

Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development



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Editorial

A new start with enhanced services to nrg4SD members

Maruxa Cardama, nrg4SD Secretary General

Dear nrg4SD members,

At the eve of the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development alongside the 2002 Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, we have ahead of us the challenge of enhancing our advocacy activities in favour of the crucial role of subnational governments towards the goal of sustainable development and of the need for adequate resources and tools for a multi-level sustainable development governance. Maintaining nrg4SD's tireless work in championing the activities of its member subnational governments, as well as in promoting territorial understanding, collaboration and partnerships in the sustainable development field is as inherent a mission to the nrg4SD project as ever.

The challenge is double in these turbulent economic times. However, we all know that our mission and vision are long-term goals, which require long-term political will, human and financial investment and information sharing. nrg4SD's specific character as the only sustainable development international organisation representing solely subnational governments from across the Globe at international level, makes our network a unique high-profile international platform and tool for committed and responsible subnational governments from the North and the South who implement and are keen to improve ambitious and innovative actions for sustainable development. The access to grass-roots case studies demonstrating

complementary solutions for similar challenges is the best evidence-based tool for our advocacy work; while it turns the common sustainable development struggle of our members into mutual learning.

In order to contribute to nrg4SD moving one step beyond building upon its accomplishment, I have used my first 9 months in office to establish the newly created permanent Secretariat of the network and to listen carefully to as many members and partners of nrg4SD as possible, with a view to better identifying needs, expectations, opportunities and partnerships.

On the basis of these exchanges and the current multiannual strategy for the network, I have also concentrated efforts on positioning nrg4SD and its members towards relevant international institutions and stakeholders. This has included re-launching partnerships of relevance to the network's mission and identifying new ones.

The network is now fully active in the works of the relevant major groups and constituencies of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change UNFCCC, the UN Convention for Biological Diversity UN CBD, the UN Environmental Programme UNEP Major Groups & Stakeholders Forum and Governing Council, the UN Rio +20 Preparatory Committee and the UN Commission for Sustainable Development UN CSD. Activities have also been

developed with UN Habitat, the UN Department for Public Information and NGOs UN DPI/NGO, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service UN NGLS and the UN Secretary General's Global Sustainability Panel UN GSP.

Direct collaboration has been established with the UN CBD Secretariat in order to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities and the establishment of an Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity. UN Habitat, the organisation ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and nrg4SD co-organised on 7 March 2011 the side event 'The city-region approach to the Green Economy' during the official programme of the UN Rio +20 Preparatory Committee sessions in New York, USA. During the UNFCCC intersessional meetings in the first half of June 2011, nrg4SD has been formally invited to work with the UNFCCC Secretariat in the organisation of a special in-session event for enhancing observer participation at the international climate change negotiations taking place later this year in Durban, South Africa.

nrg4SD and The °Climate Group have signed a Collaboration Agreement to structure the ongoing dialogue and common membership of several subnational governments. Since March 2011, in technical support of nrg4SD's work on financing climate action, the network is enjoying a fruitful collaboration with the French CDC Climat - Caisse des Dépôts et Consignation's subsidiary set up in February 2010 to combat climate change. Thanks to the re-launched collaboration over the past months, nrg4SD has now been invited by the organisation ICLEI to join some of its innovative initiatives planned for Durban. On the water resources & sanitation front, the Organisation Regions United/FOGAR and nrg4SD are planning to join forces in the World Water Forum in Marseille next March 2012 and co-host a high-level panel on subnational governance of water resources. Enhanced collaboration around climate change, rural sustainable development and eco-youth matters is being explored by nrg4SD and The Northern Forum.

Over the past months, I have focused on introducing new products for implementing our ambitious work programme for 2008-2011, while paving the way for

our post 2011 work programme. This has come hand in hand with introducing new technical materials, working groups and advocacy papers, as well as with efforts for improving our communications, with a view to enhancing synergies between members and raising the profile of our individual members and the network in international instances.

The nrg4SD Secretariat has established a series of working groups intended to develop technical expertise and facilitate exchange between members of the network, namely: (i) an Advocacy Task Force on international climate change negotiations, and technical groups on (ii) financing climate action, (iii) the works of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for subnational governments, (iv) international forest policy and the 2011 International Year for Forests, (v) water and sanitation matters, and (vi) the Rio +20 process.

The network has also produced a series of advocacy papers on the role of subnational governments on climate action, the transition towards a Green Economy and sustainable consumption & production. Technical materials such as overviews, rough guides, quick guides and glossaries on these matters have also been produced over the last months.

As regards nrg4SD's communications strategy, the introduction of this quarterly newsletter aims to inform nrg4SD members and partners about the activities of the Secretariat. As a dual communications tool, the newsletter aims to profile not only the work of the network but also to showcase regional projects and act as an exchange place for new ideas and partnerships between members.

nrg4SD's website will soon switch to a completely revamped and up to date version. A new, refreshed layout will provide for a more user-friendly and accessible way to navigate through the pages. The new website will not only be a proper communication tool for internal use (Secretariat with members and members among themselves), but also a milestone of the marketing and development strategy of the network. nrg4SD is also connected with social networks, allowing for further profiling of our activities.

Last but not least, as public budgets tighten, the nrg4SD Secretariat and the Treasury have concentrated further efforts in reducing expenditure. In this context, the 2011 budget is already a core activity budget. New providers for website and email services have been found offering more interesting maintenance and development rates than the previous ones. Translation of documents and the website in the 3 working languages (Spanish, English, French) is done in-house by the Secretariat to concentrate the use of this budgetary line on providing interpretation services for nrg4SD events in the 3 languages and thus facilitating the participation of members. The travel budget of the Secretary General has been set at €12000, and although this is a slight increase from last year (in order to hold meetings to prepare the post 2011 work programme), it reduces the originally planned budget line of €15000. The financial travelling assistance for Southern members has been reduced, since this has not been fully used in the past. Last but not least, I would like to highlight the contributions in kind by some members in addition to payment of their fee - e.g. IT material for a trainee and brochure printing from Brittany; Secretary General's travel expenses, backing of nrg4SD events and office space for 2 trainees by the Basque Country; temporary office space by the CPMR, and brochure graphic design and General Assembly organisation

by Quebec. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for all these contributions, which have been vital for the functioning of the newly created permanent Secretariat.

This zero edition of the new nrg4SD newsletter endeavours to explain in more detail the activities of the network over the past 9 months. I hope you will find the initiatives and tools developed relevant and useful to the interests of our individual members and the mission of our network. These results would have not been possible without the help of our 2 trainees. Andrea Bonfiglioli and Lucy Mathieson, who joined the Secretariat in April 2011, have dedicated precious time, energy and commitment to help build upon the accomplishments of the network over its almost 10 years of life in order to unfold its full potential.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch directly with any comments or suggestions. Listening to our members' needs and vision for the network remains vital for achieving accurate and relevant services.

With my best regards,

Maruxa Cardama
nrg4SD Secretary General

mcardama@nrg4sd.org
Tel.: +32 (0) 475 844 339
Skype: maruxacardamanrg4sd



Global Commitment of North and South Subnational Governments to Sustainable Development

The Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development, nrg4SD works tirelessly to champion the work of subnational governments on sustainable development, including climate action, biodiversity, water resources & sanitation and general sustainable development matters. International organisation representing subnational governments (namely federated states and regional governments) at the global level, nrg4SD promotes understanding, partnerships and projects in sustainable development and seeks greater international recognition of the important contribution of subnational governments towards sustainable development. Member of the Organisations of Regions United/FOGAR, nrg4SD is the voice of ORU/FOGAR in the field of sustainable development.



A legitimised network – nrg4SD represents directly a critical mass of subnational governments from across the Globe.

A representative network - This worldwide constituency of common interests and goals constitutes nrg4SD as a powerful political platform.

A relevant network – nrg4SD services offer expertise, product and contracts adapted to the elaboration and delivery of sustainable development strategies at subnational level.



www.nrg4sd.org



In Focus

2011 General Assembly

As members may have heard from previous communications, the Government of Quebec, in collaboration with nrg4SD Co-Chairs and Secretariat, is kindly hosting the 2011 General Assembly of nrg4SD, from 29 to 31 August in Quebec City.

From the Government of Quebec and the nrg4SD Secretariat we are working closely to propose a programme of activities that brings together the statutory meetings of the Network – namely the Steering Committee and General Assembly meetings – with technical sessions of the Network's working groups and a ministerial round table; while leaving room for bilateral interaction and meetings amongst the different delegations. The programme of activities also features a high-Level North-American Forum. Building upon the long-track collaboration initiatives of the host Government of Quebec with other North-American Governments and stakeholders, this Forum will constitute a unique opportunity for nrg4SD delegates to link in with like-minded partners.

The statutory meetings that will take place in Quebec are meant to be a milestone in this new cycle of nrg4SD. The intense ongoing work programme; the exciting perspectives for the years to come in the context of the very interesting international developments of relevance to subnational governments; the consolidation of the network beyond its 10th Anniversary in 2012, and the continuity of the recently established permanent Secretariat call upon strategic, constructive and transparent discussions involving all nrg4SD members.

The specialised website www.nrg4sd-quebec.org allows members to register online for the General Assembly. It also provides a preliminary programme for the event, as well as indications on how to book accommodation at a preferential rate at the Hotel Loews Le Concorde, where the General Assembly is taking place. The deadline for reservations at preferential rate at this hotel is 28 July 2011. The preferential rate is extended from 25 August to 3 September 2011. From the [nrg4SD website](http://www.nrg4sd.org) members can download all documents, including an annotated programme for the event and the agendas for the meetings of the nrg4SD working groups.





