

**“Information for Climate Change Adaptation: South Asian Regional Workshop”**

**10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES WORLD HQ, NEW DELHI, INDIA**

Ideally, adaptation information will be tailored to meet the needs of information “users” - policy-makers, project developers, planners, and others who need a sound evidence base for making adaptation-related decisions and implementing adaptation initiatives. However, in many cases, information is “supply-driven” - shaped in large part by researchers and the limited data available to them - and often is challenging for users to access, understand, and apply. To support effective adaptation over the long term, systems in South Asia for producing, managing, using, disseminating and learning from information may need adjustment, and increased capacities.

This regional workshop, convened by the World Resources Institute and Development Alternatives, with support from the UK Department for International Development, is aimed at informing new investments in the information systems for climate adaptation in the region. It will identify priorities for investment, opportunities for improving information use, and mechanisms for deepening dialogue between information users and producers in South Asia. Specifically, the workshop will explore the following questions:

- (i) Improving Information:** Can we identify a core body of critical information that many users will want for adaptation decision-making? How can we ensure that this “must have” information exists in South Asia and is made available to decision makers?
- (ii) Coping with Imperfect Information:** Knowing that improvements in information may take some time, how can decision-makers best leverage existing information? Which approaches to adaptation best help them avoid delaying action?

<b>Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012, Day - 1 DA Conference Hall</b>	
<b>8.30 - 9.00</b>	<b>Registration and light breakfast</b>
9.00 - 9.40	<p><b>Workshop Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome, K. Vijaya Lakshmi, Vice-President, DA</li> <li>• George C. Varughese, President, DA</li> <li>• Workshop objectives and project overview, Heather McGray, Co-Director- Vulnerability &amp; Adaptation Initiative, WRI</li> <li>• Participants introduction</li> </ul>
9.40 – 10.50	<p><b>Information needs and challenges for climate change adaptation</b></p> <p><i>Presenters will discuss the different information needs for adaptation and lay out the challenges associated with applying information to make adaptation related decisions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science and policy interface for adaptation decision-making, Amitabh Pandey, IIFM (10 min)</li> <li>• The use and mis-use of information for adaptation, Michael Puma, UNDP (10 min)</li> <li>• The uncertainties associated with using Global Climate Models for adaptation, Jagadishwor Karmacharya, University of Oxford (10 min)</li> <li>• Integrating top-down scientific information with bottom-up stakeholder</li> </ul>



	<p>information for adaptation in the Indo-Gangetic Basin, Sreeja Nair, TERI (10 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>
<b>10.50 - 11.10</b>	<b>Tea break</b>
11.10 - 12.20	<p><b>Adaptation User Communities and “User-driven” Information</b></p> <p><i>Presenters will discuss how information needs vary depending upon the type of user and activity.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of information in projects under the Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund, Dwijen Mallick, BCAS (10 min)</li> <li>• The use of information in the identification of adaptation options in Bundelkhand, MP, Mustafa Ali Khan, DA (10 min)</li> <li>• Climate Change Impact Assessment on Agriculture, R. K. Mall, BHU (10 min)</li> <li>• Coastal-zone management and planning under climate change in Sri Lanka, Sonali De Silva and Bandula Wickremarachchi, PILF (10 min)</li> <li>• Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>
<b>12.20 - 13.20</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
13:20 - 14:45	<p><b>Exploring Information Challenges in South Asia</b></p> <p><i>Participants will be divided into three groups to discuss the weaknesses, strengths and opportunities for each of the following challenges associated with adaptation information and decision making in South Asia:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data availability and gaps</li> <li>• Information integration across scales, sectors and disciplines</li> <li>• Formatting information for usability and accessibility</li> </ul> <p><i>(10 min introduction. 20 min for each session. 15 min wrap up).</i></p>
14.45 - 15.45	<p><b>Innovations in Information Use for Adaptation</b></p> <p><i>Presenters will discuss innovative approaches to information use for adaptation decision-making.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New decision making approaches to adaptation, Heather McGray, WRI (10 min)</li> <li>• Robust decision-making strategies, Suraje Dessai, Univeristy of Leeds (10 min)</li> <li>• The use of information in Nepal’s National Adaptation Plans of Action, Aarjan Dixit, WRI (10 min)</li> <li>• Rural reality shows for adaptation, Soma Biswas, DA (10 min)</li> <li>• Discussion (20 min)</li> </ul>
<b>15.45 - 16.00</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>
16.00 - 16.45	<p><b>Options for addressing information challenges (Plenary Discussion)</b></p> <p><i>A few participants from the region will be invited to share their thoughts on the topic and the discussion during the day. This will be followed by a plenary discussion.</i></p>
16.45 - 17.15	<p><b>Preparations for Day 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WRI &amp; DA will provide an overview Day 2 agenda and objectives.</li> <li>• Screening of documentary “Subhkal: A Better Tomorrow” (10 min)</li> </ul>



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19.30 – 21.00	<b>Dinner and Reception</b> Qutab Hotel
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<b>Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012, Day - 2 DA Conference Hall</b>	
9.00 - 9.30	<b>Review of Day 1 Progress</b> – Mustafa Ali Khan, DA. <i>A discussion from day 1 will be presented. The objectives for the day will be discussed.</i>
9.30 - 11.00	<b>Options for addressing information challenges in the region</b> <i>Participants will break into smaller groups to explore in detail key issues identified on Day 1. Each group will be asked to make recommendations for overcoming information barriers and challenges.</i> <i>Group work (45 min). Report back (15 min). Plenary discussion (30 min)</i>
11.00 - 11.15	<b>Tea Break</b>
11.15 - 12.45	<b>Towards an Information Agenda for Adaptation in South Asia</b> ( <i>Plenary discussion</i> ) <i>Participants will discuss and prioritize options identified by the smaller groups. Possible next steps by critical actors will be discussed.</i>
12.45 - 13.00	<b>Closing Session</b>
13.00 - 14.00	<b>LUNCH</b>