

Title: Strengthening Sub National action through robust SAPCCs

24th July | 11:00 AM – 01:00 PM

Annexure I contains the Background note and agenda

Annexure II contains photographs from the webinar

The Webinar began with a context setting presentation by Mr. Karan Mangotra, highlighting the challenges faced in the first round of SAPCCs, such as, access to financial resources, lack of technical know-how, issues around implementation, etc. He furthered that the process being an evolving one, the revision of the SAPCCs present an opportunity for states and UTs to revamp their plans. The MoEF&CC guidelines for the revision have enhanced focus on adaptation and resilience as well as the incorporation of sectoral and investments plans, and aim to draw linkages with India's NDC. In this context, the key considerations of the webinar include enhancing the current policy and regulatory framework, integrating the role of science and scenario building in enhancing resilience, exploring models for accessing climate finance, strengthening current institutions and bringing together stakeholders and enhancing their cooperation in the sub national space to further national ambitions.

Opening Plenary:

Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head India, UNEP

Mr. Atul Bagai's opening remarks, reiterated the importance of sub national action in climate action. He also highlighted the importance of the lessons learnt in the first phase of SAPCCs, a major one being that the SAPCC cannot be the responsibility of the nodal department alone. It needs to be realised that this it is a multi-disciplinary approach and requires collective action from associated departments for effective implementation. A mechanism for measuring the percentage contribution of states/UTs to a particular NDCs can be adopted, for establishing linkages of the SAPCCs with the NDCs. He also discussed the need to promote and focus on nature based solutions as an integral part of SAPCCs. There is also a need to promote dialogue among the agencies developing the SAPCCs at the states/UTs, to share their experiences and methodologies and have an integrated approach to build into the larger national NDC.

Mr. RR Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Mr. Rashmi highlighted the need for coordination and dialogue among states and associated agencies for the development and implementation of SAPCCs. So far the policy making process at the national level has focused on providing resources and mechanisms to the Central government agencies. Even today, although states and UTs have been tasked with developing their SAPCCs, there are no effective mechanisms to provide resources and capacity at the sub national level. So, it is important to review the current mechanism and explore ways to strengthen it, by addressing vulnerabilities and improving capacities. Climate change impacts all sectors of the state in different ways, thereby making it essential to incorporate and mainstream climate action in sectoral plans. There is also a need to have a financial roadmap for the implementation of the SAPCCs, through a process of mapping projects and interventions that can be financed from the developmental budget of the state or from resources available under various funds. The monitoring and evaluation of the previous SAPCC had focused on the

financial deliverables; an indicator based monitoring mechanism can be devised for the same. SDGs were only developed in 2015, which was after the development of the first phase of SAPCCs; the second phase therefore provides an opportunity to help work towards achieving the goals.

Session1: Aligning SAPCCs with Development Priorities

Moderator: Mr. R R Rashmi, Distinguished Fellow, TERI

Panelists:

Mr. Dipak Kumar Singh, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of Bihar

The coordination of multiple departments required when the plan is presented to the state was highlighted. However, it was also mentioned that many of these associated departments do not contribute towards developing it or even implementing it as it is only considered to be the sole responsibility of the nodal department. It was furthered that all departments have their own priorities due to which, mapping the interventions of the SAPCC with priorities of the related departments could help ensure that the objectives are met. He also mentioned that climate change does not figure in the top priorities of most states and UTs because of developmental issues and that they need to be understood beyond scientific predictions and more in terms of the sectoral implications.

Keeping in mind that the SAPCC document is implemented by field officials at the grass root level, action points and interventions, the need for keeping the document simple was highlighted. It was also mentioned that a change in mind set is also required at the decision making level. Two instances were cited, one dealing with the cutting of big trees for developmental activities and accounting for it by planting samplings. In this case, the ecosystem services provided by an old tree cannot be compensated for even by planting 1000 saplings. Another instance cited was the rejuvenation of rivers, wherein in the name of cleaning rivers, beautification of ghats and the banks were taken up. It was also highlighted that there is a need to demystify the SAPCC document to ensure that officials at the ground level are able to comprehend the interventions and implement them.

Mr. K. Kalamegam, Nodal Officer Climate Change Cell, DSTE, Government of Puducherry.

