



Global ambition.
Local action.
Climate resilience for all.
#DCdays

CONCEPT NOTE ON DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE DAYS 2016

Global ambition. Local action. Climate resilience for all.

UNFCCC COP 22 – MARRAKECH (NOV 12-13, 2016)

1. BACKGROUND

The 14th edition of Development & Climate Days (D&C Days) will take place on 12-13 November, 2016 at the UNFCCC COP22 in Morocco. This concept note provides an overview of the history of the event; the overall approach for organizing and executing D&C Days in 2016; key themes that will be addressed; and details on the partners who will be involved. This concept note serves as background information for organizations interested to join as partners and for anyone else looking for details on what can be expected at this year's event. A programme of D&C Days 2016 will be available online at www.climatecentre.org and continue to be updated as the event date nears.

Fourteen years ago, when the UNFCCC discourse was dominated by mitigation, a small group of scholars and practitioners saw the need to raise the visibility of the potential development consequences of climate change and the need for adaptation. Given the lack of a space to discuss that relevant topic within the COP process, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and partners convened the “Adaptation Day at COP 8”, held during the weekend between negotiating days at the COP, with a simple purpose: “to bring together scientists, experts, funders, practitioners and policymakers working on adaptation to climate change from around the world to share the latest developments and activities of the respective groups”. Over the past decade this IIED-initiated event has substantially evolved in substance (from “Adaptation Day” to “Adaptation and Development Days” to “Development and Climate Days”, or D&C Days), while retaining its reputation as a valued space for fruitful interactions among relevant stakeholders who otherwise wouldn't converge.

Discussions on adaptation have evolved tremendously. Adaptation is no longer a new topic struggling for attention and tangible support from the UNFCCC process. From being a side note in many National

Communications, adaptation has become a central topic for many developing countries, and now the question is not if, but how to link development planning with processes such as the National Adaptation Plans and the (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions. There is a wide set of practical experiences to draw from, and much more scientific and other knowledge to inform decisions. The IPCC, particularly through its Special Report on Extreme Events (IPCC 2012), stresses the role of risk management, which is reflected in adaptation practice. Risk management is also part of the ongoing UNFCCC discussions on loss and damage. More than ever, new questions related to adaptation, loss and damage and other aspects of climate and development require dialogue among a wide range of different actors – and the organizers of D&C Days recognize the opportunity the event offers for innovative approaches and inclusive dialogues.

Embracing a new approach, in 2012, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre took on the lead convening role for D&C Days from IIED, and today these two organisations continue to work in close collaboration with others to make the event happen. D&C days has developed over the years in a spirit of partnerships and recent editions of the event have brought in new and additional partners including the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN: 2013, 2014, 2015), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA: 2012, 2013), Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC: 2012, 2015), the Global Environment Facility (GEF: 2013), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI: 2014, 2015) and in a contributing role, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD: 2015). This emphasis on partnership is an essential feature for the success of D&C Days, requiring clarity on how different organisations can be involved in different ways.

2. OVERALL APPROACH

In 2016, we aim to continue with the innovative, dynamic format showcased over the past several years to create a space at the COP that links policy, knowledge and practice in ways that enable substantial learning and dialogue – all in an atmosphere designed to attract a diverse set of participants to define problems and seek common solutions. Given the widespread support [for innovative aspects of D&C Days 2015](#), we will retain the parallel sessions that offer space for focused, interactive dialogue, one surprise out-of-the-box session in plenary format (see more on last year’s [Taste the Change](#) session, an experiential approach to rethinking our climate choices through food), as well as the closing [high-level panel](#) and the [full programme](#).

Innovative formats that actively engage and challenge attendees, foster new relationships, incubate ideas, and ultimately lead to concrete shared next steps, have become the distinguishing hallmark of D&C Days as they serve as an effective approach to accelerate desired progress in bridging policy, knowledge and practice in development and climate issues. Examples of tried and tested D&C Days formats include:

- *Sharply moderated, interactive discussions*: sessions that directly involve the audience by eliciting positions and opinions on the spot (through oral statements, physical movement and/or technology-based data collection and sharing) rather than unidirectional power point presentations and panels;

