



## Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development

*50% to 80% of the adaptation and mitigation actions needed to tackle climate change is or will be implemented at the subnational level of governance, according to UNDP.*

In the last few years, subnational governments have concretely shown that they take their climate change responsibilities very seriously. Their accomplishments in this area have grown tremendously in sophistication, efficiency and relevance. The important lessons being learned at subnational level – which are particularly well placed for identifying the needs and strengths of our societies in the challenge of climate change - can often feed into and improve national policy and shape more ambitious and innovative responses to climate change.

Either through competences-sharing arrangements or constitutional attribution of powers, subnational governments are often responsible for developing and implementing laws, policies, strategies, standards, programs, and fiscal mechanisms in areas with direct influence in GHG emissions and adaptation to climate change, such as energy, the environment, transport, industry, agriculture, land

and resource management, as well as civil security. Subnational governments also make public investment decisions that directly affect the level of global GHG emissions.

Subnational governments have exclusive or shared responsibilities with their national governments on a whole range of areas relating to adaptation, such as:

- Risks and vulnerabilities identification and assessment, including for forests and ecosystems;
- Development and implementation of risk reduction and prevention strategies;
- Disaster relief (such as compensation and rehabilitation policies), clean-up and reconstruction;
- Information gathering about climate conditions, variability and trends to help reduce unpredictability;
- Air and water quality monitoring and management;
- Health care, especially for vulnerable citizens;
- Public security and civil protection action plans, and
- Education and awareness campaigns.

Subnational governments often have the necessary skills, leadership, and expertise to help communities adapt to climate change, strengthen resilience and, in extreme situations, rebuild those communities after disaster has struck. They also have the capacity to respond quickly to a

climate change crisis, notably because they are close to the affected populations and have the most intimate knowledge of their needs.

Risk patterns and trends are often specific to a particular locality or region. In developing a strategic and systematic approach to reducing vulnerabilities, reducing disaster risks and building capacity to adapt to climate change, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 has recognised that fact, and suggested that responsibilities and resources for disaster risk reduction are decentralized to the subnational level as appropriate. The Hyogo Framework further recommended also developing subnational risk and vulnerability indicators, in order to better assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of potential disasters.

Last, it is important to note that subnational governments, particularly in developed countries, are sharing or willing to share their experiences, technologies and best practices on adaptation in a North-South context and among themselves. They would, however, welcome an international agreement on climate change that would foster further cooperation

The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD

works tirelessly to champion the work of subnational governments on sustainable development, including climate action. International organisation representing over 600 subnational governments\* (namely federated states and regional governments) at the global level; nrg4D promotes understanding, partnerships and projects in sustainable development and seeks greater international recognition the important contribution of subnational towards sustainable development. Member of the Forum Global d'Associations de Régions (FOGAR), nrg4SD is the voice of FOGAR in the field of sustainable development.

Today nrg4SD's big family keeps growing with new members - amongst which Buenos Aires Province (Argentina), Fatick (Senegal), Rhône-Alpes (France) or Québec (Canada) - and our eyes are already set on the preparation of UNFCCC COP 17. *Rendez-vous* in Lyon (France) on 20-21 October 2011 for the big European pre-COP event of the year, organised by the French region of Rhône-Alpes in close partnership with the organisation The Climate Group and the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development nrg4SD.

[www.nrg4sd.org](http://www.nrg4sd.org)

[nrg4@nrg4sd.org](mailto:nrg4@nrg4sd.org)

**\*nrg4SD subnational government members:** Açores (Portugal), Aquitaine (France), Aragón (Spain), Basque Country (Spain), Bourgogne (France), Bretagne (France), Buenos Aires Province (Argentina), Callao (Peru), Canarias (Spain), Cantabria (Spain), Catalonia (Spain), Chaco (Argentina), Équateur (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Fatick (Senegal), Flanders (Belgium), Fundación Comunitat Valenciana (Spain), Goiás (Brazil), Kaunas (Lithuania), Lusaka Province (Zambia), Mbale District (Uganda), North Burkina Faso (Burkina Faso), North Sumatra (Indonesia), Provence Alpes Côte d'Azur (France), Québec (Canada), Quintana Roo (México), Réunion (France), Rhône-Alpes (France), Riau (Indonesia), Santa Fe (Argentina), São Paulo (Brazil), Sofala Province (Mozambique), Timbuktu (Mali), Toscana (Italy), Tulcea (Romania), Wales (United Kingdom), Wallonia (Belgium), West Java (Indonesia), Western Cape (South Africa) – **nrg4SD associations of subnational governments members:** ABEMA (Brazil), ANAAE (Mexico), CONAGO (Mexico), CONCOPE (Ecuador), Congreso de Intendentes de Uruguay (Uruguay), CRPM (France), Northern Forum (United States of America), OLAGI (Ecuador), PRODIPAN (Bangladesh) – **nrg4SD observer governments:** Somaliland (Somalia), Taipei City (Taiwan)