Climate Change

What has the nrg4SD Secretariat been up to?

Since its creation in September 2010, the permanent Secretariat of the network has worked on a series of issues related to climate action from continuing tirelessly representing its members in international climate change negotiations, to establishing an advocacy task force on international negotiations and an technical working group on financing climate action, as well as to producing technical background materials and advocacy papers.

Thanks to its accreditation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as an observer organisation within the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) constituency; to its renewed work with the European Union (EU) Institutions, and to the long-term collaboration with other organisations representing subnational governments and the business sector - such as ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, UCLG United Cities and Local Government and T°C&G The Climate Group -, nrg4SD is well positioned for advocating for better recognition of the crucial role of subnational governments in climate action from the core of the international negotiations process. nrg4SD's long-track advocacy work paid off last December 2010 at the 16th Conference of the Parties (COP16/CMP6) in Cancun, Mexico, as the Cancun Agreements established for the first time ever in a UNFCCC official agreement the full recognition of the crucial role of both local and subnational governments as 'government stakeholders' in global climate change efforts. 'The Tale of the 3 success stories', a commentary by Secretary General Maruxa Cardama at the closing of the COP16/CMP6 negotiations is available [here](#). Members may also find useful the nrg4SD [Overview](#) on the outcomes of COP16/CMP6. This overview provides an analysis of the outcomes of Cancun, in general terms and specifically for subnational governments.

Cancun -30: Regions delivering climate action - An nrg4SD discussion session between key players

In preparation for COP16, nrg4SD's Vice-Presidency for Europe, the region of Brittany, and nrg4SD Secretariat, in collaboration with the EU Committee of the Regions, co-organised on 25 October 2010 in Brussels (Belgium) a successful European event to discuss the role of subnational governments in a series of climate action objectives and outline recommendations to the EU to maximise this role. Issues included the transition to a low carbon society; using development aid differently; implementing concrete adaptation and mitigation actions, and bridging the knowledge gap. The event, not only attracted regional and local stakeholders interested in how regions can engage with European and international climate change policies, but also high-level government, European Commission and European Environmental Bureau officials - including key note speeches from Mr. Peter Vis, Head of Cabinet of the EU's Commissioner for Climate Action, and Mr. John Hontelez, Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau.

Thanks to the superb mobilisation of nrg4SD European regions and Quebec's Delegation in Brussels, the network was in an excellent position to illustrate arguments to the EU with specific case studies from Aquitaine, the Basque Country, Brittany, Canarias, Catalonia, Flanders, PACA, Quebec, Rhône-Alpes, Wales, Wallonia. The event featured the presentation of the an nrg4SD European Position Paper. For more information, click [here](#).



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Picture on previous page: From right to left: Mr. Peter Vis, Head of Cabinet for EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard Climate Action, Mr. Dominique Ramard, President of the Climate Change-Energy Commission of Brittany and nrg4SD Vice-Chair for Europe, Professor Joxer-ramón Bengoetxea, University of the Basque Country, Mr. Frederic Ximeno i Roca, Director General for Environmental Policy and Sustainable Development of Catalonia and nrg4SD Co Chair for the North, Mr. Benoît Leclair, Vice President for Energy and Climate of Rhône Alpes, and Mr. Pedro Ballesteros, Programme Manager, Directorate General for Energy, European Commission.

nrg4SD involvement at COP16/CMP6 Cancun

During COP16/CMP6, nrg4SD worked to influence the international negotiations process and co-organised official and parallel side events with The °Climate Group, the National Association of Environmental Authorities from Mexican States (ANAAE) and the Mexican National Conference of Governors (CONAGO). nrg4SD also co-hosted a press conference on the outcomes of the COP with UCLG and the City of Durban (future COP17 host). The network also had an exhibition stand during the 2 weeks.

nrg4SD Steering Committee members gathered for one of their two ordinary meetings of 2010 on the occasion of COP16. The Steering Committee meeting featured a public session outlining key ongoing collaborations and proposals for further joint action with guest speakers and observers in representation of the United Nations University (UNU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention for Biological Diversity, the German Land of Hessen, the German Land of Nord-Rhein Westphalia, the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo, ClimSAT and The °Climate Group. Detailed information is available [here](#).

nrg4SD climate action working groups

nrg4SD has established two working groups relating to climate change issues. It keeps a permanent Advocacy Task Force on international climate change negotiations, coordinated by Catalonia and Quebec, and has recently launched a Technical Working Group on financing climate action (FCA-WG) coordinated by Brittany. Both groupings have technical support from the Secretariat, who is in charge of putting forward the main elements of their work programme, organising and reporting on meetings and producing draft papers for approval by working group members.

The Advocacy Papers 'Subnational Governments at the forefront of climate action' and 'Subnational Governments: Key Actors in Climate Action - A Contribution to COP17/CPM7' have been adopted by the permanent Advocacy Task Force as the key nrg4SD messages in COP16 and COP17 respectively. In early 2010, intense advocacy was developed around the works of the UNFCCC Ad-Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA), which resulted in COP16 Cancun in the recognition of local and subnational governments as 'governmental stakeholders' for the first time ever in a n UNFCCC agreement. All advocacy papers are available [here](#).

The Technical Working Group on financing climate action (FCA-WG) seeks to create capacity on carbon finance mechanisms among its members in order to enable them to set their own plans and tools, and shapes nrg4SD's advocacy work towards the territorial dimension of international carbon finance mechanisms. The FCA-WG was launched on 23 March 2011 with the first technical meeting taking place on 17 May 2011 in Brussels, Belgium. This session proved informative with presentations by CDC Climat and the Region of Aquitaine, who provided technical expertise and solid regional case studies. The second technical meeting took place on 7 June in Bonn, Germany, alongside the UNFCCC negotiations. For more information on the FCA-WG click [here](#).

nrg4SD Papers

The nrg4SD Secretariat has been working hard over the past months to produce a series of technical background **overviews, quick guides, rough guides, and glossaries** analysing the key aspects of international climate change negotiations and their relevance to subnational governments.

An **advocacy brochure positioning subnational governments at the forefront of climate action** was produced jointly with the Government of Quebec and The °Climate Group in November 2010 for COP 16/CMP6 Cancun.

An **advocacy paper on the contributions of subnational governments towards COP17/CMP7 Durban** has been produced for the intersessional meetings of early June 2011 in Bonn.

[Click here](#) for the full list of papers.



nrg4SD involvement in UNFCCC intersessional meetings in Bonn on behalf of members

The 34th sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took place from 6-17 June in Bonn, Germany, and nrg4SD was actively and successfully involved in the sessions. Despite a slow start due to disagreements over the agenda of the meeting, the negotiations gave way to a more positive and constructive tone during the second week and allowed for lively discussions on enhancing the engagement of observers.

A combined session of the permanent Advocacy Task Force and the FCA-WG took place on 7 June alongside the UNFCCC discussions in order for members to assess and discuss the key issues of relevance to subnational governments around post-2012 arrangements. This was possible thanks to the technical support of Mr Emmanuel Legrand, Deputy Director for Investments in CDC Climat and the in-depth contributions of the delegations from Brittany, Catalonia, Rhône-Alpes, Quebec and Wallonia who were taking part in these intersessional meetings. The FCA-WG amended and adopted the advocacy paper prepared by the Secretariat on this occasion and had the opportunity to discuss with Mr. Luc Bas, Director for European Programmes in The ° Climate Group ways for putting in place the agreed collaboration of this organisation to the objectives of the nrg4SD FCA-WG. nrg4SD advocacy papers were distributed to national delegations during the 2 weeks.

On 8 June, the net work participated in the SBI in session workshop to further develop ways to enhance the engagement of observer organisations in the UNFCCC process. nrg4SD participated in the process within the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities constituency. In this context, we worked in close collaboration with ICLEI, focal point of the constituency, and UCLG colleagues to prepare joint messages around the implementation of the recognition of local and subnational governments as 'governmental stakeholder.' We also provided practical ideas as well as examples from other UN entities on how to enhance observers' engagement.

Many parties welcomed the principle of an enhanced engagement with observers and Australia, Bolivia, Colombia, Cook Islands, the EU, Grenade, Mexico and USA contributed actively with ideas on how to make it happen. Despite initial agreements on whether to enshrine it in written, after the informal consultations, parties agreed to recommend that, in cases where there is no contact group on an agenda item, at least the first and last informal meetings can be open to observers. The same provisions recognised as well the right of parties to keep informal meetings closed. As a matter of fact, some of the initially closed sessions at Bonn ended up open to observers upon suggestion from chairs and facilitators. Prospects were less bright as regards the date for examination of options for new channels for observer organisations to provide inputs into the COP/CMP. Though Australia, Mexico and Colombia proposed to examine options at SBI 35, the final agreement by Parties, upon proposal of Saudi Arabia and Barbuda, was to defer the consideration of the issue until SBI 36.



Picture: SBI Chair Robert Owen-Jones (center) consults with delegates on draft conclusions regarding observer organisations

Did you know?

...the evils of methane? -

Methane has 25 times the impact of carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

Cut down on meat and dairy -

a vegan in a 4x4 can do the climate more good than a meat-eater driving a hybrid car. Food for thought?.

