



# Climate Action Now

## Summary for Policymakers 2017



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Climate Change Secretariat

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# FOREWORD



By Patricia Espinosa  
Executive Secretary  
of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The Paris Climate Change Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals together represent nothing less than a global strategy to prevent our planet's temperature from reaching disastrous levels and to foster and support resilient and sustainable, low-emissions development for everyone.

To this end, policies need to be set in place now, technologies developed, matured, commercialized and deployed at scale, and practices and behaviors of economic actors need to move ever faster towards low-emission and sustainable business and investment.

No one country, company, city, state or individual can do this alone.

That is why the Paris Agreement includes an effective engine of cooperation and coordination across national and international efforts to raise the global climate response rapidly, linking economic activity, emissions and the impacts of climate change in a coherent system of action.

The critical temperature goal—limiting the global rise as close as possible to 1.5°C and well below 2°C—reflects not just a scientific reality but also a vision of the future we want, because it compels us to rethink the way we produce, use and consume energy, how we manufacture and build, and how we manage our land and ecosystems.

Powered by the Agreement, effective climate leadership and implementation by countries, cities, states, business and civil society continues to grow rapidly, and yet much greater scale and speed is now required.

This 2017 Summary for Policymakers shows that policy solutions already exist. The summary confronts the challenges that policymakers face, while providing examples from around the world that show how these challenges can be overcome.

I am struck by the clear message in this summary that coherence, coordination, and indeed integration across national and international climate policy is critical. National policy sets the direction and tone of action, but unless it both encourages and is informed by policy goals at the city, state and corporate levels the full impacts will be missed.

My thanks go to the Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action for ensuring that this essential area of effective policymaking is kept at the centre of attention.

I am sure it will help Fiji, as President of this year's UN Climate Change Conference, in its objective to lead the negotiations towards another significant milestone and to build a grand coalition of climate actors to fulfil the goals of the Paris Agreement.

*Ms. Patricia Espinosa,  
Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

# FOREWORD



By the High-Level Champions  
H.E. Ms. Hakima El Haite  
and H.E. Mr. Inia Seruiratu

The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action is encouraging activities that galvanize immediate climate actions in the period between now and 2020 to support the realization and overachievement of Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Climate Change Agreement and spur new climate actions in areas of untapped mitigation and adaptation potential.

These actions are guided by the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and undertaken in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The technical examination process under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, set in the broader context of these three post-2015 global agendas, is an important platform for Parties to explore policy options that governments can adopt in specific areas to enhance climate action.

The Marrakech Partnership's 2017 Yearbook of Climate Action, drawing from thematic and regional meetings, summarizes the achievements in climate action over the last year. This summary for policymakers complements the Yearbook and provides recommendations emanating from the technical examination process for consideration by ministers, particularly in regards to collaborative initiatives and opportunities for adaptation, mitigation in the urban environment and in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector.

We look forward to the 2017 High-Level Event in Bonn, to further strengthen engagement on the implementation of adaptation and mitigation policy options and actions and to learn about new or strengthened voluntary efforts, initiatives and coalitions. We encourage you all to collaboratively increase our pre-2020 ambition and foster the nexus between climate action, disaster risk management and the sustainable development goals.

Through this summary we intend that Parties are provided with the relevant information to fully engage with non-Party stakeholders, and be empowered to scale up and replicate the good-practice policies, actions and initiatives that best fit their national circumstances with a view to enhancing their pre-2020 action, paving the way for limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C, increasing the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystems, and laying a strong foundation for more ambitious post-2020 action.

*H.E. Ms. Hakima El Haite,*

*High-level Champion of Morocco and Minister Delegate to the Minister of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment*

*H.E. Mr. Inia Seruiratu*

*High-level Champion of Fiji and Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management and Meteorological Services*

# PURPOSE OF THIS SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS

This Summary for Policymakers is offered as a tool for Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as non-Party stakeholders, as they take decisions in support of the international response to climate change.

The document highlights key information and recommendations from Technical Expert Meetings (TEMs) on climate change mitigation and adaptation held in May 2017 in Bonn, Germany, under the UNFCCC.<sup>1</sup>

Under the UNFCCC's "technical examination process" begun in 2014, TEMs on various themes are held annually. They highlight for policymakers the "what, why and how" of pre-2020 climate action. They also point to follow-up work to be undertaken by Parties, international organizations and partnerships throughout the year.

