

UN HABITAT CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

March 2012

Youth Caravan to COP17 in Durban, South Africa: UN-Habitat CCCI Youth Participate in Historic Event

UN-Habitat through its Cities and Climate Change Initiative facilitated the participation of several youth from CCCI cities in a Youth Caravan for climate justice that kicked-off in Nairobi, Kenya on 7 November 2011 with a grand musical concert held at the Memorial Park in the centre of the city.

The Youth Caravan travelled through 4 African countries to reach Durban, South Africa on 23 November 2011 for the UNFCCC 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17). The caravan, organized by the "We Have Faith" campaign, brought together faith-based organizations, community-based organizations and youth movements from across the world to demand action on climate change as well as propose options and solutions.

The Youth Caravan travelled by road through the African countries carrying the message of climate justice and the young participants used music, dance and drama to create awareness about climate change and COP17. The youth also shared community initiatives on climate change, met with stakeholders in different countries and amplified the voice of young people throughout the continent.

The caravan completed its journey with a final performance at the King's Park Stadium in Durban with approximately 1,000 youth performing in a mass choir together with luminaries, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the former president of Ireland Mary Robinson. At this final rally, a petition from the youth urging world leaders and climate change negotiators to ensure a just and legally binding climate treaty was handed over to the incoming COP17 President Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres.



Handing over of youth petition for climate justice ©ACT Alliance/Sonali Fernando

Tweets from the Youth Caravan (twitter.com/Havefaithactnow)

@Havefaithactnow
after 2 years of planning, the road to Durban is finally here!
1:22 PM - 7 Nov 11

160 youth from #Kenya #Uganda #Botswana #Rwanda #Nigeria #Senegal #SA #Zambia #Norway #Canada #USA #Bangladesh
1:32 PM - 7 Nov 11

DAY-7 #LILONGWE,MALAWI climate concert.6 overland trucks.
12:31 PM - 13 Nov 11

#WHFCARAVAN calls on world leaders to commit to a fair and legally binding agreement from the coming #COP17
9:22 PM - 21 Nov 11

African #youth caravan travelled through 4 countries, 4000+ miles from Nairobi to get to #coy7. United from 19 countries for #climate justice

12:19 PM - 25 Nov 11

@desmondututu receives petitions collected throughout the #WHFCARAVAN
4:32 PM - 27 Nov 11

#MaryRobinson the first woman president of Ireland at the #interfaithrally.
5:39 PM - 27 Nov 11

Incoming president of #cop17 highlights the petitions she received yesterday
12:38 PM - 28 Nov 11

#youth caravan back home #luncheon prepared. Welcome all.
7:04 AM - 16 Dec 11

Thirteen Urban Districts in Rwanda Sign Up for Making Cities Resilient Campaign

In a 'One UN' style collaboration, three UN agencies and initiatives, UN-Habitat, the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), recently converged on Kigali, Rwanda, to introduce Rwandese urban districts to the 'Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!' Campaign. And local officials responded enthusiastically by signing up to the campaign.

The conference took place in Kigali, Rwanda, on 25 January 2012, under the auspices of the Ministry of Disaster Response and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) with which UN-Habitat holds an agreement of cooperation funded

by the Cities and Climate Change Initiative. The Permanent Secretary of MIDIMAR, Mr. Antoine Ruvebena, opened the conference by urging local leaders to put into action plans to ensure the resilience of their districts. Local officials recounted some of the natural disasters with which they must contend, with events influenced by climate change such as flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rains topping the list.

UN-Habitat discussed how the costs of disasters in urban areas are skyrocketing, due in part to poor building practices and inappropriate land use planning, and discussed approaches to increase urban resilience. A representative of CADRI advised that, as of mid-January 2012, some 962 cities and local authorities had signed up to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. She then invited break-out groups to begin to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their own districts in terms of the Campaign's 'Ten-point checklist – essentials for making cities resilient'. The checklist for this Cam-

paign, to which UN-Habitat is an official partner, includes items such as risk-compliant building regulations, land use planning and slum upgrading that lie at the core of UN-Habitat's mandate. The conference closed with a ceremony during which elected officials from 13 urban districts signed up to the Campaign.

Next steps to be supported by CCCI will include more detailed facilitated self-diagnostics in representative urban districts, to be carried out in order to get a better sense of local capabilities and priorities. This will be followed by targeted capacity-building for local officials that will focus in on one or two of the 'ten essentials' where felt need is the greatest, most likely in the area of environmentally sound urban planning that can help to build resilience in the face of a changing climate.

Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Esmeraldas

On 28th November 2011, the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Esmeraldas was officially presented to the city of Esmeraldas by its Mayor, Ernesto Estupiñán, the Habitat Programme Manager in Ecuador, Monica Quintana, together with the Municipality team, civil society and academia representatives.

The Strategy is the result of a large participatory process with the citizens of Esmeraldas, when was identified the climate change related hazards which can potentially affect the city, as well as the key areas for action for city planning and governance. It is also the result of the joint effort of the local government together with the population of Esmeraldas to prepare and adapt to the challenges and local impacts of a changing climate.

The local authority has reaffirmed the political will to integrate tools to guide the local urban planning considering the climate



Mayor of Esmeraldas presenting new climate change strategy ©Diario La Hora

change impacts and potential physical, social, environmental and economic risks. The Strategy is considering two strategic objectives: 1) to limit and the reduce the GHG emissions by building a green city, 2) to reduce social, economic and environmental vulnerability of the existing resources to face the climate change challenges. The Strategy contributed to the design of the new urban plan for the Canton of Es-

meraldas (Plan de Desarrollo y Ordenamiento Territorial - PDOT) and in particular to its chapter on environmental resources.

The new urban plan, PDOT, was adopted by the city council on the 28th November 2011. This plan includes the strategies, programmes and projects which will guide the political action and local governance for the coming years.

UN-Habitat and EC Ink Agreement for Urban-LEDS Project with ICLEI as Main Implementing Partner

UN-Habitat and the European Commission (EC) have signed an agreement to begin a new project that encourages cities to lower their emissions as they grow. The international local government member association, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, will serve as the main implementing partner.

The 'Promoting Urban Low-Emissions Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries' Project responds to the European Commission's priority objective of climate change mitigation. It recognises the fact that cities emit a large proportion of the world's greenhouse gases and can take decisive steps to reduce emissions as they expand. This EUR 6.7 million project will run from 1 March 2012 to 31 August 2015.

Upon signing the agreement with the EC, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Dr. Joan Clos, remarked: "The post-World War II trends for urban growth are simply not sustainable. The city of the 21st century must be equitable, environ-



Non-motorised transport in Delhi ©UN-Habitat/John Hogan

mentally sustainable and prosperous. Through urban low-emissions development strategies that promote improved urban planning, mobility, energy, water and solid waste management, this project will allow us to promote more sustainable patterns for urban development. It will also offer a platform for cities to share their experiences and lessons with other cities around the world, and advocate for policies that better address climate change in urban areas."

This global initiative will work primarily in four emerging economy countries: Brazil, South Africa, India and Indonesia. In each of those countries, the project will help two model cities to formulate and adopt Urban Low-

Emissions Development Strategies, and then share those experiences with five satellite cities.

At the same time the project will facilitate a broader interaction between local authorities and global climate actors, to ensure that local governments are appropriately integrated into the global climate mitigation regime. The project will help to ensure that the promotion, recognition, recording, verification and integration of actions taken by cities to reduce emissions is enhanced.

The Project Steering Committee will meet for the first time on 18 March 2012, in Bonn, Germany.

Mid-Term Evaluation of CCCI is Under Way

In December 2011, UN-Habitat launched the mid-term evaluation of the Cities and Climate Change Initiative. This review will offer the 3 ½ year old initiative a fresh perspective, to ensure that it is developing along the most productive lines.

Mr. Tom Wolters, an independent consultant, is leading the mid-term evaluation. So as to sample the broad range of countries and circumstances where CCCI is active, Mr. Wolters will be assisted in this evaluation by consultants from three countries: Ecuador (Esmeral-

das), Uganda (Kampala), and Sri Lanka (Negombo and Batticaloa). Those consultants will facilitate workshops with stakeholders in their respective countries to discuss progress. In addition Mr. Wolters plans personal visits to pilot cities in two other CCCI countries, the Philippines and Rwanda, and 'e-consultations' with partners and stakeholders in yet other countries.

The evaluation team expects to present and discuss findings with global stakeholders in a workshop later this year. The final report will be posted at www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

3rd Resilient Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation Bonn, 12-15 May 2012

Preceding and during the UN Bonn Climate Change Conference, this third 'Resilient Cities' Forum will again be con-

vened by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the City of Bonn and World Mayors Council on Climate Change. Representatives from local governments, UN and international agencies, national governments, financial and insurance institutions, the urban infrastructure indus-

try and non-governmental organisations will converse with city planners, urban researchers, consultants and academics about urban climate change adaptation.

For more information visit <http://resilient-cities.iclei.org>.

PUBLICATIONS

Promising Practices on Climate Change in Urban Sub-Saharan Africa

This new compendium presents a series of promising practices in Sub-Saharan African cities that take into account the multiple dimensions of climate change. The feature practices cover four main topics: (1) major roles for gender, youth and business; (2) adaptation: infrastructure, slums and deserts; (3) how coastal cities face up to climate change; and (4) enhancing and spreading awareness of climate change. Through sharing and learning across cities, it is hoped that these practices will eventually come to be considered as 'best'.

The compendium will be available via the CCCI webpage at www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

Making Carbon Markets Work for Your City

Part of CCCI's tool series for local government officials and urban professionals in developing countries, this publication seeks to enhance the capacity of local government officials to initiate, develop and manage greenhouse gas reduction projects, and to obtain the carbon financing they need. It also explains to local governments that although there are many barriers to launching and implementing such projects, there are also many advantages and opportunities to be derived.

This tool will be available via the CCCI webpage at www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

Developing Local Climate Change Plans

Also part of CCCI's series, this new tool provides local policy-makers and major stakeholders with a methodology to plan for climate change. Process-based and vision-oriented, the methodology focuses on four major stages of a climate change response: gathering and analysing information; strategic planning; developing adaptation and mitigation projects; and monitoring and evaluation. The tool provides a broad framework that can be adapted into an appropriate set of responses for a variety of towns and cities.

This tool will be available via the CCCI webpage at www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

ABOUT US

Headquartered at UN-Habitat in Nairobi, the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) involves the participation of more than 20 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 undertaking mitigation and adaptation activities. Since 2008, CCCI has been generously supported by the Government of Norway, the United

Nations Development Account, the Cities Alliance, the Government of Sweden and other sources of global, regional, national and local funding. Newsletters of the Cities and Climate Change Initiative are periodically published electronically. For more information, or to be added to our mailing list, contact updb@unhabitat.org or visit www.unhabitat.org/ccci.

CCCI Cities and Countries