Energy efficiency at your finger tips -

Set your heating to go off 30 minutes before you leave the house, and come on again 30 minutes before you expect to return.

Modern dishwashers use less energy and water than washing up by hand.

When cooking, use a lid on saucepans where possible, so the contents heat up faster and require less energy.

More tips on 'Strange but true actions for cutting your CO2 emissions' BBC UK.



© Ceinturton (Wikipedia)



© Johan van Gurp

At a meeting on 8 June 2011, nrg4SD northern co-chair representative of the Government of Catalonia Mrs. Susanna Rivero Baughman, representative of the Government of Québec Mr. Claude Côté and nrg4SD Secretary General Maruxa Cardama had the opportunity to present nrg4SD's advocacy paper 'The Contribution of subnational governments towards COP17/CMP7' to Mr. Daniele Violetti, Chief of Staff to the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Mrs. Christiana Figueres. This successful first dialogue between nrg4SD and Mr. Violetti paved the way for a second meeting on 14 June 2011, which resulted in a formal invitation to work with the UNFCCC Secretariat in the organisation of a UNFCCC special event for enhancing observer participation at COP17 Durban later this year. With a general positive feeling towards an enhanced engagement with observers but a deferred examination of the options for doing so (as explained above), this formal invitation constitutes a fantastic platform for nrg4SD advocacy work and for profiling projects from members; while it positions the network at the core of a pioneering initiative from the UNFCCC Secretariat from the early stages of its elaboration.

On 7 June, the Vice-President of the region of Rhône-Alpes for Energy and Climate Mr. Benoît Leclair led the informal exchanges with ICLEI and UCLG colleagues about the collaboration of local representatives in the European Conference of Regions that the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes, The °Climate Group and nrg4SD are co-organising on 20-21 October in Lyon.

nrg4SD submits proposals to consultation on COP17 outcomes

In follow up to a request from the incoming South African Presidency for observer organisations to submit a statement noting their expectations for COP17/CMP7, nrg4SD has prepared and sent proposals to H.E. Ambassador Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko.

What is coming up?

29-31 August 2011, Quebec, Canada - nrg4SD's permanent Advocacy Task Force on international climate change negotiations and Working Group on financing climate action will meet for a joint session dedicated to taking stock of the latest developments on international negotiations and the activities of both groups, as well as to further elaborating the activities and technical advocacy messages of the network towards COP17/CMP7 Durban. The outcomes will be subject to deliberation and approval by all nrg4SD members at the General Assembly meeting.

20-21 October 2011, Lyon, France – European Climate Change Conference for Regions organised by the Regional Council of Rhône-Alpes, The °Climate Group and nrg4SD. nrg4SD coordinates the workshop on 'international solidarity between regions'. The experiences shared and lessons learnt at this workshop, as well as at the other 2 workshops on clean mobility and energy efficiency in buildings, will feed into the targets and commitments to be outlined in the political declaration of Lyon.

28 November-9 December, Durban, South Africa – nrg4SD has been invited directly by the UNFCCC Secretariat to help organise a UNFCCC special official event for enhancing observer participation at COP17. Besides, after being supporting partners to ICLEI's successful Resilient Cities Congress (3-5 June 2011), nrg4SD is now invited by ICLEI to actively join some of its innovative initiatives for Durban.



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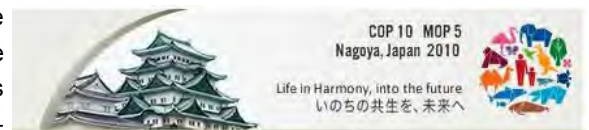
Biodiversity

What has the nrg4SD Secretariat been up to?

Thanks to its accreditation to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UN CBD), nrg4SD takes part in the Global Partnership for Biodiversity and enjoyed a privileged position within the international decision-making process during the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10) last 18-29 October 2010 in Nagoya (Japan), where the network was represented by a political and technical delegation of the southern co-chairs of São Paulo. Since Nagoya, nrg4SD is working directly with the Secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of the Convention at subnational level. On the occasion of nrg4SD's Steering Committee meeting on 8 December 2010 in Cancun, Mexico, nrg4SD members had the opportunity of listening to first-hand information on the outcomes of the COP and on how to collaborate with the Convention. This was presented by Mrs. Anne Marie Wilson, Programme Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention. The network will have the honour of welcoming UN CBD Executive Secretary Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif at our General Assembly meeting on 29-31 August in Quebec.

Subnational governments' and nrg4SD's recognition as from UN CBD COP10 Nagoya

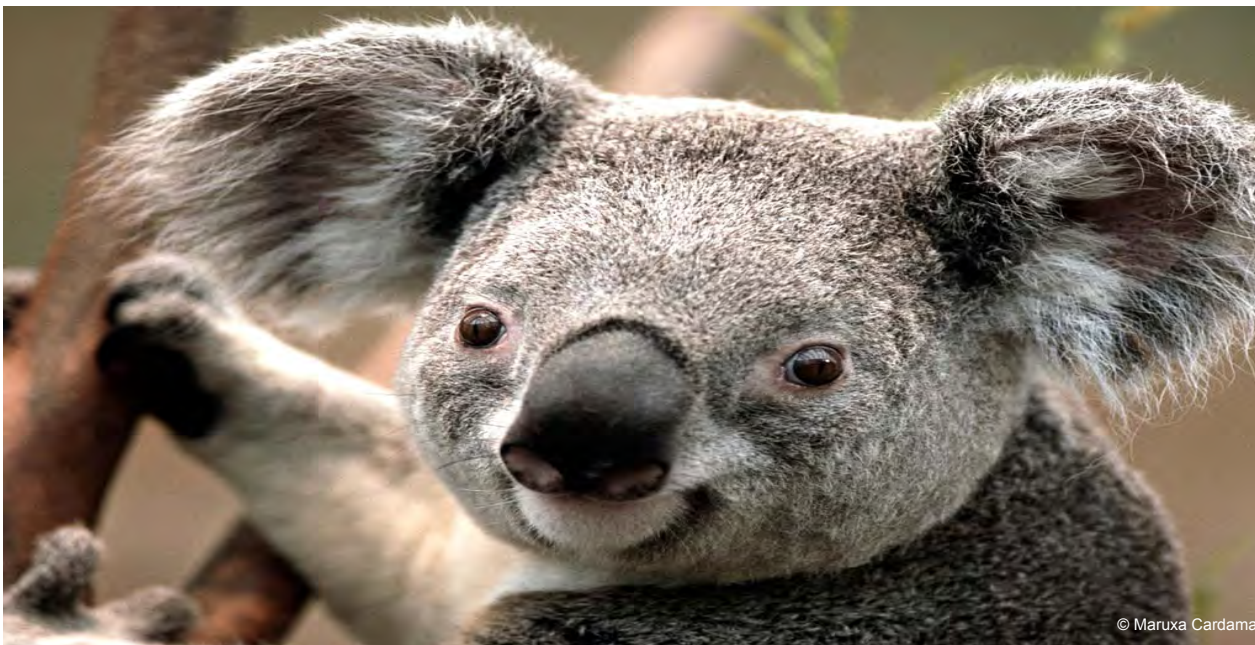
COP10 Nagoya led to the adoption of three important documents: The [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#); the [Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity](#) (Decision X/22); the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation ([ABS Protocol](#)), and a Strategy to mobilise resources for global biodiversity. nrg4SD joined forces with the EU Committee of the Regions to advocate successfully for the scope of the Plan of Action to be extended not only to cities and local authorities but also to subnational governments. The Plan of Action launches the process for the establishment of 2 CBD Advisory Committees for subnational governments and cities and other local authorities, respectively. nrg4SD has been identified in the text of the Plan of Action as a key partner for the establishment of the Advisory Committee of subnational governments 'in recognition of the critical complementary and distinct role in the implementation of the Convention.'



The Strategic Plan 2011-2020 establishes that by 2020 the values of biodiversity should be integrated by all countries into subnational development and planning strategies. Furthermore, it encourages the participation of subnational governments in the preparation and implementation processes of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs), and it supports the adoption of strategies and action plans at subnational level.

nrg4SD participates in the first meeting of the Plan of Action

nrg4SD attended the first meeting for the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity which was held on 17-19 January 2011 in Montpellier, France. On this occasion, the participants brainstormed on short-term projects to kick off the implementation of the Plan of Action. nrg4SD identified potential collaborations with other members of the Global Partnership



© Maruxa Cardama

for Biodiversity, such as ICLEI, the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN and the EU Committee of the Regions. Identified initiatives include: (i) ensuring that networks of subnational and local authorities are informed of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan, ABS and other protocols; (ii) contributing to the production and distribution of brochures and newsletters on the Plan of Action and its implementation; (iii) work with willing CBD Parties to identify subnational focal points charged with supporting National Focal Points in the implementation of Decision X/22; (iv) ensure the participation of subnational and local authorities, as appropriate, in the upcoming series of NBSAP review workshops promoted by the CBD Secretariat; (v) contribute to generating 3 mid-sized projects to increase engagement of subnational governments from developing countries in the implementation of the Plan of Action; (vi) organise regional training workshops in Latin America to enhance understanding, awareness and implications of the Plan of Action, and (vii) encourage the exchange of experiences on the implementation, indicators and reporting of well-being indicators linked to nature.



