



A Special Report on Selected Side Events at the Twenty-eighth sessions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Subsidiary Bodies and Sessions of the *Ad Hoc* Working Groups

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Online at <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/sb28/enbots/>

Issue #6 | UNFCCC SB 28 | 2-13 June 2008 | Bonn, Germany | Tuesday, 10 June 2008

Events convened on Monday, 9 June 2008

Effective implementation of adaptation: lessons from biodiversity and desertification

Presented by GTZ



Anju Sharma, Consultant to GTZ, said national action planning exercises give local stakeholders a voice in national and global environmental governance, and that reforms must not endanger this window of opportunity.

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Anneke Trux, GTZ, noted that twenty years after their inception, the Rio Conventions have struggled to enable on-the-ground implementation.

Anju Sharma, Consultant to GTZ, highlighted that national action plans are expected to be national stocktaking processes that also attract global finances. She said national ownership and effectiveness are often sacrificed in favor of satisfying international donor expectations. Sharma stressed that financing should not drive, but is essential for, successful development and implementation of national action plans. She outlined lessons learned from NAPs and NBSAPs, including: project-based approaches do not work for adaptation; and environmental action plans must engage stakeholders beyond the environment community.

Paul Isabirye, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda, argued that while NAPs and NBSAPs are long-term planning tools, NAPAs address more immediate climate change concerns and should therefore not be seen as national adaptation strategy plans. He stressed that preparing national action plans and implementation are different activities, but that both require significant time and resources. He said no single funding source can support adaptation, but that UNFCCC funding can be used to mobilize other sources.

Bubu Pateh Jallow, Least Developed Countries Expert Group Chair, said the process of developing national action plans encourages mainstreaming and consultative engagement across scales. He noted that implementation, including monitoring and evaluation, was not adequately included in original NAPA guidelines, but is now being institutionalized. He highlighted the importance of integrating national action plans in national medium-term development strategies.

Christian Mersmann, Global Mechanism, argued that "national processes" must be redefined, given the role that international actors play in them. He emphasized the importance of programmatic, rather than sectoral, approaches, and stressed that national action plans must become strategic and forward-thinking.

One participant suggested that the global financing architecture needs to be restructured and national autonomous development funds enabled. Another stressed that while funding is complex, it is essential for implementing demonstration projects under NAPAs that: are inexpensive; will benefit local communities; can be learning tools; and can attract further funding. Participants discussed: whether demonstration projects under NAPAs can facilitate adaptation and build long-term resilience; project versus programmatic approaches and their appropriateness under different circumstances; and the need to start implementing national action plans.

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin on the Side* (ENBOTS) © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Suzanne Carter, Alexandra Conliffe, and Sikina Jinnah, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Markus Staas. The Editor is Alice Bisiaux <alice@iisd.org> and the Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the United Kingdom (through the Department for International Development - DFID), the Government of the United States of America (through the Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs), the Government of Canada (through CIDA), the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMU), the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission (DG-ENV) and the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea. General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2008 is provided by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government of Australia, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, the Ministry of Environment of Sweden, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (through the Global Industrial and Social Progress Research Institute - GISPRI) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the International Organization of Francophonie (IOF). Funding for the translation of the *Bulletin* into Spanish has been provided by the Ministry of Environment of Spain. The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11A, New York, NY 10022, USA. The ENBOTS team at UNFCCC SB 28 can be contacted by e-mail at <alexandra@iisd.org>.

Short-term Arctic climate forcers: a means to slow Arctic warming and melting?

Presented by CPC

Amb. Bo Kjellén, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden, said the Arctic is warming at twice the rate as the rest of the world, and underscored indicators such as the rapid break up of sea ice.

Pam Pearson, Climate Policy Center (CPC), identified the short-term forcers of Arctic warming, namely black carbon, tropospheric ozone, and methane, and highlighted the health and climate co-benefits of reducing them. She recommended “no regrets” measures, including: reducing black carbon and tropospheric ozone in the northern hemisphere; minimizing emissions of black carbon and tropospheric ozone in and near the Arctic; and reducing methane globally. She stressed that it is more cost efficient to focus on emissions from Germany, Scandinavia, the US and Canada before those of other countries, as they have the greatest impact given their close proximity to the Arctic.

Terje Berntsen, Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO), Norway, described current trends in decreasing sea ice, showing a record retreat in 2007. He explained that because new ice melts more easily and quickly than old ice, some experts expect 2008 to set a new record decline. He described how short-lived forcers contribute to warming, and shared research on regional contributions to black carbon deposition. He showed that Europe’s most significant short-lived forcing contributions occur at surface altitudes, while other regions, such as North America and South and East Asia, contribute similar amounts but at higher altitudes.

Participants discussed: impacts of pollutants and sea ice retreat on Arctic animals; proposed regional and global actions to reduce short-lived forcers; European governments’ awareness of their larger impacts on Arctic warming; tipping points, including thawing permafrost; and difficulties in creating policies and strategies for black carbon reductions, noting the possibility of tying these to the upcoming revision of the Gothenburg Protocol.



Pam Pearson, CPC, warned that Greenland’s ice sheets may not melt fast but may lead to an irreversible tipping point.

