



## Development and Climate Days

Global ambition  
Local action

Climate resilience for all  
#DCdays18

*Over the last decade, Development and Climate Days has built a reputation for providing stimulating and interactive debate on 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 continued to build on the topic of 'Global ambition. Local action. Climate resilience for all'. We aim 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.*

*This year's Development and Climate Days explored four evidenced themes. Over two days, more than 320 participants from grassroots organisations to policy makers discussed and debated these issues through a respectful and lively dialogue. Together we arrived at the following key messages, which we will share at targeted events during the second week of COP24 and other international forums.*

# Key messages from Development and Climate Days 2018

## 1 Resilience through empowerment

**This theme explored effective pathways to empowering and ensuring the participation of the most vulnerable when responding to the emerging opportunities and risks of our world and its rapidly changing climate.**

Adaptation must address the causes of multiple poverties at the same time in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and meet the universal ambition of enabling people, societies and countries to thrive despite the impacts of climate change.

Resilience to climate impacts depends on the ability of those affected to respond in informed and wise ways, with energy and focus. Sound adaptation practice will enable agency to flourish, and to be directed towards socially and environmentally sustainable outcomes.

Relationships between climate-affected communities and service providers must be actively structured and governed to create long-term alliances of mutual respect and trust. Shared

accountability and open communication are vital to foster ongoing improvement and enable effective responses to climate-induced calamities.

It is important to involve all community members in defining and expressing a common vision and in striving to achieve improvements in their wellbeing; this creates ownership of actions and outcomes and encourages agency.

Rapid environmental change calls for greater innovation and collaboration in all spheres of governance, production and society. Safe spaces for critical reflection and continuous learning – considering successes, failures and innovations – must continually be created at all levels of society to avoid replicating imperfect formulas in new settings.

It is essential that climate-affected individuals, communities and institutions possess enhanced capacities to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges as the climate changes. This will help ensure that sustainable choices are made about peoples' lives and how to improve them.

## 2 Valuing lived experience and local knowledge

**This theme highlighted the opportunities that local and traditional knowledge give us to inform local, regional and national policy discussions, to ensure that commitments made under the Paris Agreement are translated into actions that truly consider local needs and realities.**

Local and indigenous people can best identify the causes of their problems and their subsequent needs; they must be involved in creating technologies and solutions. The adoption of the Talanoa Dialogue and the Local Communities and Indigenous People's Platform offer hope for greater inclusion.

Local knowledge can be found and applied in all ways of life: from isolated rural communities to highly populated urban informal settlements.

Urbanisation is happening at an unprecedented rate and climate adaptation must therefore also increasingly include urban populations.

Significant barriers prevent leaders and decision makers from hearing the voices of the most vulnerable people and addressing their needs:

- National political issues eclipse local and regional ones: those on the frontline of climate impacts have the least opportunity for high-level engagement
- Voices of local and indigenous people are undermined by the voices of socio-economically privileged people.

Co-production of climate solutions empowers local and indigenous people, women and youth, and builds trust and respect. When people identify the causes of the problems affecting them and co-design and test responses, they see the results clearly and are more likely to value and invest in the proposed solution.

### ③ **Transparency and downward accountability**

**This theme explored new, innovative ways of enhancing downward accountability and tracking how equitably the benefits arising from adaptation are shared, and how the Least Developed Countries are approaching the transparency framework in the Paris Agreement.**

Investing in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and transparency processes enables upward accountability, but more importantly, it helps countries to use climate adaptation information for better planning and prioritisation.

If countries need to sustain, institutionalise and resource M&E through multi-level governance, they should integrate with and build on existing systems, not create duplicate layers. Integrated adaptation and development M&E systems are

valuable: countries can assess the benefits of adaptation without the need for additional reporting.

Effective M&E systems create ownership and engagement by clearly defining roles and responsibilities across stakeholders. We must focus on building capabilities for M&E learning at all levels (particularly at local level to build downward accountability).

Assessing national and global climate adaptation is most effective in light of local adaptation information. Horizontal (sectoral) and vertical (national-local) integration must be in place to apply local data, which is achieved by identifying common adaptation parameters across levels and sectors.

Developing bespoke climate adaptation M&E helps us to better understand who is doing the adapting, explore how trade-offs are resolved, who is being reached, and recognise winners and losers.

Collecting and analysing data is challenging. Governments and their stakeholders are missing some of the necessary capacities to do so, as well as lacking access to information. When partners and communities collect data, the results are better and more reliable, provide actionable results across sectors, generate trust and are accessible to everyone.

### ④ **Financing adaptation and managing risk**

**This theme explored adaptation finance and climate risk management guided by climate justice, human rights and pro-poor principles, highlighting that climate change resilience does not only depend on adequate adaptation finance, but on fair, inclusive and just climate actions.**

Climate adaptation action must balance urgency with leaving no one behind. While solutions such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and Climate Risk Insurance (CRI) are good adaptation tools, beneficiaries must be full participants from concept through to implementation.

Adaptation needs a clear business case. The private sector is not experienced in seizing opportunities to put people at the centre of climate solutions. We have a significant task if we are to raise companies' awareness of the business case for addressing climate risks to supply chains in a way that specifically builds the resilience of relevant communities.

CRI can enhance resilience and promote the human rights to life, food, water, health and social protection, as well as empower people facing climate risks. However, institutions should also be aware of its potential pitfalls: providing unequal access to insurance and weakness of CRI alongside disaster risk reduction and management strategy.

We must explore all sources of finance for long-term adaptation strategies, including climate risk sensitive development funds. The Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund are a small element; governmental and bilateral development and local finance could contribute much more.

Incorporating local knowledge is often cited as crucial to climate change adaptation strategies. Tapping into local knowledge requires inclusion of local stakeholders at the very beginning of a project.

We must ensure that climate finance leaves no one behind, especially those experiencing double vulnerability of climate and conflict.