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Picture: Global Partnership for Biodiversity members, including nrg4SD Secretary General, Maruxa Cardama at the brainstorming sessions of the first meeting of the Plan of Action in Montpellier, France, 17-19 January 2011.

nrg4SD working groups on biodiversity and forests: call for interest in project proposals

The nrg4SD Working Group devoted to the implementation of the UN CBD Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity will be launched at our General Assembly in Quebec. This will constitute an excellent opportunity for nrg4SD members to seek involvement in the above-mentioned project proposals identified by nrg4SD and other Global Partnership members. The nrg4SD Secretariat is discussing with the CBD Secretariat the possibility of hosting the first informal discussions of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity at our General Assembly and in collaboration with the Brazilian state of Paraná, who will host the first official meeting of the Committee in January 2012. Besides, the nrg4SD Secretariat is invited by the CBD Secretariat to identify a group subnational governments willing to work directly in the implementation of the Plan of Action in their territories. The nrg4SD Secretariat would like to suggest 2 specific pilot projects, namely: (i) the elaboration of guidelines for the development of regional biodiversity strategic action plans, and (ii) the adaptation of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI), the so-called Singapore Index to the subnational/regional level. nrg4SD members interested in any of these projects are encouraged to please get in touch with nrg4SD Secretary General [Maruxa Cardama](#) as soon as possible.

During the General Assembly meeting, Aquitaine, in its capacity of coordinator of nrg4SD's Working Group on forests, will present to members the key elements of the work programme of this Working Group as prepared with the technical support of nrg4SD Secretariat. Members interested in forest matters are kindly requested to express their interest to the [nrg4SD Secretariat](#).



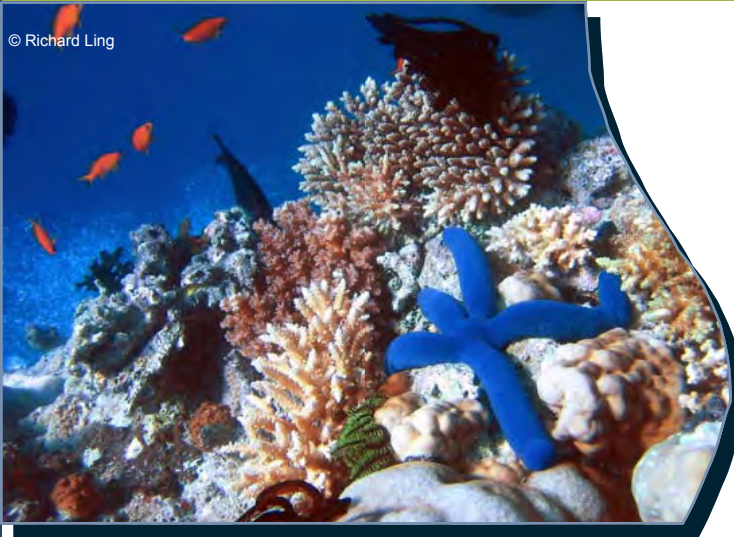
Documents for nrg4SD members

UN CBD Secretariat presentation to nrg4SD Steering Committee, 8 December 2010, Cancun - Subnational governments, nrg4SD and its potential role in the Convention on Biological Diversity and other MEAs – Presentation of Mrs Anne-Marie Wilson, UN CBD Secretariat Programme Officer.

Report on the first implementation meeting of the UN CBD Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities, Montpellier, France, 17-19 January 2011 - Including information on the brainstorming of nrg4SD and other Global Partnership for Biodiversity partners around short-term projects for the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Decisions of UN CBD COP10, 18-29 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan – Including Decision X/22 adopting the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities and identifying nrg4SD in the text of the Decision as a key partner for the establishment of the Advisory Committee for subnational governments.

[Click here](#) to access these documents.



Did you know...

... that **Nemo is under threat?** - Finding Nemo will become increasingly difficult: baby orange clownfishes – the same species as the protagonist of the famous animated film – are becoming deaf to the sounds of their predators as a consequence of global warming. Scientists discovered that ocean acidification due to growing concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere weakens the ability of baby clownfishes to detect underwater noises produced by their potential predators.

Did you know...

...the rate of biodiversity loss? - Since 1500 CE, 784 extinctions have been documented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.



22 May - International Day for Biological Diversity

The United Nations proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. When first created by the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in late 1993, 29 December (the date of entry into force of the Convention of Biological Diversity), was designated the International Day for Biological Diversity. In December 2000, the UN General Assembly adopted 22 May as IDB, to commemorate the adoption of the text of the Convention on 22 May 1992 by the Nairobi Final Act of the Conference for the Adoption of the Agreed Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. This was partly done because it was difficult for many countries to plan and carry out suitable celebrations for the date of 29 December, given the number of holidays that coincide around that time of year.

2011 - Forest Biodiversity

2010 - Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation

2009 - Invasive Alien Species

2008 - Biodiversity and Agriculture

2007 - Biodiversity and Climate Change

2006 - Protect Biodiversity in Drylands

2005 - Biodiversity: Life Insurance for our Changing World

2004 - Biodiversity: Food, Water and Health for All

2003 - Biodiversity and poverty alleviation - challenges for sustainable development

2002 - Dedicated to forest biodiversity

What is coming up?

29-31 August 2011, Quebec, Canada – **Working Groups on Biodiversity and Forests** launch their respective work programmes. The work programme of the Working Group on Biodiversity offers interesting project opportunities to nrg4SD members as explained above. The nrg4SD Secretariat is discussing with the UN CBD Secretariat the possibility of hosting the first informal discussions of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity in collaboration with the Brazilian state of Paraná.

Regional Workshops for Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans:

19-23 June 2011, Brazzaville, Congo - **Regional Workshop for Central Africa.** More information [here](#).

27-30 June 2011, Kigali, Rwanda - **Regional Workshop for Eastern Africa.** More information [here](#).

13-15 July 2011, Quito, Ecuador - **Regional Workshop for South America.** More information [here](#).



2011 - International Year of Forests

The United Nations declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests. Forests represent an important ecosystem service, supporting people livelihoods and contributing to the development of economies and societies.

Forests also have a key role in tackling climate change: they are not only carbon sinks (they sequester about 15% of human-generated carbon emissions every year), but they also contribute effectively to climate change adaptation by mitigating risks from natural disasters such as floods and droughts, as well as ensure food security and human health.

However, forests are threatened by overexploitation, degradation and climate change, becoming increasingly vulnerable to pests, diseases and fires.

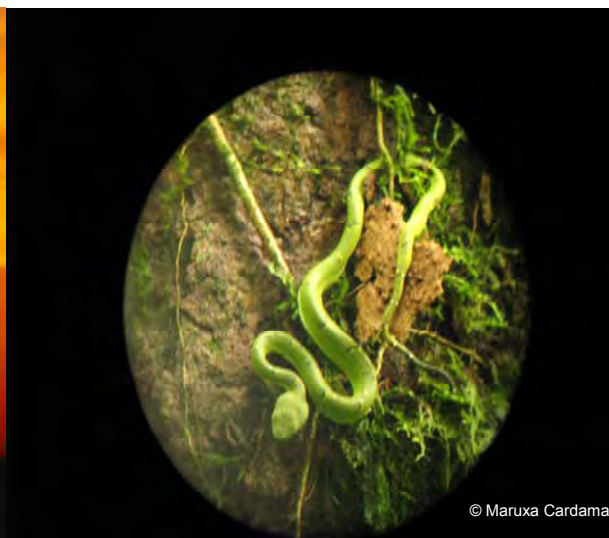
The UN promotes a sustainable forest management (SFM) to protect forest biodiversity and 'to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental value of all types of forests.'



Did you know...

...the forest cover in Europe has increased? -

The forest cover in Europe has increased by 21 million hectares from 1048 mln ha in 1990 to 1069 mln ha in 2010.





© Roger McLassus

Water Resources & Sanitation

What has the nrg4SD Secretariat been up to?

nrg4SD has engaged in a series of events in development of the net work's 2010-2014 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a multilateral cooperation framework for the Latin America and the Caribbean. The MoU was signed at the World Summit of Regions co-organised by nrg4SD and the Congress of Intendentes from Uruguay in April 2010 in Montevideo. Developed by the Basque Country Government and the Basque Water Agency within nrg4SD, this MoU 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 objectives of the MoU are: (i) providing education, training and awareness on water issues, with an emphasis on women participation; (ii) exchanging advice on hydrological planning; (iii) collaborating on research, innovation and development projects related to hydrology; (iv) monitoring the sound environmental and ecological status of water bodies, and (v) implementing the International Decade Water for Life 2005-2015. The MoU - available [here](#) - is implemented biannually by means of action plans.

IV nrg4SD Latin American and Caribbean Meeting: Focus on Water Resources and Sanitation

On 8-9 November 2010 in Mar del Plata, nrg4SD co-organised with the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires and its Provincial Organism for Sustainable Development (OPDS) the **IV Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of the net work**, focused on water resources and sanitation. The event gave members the opportunity to exchange on water resources management.



© Maura Cardenas

Picture: From left to right - President of the Federal Environmental Council of Argentina COFEMA, Ing. Alfredo Montalbán; Secretary for the Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation of Argentina Mr. Homero Bibiloni; Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires Mr. Daniel Scioli; Prefect of El Azuay (Ecuador) and President of the Latin American Organisation of Intermediate Governments OLAGI Mr. Paúl Carrasco; Director President of CETESB São Paulo and representative of nrg4SD southern co-chair Mr. Fernando Rei, and Executive Director of OPDS, Mr. José Manuel Molina.

