



Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development

Working Group on Financing Climate Action 2011 Work Programme

Objectives and Expected Outcomes of the Working Group

The nrg4SD Financing Climate Action Working Group (FCA WG) is a technical initiative part of a comprehensive strategy put forward by nrg4SD's Secretariat and adopted by the Steering Committee (08.12.2010 Cancun and 15.02.2011 Brussels) aiming to establish several working groups within the Network in order to:

- Create dynamism and enhance the "network approach" for the activities and interests of member regions, within the framework of the topics identified for work programme 2008-2011;
- Work on specific and concrete areas, aiming to position the Network in international initiatives/events and identifying project proposals for interregional cooperation, which could fall under the calls for proposals of international funding sources, as appropriate;
- Enhance the strategic vision and long-term work of the Network.

The specific **objectives of the FCA WG** are:

- To create technical capacity in subnational governments/regional governments on existing carbon finance works;
- To enable subnational governments/regional governments to set up their own regional carbon finance tools, and
- To elaborate nrg4SD lobby strategies at EU and UN level pursuant carbon finance tools adapted to the needs of the subnational/regional level.

The **expected outcomes of the FCA WG** are:

- Trained officers within their respective subnational/regional governments on a complex field relevant to subnational/regional sustainable development policies, on which so far there is little technical expertise at subnational/regional level;
- A core group of subnational/regional governments able to understand and influence international negotiations on carbon finance tools via nrg4SD's involvement in key international initiatives and negotiations;
- Technical exchanges between subnational governments/regional governments currently setting up carbon funds or willing to learn how to do so (via technical sessions, webinars and exchanges of practices);
- Guidelines and suggested methodology for the set-up of carbon funds at subnational/regional level, and
- Guidelines and suggested methodology for the carbon assessment of public expenditure at subnational/regional level.

Structure of the Working Group

nrg4SD working groups are intended to share a common structure: each led by a coordinating region, which is assisted by two supporting regions (one of them if possible from the South). In addition, member regions participate actively in the working group. Participant regions shall be in a position to exchange their ongoing works on the matter or demonstrate significant interest in the issue. This is also in the interest of establishing working groups with a reasonable number of members in order to allow for actual exchange and collaboration.

- The region of **Brittany** (FR) has kindly volunteered to be the **coordinating region** of the FCA WG.
- **So far no supporting regions** have been identified. Brittany and nrg4SD's Secretariat **call for candidatures** for filling these vacancies.
- Following from the call for interest in joining the group, **FCA WG members are:** **Aquitaine** (France), **Brittany** (France), **Buenos Aires** (Argentina), **Catalonia** (Spain), **Mbale** (Uganda), **Basque Country** (Spain), **Flanders** (Belgium), **PACA** (France), **Québec** (Canada), **Rhône-Alpes** (France), **São Paulo** (Brazil), **Wales** (United Kingdom) and **Wallonia** (Belgium).

It has to be underlined that this WG does not seek to achieve the largest membership possible, but it aims to create a compact group of regions working together and willing to contribute to the Network at large with technical and political guidelines for action towards the EU and UN.

Solutions will be sought to associate Mbale and Buenos Aires, the Argentinian region having the intention to create and organise a Latin American Group, coordinated with the central WG meeting in Europe.

Tools and Methods of the Working Group

- **External and independent technical support** from European and international specialised bodies – e.g. European Investment Bank, European Commission DG for Climate Action and DG for Regional Policy, CDC Climat France, World Bank, etc. **All proposals** for other sources of technical expertise **are warmly welcomed**.
- **Recommended bibliography** in order to prepare the meetings and allow for a common understanding and culture amongst WG members.
- **Compendia or regional practices** (fiches, questionnaires, presentations).
- **Technical training sessions, presentations of case studies, question times with experts.**
- **Side events at key international dates** (e.g. United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change UNFCCC), also jointly organised with key international institutions and organisations.
- The nrg4SD Secretariat is committed to **explore IT solutions to facilitate the participation and involvement** in the WG (video and teleconference, webinars, podcasts, etc.).

2011 Work Programme for the Working Group

Every working group will adopt its own work programme/action plan in order to (i) outline specific objectives and identify (ii) international initiatives for lobby in favour of a subnational dimension, (iii) events where the presence or the participation of nrg4SD would be desirable, and (iv) topics of common interest on which to build project proposals for interregional cooperation, which can be eligible for European and international funding. Each work programme/action plan should nevertheless be adapted to the objectives of each working group and bear in mind the evolving character of these. A draft work programme/action plan will be put forward by the coordinating region, the two supporting regions and the Secretary General, in close consultation with the working group member regions.

- The FCA WG is a **highly technical working group**. This is relevant for the identification of the delegates by each subnational/regional government and implies as well some investment in the preparation of the meetings.

In order to maximise the training and contribute to the smooth progress towards the objectives and outcomes of the WG, delegates will be requested to prepare meetings in advanced – e.g. recommended bibliography (20-30 pages) before each technical meeting to ensure a common a common ground, preparation of questions to the guest experts, etc.

Suggested activities for 2011:

- **23 April 2011, Brussels (BE):** Launch meeting – presentation of proposed objectives, activities and dates.
- **17 May 2011, Brussels (BE):** Free technical training session – overview on carbon finance & regional carbon funds by CDC Climat France.
- **June 2011 during UNFCCC dates, Bonn (DE):** Monitoring of and involvement in UNFCCC negotiations and exchange of regional experiences – possibility for participation of other guest experts (for instance EIB).
- **29-31 August during nrg4SD's General Assembly, Quebec (CA):** Exchange of American regional experiences, elaboration of nrg4SD's lobby position for UNFCCC COP 17 Durban and preparation of side event.
- **21-22 October during Rhône-Alpes-The Climate Group-nrg4SD European Climate Change Conference, Lyon (FR):** run up to UNFCCC COP 17 Durban – Declaration for COP 17.
- **December 2011 during UNFCCC dates, Durban (SA):** Monitoring of and involvement in UNFCCC negotiations, side event on carbon finance and preparation of 2011 work programme (towards COP 18 Seoul).

In order to avoid too much travelling as public budgets tighten, as well as added work to the already busy portfolios of regional experts, only one technical meeting can be organised before the June UNFCCC sessions in Bonn.

Coordination with the fellow network The °Climate Group is being sought and includes an invitation for a coordination meeting around late June – early July.

The group will have to decide whether to organise a side event on Carbon Finance during COP17 Durban. This would be a logical consequence of the COP16 Cancun outcome and would constitute a milestone on this long-term track the Network is now starting. The strategic question of carbon financing is expected to be a key topic for UNFCCC in the coming years.

Evolving with WG members' needs and staying tuned in:

- Within reasonable and feasible limits, the coordinating regions and the nrg4SD Secretariat will strive to adapt this work programme to the evolving needs of its members and the ongoing international initiatives of relevance to nrg4SD's mandate.
- The suggested work programme is open to any suggestion from WG members. Their active participation is vital to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the objectives, outcomes, tools and methods of the Working Group.

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