

## Territorial Approach to Climate Change Summary as at November 2009

### Background

---

The Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) is a partnership of five UN agencies (UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR, UN-Habitat and UNCDF)<sup>1</sup> with sub-national territories and their associations.

TACC focuses on the level of governance covering territories below the national level (depending on the governance structure these include states, provinces, cities etc.), usually referred to as 'regions' or 'local governments'.

**Local governments have critical role to play in fight against climate change –**  
National and local governments must work more closely together in tackling climate change if the world is going to mount an effective response to the problem.

UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon  
25 July 2009

TACC came into existence during the first World Summit of the Regions on Climate Change (held in St. Malo, France on 29-30 October 2008), when a Letter of Intent was signed between UNDP, UNEP, FOGAR (Forum of Global Associations of Regions), nrg4SD (Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development) and other associations to launch the *Towards Carbon Neutral and Climate Change Resilient Territories* initiative. More recently, at the closing ceremony of the Governors' Global Climate Summit 2 on 2 October 2009, the Governor of the State of California, UNEP and UNDP joined 30 global leaders in Los Angeles, USA in signing a declaration recognizing the role of sub-national territories and committing to work collaboratively on climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

The overall objective of the TACC is *Increased resilience to climate change impacts and reduced carbon footprint in sub-national territories in developing countries and countries with economies in transition*. The main activities are raising awareness in a total of 500 sub-national territories worldwide and assisting the development and implementation of mitigation and adaptation plans in 50 regions within national plans and strategies (Integrated Territorial Climate Plans or ITCs).

TACC helps sub-national territories to:

- Access and use up-to-date climate change science, information, tools and good practices.
- Put in place a partnership and governance framework to address the cross-sectoral nature of climate change.
- Develop a climate profile<sup>2</sup> and draft a climate change strategy and action plan to ensure a programmatic approach to climate change.

TACC is a five year project to be implemented in 3 stages:

- **Phase I led by UNEP** involves working with (Associations of) Regions and Local Governments to compile good practices on climate change adaptation and mitigation at sub-national level, assess training/information needs and organize regional and sub-regional workshops on five continents. An interactive web-based portal will be created that provides to the sub-national territories a comprehensive collection of environmental information (political and scientific) on climate change, training material and tools, and serves as a meeting point for stakeholders involved in the shaping of integrated climate change policies at sub-national level.

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNFCD).

<sup>2</sup> Assessment of present and future climate risks, adaptive capacity needs and energy service provision referred to in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scenarios and recommendations.

- **Phases 2 and 3 led by UNDP** involves the identification and selection of the regions ready and willing to commit themselves to the definition of integrated climate policies. These regions will engage in follow-up South-South and North-South decentralized cooperation, the development of their ITCs, within national plans- focusing on mitigation and adaptation and carry out investment projects.

## **TACC Phase 1 – Awareness raising and Training**

---

UNEP is currently embarking on the implementation of the first phase of the TACC project aiming at *Increased knowledge and capacity by sub-national territories to identify risks and opportunities related to climate change at the sub-national level and to design integrated climate change policies and plans within national plans, based on sound knowledge and science.*

In implementing the project, UNEP intends to reach out to 500 sub-national territories in developing countries and countries with economies in transition over a period of 5 years and to respond to their needs and priorities.

In keeping with the objective of TACC phase 1, the main activities involved are:

- Assess the training and information needs of sub-national territories in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- Collect, review and customize existing training material and tools for possible use;
- Create new tools/materials tailor-made to the specific climate change issues in the regions where necessary;
- Compile best practices and existing information on climate change impacts and integrated policies in relevant regions through relevant networks and associations;
- Conduct awareness raising and capacity building workshops in regional groupings on five continents (taking into account ecosystems and ecological zones). Besides the distribution of climate change related knowledge and science, these workshops will help to make sure that the sub-national territories are informed of the challenges of climate change (mitigation/adaptation), as well as of the measures already taken at the international level (e.g. UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol), good practices and actions successfully undertaken by their peers. Participants will be equipped to take advantage of the opportunities to ensure sustainable development in their region (e.g. regulatory and financial instruments, technological solutions) within national plans and policies;
- Develop an interactive web based portal in support of sub-national territories which will provide access to: (i) Climate change tools and methodologies relevant to the sub-national level, (ii) Good practices in climate change adaptation and mitigation of sub-national territories and (iii) Opportunities for North-South and South-South interaction and networking among sub-national territories.

The pertinent outputs of TACC Phase 1 shall be:

- Compendium of climate change related needs and best practices by sub-national territories;
- Training material and tools for use by sub-national territories;
- Awareness raising workshops covering 500 sub-national territories;
- Interactive web-based portal;
- South-South and South-North networks cooperating and exchanging knowledge.

**For further information please contact:**

---

### **TACC - Europe**

Jaco Tavenier  
[jaco.tavenier@unep.org](mailto:jaco.tavenier@unep.org)  
+41(0)22 917 8696

Giovanna Chiodi Moiré  
[giovanna.chiodi-moire@unep.org](mailto:giovanna.chiodi-moire@unep.org)  
+41(0)22 917 8513