First nrg4SD online course on Awareness Raising and Capacity Building on Water Issues The Government of the Basque Country, the Basque Water Agency and the nrg4SD Secretariat co-organised from November 2010 to January 2011 a 30-hour [online course on awareness raising and capacity building on water issues](#). The course counted with the technical coordination of the Basque Water Agency, the specialised tuition from Dr Víctor Peñas and participants mainly from Latin American regions from the net work. Other thematic online courses are foreseen under the 2010-2011 Action Plan for the MoU.



© USA Air Force

23 March - World Water Day

The international observance of World Water Day is an initiative that grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro - the so-called 'Rio Summit'. The World Water Days [website](#) started in 2001 as a community space and repository where people can upload their event activities and reports. The main World Water Day 2011 event was hosted in Cape Town by the Government of South Africa, in collaboration with UN-Water, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW), the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation (UNSGAB), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).



International Water for Life Decade 2005-2015

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000, the world was waking up to the water and sanitation crisis. At this Summit, the largest-ever gathering of world leaders, the Millennium Declaration was adopted; from the Declaration emerged the Millennium Development Goals, an integrated set of time-bound targets for extending the benefits of globalisation to the world's poorest citizens. Among them was target 10, to cut in half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water. At the Johannesburg World Summit for Sustainable Development, in 2002, this target was expanded to include basic sanitation, and water as a resource was recognised as a critical factor for meeting all the Goals. This sanitation objective is now an integral part of target 10.



The primary goal of the [Water for Life' Decade](#) is to promote efforts to fulfil international commitments made on water and water-related issues by 2015. Focus is on furthering cooperation at all levels, so that the water-related goals of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, and Agenda 21 can be achieved.

The challenge of the Decade is to focus attention on action-oriented activities and policies that ensure the long-term sustainable management of water resources, in terms of both quantity and quality, and include measures to improve sanitation. Achieving the goals of the 'Water for Life' Decade requires sustained commitment, cooperation and investment from all stakeholders from 2005 to 2015 and far beyond.

Did you know...

... **the average amount of water for a bath?** - 80 litres .

... **how much water is lost because of a dripping tap?**
- up to 90 litres of water every day, whilst a rapid stream of drips from your tap may waste as much as 32,000 litres of water in a year.

... **that chocolate is the food item with the highest water footprint?** - According to a [research](#) by the Water Footprint Network, up to 24,000 litres of water are required to produce 1 kg of chocolate.



© Dschwen (Wikipedia)

Documents for nrg4SD members

[Memorandum of Understanding for a multilateral cooperation framework for the Latin America and the Caribbean](#) - Developed by the Basque Country Government and the Basque Water Agency within nrg4SD, this MoU 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.

For downloading the MoU, [click here](#).



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nrg4SD establishes partnerships towards the World Water Forum 2012

nrg4SD is currently identifying with both the European Commission and Regions United/FOGAR initiatives for joint advocacy and technical work at the next edition of the World Water Forum WWF, that will be held on 12-17 March 2012 in Marseille, France. Water scarcity, droughts and floods, food security and access to drinking water and sanitation are increasingly threatening our societies and economies. Subnational governments have a key role in water governance and management, as well as in promoting a smart use of water resources and adapting to extreme events. nrg4SD will advocate with its partners the role of subnational governments in sustainable water governance and management and in decentralised cooperation on water issues. nrg4SD and the Organisation Regions United/FOGAR plan co-organising high-level discussions on these topics at the 2012 World Water Forum. The main advocacy messages and content of this workshop will be discussed during the nrg4SD General Assembly in Quebec. Regions United/FOGAR has approached the region of Murcia to lead on this topic from their side. nrg4SD will address these matters within a Water Resources and Sanitation Working Group to be coordinated by the Basque Country. nrg4SD members interested in engaging in these works are kindly requested to communicate their interest to the [nrg4SD Secretariat](#).

What is coming up?

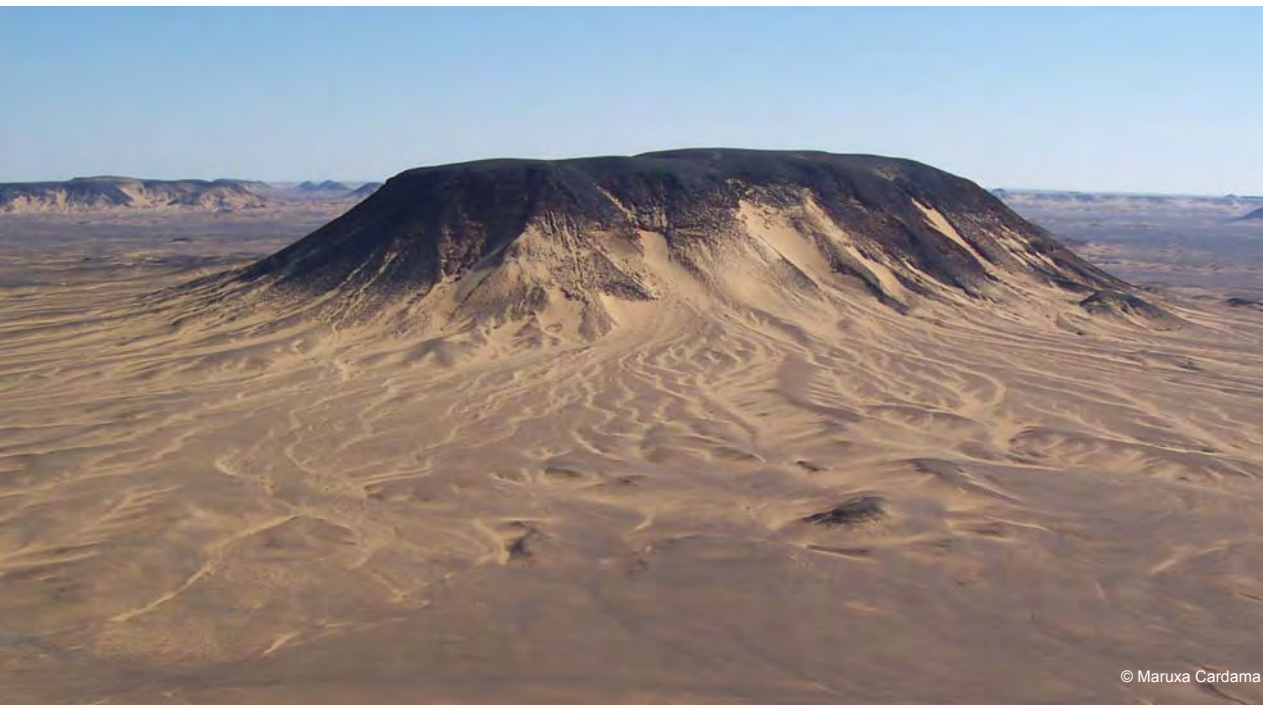
1 July 2011, Brussels, Belgium - World Water Forum 2012 12th Working Group European Cooperation with third countries in the water sector.

29-31 August 2011, Quebec, Canada - nrg4SD Working Group on water resources and sanitation to identify main advocacy messages and activities for **joint collaboration between Regions United/FOGAR and nrg4SD** for World Water Forum 2012, on the occasion of nrg4SD General Assembly.

6 September 2011, Bonn, Germany – Bonn Water Dialogues towards Rio +20.

20 December 2011, Nice, France – Synthesis meeting of the **European process** (Steering Committee and Coordination Consortium) of **World Water Forum 2012**.

12-17 March 2012, Marseille, France – 6th World Water Forum.



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5 June - World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) is an annual event that is aimed at being the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. WED activities take place all year round but climax on 5 June every year, involving everyone from everywhere..

WED celebration began in 1972 and has grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political attention and action.

Through WED, the UN Environment Programme is able to personalise environmental issues and enable everyone to realise not only their responsibility, but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development.

WED is also a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.

Everyone counts in this initiative and WED relies on you to make this happen! We call for action – organise a neighborhood clean-up, stop using plastic bags and get your community to do the same, plant a tree or better yet organise a collective tree planting effort, walk to work, start a recycling drive...the possibilities are endless. Check out the [WED pack](#) for interesting suggestions on what you could do.



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Sustainable Development

What has the nrg4SD Secretariat been up to?

In the past months nrg4SD has become fully involved in the Rio +20 process and has particularly focused on the recognition of subnational governments in the future International Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development Framework. Thanks to its accreditation towards the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) Governing Council within the Local Authorities Major Group, nrg4SD takes part in UNEP's Major Groups Facilitating Committee, as well as in the Global Environmental Ministerial Forum. The Secretariat has also established links with UN Habitat, the UN Commission for Sustainable Development UN CSD, the bureau of UN Rio +20, the UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs UN DESA, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service UN-NGLS and the UN Department for Public Information and NGOs UN DPI/NGO. The Secretariat has also kicked off internal reflection works to inform the strategic decisions of the network towards the Rio +20 Summit, the 10th anniversary of the network and a potential World Summit of Regions in June 2012.

nrg4SD participates in UNEP's annual fora

As alternate member for the Local Authorities Major Group within UNEP's Major Groups' Facilitating Committee, on 19-20 February 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya, nrg4SD actively participated in UNEP's Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum. The Forum allowed nrg4SD to regain its place in the process towards Rio +20; to introduce the new phase of the network to colleagues from other Major Groups, and to coordinate messages with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability, who are the focal point of the Local Authorities Major Group. nrg4SD also played an active role in UNEP's Governing Council-Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which took place immediately after on 21-24 February 2011. On this occasion, nrg4SD participated in plenary sessions and roundtable ministerial meetings and delivered statements on the Green Economy and on the International Environmental Governance - Sustainable Development Framework. Representatives from all Major Groups had the opportunity to hold discussions with Spanish Environment Minister Mrs. Rosa Aguilar, in her capacity of newly appointed President of UNEP's Governing Council. As a result, nrg4SD and ICLEI were



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Picture: From right to left - ICLEI Executive and Policy Assistant to the Secretary General Mrs. Susanne Salz, ICLEI Deputy Secretary General and Regional Director for Europe Mr. Gino van Begin and nrg4SD Secretary General Mrs. Maruxa Cardama prepare the position of the Major Group at UNEP's GC 2011.



