



Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development

Subnational Governments:

Conscientious and influential partners in climate action

Regional case studies

Fully aware of the cost of inaction around climate change, subnational governments commit individually and collectively - through organisation such as nrg4SD - to this global challenge with substantial human and financial resources.

Subnational governments are particularly well placed for identifying the needs and the strengths of their societies in their climate action, and they are often responsible for the elaboration and implementation of policy, legislation, programmes fiscal mechanisms and public investments plans in several areas - such as transport, energy, the environment, agriculture, forestry, industry, spatial planning, resource management, technology development and transfer, civil protection or development cooperation - that directly influence Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions levels and deal with the impacts of climate change. They also implement the bulk of national, European and international climate change policies and elaborate their own regional economic and climate change strategies.

Subnational governments have the capacity to and the experience of working with other levels of government, third sector bodies, the private sector and the financial institutions in order to find real solutions for real problems. Subnational governments from all over the world have demonstrated in a number of ways that their contribution and leadership is essential to help achieve the ultimate objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) since, according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 50% to 80% of adaptation and mitigation actions necessary to tackle climate change are or will be implemented at the subnational or local levels of governance.

Subnational governments are determined to address the issues of climate change and the economic difficulties many of them are facing by turning these challenges into an opportunity to move towards greener, smarter and more inclusive societies. Under a multilevel governance approach, it is instrumental that subnational governments are placed at the heart of the national, European and international decision-making process.



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Becoming a low carbon society: Planning regional strategies and communicating with citizens in a green, inclusive and smart manner



Aquitaine Carbone

Following from the devastating Klaus storm in January 2009 - which destroyed 203 000 ha of forest - the Regional Council of Aquitaine deployed plans to better support reforestation and pursue the long - term objective of tackling climate change also through the maintenance and improvement of the Aquitaine forest capacity to sequester carbon.

Objectives

To create a regional carbon compensation offer based on reforestation and carbon storage (forest storage and storage in woods products). The Aquitaine Carbon Association pre - finances projects of carbon storage and acquires carbon credits. These carbon credits are open to public or private bodies willing to compensate their carbon emissions (principle of voluntary carbon market). The Association works on a methodology for forest sequestration projects and will provide a certification of the carbon credits for recognition in the voluntary market.

Tools

Definition of common methodology for CO2 sequestration in carbon forest projects; certification of the methodology by accredited bodies, and creation of a voluntary compensation market.

Developing Eco - responsible high - school Students in Rhône - Alpes

The 270 public secondary schools (lycées publics) managed by Rhône - Alpes, with a 4,3 million m² surface, represent the bulk of its real state sites and a privileged hub for educating future generations on the issues at stake on sustainable development.

Objectives

To promote an integrated approach targeted to all actors involved, both at education and site management level by specific actions for schools (energy plans including data basis, diagnosis, installation of renewables, education), voluntary schemes "Eco - responsible schools" and "Bio schools" or the artistic competition Fluid'ART for the visualisation an awareness of the energy consumption of each school in real time.

Tools

Elaboration and annual update of a registry on the condition and consumption of schools, including individual in depth diagnosis and follow up; creation of a technical metering and monitoring tool, and elaboration of a methodology for the carbon impact of catering services in schools (in partnership with ADEME and the French regions of Aquitaine, Champagne - Ardenne and Poitou - Charentes).

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Financing climate action: Encouraging green business and using development aid differently



Catalonia's Voluntary Agreements for greenhouse emissions reductions

Managed by the Catalan Office for Climate Change, this public and private sector oriented scheme is a transparent and rigorous undertaking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in Catalonia beyond legal requirements. It falls under the Catalan Framework Plan for Climate Change Mitigation 2008-2012. Only through the Voluntary Agreements, it is expected to reduce 0.59 million tonnes of emissions/year up to 2012.

Objectives - To curb GHG emissions and improve the competitiveness Catalonia's economic sectors, to reduce the energy bill and to guarantee the continuous improvement of Catalan organisations. Signatories are listed as a committed group; can access specific dissemination and communication activities, and are entitled to use the official label.

Tools - Signature of the Scheme by organisations as a proof of long-term commitment; assessment by means of an inventory of GHG emissions, which must at least take into account direct emissions (fossil fuel consumption and public transport) and those associated with electricity consumption according to international standards; elaboration of a reduction action plan with specific measures and timescales; followed by the implementation of the measures and a reassessment to consider new proposals.

