

Strengthening Sub-National Actions through robust SAPCCs

Date: 24th July, 2020 | Time: 1100-1300 hours

Background:

The recent COVID crisis has brought to the fore, the importance of sub national actors in handling critical situations that have regional impacts. Sub-national actors have emerged as the most critical link in enhancing resilience. They form a complementary part of national policy making and governance as region specific considerations are crucial elements of most initiatives and undertakings.

The role of subnational actors, state governments and/or local bodies in driving climate related actions has been recognised, of late, even in the international climate discourse. The Paris agreement envisages that the sub national and non-state actors including cities, states, regions, businesses, etc could play a role, subject to the domestic legislation as applicable, in enhancing actions within the UNFCCC framework, and the contribution of such sub national actors could be measured, supported, and mobilized. The importance stems from a bottom up approach, as contemporary research suggests that the vulnerabilities, risks and capacities to adapt to and mitigate climate change are better identified and assessed at the sub national level. Subnational governments face the direct consequences of the impacts of climate change and are also involved in the implementation of most of the policies, initiatives, interventions and strategies at the local level. This makes them an informed, well-placed and critical agency in the fight against climate change.

India being a large country with varied geography and climatic zones needs customised climate change actions at the local level. All states vary in terms of their topography and access to natural and human resources. They have different levels of vulnerability to climatic risks and disasters and their capacity to deal with them also differs. Following the launch of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008, the state governments in India were called upon to devise state specific action plans on climate change as consistent with the NAPCC. Considering the advances made in the international climate scenario and taking into account the evolving nature of climate science as well as the developments that have taken in the national policy, the government of India advised, in 2019, all the states to revise their State action plans on climate change (SAPCCs). The revision of the SAPCCs is an opportunity for states to prepare a strategy to enhance their climate resilience and strengthen the existing mechanisms for addressing climate change. The learnings from the experience of previous SAPCCs can feed into the new plans and help states to improve the current policy, regulatory and institutional frameworks so as to ensure more effective and robust response to climate change.

In this context, TERI and UNEP are organising a joint webinar to address the following key questions:

Key questions for the panel discussion:

1. How can the current institutions be strengthened to address the challenges?
2. How can the current policy and regulatory framework be enhanced in order to ensure more effective implementation of the SAPCCs? Can the SAPCCS be a tool for enhancement of the national climate related actions?
3. What is the importance of science and scenario building through modelling for enhancing resilience at the sub national level?

4. Accessing finance for the implementation of the various interventions under the SAPCCs has been seen as a challenge in many states. What is the scope for exploring innovative models for accessing climate finance?
5. What is the importance of cooperation among the different actors in the scenario, such as subnational actors, research institutes, civil societies, etc.? How can it be consolidated further to enhance national ambition and sub national actions?

Agenda

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Date: 24 th July Time: 1100-1300 hours	
11:00-11:05	Opening Remarks by TERI
11:05-11:20	<u>Opening Plenary</u>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Richa Sharma, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, Government of India (TBC) 2. Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head India, UNEP 3. Mr. R R Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI
11:20-11:30	Context Setting Presentation by TERI
Session 1: Aligning SAPCCs with development priorities	
11:30-12:00	Panel Discussion moderated by Mr. R R Rashmi <i>Panelists:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Dipak Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bihar. 2. Mr. K. Kalamegam, Nodal Officer Climate Change Cell, DSTE, Government of Puducherry. 3. Dr. Ashish Chaturvedi, Director- Climate Change, GIZ 4. Ms. Aishwarya Raj, TERI
12:00-12:10	Q&A
Session 2: Success stories and Implementation Challenges	
12:10-12:45	Panel Discussion moderated by Mr. Atul Bagai <i>Panelists:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shri M H Khan, Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Rural Development, Govt. of Manipur 2. Ms. Naman Gupta, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra 3. Dr. Jatinder Arora, Executive Director of the Punjab State Council of Science and Technology, Government of Punjab 4. Mr. Abdul Raheem, Department of Environment and Forestry, Government of Lakshadweep 5. Dr. Daniel Bradley, Head of Low Carbon Growth, British High Commission, India
12:45-12:55	Q&A
12:55-01:00	Closing Remarks by UNEP