© Maruxa Cardama

proud to see the conclusions of the President acknowledging the crucial role of local and also subnational governments. Point 62 of the conclusions read "local and regional authorities are critical in implementation of agreed national commitments and are accountable to national governments. Enhanced involvement can be considered as an element in international environmental governance reform inter alia by drawing on existing models from other international arenas." nrg4SD, Local Authorities' Major Group statements and Presidency conclusions are available [here](#).



© European Union



RIO+20
United Nations Conference
on Sustainable Development

nrg4SD gets involved in the UN Rio +20 Preparatory Committee

Over the past months, the nrg4SD Secretariat has also focused on positioning the network towards the UN Preparatory Committee for Rio +20. Maruxa Cardama, Secretary General of nrg4SD facilitated one of the work-

shops organised by the Stakeholder Forum: the consultation event on the 'Agenda for International Environmental Governance, Sustainable Development Governance and Rio+20' on 6 March 2011 in New York, USA. Maruxa also participated in the UN Rio +20 Preparatory Committee sessions on 7-9 March, within the Local Authorities' Major Group. On this occasion, the Secretariat, with the help of the Governments of the Basque Country and Catalonia, prepared an Advocacy Paper entitled 'Subnational Governments: Key Actors in the Transition of a Green Economy' in follow up of UNEP's Report on the Green Economy, presented in February 2011. nrg4SD also submitted the messages of the Advocacy Paper to the consultation carried out by UNEP on this matter. All documents are available [here](#).

nrg4SD, UN Habitat and ICLEI event on the green economy

Cities and city regions have a vital role to play in the realisation of sustainable development and poverty eradication in the context of a green economy. As more and more land is converted to urban uses, the patterns that this development assumes within the regions around cities will have far-reaching effects upon the world's economies, energy use and climate change. For this reason, UN-Habitat, ICLEI and nrg4SD got



© UNEP

together to organise on 7 March 2011 the side event 'The city-region approach to the Green Economy' during the official programme of the UN Rio + 20 Preparatory Committee sessions in New York, USA. The side event focused on three key areas for infrastructure investment; namely, energy (including buildings), waste and transport sectors. The participation of nrg4SD in this event was possible thanks to the contribution of the Basque Country Government and Mr. Patxi Lazcoz, Mayor of Vitoria-Gasteiz, who took part in the panel. A full programme of the side event is available [here](#).

GREEN economy

Did you know...

.... **The evils of the average plastic fork?** - the typical disposal fork or spoon is made of petroleum and estimates are that it can take somewhere between 10 to 100 to decompose. And, of course, when it is decomposing, it is releasing toxic substances into the soil and groundwater.

nrg4SD at the centre of Rio +20

nrg4SD elaborated a **response to the consultation from the UN Global Sustainability Panel on the Rio +20 process**. The report of UN-NGLS on this consultation highlights the role of local and subnational governments as a key outcome of the consultation and refers directly to nrg4SD's response.

nrg4SD's participation in UNEP's Major Groups & Stakeholders Forum and Governing Council/Global Environmental Ministerial Forum GC/GEMF-

delivering individual statements, elaborating common messages together with colleagues representing local authorities and other Major Groups and participating in ministerial roundtables - allowed the network to continue advocating for deeper partnerships with local and subnational governments in the context of the future International Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development Framework. nrg4SD was proud to see the conclusions of UNEP's GC/GEMF President acknowledging the crucial role of local and subnational governments towards sustainable development goals and calling for consideration of enhanced involvement.

All these documents are available from [here](#).



nrg4SD's work on sustainable consumption and production at UN CSD

nrg4SD was present at the 19th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development UN CSD that took place on 12-13 May 2011 in New York, USA, through the Advocacy Paper entitled 'Subnational Governments: Key Actors in Sustainable Consumption and Production'. The Paper, which was distributed at the session by the Government of Flanders and the Major Group for Local Authorities where nrg4SD sits, outlines the contribution of subnational governments in the implementation of the 10 Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) for sustainable consumption and production. Get the Advocacy Paper [here](#).



nrg4SD Papers

The nrg4SD Secretariat has been working hard over the past months to produce a series of technical background **overviews** analysing **the Rio +20 process**, the **Green Economy and the Sustainable Consumption and Production Framework**.

An **advocacy paper positioning subnational governments as key actors in the transition towards a green economy in the context of poverty eradication** was prepared on the occasion of the UN CSD Preparatory Committee meeting in March 2011 in New York, USA.

Another **advocacy paper on subnational governments as key actors for sustainable consumption and production** was produced for the last sessions of UN CSD that took place in May 2011, in New York, USA.

All these documents are available [here](#).

nrg4SD Working Group and reflection paper on the Rio +20 process

In preparation for the UN Rio +20 Earth Conference in 2012, nrg4SD has set a Working Group on the Rio +20 Process. This technical and advocacy initiative aims to (i) analyse the complex institutional and political aspects of the Rio +20 Process and relevance to the role of subnational governments in achieving sustainable development, (ii) provide scientific and academic evidence for nrg4SD policy and advocacy positions, (iii) conduct relevant initiatives to position nrg4SD in Rio +20 and establish relevant partnerships with key actors, (iv) organise the participation of nrg4SD at the Rio +20 conference in 2012, (v) contribute to the nrg4SD post 2011 work programme on Rio +20, and (vi) follow up on the main outcomes of the Rio +20 Conference of relevance to the network. The network has started an initial reflection paper with a solid academic approach on the prospects for enhancing the recognition and the role of subnational governments in the future International Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development Governance. Areas to be covered by this paper include (i) a demonstration of the crucial role of subnational governments towards the achievement of sustainable development and advocating for maximising their potential, (ii) an analysis of the different available options, (iii) an assessment of these options, including an outline of key obstacles and enablers. This paper will inform the decision on the network's political mandate and advocacy strategy on this matter that is scheduled for its General Assembly in August. This timescale would allow nrg4SD to be technically and politically ready on time for contributing to the so-called Rio +20 draft zero in November 2011. There is initial agreement with the organisation The Stakeholder Forum to have this paper published under the series of think pieces on Rio +20 Sustainable Development Governance matters that this well-known organisation has been carrying out thanks to its collaborations with key international experts on these matters. The Stakeholder Forum has been allocated a prominent role in the organisation of stakeholders towards the Rio +20 Conference directly by UNEP, the Rio +20 Bureau and the UN DPI/NGO. nrg4SD sits in the International Advisory Board of The Stakeholder Forum. More information on the nrg4SD Rio +20 Working Group is available [here](#).



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ng4SD responds to the Global Sustainability Panel

In March 2011, at the request of the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Global Sustainability GSP, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service NGLS conducted a civil society consultation to gather inputs for consideration by the GSP Panelists, their deputies, and the GSP Secretariat. The consultation was conducted with the intent to gather presently relevant considerations for the GSP before the meeting of the Sherpas on 13-14 April 2011 as well as the third meeting of the Panel, taking place 16-18 May 2011. nrg4SD submitted a response advocating for the crucial role of subnational governments in any future International Environmental Governance and Sustainable Development Governance. Under the section on improving governance and institutions for Global Sustainability (page 16), the [compilation](#) put together by UN NGLS for the examination of the GSP echoes as a highlight from the consultation process that 'reforms in the global sustainability governance architecture should not concentrate capacities and resources in international institutions. A meaningful reform process must not only actively involve developing countries in all stages, but must also strengthen institutions and actors in sustainability governance at various levels, specifically at the regional, sub-regional, national and local levels.' UN NGLS' compilation also refers directly to nrg4SD response to the consultation.

What is coming up?

19-21 July 2011, Indonesia - High Level Dialogue on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development.

29-31 August 2011, Québec, Canada - nrg4SD General Assembly and meeting of the Rio + 20 Working Group – Political mandate and advocacy strategy of nrg4SD for the Rio +20 Conference on 4-6 June 2012.

1-2 September 2011, Bonn, Germany – UNEP's consultation on 'Engaging with Major Groups and Stakeholders on Rio+20: the Role of Civil Society in Shaping the Sustainable Development Agenda for the 21st century.'

3-5 September 2011, Bonn, Germany - 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference "Sustainable Societies, Responsive Citizens" (Rio +20 preparations).

6 September 2011, Bonn, Germany - Bonn Water Dialogues towards Rio +20.

1 November 2011 - Deadline for written contributions to Rio +20 zero draft of the outcome document.

November 2011, New York, USA - UN 2nd Committee discusses the Rio +20 process, focus on structure of the document and process.

1-2 December 2011, Geneva, Switzerland - Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN ECE region.

