



## Development & Climate days

**Global ambition.**

**Local action.**

Climate resilience for all.

#DCdays17

*Over the last decade, Development & Climate Days (D&C Days) has built a reputation for providing stimulating and interactive debate of topics and issues at the interface of development and climate change during the middle weekend of the UN climate change talks.*

*This year the host partners have elaborated a strategic plan to contribute to the achievement of the Paris Ambition and seek to do this by bringing evidence into dialogues aimed at influencing key stakeholders – the private sector, the climate negotiators and the climate adaptation community.*

*This year's Development & Climate Days explored four evidenced themes. Over two days, more than 450 participants from the grassroots to policy makers discussed and debated these issues through a respectful and lively dialogue and together arrived at key messages that we will share at targeted events during the second week of COP23 and beyond.*

# Key messages from Development & Climate Days 2017

## 1 Resilience through empowerment and access

**This theme explored effective pathways to address poverty and climate vulnerability and manage climate risk, and considered how engagement in decision making, equitable access to resources, and the provision of goods, services and innovation can be enhanced.**

Meaningful and equal participation in decision making processes of both men and women must become the norm. Access to resources for both genders – data, information, finance and markets – is critical for citizen engagement and ownership.

Empowerment of women must begin at home, reaching women in their daily lives and speaking a language tailored to their situation. Meaningful participation will require appropriate training and capacity building. Empowering women builds the resilience of future generations.

Social protection needs to look beyond weather shocks to respond to other climate impacts (e.g. slow onset extremes and health). High transaction costs of aligning social protection and adaptation could be alleviated through shared planning, monitoring and evaluation and local governance processes/structures etc. – creating synergies and leading to better impact.

In the face of climate change, many communities' survival will depend on their ability to move freely. Communities should lead the process, in partnership with local and national authorities. Climate change impacts affect men and women differently, including in decisions and capacity to move or stay.

We must move beyond implementing "projects" and find ways to embed action in existing processes and practice. We must get finance into the hands of people at community level working with financial institutions and the climate funds, to set up effective mechanisms to channel financing directly to communities.

## 2 Valuing lived experience and local knowledge

**This theme explored the importance of creating space and voice for those at the development and climate frontlines in all discussions related to climate and development.**

A combination of traditional, indigenous and scientific knowledge is crucial to understand impacts and inform successful autonomous adaptation. Local knowledge is invaluable and must be shared across generations, nations and continents before we lose it.

Communities are not homogeneous. They should not be approached as being the same; diversity must be recognised. Local solutions can be brought to scale but community empowerment and ownership must be maintained. Cooperation is not necessarily the preferred status if it is not inclusive or self-selected.

Collective action requires representative leadership, allowing grassroots people to participate meaningfully in decision making and conflict resolution, giving social agency to the full range of development actors.

Funders must adopt “adaptive management” ways of working. We cannot encourage learning and innovation without being able to talk about failures and accommodate changes in design and implementation of resilience building interventions.

Policies, information flows, governance, networking and partnerships are crucial for connecting communities to decision making at local, national and international scale. Making these connections will ensure that actions on the ground truly consider local needs and realities.

### ③ Transparency and downward accountability

**This theme explored transparency and downward accountability in the ways decisions are made, climate responses are prioritised and the flow of climate finance is directed.**

We can create a “stakeholders transparency ecosystem” where accountability arises as an emergent property. To do this, we need tracking of where climate finance goes to and what it is used for. International agencies and national and local governments should be accountable to local communities by showing where and how climate finance is spent and how local priorities are addressed.

Local communities and individuals must be able to provide feedback on the effectiveness of climate related interventions through active participation. Increasing the use of information and

communications technology (ICT) allows real time feedback through crowdsourcing methods.

Local climate adaptation (and other) planning is an opportunity for local people to generate, map and enumerate data and evidence that is the basis for prioritisation, planning, implementation and assessment of investments in adaptation. The provision and sharing of data and evidence allows local people to be able to take effective and timely action in response to climate risks.

We need to establish ways to link locally relevant adaptation information with the global stocktake. To do this well, we need to devise transparent indicators that work for everyone at the local level but still support a thorough analysis at the global level. The trade-offs in local to local, and local to global evidence flows need recognising and addressing.

We must build an enabling environment for transparency and accountability upwards, downwards and horizontally between national and local levels.

Accountability and reporting needs to be consistent, comparable and comprehensive enough without burdening under-resourced institutions.

### ④ Shared resilience

**This theme explored how we live in an interconnected world with complex intercontinental supply chains, global financial flows, and decision making shared between the international, national and local levels. It highlighted that risk must be shared by all and strategies for resilience must be designed and implemented together.**

The private sector can assist local communities in many ways – expanding access to markets; supporting access to

finance and fair pricing; advocating jointly to government; providing access to information and data; democratising technology, leading on capacity development – are just a few.

Resilience, development and enterprise risk management aren't fundamentally different. They all demand long-term planning, tangible rewards and action to tackle the root causes of vulnerability. In the context of climate change, they also require urgency, ambitious targets, and practical steps to implementation.

The development, climate and private sectors use different language. We must learn each other's language and, more importantly, share common concepts for diagnosing risk to build a shared vision for resilience. This new vocabulary must be clear, rooted in science and in local knowledge.

We need new thinking to increase scale, broaden financial flows, and expand access. Non-financial instruments such as procurement, government engagement, guaranteed offtake, and disclosure can move money in the real economy. Innovative financial instruments can be built by fostering partnership between multinational corporations, financial services companies, and at the local level.

Preferential procurement is a key instrument for encouraging enterprise risk management across supply chains, the uptake of best practice on resilience, and the mobilisation of private sector financing in support of frontline communities.

All of these activities must factor in fairness and equity while leveraging the local knowledge and unique needs of communities. Improved education and collaboration with the private sector will build a shared vocabulary and improved information exchange.