- *Ignite/Ted-like presentations*: focus not on usual description of initiatives, but on emerging innovative frameworks that can shape thinking and action;
- *Games*: serious yet fun activities that combine competition and collaboration, where participants make individual decisions with collective consequences, inhabit the complexity of a range of plausible futures, and discover through experiential learning the likely trade-offs, feedbacks, delays and thresholds involving development and climate issues. This allows for data collection during the activity, which can in turn be used for analysis and dissemination via journal articles
- *Design*: using conference space, time and printed materials to create a more interactive, thought-provoking atmosphere. Options include:
 - *Poster exhibit on gender and climate*: Images and text aimed at stirring participant's perceptions and understanding of the issue
 - *Real-time sharing of insights*: if budget allows, we aim to create ways for crowdsourcing inputs from participants (for example tweeting questions for high-level session panelists, compiling decision choices during games through web interface that allows us to show on a projected screen data on distributions and patterns of behavior, a D&C Days Blog sharing audience input directly on a public website, etc)
 - *'Real-time' graphic illustrations* capturing discussion, dialogue, debate and new ideas emerging from sessions.
 - *Co-creation of communication materials in prototype form*, to distill the essence of relevant issues. In past D&C events participants worked together to create from tweets to [film storyboards](#).

3. KEY THEMES FOR 2016

In 2014 and 2015, Development & Climate Days centered on “Zero poverty. Zero emissions. Within a generation,” a theme conceived by then co-organizing partners, the Climate Centre, IIED, CDKN and ODI. This theme provided an opportunity to focus discussion on integration of global efforts to tackle climate change and poverty, aiming to set the world on a path to zero extreme poverty and zero net emissions.

Building on this zero-zero theme, D&C Days 2016 will focus on delivering on the Paris ambition through implementation of the Paris Agreement, through the tagline, “Global ambition. Local action. Climate resilience for all”. The role of local actors and local civil society in achieving the adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement will be emphasised.

Specifically, three tracks have been identified to guide programme planning:

1. Action towards the Paris ambition. This track will showcase and explore ambitious/remarkable efforts to generate and promote climate solutions that bridge and address mitigation and adaptation objectives. It considers practical and politically feasible measures that can be pursued by national level decision-makers, private sector leaders and practitioners toward low-carbon and climate resilient economies and societies. The track will identify national planning and regulatory frameworks

that address the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. It will explore what is working well and not so well. The track will identify lessons to take forward and inform future planning processes to ensure they are ambitious and realistic (e.g National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions). Sessions under this track could explore innovative strategies that catalyze climate leadership and action at all levels and address issues of:

- Climate justice;
- Loss and damage;
- Low carbon, climate resilient development.

2. Just and equitable decision-making for climate resilience. This track explores the role of local communities and civil society actors, as well as governments, donors and other stakeholders, in promoting transparency and accountability in decision-making so that the distribution of adaptation benefits and climate finance is equitable and just; as such, this theme will especially focus on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable. This track will also explore how climate finance for adaptation and resilience might better reach the local level and what is needed for this to go to scale. Sessions under this track could address issues of:

- Recognition, participation and (re)distribution for marginalised and displaced people in shaping climate responses;
- Measuring results at scale to inform channeling of finance to local level;
- Examining how local level interventions are integrated into national planning;
- Devolution agendas and local level involvement in adaptation planning and budgeting.

3. Managing climate risks in resilient development. This track examines the climate - humanitarian-development divide in efforts to increase resilience. We will explore promising approaches to bridge this gap including new collaborations, social policy, innovative finance mechanisms (such as forecast based financing), and environmental management approaches to climate adaptation (e.g. ecosystem-based adaptation). Sessions under this track could address issues of:

- Linking social protection provision with climate adaptation and humanitarian anticipatory response;
- Innovations for inclusive climate risk sharing and transfer;
- Collective action to reduce climate risks through ecosystem management;
- Good lessons from the El Nino response and other early warning early action approaches to bridging the humanitarian-development divide.

The importance of capacity building, engaging the private sector, and developing gender-responsive climate policies have been identified as cross-cutting issues for all three tracks.

4. OUTPUTS

In order to reach a broader audience, partner organizations commit to taking forward key D&C Days messages to relevant fora, networks and stakeholders so that actions and impact extend beyond the two-day side event.

This will be achieved through the production of the following outputs.

