

# UNFCCC NWP Action Pledge Update by the Institute of Development Studies, UK

9 March 2009

## Summary

This document presents an update on the action pledge of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) to the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP). That pledge recognised that IDS' Climate Change and Development Centre (CCDC)<sup>1</sup> has an approach and strategy closely aligned to the objectives of the NWP, and that our experience and expertise in convening and hosting 'Networks and Knowledge Services' on adaptation and development in particular includes clear overlaps and potential benefits to the programme.

## Objective

Specifically, IDS' pledge responds to the following objectives from the UNFCCC document 'objectives of the NWP at all levels':

### Detailed Results from SBSTA Conclusion

(m) To share and use information on, and analysis of, experiences in climate risk assessment and management; and to promote the use of tools and systems for these purposes;

(n) To exchange information on experiences, lessons learned, constraints and barriers of past and current adaptation measures and actions, and the implications for sustainable development;

(o) To promote different ways and means for information sharing and for the enhancement of cooperation among Parties and relevant sectors, institutions and communities, including in the areas of disaster risk reduction and management.

## Context and Purpose

IDS' Information Department hosts a family of knowledge services<sup>2</sup> to help development research and knowledge reach those who can use it to reduce poverty and injustice (e.g. Eldis, id21, Siyanda, Bridge, BLDS, and Livelihoods Connect). Many of these provide resources and resource guides on climate change adaptation. A full list of IDS Networks and Knowledge Services on Climate Change and Disasters can be accessed here:

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/knowledge-services>

# Update on Actions to Date by IDS

## 1. Eldis Climate Change Resource Guide

IDS has improved coordination across the different IDS-hosted knowledge services to make the wealth of resources on climate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation as accessible as possible worldwide, and in so doing establish a sector-leading compendium on climate change and development. This has led IDS to prioritising the Eldis Climate Change Resource Guide so that it will act as a focal point for all Climate Change knowledge services from IDS. This coordination has extended beyond IDS to harmonise with the Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) themes and the IDRC supported AfricaAdapt network to enable content sharing between platforms. The themes are:

- Water
- Agriculture and food security (inc. fisheries)
- Poverty and vulnerability
- Energy
- Gender
- Health
- Forestry
- International climate negotiations



This will be available live at [www.eldis.org](http://www.eldis.org) from April 2009.

## 2. Frontline Knowledge Explorer

Collaboration between four climate change knowledge sharing platforms at a meeting at IDS in November 2008 led to Frontline Knowledge Explorer experiment. The overall objective of Frontline Knowledge Explorer is to use web-based resources to accelerate learning related to climate change adaptation by synthesising knowledge and experiences related to a relevant theme. In this first instance the topic of linkages between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation has been chosen.

Organisations who formed the platforms summit were:

- Adaptation Learning Mechanism – UNDP
- Linking Climate Adaptation Network (ELDIS) – Institute of Development Studies
- weADAPT – Stockholm Environment Institute (Oxford) and partners
- AfricaAdapt – IDS, FARA, ENDA-TM, ICPAC
- Climate Change Adaptation in Africa – IDRC



Exploration is now underway at: [http://wikiadapt.org/index.php?title=Frontline\\_Knowledge\\_Explorer](http://wikiadapt.org/index.php?title=Frontline_Knowledge_Explorer)

### 3. Community Based Adaptation Exchange - CBAX

IDS and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) recently re-launched the Community Based Adaptation Exchange at the 3rd International Conference on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The new interactive web space is a shared online resource designed to bring together and grow the CBA community. It provides a site for the exchange of up-to-date information about community-based adaptation, including news, events, case-studies, tools, policy resources, and videos.

<http://www.cba-exchange.org>



### 4. AfricaAdapt

IDS, in cooperation with three African partner institutes, will be launching AfricaAdapt, a bilingual knowledge sharing network on climate change adaptation in Africa, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. The Network's aim is to facilitate the flow of climate change adaptation knowledge for sustainable livelihoods between researchers, policy makers, civil society organisations and communities who are vulnerable to climate variability and change across the continent. The network uses collaborative online technologies, print and radio, and face-to-face gatherings for: sharing resources; facilitating learning; and strengthening the African adaptation community. These activities will be coordinated with the other knowledge services at IDS and across the adaptation community to build on good practice and avoid duplication of work.



