circumstances, some have summed up this 19th UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP-19) as “low expectations met”. The UNFCCC process did not derail, and may still lead to a substantive, universal climate change agreement to replace the (now marginalized) Kyoto Protocol, with the new agreement to be signed by 2015 (at COP-21 in Paris) and then to take effect in 2020.

Realization continues to grow that cities: (i) emit substantial quantities of greenhouse gases, (ii) are home to vast populations that are vulnerable to natural disasters that will worsen with climate change, and that therefore (iii) more provisions should be made to integrate local authorities into global and national climate frameworks. The ICLEI-led ‘Local Government Climate Roadmap’ process that UN-Habitat supports, as well as other actions by UN-



UN Secretary General Ban greets UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director, Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira at the UN Climate Conference In Warsaw © Marcus Mayr

Habitat and other partners, have contributed to this understanding. This growing awareness was reflected in a modest way by the celebration in Warsaw of a first-ever official “Cities Day” at a UNFCCC COP. The Cities Day was kicked off with a high-level “Cities and Sub-national Dialogue” opened by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and with interventions by the DED as well as various ministers and mayors. In his opening remarks the SG affirmed: “The centrality of cities in climate change is now clear”.

In her intervention on addressing ‘adaptation’ in the urban context, the DED stressed the importance of good governance, and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations through basic urban planning. In her intervention the UNFCCC Executive Secretary underscored the progress that the local government sector has made over time in gaining recognition within UNFCCC processes. The Agency’s other intervention on “Cities Day” was a UN-Habitat-led side event on “UN agencies supporting climate smart cities”. This included a welcome from the DED and interventions on applicable city-level tools from selected members of the Task Team

on Climate Smart Cities, organized under the auspices of a cross-UN Working Group on Climate Change.

Another highlight of COP-19 was the ‘Warsaw Dialogue on Scaling Up Local and Sub-national Action’, a day-long parallel event targeted at local officials and organized by the City of Warsaw. In her opening intervention at this event, the DED emphasized the role that local authorities can play in addressing climate change, and the need for proper national- and global-level frameworks to enable climate action at the local level. The DED then congratulated the cities recognized under the World Green Building Council’s Government Leadership Award (for which UN-Habitat earlier had provided a judge).

“THE CENTRALITY OF CITIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOW CLEAR” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

On other days at the COP, one UN-Habitat Branch Coordinator gave a keynote presentation as part of a workshop on ‘urbanization and the role of governments in facilitating action in cities’; meanwhile another Branch Coordinator was prominently featured in Transport Day, which culminated in the adoption of the “Warsaw Statement on Low Carbon Transport and Sustainable Development”. Finally, ICLEI and UN-Habitat representatives also gave several presentations on progress made to date under the EC-funded “Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies” (Urban-LEDS) Project.

CCCI launches new Policy Note

CCCI has launched its Policy Note No. 3, on “Addressing Urban Issues in National Climate Change Policies”. Based on a survey of more than 20 existing national climate change policies, this publication offers a series of recommendations

on how countries should deal with climate change in urban areas and empower local authorities as key actors in that effort. The publication is liberally sprinkled with excerpts from existing climate change policies, as well as case study

examples of cities around the world that are taking climate action. The launch of this Policy Note at COP-19 in Warsaw was well received. The policy note can be downloaded from: www.unhabitat.org/ccci (under ‘publications’).

International City Networking Seminar

On 27-29 November 2013, representatives of the cities participating in the EC-funded "Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies" (Urban-LEDS) Project gathered in Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa for an International City Networking

Seminar. Urban spatial planning and low emissions development was a major theme of the seminar. UN-Habitat and ICLEI are co-implementing the Urban LEDS Project (for further information see www.urban-leds.org).

World Bank workshop

On 13-15 January 2014, in

Gwangju, Korea, a CCCI representative participated in a workshop organized by the World Bank to consider the merits of a 'City Climate Planner certification program'. The strongest interest in certification centered around recognizing experts in the development of city-level inventories of greenhouse gas emissions.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Urban Planning Working Group

On 17 February 2014 in Barcelona, UN-Habitat will participate in a one-day meeting of the Urban Planning Working Group, organized by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

National Adaptation Plans

From 24 to 26 February CCCI will participate in the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) technical meeting on national adaptation plans (NAPs). The LEG will try to identify gaps and specific tools, methods and

examples for comprehensive adaptation plans, while UN-Habitat will emphasize the importance of cities in adaptation planning.

United Nations Climate Summit

UN-Habitat will be supporting the UN Secretary-General in his plans to convene a Climate Summit on 23 September 2014 in New York City. The Summit will bring together Heads of State, as well as global leaders from civil society and other sectors. This event will offer a chance for leaders to mobilize political will for an ambitious global

legal agreement by 2015 to rein in global warming, as well as to catalyze climate action on the ground. "Cities and transportation" has been identified as one of a handful of high-potential thematic areas that will be addressed at this Summit, and the SG's office has tapped UN-Habitat to help lead the 'cities' work stream leading up to 23 September. Most recently UN-Habitat's Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos participated in a retreat with the Secretary General to chart out the path leading to this Summit.

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 is being developed to support cities in raising awareness on the impact of climate change and support mitigation and adaptation activities. Since 2008, CCCI has been generously supported by the Government of Norway, the United Nations

Development Account, the Cities Alliance and other sources of global, regional, national and local funding.

Newsletters of the Cities and Climate Change Initiative are electronically published periodically. For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, contact ccci@unhabitat.org or visit www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

CCCI Cities and Countries