The objective is implementation of scalable, best-practice policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

## The document:

**Showcases good practices and policies** that integrate adaptation and mitigation actions with the principles, priorities and objectives of the Sendai Framework, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and other applicable national and international frameworks.

**Identifies common challenges** to mitigation and adaptation action confronted by Parties, subnational actors, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

**Presents technologies and actions** that can be scaled up and replicated by Parties and other stakeholders.

**Highlights actions policymakers can take**, why they are important and how to implement them, including partnerships and resources for support in the three areas covered by the TEMS.

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<sup>1</sup> As reported on in technical papers FCCC/TP/2017/9, FCCC/TP/2017/2 and FCCC/TP/2017/3.

# KEY MESSAGES TO POLICYMAKERS

## 1. Coordination and coherence—in a word, integration—is required in international efforts to address climate change and sustainable development

- a) The three global agendas—Paris Climate Change Agreement, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030—have “core alignments”. Pursuing the three together will increase impact and efficiency;
- b) Resilience is a unifying concept that brings together adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk management across sectors, governing levels, and communities;
- c) Mitigation action can bring about co-benefits for adaptation and sustainable development, such as increased access to electricity and more efficient, sustainable agriculture and forestry;
- d) The TEMs give Party and non-Party stakeholders a recurring venue to identify new opportunities for collaboration;
- e) The SDG indicators can be used to track progress on adaptation and mitigation, but research is needed to refine them, particularly with regard to adaptation indicators.

## 2. Opportunities for integration, including specific options, exist at all levels

- a) Parties are beginning to see the connections between the various strands of climate and sustainable development efforts. Thus, Parties seek integrated policy approaches for adaptation (e.g. for resilient ecosystems, societies and economies) and mitigation (e.g. through REDD+);
- b) Careful planning is needed to ensure complementarity, avoid duplication and capitalize on the various capacities of the actors involved. This involves engaging with networks of state and non-state actors at all levels;
- c) Scaling up and replicating climate action and innovative solutions for sustainable urban systems require participation, for example by national and local governments, private companies, citizens, house owners, research organizations and financial institution;
- d) National Adaptation Plans can support integrated approaches for adaptation and sustainable development. The NAP-SDG iFrame methodology, developed by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, can help harmonize indicators used to measure contributions to the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

## 3. Data and information are required—and its availability needs to be improved—for a wide range of indicators

- a) Data and information about the impacts of climate change and the risks that climate change poses are not available for many countries;
- b) Higher-resolution information about the impacts of climate change and the risks that climate change poses to societies is required;
- c) Measuring, reporting and verifying emissions in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector is highly complex.

# BENEFITS OF INTEGRATION

Integration promotes knowledge sharing, efficiency and effectiveness. Sharing of data and information encourages replication of best practices and proven policy approaches. Such sharing helps direct resources to innovation and solving complex problems.

## Land-use related mitigation benefits

*From FCCC/TP/2017/9*

*Land use related mitigation benefits and co-benefits of policies, practices and actions for enhancing mitigation ambition and options for supporting their implementation. Technical paper by the secretariat.*

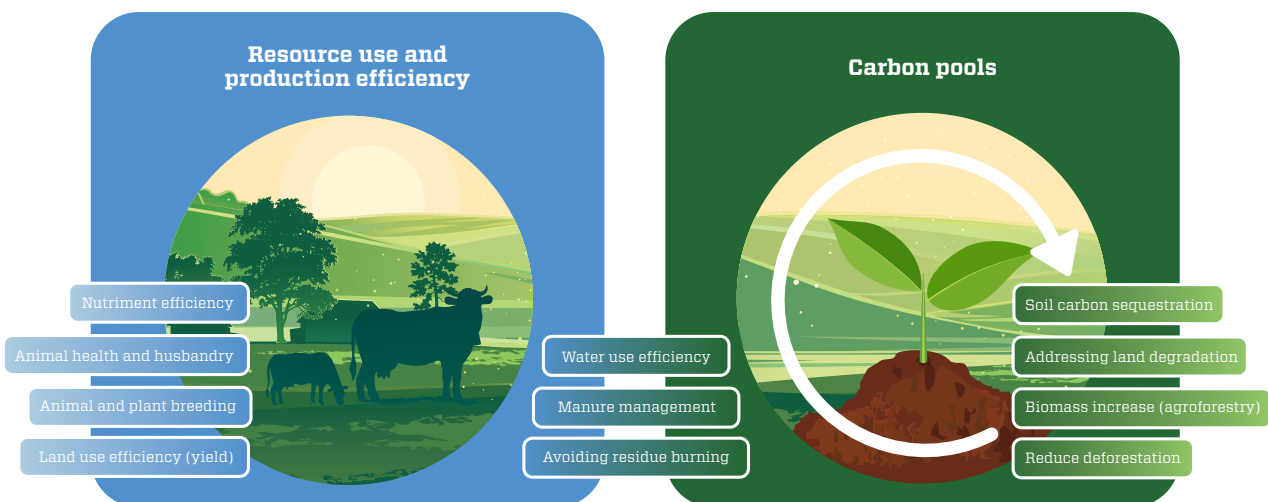
Climate change mitigation measures for the agriculture, forestry and other land use sectors can promote innovation and increase efficiency in agriculture and in the growing and cultivation of trees. This efficiency can free land for carbon sequestration and/or bioenergy production.

Parties can assess mitigation potential in the context of their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+), recognized in Article 5 of the Paris Agreement. Parties can also make use of the supplement on wetlands to the national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory guidelines published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The AFOLU sector can substantially contribute to mitigation of GHG emissions in two main ways, which are often linked: resource use and production efficiency and GHG emissions and removals. Furthermore, mitigation measures can bring co-benefits, including sustainable development and adaptation benefits.

Partnerships are already accelerating adoption of low-emission policies and technologies, through support to countries, farmers, livestock owners, foresters and other land users and stakeholders. For example, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research runs its Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security and Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture.

**The agriculture, forestry and other land use sector can contribute substantially to the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and deliver co-benefits**





Public-private partnerships are at an early stage, but some examples were cited in the TEM. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development<sup>2</sup> (WBCSD) has developed the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard to support SDG Target 12.3. The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 and International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change were also cited.<sup>3</sup>

Organizations are supporting integrated initiatives. The WBCSD and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, for example, support climate-smart agriculture programmes. Many countries are undertaking agricultural activities with climate and sustainable development benefits. Botswana, Brazil, Japan, Kenya and New Zealand were cited in the TEM.<sup>4</sup>

As well, international initiatives, especially related to REDD+, are funding progress and laying the foundation for accelerated mitigation actions in the AFOLU sector.

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries is supporting nationally led REDD+ initiatives in 64 countries, and is a major platform for knowledge sharing. The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility<sup>5</sup> supports 47 countries with over USD 1.1 billion in total committed funds.

## Urban-environment related mitigation benefits

*From FCCC/TP/2017/2*

*Urban environment related mitigation benefits and co-benefits of policies, practices and actions for enhancing mitigation ambition and options for supporting their implementation. Technical paper by the secretariat.*

An increasing number of cities are preparing and implementing climate action plans and reports and are using global platforms to communicate their climate actions. Platforms include the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy,<sup>6</sup> ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability,<sup>7</sup> C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group<sup>8</sup> and the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance.<sup>9</sup>

Innovative policies and technology solutions can unlock mitigation potential and deliver multiple sustainable development co-benefits. In urban environments, significant mitigation can be achieved in the building and transportation sectors, for example through use of renewable energy, effective waste management and optimizing urban planning.

Improved data and information sharing would enable more cities to choose the most cost-effective mitigation strategies, evidence-based and locally appropriate. It could accelerate, with planning and collaboration, the development and implementation of mitigation actions. Cities can share knowledge, know-how and experience to replicate initiatives or deploy urban services that result in emission reductions and enhance livability of cities.

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2 <http://www.wbcsd.org/>

3 See paragraphs 44-46 in FCCC/TP/2017/9.

4 See Boxes 1 and 2 in FCCC/TP/2017/9.

5 <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/>

6 [http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index\\_en.html](http://www.covenantofmayors.eu/index_en.html)

7 <http://www.iclei.org/>

8 <http://www.c40.org/>

9 <http://www.citiesclimatefinance.org/>

Integration is supported by effective policies. For example, Indonesia introduced a policy to tackle both energy-related and refrigerant-related emissions from refrigeration and air-conditioning in buildings in urban areas.<sup>10</sup> Bus rapid transport, such as in China, is an example of effective policy in the transport sector.<sup>11</sup> The city of Oslo in Norway has introduced a waste management system that reuses 2 per cent of its municipal waste, recycles 39 per cent and converts to energy 57 per cent. Only the remaining 2 per cent of municipal waste goes into landfill.<sup>12</sup>

Local authorities can support—through education, training and leadership—adoption of energy codes, standards, certification and labelling to reduce emissions from buildings. For example, 60 countries have introduced energy codes and standards. Introducing this globally would reduce global energy use by 6 per cent.

The co-benefits from pursuing climate change mitigation provide additional motivation for undertaking even more ambitious actions and strategies, and have proven successful in generating local support.<sup>13</sup>

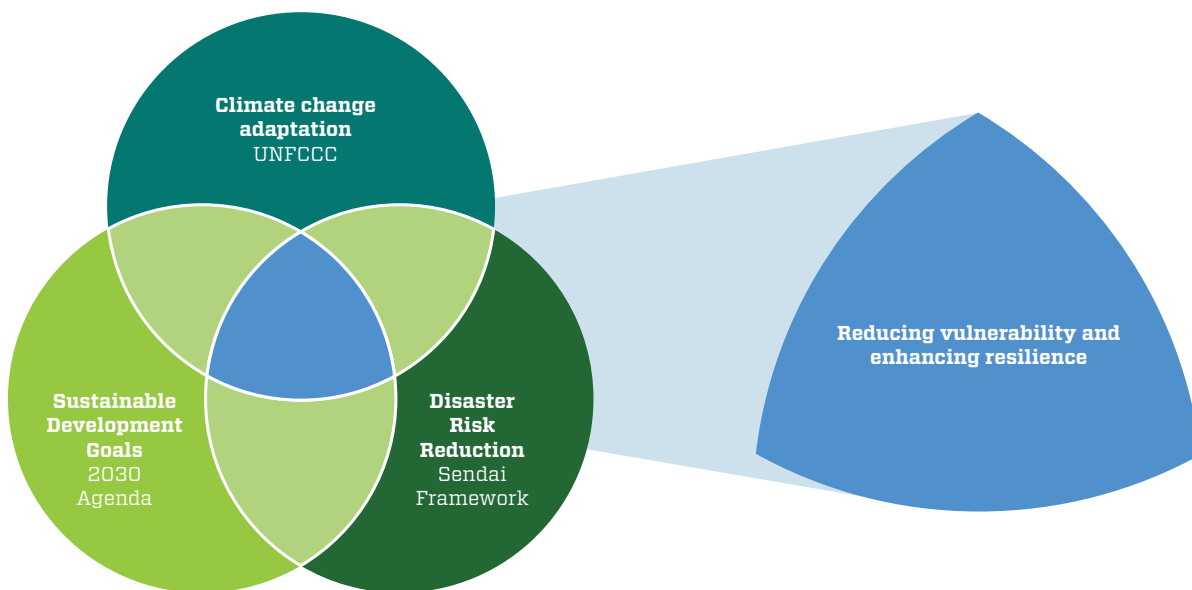
## Integrating adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

*From FCCC/TP/2017/3*

*Opportunities and options for integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Technical paper by the secretariat.*

Working on the three global agendas collaboratively—Paris Agreement, SDGs and Sendai Framework—will result in sharing of data and information between relevant actors, encourage policy learning related to best practices and common issues, and allow reallocation of resources from operations and maintenance to innovation and problem solving. Reduced vulnerability and enhanced resilience should be a key result.

### Integrating adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework



<sup>10</sup> See Box 2 in FCCC/TP/2017/2.

<sup>11</sup> See Box 3 in FCCC/TP/2017/2.

<sup>12</sup> See Box 5 in FCCC/TP/2017/2.

<sup>13</sup> For lists of policies and measures and associated co-benefits see Boxes 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in FCCC/TP/2017/2.

Integration requires that various actors work together to deliver sought after outcomes and eliminate redundancies or gaps in services. However, the TEMs also heard that partial integration is preferred over full policy integration as the global community works to achieve the three global agendas. Partial integration would allow each global agenda to maintain its autonomy and focus, while each would benefit from enhanced coherence and more efficient use of limited resources.

While there are few instances of explicit links between the three agendas to date, Parties are beginning to recognize connections and develop integrated policy approaches, including through nationally determined contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).<sup>14</sup>

Resilience and building resilient ecosystems are unifying concepts that bring together adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk management, and ultimately the three global agendas. For example, the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency<sup>15</sup> has taken steps to strengthen regional-, national- and community-level capacity for the management and coordinated response to natural and technological hazards, including the effects of climate change.<sup>16</sup> Ecosystem-based planning approaches in Mexico are being undertaken through the project Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts on Coastal Wetlands of the Gulf of Mexico, and in Peru through the Mountain Ecosystem-based Adaptation Programme.<sup>17</sup>

Coordination can help ensure complementarity, avoid duplication and capitalize on the various strengths of state- and non-state actors across sectors and scales, from local to international levels. The annual African Learning Forum on Adaptation<sup>18</sup> brings stakeholders together to facilitate knowledge sharing related to adaptation in Africa. The Adaptation Futures conference in 2016 brought together a large representation of non-state actors, partly due to the conference's focus on practices and solutions. Researchers from the Stockholm Environment Institute supported planning efforts for the Senegal's NAP, by clarifying the role international rice prices play in food security in the country.<sup>19</sup>

People and communities play a central role in each of the three global agendas. Supporting communities can help encourage policy integration based on actions identified at the community level. For example, the Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund Small Grant Program allows communities to devise climate actions based on local needs and goals.<sup>20</sup>

The TEMs heard that NAPs can be a launch pad for harmonized, strategic planning.<sup>21</sup> NAPs can support integrated approaches for adaptation, development, and risk reduction. For example, Pacific countries' joint national action plans have been supported through NAPs, and most recently through the NAP-SDG iFrame methodology developed by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.

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14 With respect to Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Climate Change Agreement, see Box 1 for links to Sustainable Development Goals and Box 2 for links to Sendai Framework, and with respect to National Adaptation Plans, see Box 3, in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

15 <http://www.cdema.org/>

16 See Box 4 in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

17 See Box 5 in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

18 See Box 6 in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

19 See Box 7 in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

20 See Box 8 in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

21 See Box 1 in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

# OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO INTEGRATION

This section summarizes challenges to integration and options to overcome them.

## 1. Coordination and coherence

- Develop institutional structures to clarify roles and responsibilities among actors, including commitment from government;
- Collaborate with non-state actors and intensify engagement with the private sector to capitalize on existing capacity and activities and strengthen public-private partnerships;
- Promote and develop linkages between the three post-2015 global agendas—Paris Agreement, SDGs and Sendai Framework—and build structures for coordination and coherence, such as through NAPs and NDCs;
- Integrate gender equality to achieve optimal social and economic benefits from mitigation and adaptation actions.

For example, despite the barriers to uptake of low-emission technologies in cities<sup>22</sup> and cities' limits in terms of geographical scope and jurisdiction, municipalities can play a key role in coordinating incentives, stakeholders, education (especially for women and girls) and training on policy and technology solutions<sup>23</sup> as well as through cross-city partnerships (highlighted in section 4 below).

## 2. Data and information

- Invest in broader, reliable and more frequent data collection, including for socioeconomic information and information needed for climate modelling;
- Support development of climate services, products and tools to communicate climate information;
- Build capacity to understand climate change and climate data, including through professional training and education.

For example, the African Center of Meteorological Application for Development began the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa programme in 2010, which produces information for policymakers, including monthly policy briefs and periodic press releases. These materials address the uncertainty of the climate projections in user-friendly terms and are designed to aid planning.<sup>24</sup>

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22 See table 2 in FCCC/TP/2017/2.

23 See Boxes 2 and 14 in FCCC/TP/2017/2.

24 See Box 11 in FCCC/TP/2017/3.

### 3. Financial and technical support

- Enable sufficient up-front finance to cover transaction and monitoring costs and long implementation time-frames;
- Develop proposals to fund activities for climate change action, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, and submit proposals to climate and non-climate related funders;
- Continue to explore innovative funding mechanisms, both internationally and nationally, and work to leverage private finance flows;
- Acquire support, including from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN):
  - to plan and build capacity through the NAPs;
  - to assess options for financial and technical support at the subnational level.