15-16 December 2011, New York, USA - Second Intersessional for the Rio +20 Conference, discussions on the compiled inputs so far, including the structure of the outcome document.



Partnerships in the interest of members

Collaboration with CDC Climat

The main objective of the recently established nrg4SD Financing Climate Action Working Group is to start creating technical capacity in group members on international carbon finance tools. In order to guarantee a sound technical support, nrg4SD has established a collaboration with the French CDC Climat - Caisse des Dépôts et Consignation's subsidiary set up in February 2010 to combat climate change. Since last March 2011, nrg4SD has the pleasure of developing a fruitful collaboration with the Direction for Investments at CdC Climat and is now exploring the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding. More information [here](#).

Collaboration Agreement between nrg4SD and The °Climate Group

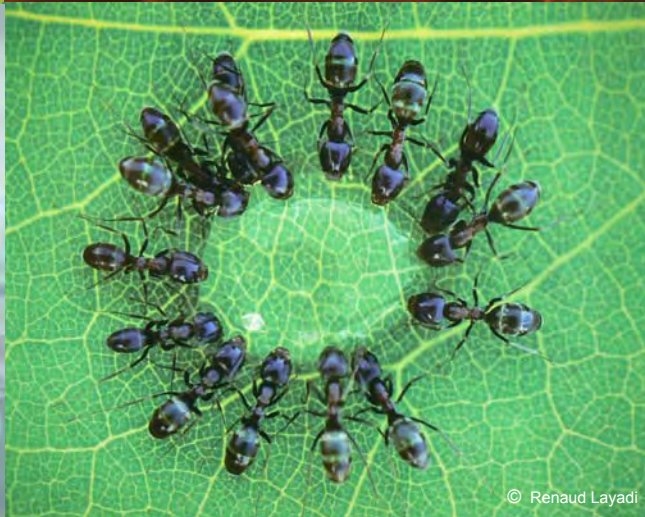
Following from the ongoing informal collaboration and on the basis of the common membership of several subnational governments to both organisations, on 1 June 2011 nrg4SD and The °Climate Group (TCG) signed a Collaboration Agreement. Based on the shared commitment to work together on climate action at subnational level, this collaboration aims to structure the on-going dialogue between both networks and to further the progressive work in areas of mutual agreement. Topics for collaboration include identifying areas of focus for each organisation in order to avoid duplication of efforts; taking maximum advantage of the geographic complementarity of both organisations; increasing capacity in climate change action, and enhancing the collective capability of both organisations in seeking international recognition of the contribution of their members to the global climate change agenda. More information [here](#).

nrg4SD and ICLEI explore strengthening partnership towards UNFCCC COP17 Durban

Thanks to its accreditation to UNFCCC, nrg4SD will continue to work closely with ICLEI, who is the focal point for the Local Government and Municipal Authorities' Major Group recognised by UNFCCC. Successful collaborations over the past months pave the way for future synergies in preparation for COP17 in Durban, South Africa, which could include joint work in different *fora* and side events dedicated to local and subnational governments. nrg4SD will promptly keep members posted on any developments. Members are requested to convey their interest in taking part in COP17 Durban events to the [nrg4SD Secretariat](#).

Enhanced collaboration between nrg4SD and ORU/FOGAR

Collaboration between nrg4SD and the Organisation of Regions United/FOGAR continues to grow. With many common members, ORU/FOGAR will hold the next meeting of its Executive Committee on August 29 in Quebec City, alongside the nrg4SD General Assembly. This will be an excellent moment for both organisations to discuss synergies and cooperation in the interest of both their common and differentiated membership. Their partnership continues in 2012 when both organisations participate in the World Water Forum in Marseille in March 2012. They will co-host a high level panel on subnational governance of water resources. The content of this workshop will be discussed during the nrg4SD General Assembly.



© Renaud Layadi

nrg4SD and The Northern Forum keen on exploring enhanced collaboration

nrg4SD Secretary General Maruxa Cardama was invited by The Northern Forum as a key note speaker to their 10th General Assembly from 31 May to 3 June 2011 in Gwangon-do, South Korea. This constituted an excellent opportunity to learn from the inspirational experience of this 20 year-old international network, who is counted among the founding members of nrg4SD. The gathering also allowed nrg4SD to better understand the needs of the Forum in its capacity of member to the network and to start discussions on enhancing collaboration between both networks around climate change, rural sustainable development and eco-youth matters.

Preparations begin for UN CBD Advisory Committee

Accredited to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity UN CBD, nrg4SD takes part in the Global Partnership for Biodiversity and, following from Decision X/22, is collaborating with the Secretariat and the Parties of the Convention in order to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Local Authorities and the establishment of an Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity. On the occasion of nrg4SD next General Assembly in August 2011, nrg4SD will have the honour to welcome UN CBD Executive Secretary Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif and host the first informal discussions on the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity (tbc). Discussions will take place during the launch of nrg4SD's working group on UN CBD in collaboration with the state of Paraná (Brazil), who will host the first formal meeting of the Advisory Committee. Besides, the nrg4SD Secretariat is invited by the CBD Secretariat to identify a group of subnational governments willing to work directly in the implementation of the Plan of Action in their territories. The nrg4SD Secretariat would like to suggest 2 specific pilot projects, namely: (i) the elaboration of guidelines for the development of regional biodiversity strategic action plans, and (ii) the adaptation of the City Biodiversity Index (CBI) - the so-called Singapore Index - to the subnational/regional level. nrg4SD members interested in any of these projects are encouraged to please get in touch with nrg4SD Secretary General [Maruxa Cardama](#) as soon as possible.

Collaboration with the Stakeholder Forum towards Rio +20

Over the past months, nrg4SD has established collaborations with this well-known organisation dedicated to stakeholder engagement in the international sustainable development decision-process. nrg4SD Secretary General Maruxa Cardama facilitated one of the workshops of the Stakeholder Forum's consultation event on the 'Agenda for International Environmental Governance, Sustainable Development Governance and Rio+20' on 6 March 2011 in New York, USA. Besides, there is an initial agreement with the Stakeholder Forum to have nrg4SD's reflection paper on the Rio +20 process published under the series of think pieces on Rio +20 Sustainable Development Governance matters that this well-known organisation has been carrying out thanks to its collaborations with key international experts on these matters. The Stakeholder Forum has been allocated a prominent role in the organisation of stakeholders towards the Rio +20 Conference directly by UNEP, the Rio +20 Bureau and the UN DPI/NGO. nrg4SD sits in the International Advisory Board of The Stakeholder Forum. More information on the nrg4SD Rio +20 Working Group is available [here](#).

Join nrg4SD on Facebook!

nrg4SD now has its official Facebook page! Join us to keep yourself updated with the latest news and activities from nrg4SD, as well as to add your comments. [Click here](#) to join us.



News from members

This section aims to showcase news from nrg4SD members where we can draw parallels and facilitate exchange of ideas. Members are encouraged to see this section as a platform to profile and present their initiatives, projects and future events. This section belongs therefore more than any other to members. The [Secretariat](#) welcomes and encourages any contributions to keep it as accurate and useful to members as possible.

Financing climate action: the experience of Aquitaine

The region of Aquitaine is working towards the establishment of its regional carbon fund. Following a windstorm that damaged more than 200,000 ha of its forests, the Aquitaine set up a no-profit association aiming to restore forests, as both an economic asset and a carbon sink, through a carbon credits-based initiative aiming to include forest owners in carbon finance processes. Mr Olivier Degos, Regional Delegate for Sustainable Development, gave a presentation on this project to other nrg4SD members on the occasion of the first technical meeting of the nrg4SD Working Group on financing climate action. For further information, please refer to Mr Degos' presentation and a background document on the project available [here](#).

Pioneering climate change bill adopted by the Basque Country

The Region of the Basque Country adopted in May 2011 a pioneering climate change bill, the first of its kind in Spain and comparable to the advanced Scottish climate change policy. The Bill aims to stimulate the development of low carbon technologies; increase training and awareness on climate change, and promote more sustainable consumption patterns. Basque Country's Climate Change Plan features, among others, the introduction of 'carbon budgets' in all administrations; compulsory gas reduction programmes; the implementation of energy saving measures in all building and refurbishment plans; as well as boosting green public procurement. For more information, please contact the Delegation of the Basque Country in Brussels [here](#).

2011 Carbon Expo in Barcelona, Catalonia

The thematic focus of the third edition of the Carbon Expo which was held on 1-3 June 2011 in Barcelona, Catalonia, was 'Finance & Technology for Green Growth': Discussions concentrated on funding opportunities and technological development to boost green growth, with a particular focus on how to improve the process of public money and public policy leveraging private sector money to meet green goals. Mrs. Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, participated in the Carbon Expo stressing the need for a quick implementation of the Cancun Agreements and for endorsing a 1.5°C world temperature increase - instead of the current 2°C -, in order to avoid further negative impacts from global warming.

A side event on 'Green technologies for the Clean Revolution' organised by nrg4SD Co-Chair for the North, the Government of Catalonia, and its Climate Change Agency jointly with The °Climate Group took place on 3 June 2011. The side event focused on the role of subnational governments in encouraging green growth and the development of clean technologies.



