



# Event Programme

Thursday 7 December

8:00 – 22:00

(including an evening network reception)

Dubai, UAE

Sofitel Downtown Dubai



Photo credit: Transplanting rice, Mekong Delta, Vietnam ©Va n Long Bui @Pexels

Development & Climate Days 2023 will be tackling big questions, seeking effective and practical answers, and working together on fair solutions. D&C Days features dynamic, interactive dialogue, including participatory games, lightning talks, engaging discussions, high-level panels, and more.

**D&C Days will continue to build on the topic of Global Ambition. Local Action. Accountability, justice and resilience for all. and will focus on three themes:**

1

**Decolonising climate finance:**

The collective slow action of initiatives and institutions means that climate finance is not being accessed by those who need it most, and available funding is fragmented, sectoral, and restricted – especially for the most vulnerable countries. How can power and resources shift to the local organisations working on the frontlines? What must be done differently to disrupt the current systems that are failing to deliver climate action and finance at local levels?

2

**Equitable climate partnerships:**

While discussions about locally led climate solutions have been ongoing, their implementation has been characterised by unequal partnerships that concentrate power and resources in the global North. D&C Days will delve into how partnerships can be strengthened to be truly inclusive, equitable, and empowering, sharing risks and accelerating climate action. It will also explore the knowledge and practice the global North can learn from the global South in meaningful and equitable ways.

3

**Accountability for the Paris goals**

Economic disparities rooted in colonial histories persist, allowing powerful companies in sectors like finance and energy to dictate the course of climate action. D&C Days will examine how actors across governments, the private sector, philanthropies, civil society organisations, businesses, and academia can be held accountable to take positive steps within their organisations to address climate impacts and reduce the risk and vulnerability of those most affected by the climate crisis.

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This year's event is organised in partnership by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Anticipation Hub, the Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, the Climate Justice Resilience Fund (CJRF), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Bank.

Contributing partners to this year's event are the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA), "Generating Ambition for Locally Led Adaptation" core partners, with funding from the Government of Netherlands, NAP Global Network, hosted by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and Least Developed Countries Initiative for Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR).

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If you are interested in joining the partnership for Development & Climate Days 2024 then please contact lead organisers IIED or Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre for information on how to get involved.

# MORNING 8:00-13:45

## Thursday 7 December 2023

8:00-9:00

Check-in

9:00-9:30

**Welcome to D&C Days 2023: a new approach** by Tracy Kajumba, IIED

Remembering Professor Saleemul Huq, the originator of D&C Days and dear friend and mentor to so many involved in the global fight to tackle climate change.

**Opening remarks** by Tom Mitchell, Executive Director, IIED

Room: Ballroom

9:30-10:30

① **1: PLENARY**

② **OPENING PLENARY: Setting the scene for Development & Climate Days 2023**

③ **Global Ambition. Local Action. Accountability, justice and resilience for all.**

Room: Ballroom

Opening with a reflection on what has happened during the first week of COP28, and sharing insights on what's going well and what could be better, with a particular focus on the LDC perspective of the negotiations.

We will introduce the focus areas that anchor the programme and give some background on their importance and how they relate to UNFCCC plans and priorities.

- ① Decolonising climate finance
- ② Equitable climate partnerships
- ③ Accountability for the Paris goals

Finishing with the chance to experience the nature of the complexity of COP with some serious fun.

**Facilitator:** Bettina Koelle, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Sylvie Wabbes, FAO

10:30-11:00

Coffee break (Pre-function area)

11:00-12:30

① **2A: How should we scale up locally led climate action while ensuring responsiveness to local needs?**

Lead organisation: World Bank

Room: Aquamarine

Financing for locally led climate action is severely lacking, with less than 10% of climate finance being prioritised for the local level. This session will provide a space for dialogue around the challenges, barriers, and opportunities for ensuring that climate action remains grounded in local priorities, while not ignoring the need for correcting historical injustices, promoting social justice, and addressing inequalities.

② **2B: How can we collaboratively shape a new narrative that bridges adaptation and loss and damage?**

Lead organisations: CJRF, IISD, ICCCAD

Room: Opal

Part of a series of stakeholder dialogues, this session aims to re-imagine a new framework for effective action where adaptation, disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, and loss and damage can co-exist. Drawing from the reality of lived experiences and expertise, the new framework aims to align with the Loss and Damage Fund goals, while tying together different mechanisms to address climate impacts.

③ **2C: The Sharm Adaptation Agenda – how will this dynamic initiative ensure an inclusive and innovative process for mobilising and tracking adaptation and resilience action?**

Lead organisation: FAO

Room: Ballroom

The Sharm Adaptation Agenda (SAA) is a groundbreaking initiative to rally action from parties and non-party stakeholders to tackle the climate crisis. This session will provide insights into its progress report, reference achievements made and highlight the opportunities available to urgently accelerate the pace and scale of implementation, exploring the interconnectedness of climate justice and accountability that the SAA can provide.



