



## 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.

Valuing lived experience, and local knowledge will be one of four key themes explored at this year's D&C Days.

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.

## 2. Valuing lived experience, and local knowledge

Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre; the International Development Research Centre; the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery; and the German Development Institute/Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik

The Fijian Prime Minister and President of the Conference of Parties to (COP23), has described his Presidency's vision for COP23 as "a Presidency that is transparent and inclusive of all, advances the Paris Agreement and accelerates climate action for all vulnerable societies, drawing on our own experiences as a Small Island Developing State in the Pacific." While COP23 is expected to focus on technical decisions that will determine the procedures and mechanisms for implementing the Paris Agreement, recognising the ability of lived experiences and local knowledge to inform these decisions, as noted in the Prime Minister's statement, is more critical than ever.

Within the Paris Agreement, support for integrating local knowledge into the climate resilience and adaptation discourse is evident. Article 7 of the Agreement refers directly to the importance of listening to local voices and promoting grassroots participation in national and international processes:

*"Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate".*

In line with the Development and Climate Days (D&C Days) 2017-2018 vision to inform and influence UNFCCC priorities and processes, inclusion of this evidenced theme speaks directly to the intention of the global community to ensure commitments made under the Paris Agreement are translated into action on the ground that truly consider local needs and realities.

### Issues at stake

Negotiations will concentrate on developing guidance to the financial mechanism and adaptation finance,

adaptation communications, the transparency framework, the Global Stocktake, the empowerment of women in decision making, loss and damage, capacity building, as well as the Technical Examination Processes on Mitigation and Adaptation. These processes are in danger of being undermined without consideration and integration of local perspectives. Consideration for local contexts and perceptions of risk of the most vulnerable people in global to local decisions, policies and plans can help ensure climate resilience is strengthened effectively.

As countries move towards the implementation phase of the Paris Agreement, there is an opportunity to channel the billions of dollars pledged to enable action right across the climate-development-humanitarian continuum; integrating local knowledge into this process will make a difference on the ground in terms of uptake of action by local beneficiaries and sustainability. Indeed, policies to promote adaptation to climate risks often rely on the willing cooperation

of the intended beneficiaries; their direct involvement in decision making and the implementation phase is, not only a question of social justice, but also one of effectiveness and efficiency of action. Globally, understanding what works where and investing in community-led solutions for development can help promote integrated implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction towards full realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Local communities and indigenous people are indeed claiming a voice – not as beneficiaries but as full partners in the sustainable development agenda, particularly when it comes to pursuing integrated risk management to build resilience. They offer valuable perspectives to inform what works best in terms of sustainable development policies, plans, laws and investment decisions.

### **Key messages development and influence strategy**

While valuing lived experience and local knowledge does not correspond to a specific negotiating line at COP23, these perspectives should receive attention in the negotiations. The idea to feature an array of local perspectives in D&C Days discussions is in line with the Fijian Presidency's intention to infuse formal negotiations with the Talanoa Spirit of respect, understanding and consensus building by a diverse constituency. Key messages emerging from sessions anchored in this theme will be reflected upon in the closing panel in the context of progress made and expected in negotiations related to the transparency framework, the Global Stocktake, the Facilitative Dialogue and adaptation planning.

Beyond the closing panel, key messages related to this evidenced

theme will be transmitted to negotiators and to various platforms including the Marrakech Partnership's Global Climate Action Agenda, as well as the Indigenous Peoples and Local Community Platform. In particular, the D&C Days participatory methodology and focus on lived experience and local knowledge will be documented with a view to inform these UNFCCC processes on how they can better provide a space for documenting and sharing experience and best practices, respecting the unique nature of and need to safeguard indigenous and local community knowledge systems; and facilitate the integration of local knowledge systems in relevant climate change related actions, programmes and policies. This is timely as progress is expected at COP23 on the process for operationalizing the Facilitative Dialogue based on respect (including for local realities), transparent decision making modalities, and of course on consensus by Parties.