

A Special Report on Selected Side Events at the
Durban Climate Change Conference

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Events convened on Wednesday, 30 November 2011

Gender, Justice and Social Learning: Exploring Theory and Practice in Adaptation

Organized by the Pennsylvania State University (PSU), Environmental Monitoring Group Trust (EMG), and Rhodes University (RU)



Lena Kotze, Heiveld Co-operative, explained that using adaptive farming techniques in arid areas proved critical to the protection of their organic rooibos crops.

Petra Tschakert, PSU, explored the framings, limitations and traps of climate change adaptation at the intersection of poverty, gender, justice, and social learning. She said in the overall understanding of adaptation "we should never lose sight of the people caught in the center of our decision making."

Jackie Dugard, Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI-SA), presented a case study on the impact of acid mine water drainage in three communities. She commented on the lack of awareness of the negative impacts, regardless of socio-economic background.

Nancy Tuana, PSU, presented several current research collaborations on: gender justice; methods of communicating this research; and institutional practices that result in unjust climate responses.

Sheona Shackleton, RU, presented their research that focuses on social learning for climate change adaptation through shared experiences. She emphasized the need for societal innovation and new adaptation strategies and practices.

Injairu Kulundu, RU, presented a video clip of a South African rural community case study using a participatory process based on social learning theory to: share knowledge; build local agency and adaptive capacities; and bring the community concerns into climate change research dialogue.

Sidney LeFleur, Ericaville Farming Trust, talked about problems facing honeybush farmers of Ericaville, South Africa, over the last five years as a result of climate change, such as: severe floods; subsequent root diseases; and sudden drought and crop destruction by baboons. He stressed the importance of changing farming practices to anticipate such events.

On the challenges in the organic rooibos farming community of Heiveld, South Africa, Lena Kotze, Heiveld Co-operative, talked about adaptive measures undertaken by the farmers to counter the impacts of climate change. She urged women to realize their potential as farmers, regardless of the threat from changing weather patterns.

Participants discussed the challenges facing marginalized communities threatened by changing weather patterns, such as: lack of technical expertise; population growth and migration patterns; community consumption levels; and the unsustainable use of child labor to buffer against natural disasters.

More information:

<http://www.geog.psu.edu>
<http://www.ru.ac.za/static/departments/environsci>
<http://www.heiveld.co.za>

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The UN System Supporting Climate Change Option

Organized by the International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Jo Espinoza Ferrey, IMO, highlighted the important work the UN Family is doing to face climate change, giving examples related to food, energy and transport sectors.

Marja-Liisa Tapio-Bristrom, UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), explained FAO agricultural mitigation programme, and described some climate-smart agricultural practices, concluding that small holders need institutional and financial support for the transition. Leslie Lipper, FAO, outlined soil carbon crediting for smallholder agriculture, explaining soil carbon is a key determinant of soil fertility and mitigation activities.

Holger Rogner, International Atomic Energy Agency, noted that it is absolutely necessary for developing countries to build capacity to carry out its own energy analysis, and informed that IAEA has tools to assist them.

John Mwaura, UN Habitat, explained that cities have a vital role to play in promoting low emission development.

Mark Radka, UNEP, outlined a number of drivers, risks, opportunities and responses for national objectives and policies on bioenergy.

Ralph Sims, Massey University, said there is a need to decouple food production from fossil fuel consumption.

Svend Søyland, Bellona Foundation, explained that shipping is the most efficient transportation compared to road and aviation, welcoming IMO agreement on an energy efficiency index.

Jane Hupe, ICAO, said ICAO adopted a policy on aviation and climate change that includes: global inspirational goals of a 2% fuel efficiency per annum; future carbon neutral growth; and a basket of measures enabling states to address emissions and design their plans of action.



Jo Espinoza Ferrey, IMO, moderated and gave an overview of some climate change work within the UN.

More information:

<http://www.imo.org>

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Making Climate Finance Work for the Poor

Organized by the Fairtrade International, Interchurch Organization for Development Co-operation (ICCO)

Essam Mohammed, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), reflected on climate financing, underscoring the threat to the poor.