More information:

<http://www.sei.se>
<http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/cpc>
http://www.catf.us/projects/climate/international_climate
http://www.cicero.uio.no/home/index_e.aspx

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More effective policies & measures: engendering better results through integrating gender aspects

Presented by LIFE e.V.

Meike Spitzner, Wuppertal Institute, discussed gender biases in the transport-planning sector. She noted various problems, including the tendency to inadequately address: the mobility needs of women doing unpaid work, such as taking children to school; and issues related to verbal and physical sexual harassment. She stressed that transport planning is too heavily focused on mobility between home and work, when in fact women’s needs are more diverse.

Annika Carlsson-Kanyama, Swedish Defence Research Agency, explained that the objectives of her ongoing research are to examine the extent to which: women are represented as board members in the energy sector; men and women differ in their indirect and direct use of energy; and energy-saving measures affect men and women differently.



Angela Franz-Balsen, University of Lüneburg, said gender-sensitive climate communication should be scientifically based and context sensitive, and include diversified concepts and strategies.

She noted existing studies that show women to be more risk averse and concerned about climate change than men, and reported that the proportion of women on boards in the energy sector ranges between less than 1% and 18% across her German, Swedish and Spanish case studies.

Angela Franz-Balsen, University of Lüneburg, discussed gender-sensitive climate communication. She stressed that climate communication must balance risk communication, which provides people with transparent information about pending risks, with resource communication, which helps to motivate and empower people to deal with the risks facing them.

Participants discussed: differences in transport challenges faced by women across countries; transport issues in rural areas; differences in risk perception between men and women; methodologies used for comparing men and women's energy usage; and gender-competence training for communicators.

More information:

<http://www.life-online.de>
<http://www.wupperinst.org>
<http://www.foi.se>
<http://www.globalonenessproject.org>
<http://www.gendercc.net>

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Driving forces and barriers for technology transfer

Presented by WBCSD

George Weyerhaeuser, World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), said the WBCSD could play a catalytic role in making technology transfer work.

Harlan Watson, US, highlighted that developing countries' GDPs and emissions have grown significantly since negotiations began in the early 1990s. He said private sector investment is increasing, but requires enabling environments to leverage it. He called for: strengthening legal and economic institutions; promoting protection and enforcement of IPRs; and encouraging competitiveness.

Russel Mills, Dow Chemical, said technology is like any other investment, in that a positive framework will encourage investment in technologies.

Ji Zou, Renmin University, China, said environmentally sustainable technologies may only be effective when they include invention, innovation, diffusion, and deployment of different instruments. He suggested compromising high profits from technology monopolies related to IPRs for the good of the climate.

Carl Horton, General Electric Company, highlighted barriers to technology transfer, including: insufficient availability of appropriate technologies; inadequate economic incentives; insufficient or inadequate systems to support technology transfer; poor manufacturing and sourcing capabilities; and inadequate laws governing transfers.

Yoshiharu Tachibana, Tokyo Electric Power Company, highlighted the perception gap between developed countries that are transferring technology and developing countries, which say these transfers are not useful without training. He emphasized the importance of measurable, reportable, and verifiable technology transfer.



Carl Horton, General Electric Company, highlighted his company's sizable investment in clean technology R&D and said the number of eco-certified products should reach 100 by the end of the year.

Brice Lalonde, France, said a universal mechanism is unlikely to meet the different needs, sectors, and technology types of every country. He suggested that discussions should focus on existing major technologies, which need to be scaled up and disseminated at incremental cost to developing countries.

Participants discussed: whether there are differences between technology transfer for climate change versus for other purposes; who should bear the cost of providing technologies to developing countries at low cost; and market stability concerns.

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Readiness for REDD

Presented by The Woods Hole Research Center (WHRC)

Kiliparti Ramakrishna, UNEP, highlighted the large number of actors involved with REDD. He noted that the UN's immediate goals include: improving developing country capacity; working within the UNFCCC to determine what countries want; and developing preliminary concepts and ideas for REDD.

Paulo Moutinho, Amazon Institute for Environmental Research, identified three key elements for REDD, namely social engagement, robust monitoring, and equitable distribution of REDD resources. On social engagement, he underscored the need for: a formal mechanism to guarantee indigenous participation; information dissemination; and ensuring and strengthening indigenous rights.

Alessandro Baccini, WHRC, discussed the technological challenges of REDD, including monitoring how forests and carbon storage are changing over time. He said WHRC will be using new technologies to map global forests and will make this data freely available to all countries.

Juan Carlos Jintiach, Amazon Alliance, stressed that REDD is not just about finances for indigenous people, but also about rights. He called for indigenous representation at the negotiating table.

Daniel Nepstad, WHRC, emphasized that REDD readiness is about changing the development pathway, and that social engagement is the main priority for REDD readiness. He underscored that readiness must be on the order of decades; strengthen ancestral claims to land; and leave space for learning.

Participants discussed, *inter alia*: developing cultural and socioeconomic guidelines for REDD; the possibility of learning from the forest certification debate regarding participation models; government coherence; safeguards for ensuring co-benefits; reconciling the long-term time commitment envisioned by REDD readiness with the short-term time horizon of the negotiations; and priorities for REDD readiness.



Daniel Nepstad, WHRC, underscored that early engagement of stakeholders with full knowledge and negotiating capacity is crucial.

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<http://www.whrc.org>
<http://www.unep.org>
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