

A. INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND POLICY NEWS

1. World Conference on Disaster Reduction

1 (i) WCDR Outcomes

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), 18-22 January 2005, adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action, prioritising the reduction of disaster risk factors, including climate change. The inclusion of climate change as a risk factor was reflected in the documentation under 4.i.c:

"Promote the integration of risk reduction associated with existing climate variability and future climate change into strategies for the reduction of disaster risk and adaptation to climate change, which would include the clear identification of climate related disaster risks, the design of specific risk reduction measures and an improved and routine use of climate risk information by planners, engineers and other decision-makers."

In addition, on resource mobilisation, States agreed to mainstream disaster risk reduction measures appropriately into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes including those related to poverty reduction, natural resource management, urban development and adaptation to climate change (Section IV, item F).

The IATF Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction, with the ISDR secretariat, will contribute to and support partners in the implementation of the relevant Hyogo Framework of Action recommendations.

MORE: The conference report, the full text of the Hyogo Framework of Action and the reports of all thematic sessions and roundtables can be viewed at <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/>

The Earth Negotiations Bulletin's daily and summary reports of the WCDR can be found at: <http://www.iisd.ca/isdr/wcdr/>

1 (ii) Thematic Session on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation

Under the WCDR thematic segment, *Governance, Institutional and Policy Frameworks for Risk Reduction*, session 1.7 focused on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. A discussion paper entitled 'Disaster Risk Management in a Changing Climate', presented on behalf of the Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group (VARG) highlighted the need to build a more programmatic and comprehensive risk management approach that addresses disaster and climate risks, incorporating these concerns into the development process. Commentators pointed out the need to improve the dissemination of information to those most vulnerable and to incorporate prevention measures into daily life.

MORE: A report of the session can be viewed at: <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/thematic-sessions/cluster1.htm#c1-7>

For more information on the paper presented by VARG, see Publications below.

1 (iii) Early warning at the WCDR

People-centered early warning, an important adaptation tool, was discussed during the WCDR in a special session, when the International Early Warning Programme was launched.

MORE: The report of the session can be viewed at: <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/thematic-sessions/thematic-reports/report-session-2-7.pdf>

For more information on the Programme see: <http://www.unisdr.org/ppew/iewp/IEWP-brochure.pdf>

2. UNFCCC COP-10 and SBSTA-21

2 (i) UNFCCC COP-10 Outcomes

The tenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP-10) to the UNFCCC, 6-17 December 2004, adopted the Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures (decision 1/CP.10). The Programme includes further scientific assessments of vulnerabilities and options for adaptation, support to the National Action Plans on Adaptation of least developed countries (LDCs), new workshops and technical papers on various aspects of climate change risk and adaptation and support for mainstreaming adaptation into sustainable development planning.

The Parties to the UNFCCC were unable to reach agreement on the LDC Fund, however, specifically on co-financing requirements and on the funding of activities that are primarily development-oriented but with a climate-adaptation component. The Parties thus forwarded discussions to SBI-22. The COP also asked the UNFCCC secretariat to convene a seminar of governmental experts, to be held 16-17 May in Bonn, which will host an informal exchange on actions relating to mitigation and adaptation to assist Parties to continue to develop effective and appropriate responses to climate change, among other agenda items.

MORE: The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin's* summary of COP-10 can be viewed at: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb12260e.pdf>

2 (ii) SBSTA-21 Side Event on Adaptation

The 21st session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) met during COP-10 and addressed the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change. The UNFCCC secretariat prepared a side event on 7 December to inform Parties about progress made by the secretariat in the collection and dissemination of methods and tools to assess impacts, vulnerability and adaptation; present the updated UNFCCC Adaptation Compendium; and share experiences on ways to collect and disseminate information on methods, tools and selection of appropriate methodologies for assessment.

The UNFCCC secretariat also prepared a background paper on the topic. ISDR contributed to the paper and the side event.

MORE: All side-event presentations may be viewed at:
http://unfccc.int/adaptation/methodologies_for/vulnerability_and_adaptation/items/3359.php
 The UNFCCC compendium of adaptation methods and tools can be viewed at:
http://unfccc.int/adaptation/methodologies_for/vulnerability_and_adaptation/items/2674.php
 The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin's* coverage of the event can be found at: <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop10/enbots/7dec.html>

2 (iii) Development and Adaptation Days at COP-10

The 'Development and Adaptation Days at COP-10' event was organized by IIED in collaboration with the Regional and International Networking Group (RING) to raise the profile of adaptation and its linkages to development concerns, with a particular focus on the effects of climate change on the world's poor. The event included a session on food security and disaster planning, which focused on overcoming knowledge gaps, local initiatives to reduce vulnerability, current and expected food shortages in Africa and the need for donors to prioritise the issue.