Rob Cameron, Fairtrade International, explained how Fairtrade touches the lives of millions of producers, driving change by creating the structure for cooperative ownership and empowerment.

Wim Hart, ICCO, expressed hope not only for a good dialogue, but also for action.

Carlos Vargas, Latin America and the Caribbean Fairtrade Network, reflected on the impact of climate change on producers, lamenting that in some cases it is already too late. He reiterated how the network demonstrates a diverse sample that legitimizes the urgency of making funding available to develop adaptation and mitigation projects.

Jaap de Jong, Nova Institute, highlighted projects that bring together several organizations to provide multiple benefits ranging from improved access to market, income sharing and job creation to improved environment health and social standards to improve quality of life.

Carlos Canales, Fairtrade International, shared results from a study detailing the impact of climate change on fairtrade products. He introduced emerging strategies to develop Fair Adaptation and Fair Carbon Credits standards.

Toby Quantrill, Fairtrade Foundation, relayed growing interest in a supply chain from the private sector, identifying the overlap in adaptation need with opportunity to reduce carbon emissions in agricultural supply chain.



Carlos Vargas, Latin America and the Caribbean Fairtrade Network, represented the producer perspective explaining the safety net provided by fairtrade.

More information:

<http://www.fairtrade.net>

<http://www.clac-comerciojusto.org>

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Lessons Learned: Adaptation Fund

Organized by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Marcia Levaggi, Adaptation Fund (AF) Board Secretariat, announced winners from three categories in a photographic contest, depicting different adaptation strategies from several countries.

Sharon Ramclam, Protected Areas Conservation Trust (PACT), shared PACT experiences in Belize, highlighting: establishment of strong internal control systems; evidence of anti-corruption efforts and transparent review procedures; capacity for self-investigation; and focus on risk mitigation strategies.

Yolande d'Almeida, National Fund for the Environment (FNE), stressed the importance of having an accreditation process and emphasized the importance of: mobilizing environmental resources for protection; supporting projects related to environmental protection; and ensuring monitoring and evaluation.

Guy Midgley, South African National Biodiversity Institution (SANBI), commented on the stringent accreditation process. Although a difficult process, he stressed the advantages of gleaning early guidance and building credible environmental structures.

Hopeton Peterson, the Planning Institute of Jamaica, reflected on the rigorous accreditation process emphasizing the importance of field visits by an AF panel. He summarized the project phases, and stressed that the process facilitates strong national ownership, reduces bureaucracy, improves their grant image and the ability to access other sources of funding.

Déthié Soumaré Ndiaye, Centre de Suivi Ecologique (CSE), reported on Senegal's experience, and identified key issues: capacity building, training and awareness raising; site inventory; awareness raising among local stakeholders; and procedures manual update to include contracting procedures. He specified the main difficulty as high expectations from communities and local governments.



Guy Midgley, SANBI, said national adaptation should be a country-driven process.

More information:

<http://www.adaptation-fund.org>
<http://www.thegef.org/gef/>

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Addressing REDD+ safeguards: experiences using REDD+ SES and other mechanisms

Organized by the Ministry of Environment, Ecuador, and Conservation International (CI)

Free de Koning, CI, introduced initiatives producing benefits from the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards (SES). Samuel Nnah Ndobe, Center for Environment and Development (CED), Cameroon, provided an overview of the REDD+ SES framework as a country-led multi-stakeholder process.

Carola Borja, Ecuador, related experiences working with stakeholders and implementing REDD+ SES to build a robust information system that will: collect information on safeguards; provide feedback; build capacity; and strengthen credibility. She shared planned activities to continue scaling up and institutionalized the programme. Mónica de los Rios, Institute of Climate Change and Environmental Services Regulation, Brazil, shared how the state of Acre is integrating REDD+ under and an existing law, aligning targets to optimize benefits.

Dil Raj Khanal, Federation of Forest Users Nepal (FECOFUN), detailed how Nepal is using REDD+ SES as a component of a Readiness Preparation Proposal. He shared the benefit of consensus on safeguards across the ethnically diverse country, despite challenges in coordination between agencies.