- Development & Climate Days event according to draft programme.
- Brief reports, blogs, videos and news articles and possibly journal article(s) on key discussion findings, including on a set of key themes explored throughout the D&C sessions, such as:
 - Building more confidence and ambition for implementation of the Paris Agreement, or;
 - The role of equity and inclusiveness in decision-making processes
- Participatory approaches for awareness raising, learning, and capacity building about climate and disaster risk management, and development
- A set of dialogue tools, including new climate games, freely available for wider use

5. ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Development and Climate Days in 2016 is a partnership between the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, IIED, IDRC, Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice, We Mean Business and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, and a few other agencies with a strong interest in innovations to bridge knowledge, policy and practice for climate resilience. Key local partners will include the Partners for Resilience programme (PFR), Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED), the World Resources Institute (WRI), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Action for Climate Today (ACT), the [Centre de Compétence Changement Climatique du Maroc](#) (4C Maroc) and the Moroccan Red Crescent. Interested organizations are welcome join in the capacity of contributing partners.

For more than a decade, the **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre** has established itself as a successful innovator bridging policy, knowledge and practice. It is recognized for its engagement in the UNFCCC process; its lead roles in the IPCC; its support to climate risk management practice in over 70 countries and the International Red Cross Red Crescent system; its partnerships with a range of academic institutions across the world, including highly successful young scholar programs; and its innovations in areas like serious games and financial instruments for science-based disaster preparedness.

International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is a policy and action research organisation. It promotes sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. IIED specialises in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with some of the world's most vulnerable people. It works with them to strengthen their voice

in the decision-making arenas that affect them — from village councils to international conventions like UNFCCC. For more information our work visit www.iied.org or follow @iied on twitter.

The **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** is a Canadian Crown corporation that funds research in developing countries to promote growth, reduce poverty, and drive large-scale positive change. IDRC has supported research on climate change adaptation for over a decade to better understand the implications of climate change, test innovative adaptation solutions and strengthen the capacity required for improved climate resilience. For more information visit www.idrc.ca/climatechange .

Hosted and managed by the World Bank, the **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery** is a global partnership that helps developing countries better understand and reduce their vulnerabilities to natural hazards and climate change. Working with local, national, regional, and international partners, GFDRR provides grant financing, technical assistance, training and knowledge sharing activities to mainstream disaster and climate risk management into development policies and investments. For more information visit www.gfdr.org.

The **Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice** is a centre for thought leadership, education and advocacy on the struggle to secure global justice for those people vulnerable to the impacts of climate change who are usually forgotten – the poor, the disempowered and the marginalised across the world. It is a platform for solidarity, partnership and shared engagement for all who care about global justice, whether as individuals and communities suffering injustice or as advocates for fairness in resource-rich societies. The Foundation provides a space for facilitating action on climate justice to empower the poorest people and countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable and people-centred development. For more information visit www.mrfcj.org.

The **We Mean Business** coalition brings together seven private-facing networks working with thousands of the world’s most influential businesses and investors to accelerate the transition to a thriving clean economy. Our common platform amplifies the business voice in shaping climate compatible policies; catalyzes bold climate action by companies across a range of GHG commitment areas; and works to change the climate change narrative from burden sharing to economic opportunity. To date we have emboldened 432 companies with over \$8tn in total revenue and 183 investors with over \$20tn in assets under management to make 1000 climate commitments. We have also worked with governments and civil society to build support for and the policy structures within the Paris Agreement. More information about our coalition is available from www.wemeanbusinesscoalition.org.

6. BRANDING

All key communication materials, such as fliers, banners, agenda and written reports, will be co-branded with the logos of the host organizers as well as contributing partners. This list can be

updated based on additional organizations or institutions that express interest to join in some form of partnership capacity. The weekend will likely be recognized as an official side event, ensuring the COP22 'label' features prominently on all materials and promoted as such. Final decisions on branding will be made by the Steering Group.

7. ORGANIZATION, IMPLEMENTATION AND DOCUMENTATION TEAM

As in years past, two working groups (WG) have been formed to guide planning and event implementation: a Central Planning Working Group; a Communications Working Group. These Working Groups include at least one representative from each of the host partner organizations. The Climate Centre chairs the Central Planning Working group, which defines the content and structure of the programme agenda including featured speakers and facilitators. In addition to these working groups, a dedicated Events Manager, is responsible for coordination of all budget and logistics-related matters and will request support from the two working groups on relevant matters, as needed. The Events Manager liaises closely with key local partners.

The development of participatory processes & materials and preparation of outcome products (as listed above) will also be coordinated by the Climate Centre staff members. In 2015, the Applied Improvisation Network contributed to enhancing the interactive elements of the programme and it is our intention to engage this network again for D&C Days in Marrakech.