

**CONCEPT NOTE ON
DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE DAYS
UNFCCC COP21 – PARIS (DEC 5-6, 2015)**

Venue: [L'Usine, 379 Avenue du President Wilson, 93210, La Plaine Saint Denis, Paris, France](#)

Approx. 150 participants

BACKGROUND

The first two-day “Development and Climate Days” (now best known by its acronym *D&C Days*) was held at COP10 in Buenos Aires. Ever since, D&C Days has taken place annually in the middle weekend of the UNFCCC COPs. The 10th-anniversary D&C Days at COP18 in Doha was the first to be organized by the [Climate Centre](#), in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development ([IIED](#)), the Climate and Development Knowledge Network ([CDKN](#)), with generous support from the International Development Research Centre ([IDRC](#)).

The focus in the Qatari capital was “innovative approaches and incisive dialogue on climate-smart development”, and D&C Days there included negotiators and policy-makers, experts from knowledge centres and development practitioners. Feedback was positive; the Climate Centre’s design for the following year’s event in Warsaw concentrated on strengthening these elements and on close partnerships with the Global Environment Facility ([GEF](#)) and the IIED to attract a greater diversity of participants.

The COP19 event, explored the potential for establishing innovative approaches for learning and dialogue as a standard operating procedure for all landmark conferences on climate and development. The Climate Centre jointly facilitated Day 1 in Warsaw with the GEF and Day 2 with IIED.

D&C Days at COP 20 took place in its regular slot at the halfway stage of the UN talks during 6-7 December 2014 in the Peruvian capital, Lima. For the first time, the event embraced the idea of “Zero poverty. Zero emissions. Within a generation” a theme conceived by the co-organizing partners, the Climate Centre, IIED and CDKN and the Overseas Development Institute ([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.

OVERALL APPROACH to COP21

In 2015, we aim to continue with the innovative, dynamic format showcased previously to create a space at the COP that links policy, knowledge and practice in a way that enables substantial learning and dialogue. In an atmosphere designed to attract a diverse set of participants seeking to find joint solutions. Given the widespread support for innovative aspects of D&C Days 2014, we will retain the parallel sessions that offer space for focused, interactive dialogue, a serious game session in plenary format, as well as the high-level panel. In addition, we intend to use additional innovative formats that

actively engage and challenge attendees, foster new relationships, incubate ideas, and ultimately lead to concrete shared next steps, accelerate desired progress in bridging policy, knowledge and practice in development and climate issues.

Examples 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 competitive activities 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:
 - o *Poster exhibit on gender and climate*: Images and text aimed at stirring participant's perceptions and understanding of the issue
 - o *Badges*: instead of the usual (just name and affiliation), we would create a conversation-triggering set of badges based on brief text that each participant submits during online registration, identifying what people have in common with other participants, as well as what distinguishes each one from the rest.
 - o *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)

OUTPUTS

- Development & Climate meetings according to draft programme in annex 1.
- Brief reports on key discussion findings, including on a set of key themes explored throughout the D&C sessions, such as:
 - o Reinvigorating climate and development visions and processes
 - o Rethinking the integration of climate and poverty reduction goals
 - o Participatory approaches for awareness raising, learning, and capacity building about climate and development
- A set of dialogue tools, including new climate games, freely available for wider use

ANNEX 1: DRAFT PROGRAMME

In 2015 “Development & Climate Days” will be a partnership between the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, IIED, CDKN, IDRC and ODI.

Purpose of the event

To convene international policymakers, scientists and development practitioners around the goal of bringing zero net emissions and poverty (“zero zero”) within reach. This innovative, and widely-anticipated event will provide attendees with the space to engage in tough dialogue with peers as well as participate in multiple networking and participatory learning opportunities.