Flanders' policy perspectives for the transition towards sustainability

The Team for Sustainable Development of the Government of Flanders' and the Liaison Agency Flanders-Europe (vleva) organise on Tuesday June 28 2011 morning at the vleva premises (Kortenberglaan- Avenue de Kortenbergh 71, 1000 Brussels, Belgium) a policy meeting on sustainable development. On this occasion the new Flemish Strategy for Sustainable Development will be launched and transition processes towards more sustainable policies in Flanders and Europe will be discussed. In addition, the European Union Commission will present the current and future European policy instruments and clarify the future of the European Strategy for Sustainable Development. More info [here](#).

Rhône-Alpes hosts European Climate Change Conference for Regions

The Region of Rhône-Alpes, nrg4SD and The °Climate Group invite European regions, local authorities, businesses, NGOs and civil society representatives to attend a conference in the run up to the UNFCCC 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) in Durban, South Africa. The conference taking place on 19-21 October 2011 in Lyon, France, will consist of three workshops focusing on 1) sustainable transport, 2) energy efficiency in buildings and 3) inter-regional solidarity. The second day will focus on the political commitment for subnational climate change targets. For more information contact Project Manager [Mrs. Durley Miranda](#).

Ecocity World Summit 2011 in Quebec

Ecocity World Summit 2011 is the ninth edition of a series of international conferences held since 1990 on the theme of the sustainable city. This year's edition is taking place only a few days before the nrg4SD General Assembly in Quebec, from the 22 to 26 August at the Palais des Congrès of Montreal, Quebec. 1,500 participants from more than 50 countries and different backgrounds are expected to attend the summit, which will focus on six interconnecting themes: (i) Climate change and the Ecocity; (ii) Ecomobility, Urban Planning and Public Space; (iii) Governance and Democracy in the Ecocity; (iv) Economics of the Ecocity; (v) Health and the Built Environment, and (vi) Biodiversity and Urban Agriculture. For more information surf the Ecocity [website](#) or contact [Mrs. Catherine Mainville](#), European Affairs Officer at the Delegation of Quebec in Brussels.

Wallonia-Africa Fast Start Programme for Climate Action

The Ministry for the Environment, Spatial Planning and Mobility of Wallonia, jointly with the Walloon Agency for Air and Climate, presented on 8 June 2011 alongside UNFCCC official sessions in Bonn, Germany, its financing climate action projects in the framework of the Fast Start financing scheme of Belgium. Four pilot projects were selected and funded by Wallonia in Benin, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Rwanda. These projects include: (i) improvement of artisanal production of charcoal, wood-efficient cooking stoves and plantations in Benin; (ii) efficient cooking-stoves and valorisation of greenhouse gas emissions saved on the carbon market in Burkina Faso; (iii) micro-irrigation of vegetable crops in Senegal, and (iv) plantations in rain-eroded land slopes in Rwanda. Two other projects, in Burundi and DR Congo, are in the preparation phase. More information [here](#) and directly with Legal Adviser [Mr. Stéphane Nicolas](#).

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Projects & Partner searches

This section intends to highlight key projects, partner searches and calls for proposals from member regions of the network as well as from international institutions. This section is conceived as a tool for helping members engage in projects and search for partners for their own project ideas. The [Secretariat](#) welcomes and encourages any contributions to keep it as accurate and useful to members as possible.

Will your city be the next European Green Capital?

The European Union Commission has launched the search for the European Green Capital 2014. The European Green Capital Award recognises and rewards cities that are at the forefront of environmentally-friendly urban living and which can act as role-models to inspire other cities. Entries will be assessed on the basis of 12 indicators: local contribution to global climate change, transport, green urban areas, noise, waste production and management, nature and biodiversity, air, water consumption, waste water treatment, eco-innovation and sustainable employment, environmental management of the local authority and energy performance. The deadline for applications is 14 October 2011. The winner will be announced in June 2012. For more information click [here](#).

UN University Master in Biodiversity - Application process open

The United Nations University Institute of Advanced studies has launched a Master of Science Programme in Environmental Governance - Specialisation in Biodiversity starting in September 2011. The main objective is to support an academically grounded and practice-oriented in-depth capacity building formation to future leaders in the area of biodiversity to accelerate the implementation of the goals of the UN Convention for Biological Diversity at the different levels (local, national and international). [Find out more](#).

ICRECC 2011 - Call for paper presentation

The Climate Change Working Group (ICRECC 2011), third annual International Conference on Renewable Energy and Climate Change focused on the practical applications of social and behavioural research to achieve viable solutions to energy/climate challenges, will be held in London on 8-12 July 2011. The ICRECC 2011 Organising Committee requests proposals for presentations from policymakers, businesses, social scientists, researchers, media specialists, marketers, energy experts, program designers, implementers, and evaluators [Find out more](#).



Collaboration between FREPLATA and nrg4SD

FREPLATA (Environmental Protection Project Rio de la Plata and its Maritime Front: Pollution Prevention and Control of Pollution and Habitat Restoration) is a joint initiative of Argentina and Uruguay, the two countries bordering the River Plata and its Maritime Front, implemented through the Administrative Committee of the Rio de la Plata (CARP) and the Joint Technical Commission for Maritime Front (CTMFM).

FREPLATA has expressed interest to coordinate the project with members of nrg4SD. The proposed topics to be developed between FREPLATA and nrg4SD members would include the governance of water in relation to adaptation to climate change. The idea is to bring together 22 local governments in the basin to share experiences in the management of resources, and promote North-South partnerships for transferring technical skills, improve governance and facilitate investment.

FREPLATA aims to promote and strengthen the management models of local governments for integrated water resources management, and therefore would welcome the assistance of nrg4SD members to accumulate as much experience from a subnational perspective. Members interested in this project proposal are warmly encouraged to contact nrg4SD Secretary General [Maruxa Cardama](#) as soon as possible.

Kyoto World Water Grand Prize - Call for applications

The [World Water Council](#) and the City of Kyoto invite grassroots organisations from developing countries to submit their candidatures for the 3rd edition of the Kyoto World Water Grand Prize. During the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, (March 2012) the award of JP¥3,000,000 will be given to the winning organisation whose grassroots activities work towards addressing critical water needs of communities and regions. These activities may include projects, awareness-raising campaigns and promotion of participatory processes on water-related issues such as water supply and sanitation, water-related diseases, irrigation, drainage, dams, river and lake basins, wetlands, groundwater, gender and/or ethnic equity, capacity building, community participation, poverty reduction and more. Deadline for applications is 15 July 2011. [Apply for the Prize](#) on the Japan Water Forum website.





Bed time reading

New sections on nrg4SD website

As members may have noticed, new sections have been added to nrg4SD's website in the recent months:

Activities: this section aims to give an overview of nrg4SD's past, current and future activities for each thematic priority of the network (Biodiversity, Climate Change, Water Resources and Sanitation), as well as for the cross-cutting theme of Sustainable Development.

Each subsection features (i) a synthesis of the international framework concerning the thematic priority, followed by an outline of the activities and the aims of subnational governments and nrg4SD; (ii) relevant documents produced by nrg4SD and its partners (briefing notes, background and technical papers such as overviews or guides, advocacy papers, etc.), and (iii) a list of past and upcoming events involving or relevant to nrg4SD.

News: this section includes the latest news from nrg4SD and its members, as well as a **daily press review** (Inflow) on sustainable development matters relevant to the network activities.

Roadmap for moving to a low carbon economy by 2050 - A European Union Commission's [Roadmap](#) conceived as a policymaking tool.

Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation - IPCC Special Report - [Summary for Policy Makers](#) - [Full Report](#).

Cities and Climate Change - [Global Report on Human Settlements 2011](#) by UN Habitat.

Climate and Electricity Annual 2011 - IEA Annual Report 2011 - [Summary](#).

State of Europe's Forests 2011 - A report by UNECE and FAO - [Summary for Policy Makers](#).

CDC Climat's materials on project-based mechanisms for climate action - extensive bibliography for practitioners is available [here](#) thanks the ongoing collaboration between nrg4SD and CDC Climat.

Forestry in the EU and the World - A Statistical Portrait - [Statistical Report](#) by Eurostat.

Taking Steps Toward Marine and Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management - An UNEP [Introductory Guide](#)

Water scarcity and droughts in the European Union - [Third Follow up Report](#) to the Communication by the European Union Commission.

Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication by UNEP - [Synthesis for Policy Makers](#) - [Full Report](#).

Why a Green Economy Matters for the Least Developed Countries - A [Joint Report](#) by UNEP, UNCTAD and UN-OHRLLS.

Decoupling natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth - A Report from UNEP - [Summary](#) - [Full Report](#).

Best practices for limiting soil sealing or mitigating its effects in EU-27 - Compendium of best practices by the European Union Commission. [Executive Summary](#) - [Full Report](#).

Save and grow - A Policymaker's Guide to the sustainable intensification of smallholder crop production by FAO [here](#).

What is coming up?

A revamped website to be launched soon - nrg4SD's website will soon switch to a completely revamped and up to date version. A new, refreshed layout will provide for a more user-friendly and accessible way to navigate through the pages. The new website will not only be a proper communication tool for internal use (Secretariat with members and members among themselves), but also a milestone of the marketing and development strategy of the network. nrg4SD is also connected with social networks, allowing for further exposure of the network and its activities. To follow us on Facebook, click [here](#).



www.nrg4sd.org

**Network of Regional Governments
for Sustainable Development**

20, Bvd. Roi Albert II-Köning Albert II-laan

B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: +32 (0) 2 553 70 69

Fax: +32 (0) 2 553 70 75

Email: nrg4sd@nrg4sd.org

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The content of this document does not necessarily reflect the detailed opinion of each member of nrg4SD.