It was highlighted that Puducherry having four regions along the coast, makes it highly vulnerable to the physical aspects of climate change such as sea level rise, shoreline changes, etc., with their economy also based on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, tourism and fisheries. It was mentioned that a key challenge in the first SAPCC was that interventions were planned keeping in mind financial assistance from the Central government, which was not available. He furthered the need for climate policy to be placed under an umbrella along with other development initiatives, suggesting that a policy framework for the same can to be developed. He also highlighted that the monitoring and evaluation aspects require

a climate change action plan management system or a web based monitoring tool, which will highlight the targets of the various interventions and the results achieved over time at the sub national level.

Dr. Ashish Chaturvedi, Director-Climate Change, GIZ

The significant capacities that have emerged in the course of the development of the SAPCCs at the local levels was highlighted, reiterating that the process has helped in strengthening capacities at the sub national level. It was also mentioned that there are huge amounts of variation across the country that are driven by political priorities, with the Himalayan region having an incredible understanding and focus on climate action. The need to have different versions of the SAPCC with guidelines and templates that can be accessed and comprehended by all levels of the government, was highlighted. The importance of identifying the key developmental priorities and how climate action can be embedded in the same was brought to the fore. It was also suggested that funding agencies such as NABARD, can adopt a screening process for climate actions while funding developmental projects, to help support implementation of climate related policies.

Ms. Aishwarya Raj, TERI

The role of SAPCCs in informed developmental planning, elaborate on local contexts, help achieve multiple benefits, integrate climate action and sustainable development and promote a 'bottom-up' approach was highlighted. It was also mentioned that since SAPCCs touch upon climate vulnerabilities with focus on its sectoral implications, they by their very nature run parallel to the SDGs, especially SDG 13, that is on Climate action and the various other SDGs that address the different sectors. The most prominent linkages of SAPCCs with SDGs were highlighted to be with SDGs 2, 6, 7, 11, 13 and 17. However, it was also mentioned that the good performance of states on multiple SDGs was not reflected in the case of SDG 13, i.e., climate action.

Session 2: Success Stories and Implementation Challenges

Moderator: Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head India, UNEP

Panelists:

Shri M H Khan, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Rural Development, Government of Manipur

The need to have better coordination of the SAPCC at all levels of stakeholders and across departments was highlighted by Mr. Khan, mentioning that it is a cross cutting issue that needs to be treated as one, instead of treating it as the sole responsibility of the Forest Department. One of the success stories of the state that was highlighted is that of the model carbon positive eco village of Phayeng in the district of Imphal West. Another is a pilot project with GEF and UNDP on market

transformation and the role of barriers in the effective implementation of state level policies on climate change. It was further mentioned that Phayeng was adopted under NAPCC and an integrative approach was promoted for the conservation of ecosystem services through the creation of a village knowledge centre and promoting a blend of traditional knowledge with modern findings, such as modern techniques of farming, SRI, etc. It was highlighted that the prime focus was on the conservation of land, water and forests by rejuvenating all the springs in the catchments, promoting afforestation in the region in order to enhance its water resources. It was also mentioned that the village had no drinking water sources till date and with this project, water from the springs could be converted to drinking water. They have also developed about 22 SHGs for women in order to promote vermicomposting at the household level. The need for capacity building of all stakeholders in the government departments was mentioned in light of the lack of resources of the state's line departments to carry out the interventions.

Ms. Naman Gupta, Climate Change Advisor, Department of Environment, Government of Maharashtra

Ms. Naman Gupta mentioned that some of the challenges faced were common across states, a major one being drawing linkages of the SAPCC to its line departments. However, it was highlighted that the state, in order to overcome this, involved as a first step, addressing linkages of climate change with other sectors. The role of the DoE in prioritising actions through Climate Change Impact Assessment tool that helped in demystifying the technicalities involved in the SAPCC, was brought to the fore. Vulnerability mapping was done at the micro level for a more decentralised approach helping in the formation of district level plans. As a next step financing options were identified, wherein it was found that majority can be funded through the state budget if developmental plans are slightly redesigned and aligned with climate actions. It was also mentioned that the state mapped Climate Change priorities with private sector priorities in order to secure investment from the private players with the co-funding such projects to a tune of about 50%. It was also highlighted that institutional mechanism for both implementation and monitoring and evaluation has been taken up seriously by the state authorities, with the state adopting its own M&E framework wherein they have linked their SAPCC interventions to NDCs and SDGs. Another major factor that affected effective implementation of climate change initiatives was attributed to political leadership. In order to ensure that climate change policies across the state are not abruptly ended with the change in political leadership, Maharashtra has constituted a cross party Legislative Committee on Climate Change headed by the Speaker of the Assembly.