MORE: For the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin's* summary report, see: <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop10/dad/>
 For additional coverage and photos, see: http://www.iied.org/docs/climate/Dev_Apt_Bul.pdf

2 (iv) Other COP-10 Side Events

ISDR and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness hosted a side event on 10 December entitled 'Disaster Reduction and Climate Change Opportunities for Synergy' at COP-10. After an introduction by Michael Zammit Cutajar (Malta), Madeleen Helmer (Red Cross) presented on the integration of climate risk in community based disaster reduction from a Red Cross/Red Crescent experience. Ian Noble (World Bank), representing the VARG secretariat, highlighted the similarities and differences of managing hazard risks and adapting to climate change; Svein Tveitdal (UNEP) presented on UNEP's experience in synergising disaster reduction and climate change issues; and John Harding (ISDR secretariat) discussed disaster risk reduction priorities including early warning and other climate-related resilience building.

MORE: More information can be found in the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin's* coverage of the event:
<http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop10/enbots/10dec.html>

3. International Meeting to Review the Barbados Plan of Action (BPOA+10)

The BPOA review process held its final meeting, 10-14 January 2005 in Mauritius, and adopted the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which contains specific recommendations on climate change and disasters risk.

MORE: For more information, see the Mauritius Strategy: http://www.un.org/smallislands2005/pdf/sids_strategy.pdf
 The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin's* coverage of the event: <http://www.iisd.ca/sids/IM/>

4. CBD New Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity created a new ad hoc technical expert group on biological diversity and climate change. The group will undertake a supplementary assessment of the integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of climate change adaptation activities, as well as prepare guidance for use in planning or implementing adaptation and mitigation activities that link adaptation to climate change, biodiversity conservation, land degradation and desertification.

MORE: For the group's terms of reference, see: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-10/official/sbstta-10-18-en.pdf>

5. CSD-13

The thirteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-13) was held 11-22 April in New York. It addressed the theme of water, sanitation and human settlements. One of the negotiated outcomes is a text on interlinkages and cross-cutting issues. In particular, the text calls for devising water, sanitation, and human settlements policies and actions addressing the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters, and indicates several relevant actions.

MORE: For the advance unedited version of the text, see: http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/csd13/csd13_decision_unedited.pdf
 For the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin's* summary: <http://www.iisd.ca/csd/csd13/>

B. RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

6 (i) Disaster Risk Management in a Changing Climate

This paper is the result of a consultative VARG process on the links between disaster risk reduction and climate change, and calls for a comprehensive risk management approach.

MORE: Sperling, F., F. Szekely (2005) 'Disaster Risk Management in a Changing Climate' Informal discussion paper prepared for the WCDR on behalf of VARG: Washington, D.C.

6 (ii) Special Issue of Disasters

A special issue of Disasters on climate change and disasters will be published in September 2005. The special issue will be edited by Thea Hillhorst (Wageningen University) and Madleen Helmer (Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre).

MORE: Contact Thea Hillhorst, Thea.Hilhorst@wur.nl

6 (iii) Id21

This issue of Id21 (No. 53) edited by Declan Conway, University of East Anglia, addresses 'Securing development in the face of climate change'. Briefs address the interaction between development needs and the impacts of climate change.

MORE: All briefs can be accessed at: <http://www.id21.org/insights/insights53/insights-iss53-art00.html>

6 (iv) Responding to Life's Change Shores: The Challenge of Transition and Adaptation Following the Tsunami

Marcus Moench (ISET) discusses next options for those whose livelihoods have been destroyed by the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. He describes the event as a "death knell for ways of life that have existed for millennia".

MORE: The article can be downloaded at:
<http://www.disasterdiplomacy.org/MarcusMoenchTransitionAdaptation.rtf>

7. Online and Internet Resources

7 (i) Linking Climate Adaptation Network

The LCA Network aims to put practitioners, stakeholders, researchers, NGOs and policymakers working on climate adaptation issues in touch with each other in order to facilitate staying abreast of climate adaptation research and practises from around the globe. By using the LCA Network email discussion group, members of the Network will be able to share insights and experiences of implementing climate adaptation - whether at project, programme or national and international policy levels.

Discussion will centre on the following topics: adaptation projects and experience with implementation; upcoming adaptation workshops and conferences; new research or publications; news and views relating to climate adaptation; and questions, concerns and comments about policy issues that might benefit from a LCA Network discussion.

MORE: An archive of the discussions is available online at:
<http://community.eldis.org/lca/>
 To subscribe to LCA, send an email to lyris@lyris.ids.ac.uk with the first line "subscribe lca".

7 (ii) Scholarly and Factual Analyses of the Indian Ocean Tsunami

This site includes links to articles on a range of topics related to the disaster, including: demography (demography, population studies); disaster studies (analyses of disasters as complex events); domestic politics; meta view (philosophy of the society, economy and government); money (finances, economics); international politics (international politics; strategic matters); religion (religious matters); security (military and state security matters) and situation reports (field data).

