

Building Capacities of Local Governments in Africa To Cope with Climate Change:

**Project Launch &
African Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit
Pretoria, South Africa, 28-31 July 2009**

AIDE-MEMOIRE

1. Background

The impacts of climate change are increasing the vulnerability of urban poor in developing countries. Human settlements in Africa will be among the most affected. There is a need to adapt to climate change at the local level, as well as to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases. However the resilience of local governments to climate change is low, as local authorities very often do not have the skills and capacities to respond to the challenges.

UN-Habitat, based on its long-lasting experience in increasing capacities at the local level, will help to address this problem through its project “Building Capacities of Local Governments in Africa to cope with Climate Change”. This project will enhance the collaboration between cities and the national level in order to improve the synergies and links between climate change policies at the different levels, to support climate change networks for an improved cooperation and policy dialogue on mitigation and adaptation to climate change in Africa. To this end, among other activities we will: organize one partners meeting, publish good practices and develop a climate change action handbook for local decision-makers and planners. The project will be linked to existing and new projects within UN-Habitat (e.g., SUD-Net and collaborate with the Cities Alliance and the Lake Victoria initiatives among others..

The project aims to develop the capacities of local government and their citizens to better cope with the effects of climate change at the local level. The project will be implemented in five countries and cities in Africa:

- Burkina Faso (Bobo-Dioulasso)
- Kenya (Mombasa)
- Namibia (Walvis Bay)
- Rwanda (Kigali)
- Senegal (Saint Louis)

The project will be executed over 2 years. The ultimate goal is to contribute to achieving MDG Goals Nos. 1 and 7.

In parallel with this initiative, UN-Habitat is supporting the active engagement of local governments in developing countries around the world in events leading up to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, to be held in December of this year in Copenhagen. A key element of the process is a series of regional Pre-Copenhagen local government summit meetings. To this end UN-HABITAT CCCI partners will join the ICLEI (Africa) regional summit meeting for Africa which will be held in South Africa at the end of July 2009. The aim of the summit is:

To mobilize African Local Governments, to build consensus and capacity, to understand the process and to join efforts towards a strong and global post-2012 climate agreement. This is done through developing a common, participatory position(s) by Local Governments on their contribution(s) and future role in a post-2012 climate agreement.

2. Development Objectives

The convening of the Africa Local Government Pre-Copenhagen Summit in South Africa at the very moment when UN-Habitat wishes to take the opportunity to bring together the participating cities to:

- 1) launch its “Building Capacities of Local Governments in Africa to Cope with Climate Change” project, and establish a common understanding of the programme objectives and implementation arrangements on 28 July 2009.
- 2) establish a link and collaboration with ICLEI (Africa) and partners in preparation for COP15 through active participation in the Africa Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit on July 29-31, 2009. Vigorous participation of African local governments in this event will lead to a stronger African position coming out of the summit.

There are considerable synergies between these two objectives and events. On the one hand, exposing representatives of the CCCI cities to the global Climate Change Roadmap process will help them to become more informed and energized advocates for addressing the urban face of climate change in their own countries. At the same time the CCCI cities, through their experiences to date with the CCCI, have become relatively familiar with the issue of climate change. They thus will be in a good position to exert a leadership role at the Pre-Copenhagen Summit, leading to a strengthened African position.

3. Expected Outputs

The main expected outputs of the two events are as follows:

- ✓ Heightened understanding by local officials and stakeholders about the scope of the project, and increased clarity on the part of all participants about the roles of each and the next steps in implementation.
- ✓ *Local Government Pre-Copenhagen Summit* – increased capacity of participants regarding the local government dimension of climate change, and development of a draft African Declaration.

4. Methodology

The meeting of the 28 July will be conducted through presentations and facilitated discussions in a roundtable format. The Pre-Copenhagen Summit will be carried out through presentations, as well as small group and plenary discussions.

5. Participants

The expected participants will be as follows:

Burkina Faso

- Mayor of Bobo-Dioulasso
- Habitat Programme Manager (HPM)
- Technical officer - Government

Kenya

- Mayor of Mombasa
- Town Clerk of Mombasa Municipal Council
- ALGAK

Namibia

- Mayor of Walvis Bay
- HPM

Rwanda

- Director General, Rwanda Environmental Management Agency
- Mayor of Kigali
- HPM

Senegal

- Government Representative
- Mayor of Saint Louis
- HPM

Mozambique

- Mayor of Maputo
- HPM
- Technical leader

Uganda

- Mayor of Kampala
- HPM
- Technical leader

Others to be invited to the meeting of 28 July 2009 include:

South Africa

- South Africa Cities Network
- SALGA
- Durban
- Cape Town

Lake Victoria Region:

- LVRLC

ICLEI

- ICLEI Representative

UNEP

- Staff member

UN-HABITAT

- UES
- UES
- ROAAS
- HPM South Africa.

6. Organizers of the Events

UN-Habitat will organize the 28 July meeting at the same venue for the Pre-Copenhagen Summit (29-31 July) with input from UN-Habitat Programme Manager in South Africa. The HPM will liaise with the organizers for the Summit to ensure synergetic linkages and maximize the outcome of the four days in Pretoria..

7. Programmes

The tentative outline for the 28 July Meeting:

27 July	Arrival of Participants	
Time	Activity	Responsibility
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	--
9:00 – 9:10	Introduction and welcome remarks	Facilitator
	<i>Module 1 – Climate change and cities</i>	
9:10 – 9:30	Introduction to climate change & how it is affecting cities around the world	UN-Habitat
9:30 – 10:00	How climate change is affecting your city: two case studies (Kampala and Maputo, with Power Point, 15 minutes each)	Kampala and Maputo
10:00 – 10:40	How climate change may be affecting your city: Preliminary thoughts five cities (8 min. each)	Mayor participants
10:40 – 11:00	Discussion	Facilitator
11:00 – 11:20	-- Tea break --	
	<i>Module 2 – Country Perspective / Introduction to the participating Cities</i>	
11:20 – 11:40	How your country sees the climate change issue: examples of Rwanda and Senegal (up to 10 minutes each)	Environmental ministers
11:40 am – 12:30 pm	Introduction to “Building Capacities of Local Governments in Africa to Cope with Climate Change” Project: scope, etc.	UN-Habitat
12:30 – 1:00	Questions and answers	Facilitator
1:00 – 2:00	-- Lunch --	
	<i>Module 3 – Cities working together with UN-Habitat</i>	
2:00 – 2:05	Introduction to the afternoon session	UN-Habitat
2:05 – 3:20	Preliminary thoughts on how UN-Habitat can work with your city and country (15 min. each for each of the five cities/countries)	Representatives from 5 countries
3:20 – 3:30	Feedback & discussion	UN-Habitat
3:30 – 3:40	Way Forward	UN-Habitat
3:40 – 4:00	-- Tea Break --	
	<i>Module 4 – Cities and Copenhagen</i>	
4:00 – 4:20	Preview of the African Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit	ICLEI
4:20 – 4:30	Discussion	Facilitator
4:30 – 4:45	Closure	UN-Habitat

The preliminary outline for the Africa Local Government Climate Roadmap Pre-Copenhagen Summit is attached as Annex A.

VENUE: Southern Sun Hotel, Arcadia, Tshwane (Pretoria)

Annex

A. Program for Africa Local Government Climate Roadmap