



## Development and Climate Days

Global ambition  
Local action

Climate resilience for all  
#DCdays18

*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.*

*In 2018 host partners will continue to build on the topic of 'Global ambition. Local action. Climate resilience for all', aiming to influence the 'ambition mechanism' processes under the UNFCCC – particularly the Talanoa Dialogue and global stocktake – and to inform climate action on all levels, looking ahead to 2020.*

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

## 2. Valuing lived experience and local knowledge

International Development Research Centre; Environmental Finance Center West; Global Resilience Partnership; Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre; Overseas Development Institute; and ITAD.

Local and traditional knowledge gives us holistic perspectives that offer unique opportunities to inform local, regional and national policy. Within the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC, there is evident support for integrating local knowledge into climate resilience and adaptation discourse.

Article 7 of the Paris 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.”

UNFCCC executive secretary Patricia Espinosa also stated that “Indigenous people must be part of the solution to climate change” because they “have the traditional knowledge of [their] ancestors. The important value of that knowledge simply cannot – and must not – be understated.”

Last year, COP23 adopted the local communities and indigenous peoples platform, reinforcing Article 7’s specific inclusion of indigenous people and local communities. One of the platform’s key functions is to “promote the exchange of experience and best practices with a view to applying, strengthening, protecting and preserving traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, as well as technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change.”

In line with the D&C Days’ 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. Integrating traditional knowledge into climate resilience and adaptation discourse is more critical than ever.

### Issues at stake

COP24 negotiations will further develop guidance for: the financial mechanism and adaptation finance; adaptation communications; the transparency framework; Global Stocktake; empowering women in decision making; loss and damage; capacity building; and the technical examination processes on mitigation and adaptation.

Considering local contexts and the most vulnerable people’s perceptions of risk can help ensure climate resilience. As countries move towards implementing the Paris Agreement,

there is an opportunity to channel the billions of dollars countries have pledged across the climate-development-humanitarian continuum. Integrating community knowledge into this process will increase uptake of action among local beneficiaries and make it more sustainable.

Policies to promote adaptation to climate risks often rely on the intended beneficiaries' willingness to cooperate. But their direct involvement in decision making and implementation is not only a question of social justice; it also influences the effectiveness and efficiency of action. Globally, understanding what works where and investing in community-led solutions for development can help promote the integrated implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which in turn will contribute to fully realising the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Local communities and indigenous people are claiming a voice – not just as beneficiaries, but as full partners in

the sustainable development agenda – particularly when it comes to pursuing integrated risk management to build resilience. Their valuable perspectives inform what works best in terms of sustainable development policies, plans, laws and investment decisions.

### **Developing key messages and influencing strategy**

The Talanoa Dialogue, adopted at COP23, facilitated the inclusion of non-state actors and reinforced the importance of local perspectives in D&C Days discussions. The local communities and indigenous peoples platform further indicates the evolution of the COP and its negotiations towards greater respect, understanding and building consensus with a diverse constituency.

The closing panel will reflect on key messages that emerge from sessions anchored in this theme in the context of progress made and expected in negotiations related to the transparency framework, the Global Stocktake, the facilitative dialogue and adaptation

planning. We will transmit key messages related to this theme to negotiators and various platforms, including the local communities and indigenous peoples platform.

The D&C Days' participatory methodology and focus on lived experience and local knowledge will help inform and influence UNFCCC priorities and processes on:

- Approaches to documenting and sharing experiences and best practice
- Respecting the unique nature of and need to safeguard indigenous and local community knowledge systems, and
- Facilitating the integration of local knowledge systems in relevant climate change-related actions, programmes and policies.

We expect to see progress at COP24 on operationalising the facilitative dialogue based on respect (including for local realities), transparent decision making and consensus by Parties.