Basque Country MoU for a nrg4SD Framework of Multilateral Cooperation on Water Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean

Developed by the Basque Country Government and the Basque Water Agency within nrg4SD, this Memorandum of Understanding for 2010-2014 involves an extensive list of Latin American, Caribbean and Iberian Peninsula partners willing to establish long-term collaboration on water issues also related to sustainable development. The MoU should be read in connection with the wider political commitments undertaken at Basque level with the Basque Climate Bill.

Objectives - Provide education, training and awareness on water issues, with an emphasis on women participation; exchange advice on hydrological planning; collaborate on research, innovation and development projects related to hydrology, and to monitor the sound environmental and ecological status of water bodies.

Tools - Seminars, conferences and exchange of subnational specific strategies and action plans adopted by the signatories; technical training, including online courses and internships and assistance on the "International Decade for Action Water for Life 2005-2015", and high-level events on sustainable development and water.

Wallonia's Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC) Project with Senegal

This project of the region of Wallonia involves as well the French regions of Rhône-Alpes and Poitou-Charente, the Spanish region of Catalonia, the areas of Ferlo and Sine-Saloum in Senegal, the Federal Government of Belgium and the UN Development Programme (PNUD).

Objectives - Strengthen the capacities of the targeted regions, particularly of those from the South to mainstream climate and carbon concerns in their long-term development and regeneration planning for their territories. The main obstacle to be removed is the lack of articulation mechanisms between the national and regional policies. One of the main outcomes of the project is the creation of decentralised structures, also aligned to the national structure.

Tools - Elaboration of a governance framework; strengthening of the capacity of local actors from the South to identify the climate issues and risks at stake; elaboration of an Integrated Territorial Climate Plan, and identification and elaboration of a portfolio of eligible projects under the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM).

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Reducing the knowledge gap: Partnering for scientific research and innovation



AGIR Innovative Global Action for Provence Alpes Côtes d'Azur

Based on the principles of innovation, exemplarity and transferability, AGIR is a citizen and participative approach for a more conducive environment towards RES and energy efficiency. It is aimed at citizens, via grants ("energy cheques"), independent, advice & awareness-raising campaigns; at the private sector (agriculture and industry) to develop greener production processes, and at territorial authorities and public structures to promote low energy consumption buildings or larger scale RES initiatives.

Objectives

6 axis, namely AGIR with the territories (wind turbines, energy control, etc.), AGIR by the example (100 exemplary buildings, refurbishment of social housing, etc.), AGIR with the industries (photovoltaic, etc.), AGIR for the 21st century building (training of building professionals, architects, etc.), AGIR for the future (environmental education), and AGIR for the investment of citizens in renewable energy.

Tools

Regional, private and EU funds are used for 21 calls of proposals with 600 projects being implemented; independent evaluation assessments; tools for energy savings and RES production metering; mainstreaming of energy concerns across governmental departments; training of more than 500 building sector professionals over 3 days, and guides on energy performance requirements.

El Hierro 100% RES - the example of Canarias

Meeting the energy demand of the Island of El Hierro by means of a 100% renewable energies (RES) strategy is a commitment within the Sustainable Development Plan of the Island, supported by UNESCO. The Plan sets a development model of Biosphere Reserve, where citizenship participation is key. Citizens get involved in strategic decisions related to energy production, the exploitation of endogenous resources and the population's quality of life in general.

Objectives

With EU financial support and a consortium of 7 European partners coordinated by the Government of the Canary Islands through the Technology Institute of Canarias, the project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of RES integration as a way for providing 100% of the energy supply on isolated islands; the significant contribution to RES penetration in weak grids in isolated areas as achieved by synergies between different RES, and the cost-benefit advantage of storing energy in water form. Optimising the RES potential thanks to an energy-mix for local power supply and disseminating the benefits of innovative and integrated renewable energy solutions for islands are also key objectives.

Tools

Innovative actions including the setup of a Wind-Hydro Power Station (WHPS), to cover 75% of the electricity demand and achieve 30% direct wind penetration into the grid; the introduction of Energy Savings, "100% RES for Electricity Production" and Transport Programmes, and the implementation of Solar Thermal Energy, PV Roof and Biofuels Programmes.