AfricaAdapt is collaboratively hosted by:

- Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA-TM);
- Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA);
- IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC); and
- Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Climate Change and Development Centre

## Ambitions for Future Activities in Support of the NWP

Given our experience in developing, hosting and updating web-based knowledge services and portals, IDS is also in an excellent position to partner the NWP and its secretariat in their plan to develop a web-based interface that clearly communicates the NWP's nine work areas and provides access to resources and resource guides on each area. We would like to enhance the Linking Climate Adaptation (LCA) Network, so that IDS and NWP can:

- better market the NWP
- establish the LCA as a leading go-to site for vulnerability, impacts and adaptation resources
- assist parties, observers and UN agencies to make sense of the large body of poorly organised climate adaptation information already available

Developing the LCA network in collaboration with the NWP will rely on sourcing additional funding. IDS proposes to work with the Secretariat to identify resources and to scope the most effective design.



Proposed activities include, but are not limited to:

- Consulting with the NWP partners and LDC countries in the redesign of the LCA Network as a web-based interface building on NWP priorities and resources
- Integrating a meeting of the IDS co-ordinated 'Poverty and Adaptation Seminar Network' (a Network of 7 leading UK universities and NGOs) with an appropriate NWP meeting, with the purpose of increasing access of LDCs to cutting edge research
- Partnering the Secretariat in developing a proposal and designs for developing the LCA Network in collaboration with the NWP

### Expected Results and Indicators of Achievement

Should the LCA Network be developed successfully, then we would expect that it would:

- become the most visited website on climate change adaptation
- attract visitors to the site from both developing and developed countries in equal numbers
- be drawn from resources and expertise from a wide variety of stakeholder groups.

Monitoring and evaluating the success of web-based knowledge services is one of IDS' particular specialities. Indicators would include:

- Users and usage
- Website hits (number of times a specific page/report has been viewed, combined with data on how long each page has been viewed for and where users have come from)
- Geographic and disciplinary background of users
- Numbers of documents and resources flowing through the interface
- Numbers of announcements and news items featured on the site

## **Footnotes**

### **1. The Climate Change and Development Centre (CCDC)**

IDS's growing team of experts on climate change works closely with other experts from IDS, the University of Sussex and a strong network of partners in developing countries through the **Climate Change and Development Centre (CCDC)**. The Centre pioneers research and knowledge partnerships for development in a changing climate. [www.ids.ac.uk/climatechange](http://www.ids.ac.uk/climatechange)

- Founded in 2008, the CCDC drives forward collaborative research and policy analysis, building programmes and delivering high quality knowledge services, teaching and training.
- Research themes include climate change adaptation, low carbon development, international environmental law, development economics, social protection, sustainable livelihoods and migration.
- CCDC pools expertise on building and consolidating networks in multiple sites and across disciplines, co-creating knowledge with marginalised groups in developing countries.
- The Centre builds capacity through teaching and training programmes in the UK and supports research in developing countries through bursary schemes, training and advisory work.

### **CDDC at IDS**

#### **Research**

We have three core research streams although much of the work is cross-cutting

1. Climate change, poverty and adaptation  
Towards a pro-poor adaptation agenda that contributes to eradicating poverty
2. Low carbon development  
Improving our understanding on how countries can achieve sustainable economic growth
3. Climate change policy  
Developing shared visions and global capacity for an equitable post 2012 framework

#### **Building networks, sharing knowledge**

We foster networks and initiatives that build and bridge communities of practice

#### **Teaching, training and mentoring**

Preparing development professionals to address climate change challenges

### **2. IDS Information Department**

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/knowledge-services>

Consisting of over 60 people, IDS' Information Department works to increase access to relevant, credible and diverse information when it is needed and is a core component of the Climate Change and Development Centre (CCDC). By enabling development actors to engage with each other to share information; discuss, debate and create new knowledge, we will contribute to a better understanding of the causes and consequences of poverty and injustice - and possibilities and potential for change. The IDS Information Department's family of Knowledge Services cover the full spectrum of social and economic development topics.