# AFTERNOON 13:45-19:00

## Thursday 7 December 2023

12:30-13:45

LUNCH (Pre-function area)

Room: Ballroom

Africa's Cooked and Sinking Communities, for 25 minutes.

The film documents the threatening impacts of climate change in Africa, focusing on frontline communities in Kenya, Cameroon, and Nigeria. It provides sufficient justification for the quest for Loss and Damage Funds and Environmental Accountability for the local communities and the region at large.

13:45-15:15

❶ **3A: How can we re-calibrate climate partnerships to make them more equitable? A focus on Africa and Europe**

Lead organisations: IIED with the Africa-Europe Foundation

Room: Ballroom

Structural inequalities and power imbalances between the global North and South still exist at every level of climate partnerships. This session will explore barriers and enablers for equitable climate partnerships, focusing on Africa-Europe alignment for the New Quantified Collective Goal (NQCG), inviting solutions to address past finance goal failures, and practical actions to enhance fund access, quality, and streamline procedures.

❷ **3B: How can we reimagine and enhance partnerships? Lessons from creative policy processes via serious fun**

Lead organisations: Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Anticipation Hub

Room: Opal

Global processes are often detached from lived experiences making them rigid and ineffective. Through a range of creative methods, this session will connect global and local perspectives, stimulating fresh thinking in surfacing the challenges, addressing complexities and encouraging different ways of harnessing effective partnerships.

❸ **3C: How can monitoring, evaluation and learning for adaptation advance accountability when operationalising the Global Goal on Adaptation?**

Lead organisations: IISD and the NAP Global Network

Room: Aquamarine

Exploring the significance of MEL systems for capturing, assessing and communicating progress on adaptation, across different levels and actors, is necessary to drive transparency and generate evidence for action. Discover how these systems within NAP processes foster accountability, sharing evidence on policy effectiveness and inclusive perspectives, and learn how diverse MEL approaches contribute to fairer adaptation policies and interventions.

15:15-15:30

Short break (no refreshments) to move to next session

**15:30-17:00** ① **4A: How can business-unusual approaches confront climate challenges while ensuring the Least Developed Countries are responsible and donors accountable?**  
Lead organisations: **The LDC Group and the Least Developed Countries Initiative for Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR)**

Room: Opal

Business-as-usual approaches to addressing climate change are not working. Reflecting on three years' experiences from LDCs and donors, this session offers insights into what 'business unusual' means for decolonising climate finance, showcasing its role in LIFE-AR strategies, governance transformation, and encouraging interactive discussions on wider implications.

② **4B: Power, people and partnerships: How can we actively engage in co-producing resilience to ensure both accountability and effectiveness?**

Lead organisations: **Adaptation Research Alliance, IIED and SouthSouthNorth**

Room: Ballroom

Join a range of partner organisations from the global South and North engaged in co-production processes for resilience to share successes, failures, frameworks and tools for determining pathways for ensuring accountability and effectiveness. The session will result in a clearly articulated set of best practices for putting people, power and partnerships at the heart of resilience.

③ **4C: How can we establish new pathways that enhance accountability for locally led action and promote greater adherence to the LLA principles?**

Lead organisations: **IIED with the Government of the Netherlands and "Generating Ambitions for LLA" core partners**

Room: Aquamarine

A space for all stakeholders working on locally led adaptation to come together and share ideas, build partnerships and contribute to the long term vision for delivering LLA. Reviewing the 2030 Strategy for Locally Led Action on Poverty, Climate and Nature, this session will consider its ongoing relevance and look at ways to make the strategy bolder and more ambitious, ensuring it represents the diversity of the LLA community.

**17:00-17:30** Coffee break (Pre-function area)

**17:30-19:00** ① **5: PLENARY High-Level closing panel: What's ahead – moving into 2024 and beyond**

- ② The D&C Days closing session will focus on what's ahead – moving into 2024 and beyond, how can we link D&C
- ③ Days key messages to major milestones and, more importantly, ensure messages are resonating with key agents for action and change. The panel conversation will range from the grassroots to the major global institutions and how they can shape how climate action can ensure that funding flows, that climate partnerships are actively equitable, and that accountable processes, policies and practices address the needs of the most vulnerable.

Reflecting the participatory and inclusive nature of D&C Days and the commitment to highlight the role of local actors and local civil society this panel will not be a traditional panel of "high level people" only, and will include representatives from communities most affected by climate change in an interactive climate justice dialogue – where everyone participates as equals.

We end with reflections and personal commitments on actions we can take.

**Closing remarks and thanks by Tracy Kajumba, IIED and Bettina Koelle, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre**

Room: Ballroom

**19:00-22:00** **Evening reception**

All D&C Days registrants are invited to join a reception, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands and "Generating Ambitions for LLA" core partners, celebrating the LLA work and practitioners. We will be joined by core partners and front-runner countries. It's an excellent opportunity to network, unwind, and celebrate the achievements in the LLA space.

Room: Grass Pool Area, Level 5