Clea Paz-Rivera, UN-REDD Programme Secretariat, explained the objective of a series of tools for REDD+ that: guides implementation; ensures negative impacts are addressed and managed; and reflects a human-right-based approach. She reviewed early lessons, benefits, and cross-cutting changes of draft criteria, highlighting the importance of including stakeholders from the design phase of any tool related to safeguards.

Joanna Durbin, The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA), said she was pleased to be learning from experience as she reflected on the evident benefits presented from the engaged country initiatives.



Carola Borja, Ministry of Environment, Ecuador, acknowledged the commitment of civil society attending this event as she addressed a question raised by an indigenous Zapara member from Ecuador.

More information:

<http://www.conservation.org>

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How is REDD+ Unfolding on the Ground? An Exploration of the Social, Political, and Biophysical Issues

Organized by Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)

Frances Seymour, Director-General of Center for International Forestry Research (Indonesia), said the genesis of the research findings is the Global Comparative Study on REDD+ (GCS), which was developed in partnership with organizations and researchers from all around the world. She noted: the GCS knowledge-share component; a mutual sense of recalibrating expectations about REDD; and financial resources are not flowing as quickly as expected.

Noting CIFOR's on-line database of forest carbon projects in non-Annex I countries, showing their geographical distribution, basic statistics and other elements, Erin Sills, North Carolina State University, welcomed feedback. She noted GCS projects are testing a range of strategies to reduce forest carbon emissions and/or increase removals. She concluded: "polycentric governance" is key to integrate local and national efforts to clarify land tenure; clarity in REDD's future provides incentives for stakeholders to fully engage with the projects; and project proponents avoid going to places where there are tenure problems.

Charles Meshak, Tropical Forest Conservation Group (Tanzania), overviewed his country's REED projects, underscoring its four stages: site selection; free prior and informed consent with participating communities, participatory identification and implementation of strategies to reduce deforestation; generation of emission reductions and verifying; and sending revenues back to the communities initially using project funds. He pointed out challenges for the projects, such as: restriction of access to land and forest products; elite capture of REDD funds; land "grabbing"; conflict within communities over distribution of REDD funds; and increased human-wildlife conflict.

Maria Brockhaus, CIFOR (Indonesia), explained how to develop national policies that enable REDD+ projects to be implemented at local level. She underscored challenges, including: coordinating among sectors and administrative level; defining tenure, financing systems, benefit sharing and participation; monitoring, reporting and verifying systems (MRV).

Manuel Estrada, Consultant, explored the social, political and biophysical issues regarding MRV systems for REDD+ at the national level. Under-scoring the series of requirements and indicators for assessing REDD+ in a variety of countries, he said there are three main categories: completeness of GHG inventory; forest area change monitoring capacity; and forest inventory capacity.



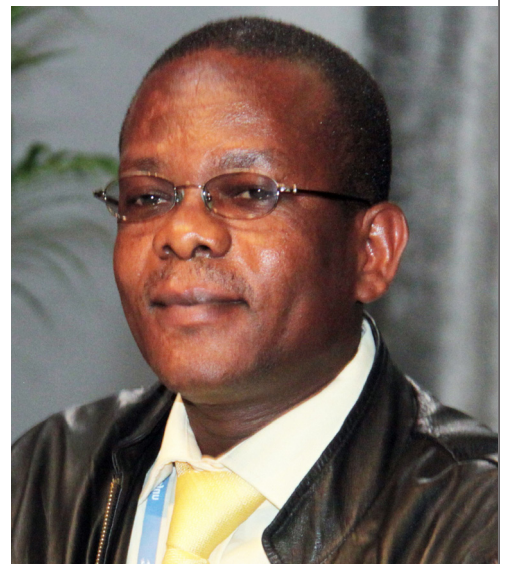
Frances Seymour, CIFOR Director-General, noted the importance of discussing REED and the way forward during COP17 negotiations.

More information:

<http://www.ForestsClimateChange.org/redd-map>

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Charles Meshak, Tropical Forest Conservation Group (Tanzania), expressed concern that, at current prices, potential REDD revenues do not cover the opportunity cost of the projects.



Panelists discuss the main findings of CIFOR's Global Comparative Study on REDD+.