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Mitigating and adapting to climate change impacts: Finding real solutions for real problems



Québec's Climate Municipalities Programme

Since 2006, the Government of Québec implements an Action Plan on Climate Changes aimed at curbing GHG emissions in 6% compared to 1990 levels by 2012. The Action Plan is mainly funded by a tax on fossil fuels. In April 2009, within the framework of the Action Plan, a new Climate Municipalities Programme was launched. The scientific consortium Ouranos has been brought in order to develop a methodology for awareness-raising and dissemination targeted to the municipalities. Ouranos, a scientific network for regional climate, mitigation and adaptation to climate change studies, was created back in 2001 upon the initiative of the Government of Québec, Hydro-Québec and the Federal Ministry for the Environment. Today Ouranos articulates the collaboration between the scientific research and the decision-making levels on climate change impacts and adaptation matters.

Objectives

To support and finance the elaboration of climate change adaptation plans for the cities having developed a strategy on GHG emissions reduction before 2009.

Tools

Elaboration of an Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation; guide for municipal actors; multidisciplinary and inter-institutional committee and education and awareness-raising workshops for the elaboration of the adaptation plan of the City of Québec.

ClimSAT, World Centre of Satellite Images of the UN in Brittany

As a tool of the United Nations Development Programme UNDP, ClimSAT provides services to the UNDP and the regions across the World that implement UN Territorial Approach on Climate Change (TACC) projects. The Centre ClimSAT relies on Breton scientific resources.

Objectives

Supply GIS data in support to TACC programme implementation and to subnational decision-making and implementation of adaptation to climate change actions; as well as contribute to capacity building. Supplied data and tools have to demonstrate high technical quality. Transferability and adaptability to Regions from the South' are also a requirement.

Tools

GIS data bases, including numerical models; integrated reporting on land uses; scenario projection of different climate change impacts (floods, droughts, raising sea levels, etc.); spatial planning and land management decision tools, and training for local field teams.

Sigmaplan - Flood risk management in Flanders

The Scheldt estuary, including Antwerp, is regularly subject to storm surges from the North Sea. Higher tide levels and more frequent storms than the predicted average have become a reality in the recent past. Back in 2004, the Flemish Government approved Sigmaplan, aimed at protecting against floods; preserving the natural character of the estuary system, and ensuring the accessibility of the port.

Objectives

To establish a system of controlled inundation areas and dike heightening. The long-term objective is the establishment, at several stages, of a robust and secure flood risk management system for Flanders. In this context, up to 2030, the construction of new project areas is planned every 5 years. The first projects are scheduled for 2010. The plan involves important changes in land use, mostly from agriculture to natural estuarine habitat. Allowing more space for the river also favours a healthier ecosystem, the improvement of water quality and opportunities for unique flora and fauna.

Tools

Multidisciplinary and interregional support plan, given the international character of the Scheldt River; multifunctional cross-policy steering committee, involving all interest groups and linking them to the decision-making level; compensation package to farmers affected by agriculture land expropriation; international collaboration for widening the port fairway to a keel depth of 13.10 m. (tide independent) in order to continue reducing CO2 emissions from road transport.

arbed - Strategic Energy Performance Investment Programme in Wales

Established by the Welsh Assembly Government in 2009, arbed invests in the energy performance of Welsh homes. This constitutes a major stimulus for jobs in Wales in what is a highly labour-intensive sector, with the added benefit that it helps delivering on housing, fuel poverty and climate change ambitions. The design of arbed reflects the shift in policy towards (i) a 'whole-house' or 'consider-all-options' approach to domestic energy performance, in order to tackle harder-to-treat homes, where the impact of fuel poverty tends to be most severe and (ii) a community or street-by-street approach, in order to support social cohesion and achieve economies of scale wherever possible.

Objective

To coordinate investment into the energy performance of Welsh homes, maximising the environmental, social and economic benefits, and helping deliver the *One Wales* commitments to reduce climate change, eradicate fuel poverty and boost economic development and regeneration in Wales.

Tools

Thanks to a combination of Welsh, private, public-private-partnership and EU funds, it is estimated that in phase 1 arbed will help 6,500 households with measures including solid wall insulation, solar hot water panels and heat pumps. A further 1,500 households should benefit through leveraged investment. arbed grantees are tied through contractual terms and conditions into taking part in targeted supply-side measures. These measures include: i) attending meet-the-buyer events prior to undertaking procurement; ii) making Targeted Recruitment & Training core to contracts, using the Can Do Toolkit; iii) delivering 156 trainee weeks for every £1m spent; iv) sourcing training/employment opportunities through JobMatch and its equivalents; v) helping local contractors gain qualifications/accreditation where appropriate, and vi) attending learning events.

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