

Human Settlements and Adaptation

11th Focal Point Forum of the Nairobi work programme

8 November 2017

Focus Group Discussion 3: The role of national governments in supporting local adaptation, as well as linkages to NAPs



The discussion in group one focused on challenges, successes and opportunities that relate to the role of national governments in supporting local adaptation, as well as linkages to NAPs.

- l) Overview of the key challenges met by the participants in relation to the focus area:
- Political cycles vary between national level and local levels:
 - There are changing political priorities;
 - Political congruencies between national and local levels can be challenging to maintain.
 - Funding is missing:
 - Local governments have many pressing development needs and goals - infrastructure, water, schools to rebuild, hospitals to fund, roads to be built, etc;
 - Many local governments do not see adaptation as a priority;
 - Even where adaptation is a national priority, it is generally underfunded.
 - Lack of data and knowledge: This is specifically an issue at the local government scale. Local governments do not know where to start, particularly because of uncertainty about what will happen.
 - Capacity building and support: There is not enough support to the research community, which could produce this data. This contributes to the lack of data. Social science has a role to play that is commonly neglected.
 - Adaptation and mitigation should talk more: Integrated planning is needed.
 - Gender considerations: Gender inequality in cities contribute to vulnerability.

II) Successful experiences and relevant research that could help address such challenges:

- Egypt: The national government has built a local mandate for climate action and piloted the creation of a climate change department in a metropolitan area.
- Brazil: National projects have successfully generated local level motivation for ecosystem-based adaptation. This contributes to bridging vertical divides and also horizontal divides, such as across municipal boundaries, watersheds and various spatial scales.
- Several national governments created a support fund for local governments for adaptation. Hungary has created a “voluntary mandatory” system: to access funding, local governments have to develop a local adaptation strategy. This contributes to national adaptation planning trickling down to the local scale.
- Different perspectives on data: CARE brings data users and data providers together, so that they can understand each other’s perspectives, and ensure that data generated is useful for the end user.
- Taking into account transboundary problems, such as those caused by deforestation.