MORE: The analyses can be found at:
<http://www.ciolek.com/WWWVLPages/AsiaPages/Tsunami-Analyses-2a.html>

C. UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2005

MAY

8. Twenty-Second Sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies to the UNFCCC

The 22nd sessions of the UN Framework Convention to Climate Change's subsidiary bodies will be held from 19-27 May in Bonn, Germany. Adaptation and risk related issues on the agenda include a discussion on scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change, as well as on the Special Climate Change Fund. In addition, a number of side-events will be held in Bonn:

8 (i) Disaster Risk Management in a Changing Climate

VARG will host a side-event on the interlinkages between disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. The event will draw on the discussion paper prepared by Sperling, F., F. Szekely (see above) and the recent outcomes of the WCDR. Presenters and commentators include Frank Sperling, World Bank; Madleen Helmer, Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness; and Reid Basher, UN/ISDR. The event will be held on Thursday, 19 May 2005, 18:00-20:00, in the Solar room.

8 (ii) Toolkits for Adaptation to Climate Change

The World Bank will hold a presentation and discussion of several toolkits to assist in planning for adaptation to climate change. The event will feature presentations by the World Bank, IISD, SEI and others on Saturday, 21 May 2005, 13:00-15:00, in the Solar room.

8 (iii) Linking Climate Adaptation: Lessons for Mainstreaming Climate Adaptation

The Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex (IDS) and International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) will present research results from a UK DFID-funded project analysing how community-led adaptation to climate change can be supported. Researchers from China, India, Bangladesh, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Senegal will present findings of six case studies, followed by a discussion, on Saturday, 21 May 2005, 15:30-17:30, in the Solar room.

9. IATF/DR-11 Meeting of the Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

The 11th session of the Inter-agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction will be held in Geneva on 24-26 May 2005. On 25 May, 9:00-11:30, the Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction will hold a meeting to discuss concrete next steps for its work plan. The Working Group was set up by the IATF to highlight the links between reducing vulnerabilities to disasters and climate change adaptation.

MORE: Contact Silvia Llosa, ISDR secretariat, Tel: +41-22-917-2839, Email: llosa@un.org.

JUNE

10. International Work-Conference on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

This conference will be held from 21-24 June 2005, in the Hague, the Netherlands, and aims to bring together practitioners, policy makers and scientists from various communities disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, as well as development and humanitarian organisations. The goal is to share experiences and foster co-operation in the new area of climate risk management, which requires a truly joint effort.

Four simultaneous workshops will be held on: (1) Community based climate adaptation/disaster risk reduction programmes, lessons learned from the first experiences in developing countries; (2) Methods and tools for climate risk reduction; (3) Financing weather and climate related risks; and (4) Linking community climate risk reduction programmes with national and international programmes and policies.

MORE: Contact Madeleen Helmer, Head, Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, +31-70-44-55-703, Email: mhelmer@redcross.nl.

OCTOBER

11. International Conference: Climate or Development?

This conference will be held from 28-29 October 2005 in Hamburg, Germany and is sponsored by the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWA). The conference will address the questions: Is there a hidden relationship between poverty alleviation and climate policy in developing countries? Or is there simply too little scope for directly poverty-oriented activities? Is poverty alleviation simply a lip service of development policy while other policies, in the interest of private CDM investors or local climate negotiators dominate in practice? Which kind of interests could be involved and could one imagine institutional structures, both within developing countries and at the level of donor agencies that would foster a true synergy between climate policy and poverty alleviation? Which would be the climate policy related activities which could create most synergies? Does the CDM in its current practice really foster development? How can adaptation reach the poor? To what extent is cooperation in climate policy truly additional to other development finance?

Papers are invited for submission before 31 May.

MORE: For more information, contact Heike Kern, email heike.kern@hwwa.de.

D. SUPPORTERS

12. IATF Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction

DR+CC Infolink is a product of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR) Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction. The IATF/DR is the principal body for the development of disaster reduction policy within the United Nations system, which includes UN, international, regional and civil society organizations. At its ninth session, the IATF/DR established the Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction toward the goal of greater integration between approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster reduction. The Working Group is co-chaired by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO), with the support of the ISDR secretariat, and includes the following members:

- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)
- Inter-Governmental Authority for Development, Horn of Africa (IGAD)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
- Tearfund
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- United Nations University (UNU)
- World Bank

13. Thank you to this issue's contributors

- Hannah Reid, International Institute for Environment and Development
- Lisa Schipper, International Water Management Institute
- Frank Sperling, World Bank

To contribute to next issue of DR+CC Infolink, please send brief updates and information to DRCCinfolink@un.org
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 The information and opinions expressed in DR+CC Infolink do not necessarily reflect the policies of the IATF Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction.