

Public Participation and Access to Information

Legal and Institutional Aspects of Implementation of Article 6 UNFCCC



Pepe Clarke, Legal Advisor, IUCN Regional Office for Oceania

Overview

- International Policy Context
- Public Participation Principles
- National Legal and Institutional Arrangements
 - National Policy
 - Local Planning
 - Project Assessment
- Developing Locally Appropriate Solutions

IUCN – The World Conservation Union

A global union of states, government agencies and non-government organisations.

Ongoing involvement in climate change processes, with emphasis on impacts on biodiversity and sustainable livelihoods.

Enhanced emphasis on climate change in 2009-2012 Global Programme.

Establishment of IUCN Regional Office for Oceania in Fiji (2006) provides opportunity for greater engagement on SIDS issues.

Public participation and community engagement a key priority for emerging IUCN regional programme for Oceania.





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- [Reducing Emissions](#)
 - [Carbon Neutral](#)
 - [Walk the Talk](#)
 - [Emissions Calculator](#)
 - [Climate Fund](#)
 - [Outreach](#)
 - [Project Portfolio](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Contacts](#)



Global climate change is one of the most pressing concerns of the 21st century. Warming temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, increased extreme events and sea level rise are already being observed and will have serious implications for economies, society and the environment. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit future climate change and improving the capacity of the world's biodiversity and poorest communities to adapt to its inevitable impacts are the two central challenges.



In the name of justice, IUCN calls for investment in climate change mitigation

17 November 2006

On the closing day of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) called for justice and immediate investments in cost-effective adaptation measures to future climate change impacts.

[Full release](#)



Coral bleaching will hit the world's poor

16 November 2006

Climate change puts at risk the livelihoods of at least 100 million people, mostly in developing countries, who depend on coral reef goods and services, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) said today at the United Nations conference on climate change.

[Full release](#) : [IUCN Global Marine Programme](#)

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- [Conserving biodiversity to cope with climate change - An overview of the issues](#)
December 1, 2005
- [2° Celsius: A world of difference to life on earth](#)
November 28, 2005
- [IUCN Commentary on Climate Change Impacts on Species Survival](#)
July 19, 2005

Publications

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- [IUCN's First Ever Assessment of its Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)
- [Climate Change and Nature: Adapting for the Future](#)
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(eng, french, spanish)

Member Highlight



How many IUCN members are working in Climate Change?

Website Highlights



IUCN highlights its emissions reductions in recently published report.

Carbon Help Desk



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ARTICLE 6, UNFCCC

In carrying out their commitments under Article 4, paragraph 1(i), the Parties shall:

- (a) Promote and facilitate at the national and, as appropriate, subregional and regional levels, and in accordance with national laws and regulations, and within their respective capacities:

[...]

- (ii) Public **access to information** on climate change and its effects;
- (iii) **Public participation** in addressing climate change and its effects and developing adequate responses;



Principle 10, Rio Declaration 1992



‘Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens at the relevant level. At the national level each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment.... States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation.... Effective access to judicial and administrative remedies... shall be provided.’

Public Participation Principles



- Public participation is inherently valuable, as a democratic practice.
- Public participation improves the quality of decision-making.
- Public participation increases public ownership of outcomes.
- Public participation processes provide an opportunity for two-way communication of information.
- Public participation increases accountability and builds partnerships for long-term action on climate change.

Implementation of climate change adaptation should utilise an open, transparent and highly participatory process that engages the community in the exploration of options to reduce vulnerability and effectively balance the needs and interests of a variety of stakeholders.

*Community Level Adaptation to Climate Change Action in the Pacific:
Proceedings of the Regional Workshop on Community Level Adaptation to
Climate Change, Suva, Fiji (21-23 March 2005)*

‘Community participation and consultation in any development is critical in the Pacific, as the majority of natural resources are community owned’.

SPREP (2006) *A Guide to Community Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment and Action*

Public Participation Processes



Public participation processes may play an important role at a number of levels:

1. project level assessment *eg. adaptation projects, coastal development*
2. community level planning *eg. coastal land use planning, water supply*
3. national plans and policies *eg. relocation and land tenure issues*

Effective public participation processes integrate community knowledge and priorities with national and international knowledge and priorities.



Locally Appropriate Solutions

- integration with existing frameworks
 - national laws, policies and institutions
eg. town planning regulations
 - local authority structures
eg. traditional authority of chiefs
- resource constraints
 - leverage community resources
eg. sea wall project in Samoa
 - government and donor resources
eg. community adaptation project

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