For example, the GCF supports developing countries in the formulation of NAPs with up to USD 3 million through its readiness programme. The GEF, GCF and CTCN, as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, World Bank, International Renewable Energy Agency, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and European Commission all provide technical and/or financial support for action at the urban level.<sup>25</sup>

### 4. Low-emission policies and technology solutions

- Provide incentives, create a clear business case for investment, and undertake educational and behavioral change campaigns;
- Create enabling environments for stakeholders to come together to develop innovative solutions, to ensure good practices can be institutionalized and technical materials can be shared, and to scale-up existing initiatives;
- Provide adequate governance through strengthened institutional arrangements and legal and regulatory frameworks;
- Reduce the complexity of methods for measurement, reporting and verification in the AFOLU sector and build capacity to implement these methods.

For example, in Kenya, national policies support climate mitigation, including through agroforestry activities that come with clear co-benefits. Kenya is in the process of aligning policies with the country's Constitution. Agroforestry is resulting in carbon sequestration and has contributed to reduced forest degradation from fuelwood extraction. Planted rather than natural forests are providing fuelwood, timber and other tree products. Agroforestry, including combining tree cultivation with annual crops, is improving soil health, restoring soil integrity and producing feed for livestock.

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25 See boxes 12-14 in FCCC/TP/2017/2.

# RESOURCES, SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

This section summarizes resources, support and opportunities for action, as well as technologies that can be scaled up and replicated.

## 1. Pursue sectoral planning approaches that integrate concerns relating to—and pursue solutions that contribute to—adaptation, mitigation, risk reduction and sustainable development

- Create an enabling environment to encourage planning, whether for ecosystem-based adaptation, urban resilience, or land use;
- Support research on ecosystems, climate change and human/ecosystem relationships, methodologies, GHG emissions, and the impact and cost-effectiveness of policy choices;
- Provide resources to relevant actors, including finance and information related to integrated planning approaches and the three global agendas.

## 2. Plan collaboratively, bring together relevant actors, encourage coherence of actions and make efficient use of available capacities

- Develop spaces and institutional structures to encourage dialogue between different sectors and ministries, including state and non-state actors;
- Implement mechanisms and incentives to connect actors at the local, regional, national and international levels;
- Provide resources, including relevant data, to non-state actors so they can participate meaningfully in planning and action;
- Account for transnational impacts when planning;
- Pool resources from diverse actors through multi-stakeholder partnerships to mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and finance, particularly for support to developing countries.

## 3. Work closely with vulnerable people and communities, and pursue “people-centred approaches” to policymaking

- Establish mechanisms, support and incentives to gather input from vulnerable people, communities and indigenous peoples;
- Provide financial, technical and capacity-building support at the community level to pursue relevant community-led projects;

- Consider a broad range of context-specific measures that increase resilience, are community/farmer centred and gender sensitive;
- Engage with local communities and integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge.

#### 4. Create policy incentives that encourage action on mitigation and adaptation with related co-benefits

- Coordinate support for low-emission policies, technologies and practices to enable more targeted and impactful assistance to developing countries, to meet national SDG and mitigation targets;
- Improve monitoring and evaluation of mitigation and adaptation efforts, such as through SDG indicators, and consolidate institutional arrangements to support policymaking and implementation.

## A CALL TO ACTION

Integration of planning and action in support of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, UN Sustainable Development Goals and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is critical in meeting the goals of each of these three global agendas.

Policymakers at all levels, state and non-state actors, should systematically pursue coherence, collaboration and coordination in national and international climate and development policy. Such integration, across sectors, frameworks and levels of governance, as revealed in the TEMs, can multiply benefits to produce fundamental and transformative change.

This Summary for Policymakers, while acknowledging barriers to action, highlights several examples of policies, programmes, partnerships and resources that forcefully and unequivocally demonstrate that options do exist to advance ambitious pre-2020 climate action, contribute to sustainable development, lower risk and increase resilience.

The examples in this summary, and the collaborative processes from which they emerged, point to a future with dignity, prosperity and security for all. The hope is that the paths trodden by others can guide and inspire.



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Climate Change Secretariat