Dr. Jatinder Arora, Executive Director of the Punjab State Council of Science and Technology, Government of Punjab

An important aspect of the state that was highlighted was that science, technology and environment of the state is under one umbrella that helped integrate the role of research and development in the development of policies. One of the success

stories of the state involved the setting up of energy efficient models for their MSME sector that led to an investment of Rs. 300 crores on clean technology for the state generating benefits to the tune of Rs. 334 crores to the industry directly. It also helped reduce CO₂ emissions to 5.8 lakh ton per million and particulate matter to 52,000 ton per million. It was highlighted that if the requirements of the industrial sector are identified and aligned with climate priorities with basic level of hand holding, it can make a huge difference in integrating climate action into developmental activities. The issue of handling paddy straw was another success story that was mentioned. Under the Climate Change Action programme supported by the Ministry of Forests and Environment set up a unit to examine the techno economic feasibility with a capacity of 24 ton per day which was soon up scaled to a 100 ton per day capacity unit. It was also highlighted that the state plans to meet 21% of their power requirement through renewable sources by 2030. It was also mentioned that finance has been a major challenge for the state. The first round of SAPCCs saw a very optimistic version in order to arrange the funding requirements through climate finance available from international sources. But only a few projects that got funding. In order to combat that, it was suggested that the private sector can be mobilised.

Dr. Daniel Bradley, Head of Low Carbon Growth, British High Commission, India

It was highlighted that in the run up to COP 26, there is a need to engage all stakeholders especially at the sub national level in order to ensure a green and clean resilient recovery that can deliver for the people as well as the planet, reiterating that states are important because that's where the innovation and implementation happens. It was also mentioned that focus should not just be on green growth and mitigation but is also on tackling vulnerabilities. The importance of helping states implement policies that will develop their resilience to climate related shocks and disasters such as floods and droughts and reduce loss and damage was also brought to the fore. It was also reiterated that it is a very hard and rational economic choice for states to choose between climate action and development. Although addressing climate change is expensive and it was said that it will only keep getting more expensive in the future. In this light, it was suggested that governments can start by making schemes like MGNREGA more climate resilient and ensure protection of livelihoods.

Question and Answer Session:

During the interaction with the participants, many key concerns were raised that include the integration of sectoral plans within the SAPCC, funding opportunities, implementation challenges, upscaling good practices, etc.

The discussions also involved the need to align the SAPCCs with India's NDC. Since the first round of SAPCCs were submitted before India's NDCs were submitted, the revised SAPCCs provide an opportunity to states and UTs to contribute towards the larger national goal of achieving the NDC targets. While states and UTs contribute to the NDCs based on their own strengths, resources and capacities, a common aspect of contribution across regions could be to NDC goal 5 that relates to the

increase in carbon sinks of the country by 2030. The importance of sensitising states to prepare GHG inventories at the sub national level was also highlighted, as it would help states and UTs chalk out baselines and accordingly work towards climate mitigation.

The need for disaster resilient infrastructure at the city level was also highlighted in the discussions. It was highlighted that, with increased accuracy of climate projections and downscaled modelling results at the district level, the plans developed can be backed by scientific findings of research organisations such as the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Indian Institute of Science, etc. In the interactions that followed it was reiterated that the adoption of such systems can help enhance urban resilience to issues such as urban floods, urban heat island effect, etc. Heat action plans at the city level and climate resilient infrastructure can be integrated within the SAPCCs.

The session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Divya Datt from UNEP in which the key issues and major points that came out in the webinar were summed up, and the importance of sub national actors in climate action was highlighted.

Annexure I

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

Strengthening Sub-National Actions through robust SAPCCs Date: 24 th July Time: 1100-1300 hours	
11:00-11:05	Opening Remarks by TERI
11:05-11:20	Opening Plenary 1. Mr. Atul Bagai, Country Head India, UNEP 2. 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> 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> 1. Shri M H Khan, Addl. Chief Secretary, Department of Forest, Environment and Rural Development, Govt. of Manipur 2. Ms. Naman Gupta, Climate Change Advisor, 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, Head- Research and Development Division, 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

Annexure II



