

Acting on what we know and how we learn for climate and development policy

5-6th March 2013, Institute of Development Studies, Brighton UK

The challenge

The Climate Change team at IDS is to hold a knowledge exchange which explores how learning is (or isn't) taking place in climate and development policy spaces, and whether the knowledge we are generated is acted upon. As a complex problem, climate change requires us to work and to learn differently: breaking down disciplinary silos, drawing upon a diversity of perspectives and voices, linked through a range of brokers and intermediaries that do not play the same role as a 'subject expert'. As a result, in the context of international development, our understanding both of the challenges and of how to shape responses is still emerging and evolving. An increasing number of organisations and actors are reflecting upon this agenda, whilst a range of experiences suggests a mixed bag so far for efforts to translate what we do and do not know about climate change into policy action. The growing attention focussed on these issues provides an opportunity to come together to take stock, share and chart the next steps.

The response

In order to capture lessons on where learning *is* taking place *and* being acted upon, and to explore challenges that remain, the Climate Change Team at IDS is convening a knowledge exchange event, in collaboration with: CCAFS (Climate Change, Agriculture and Food security) Initiative, CDKN (Climate and Development Knowledge Network), DfID (UK Department for International Development) and the GEF EO (Global Environment Facility Evaluation Office). Along with other partners we work with, we will be using this event to share, unpack and reflect upon experiences drawn from specific climate policy-related initiatives that we are working on currently. We will explore what is working well, what is not, and how/whether we are learning to do things differently when they do not go according to plan, in relation to the following four key learning themes, each 'owned' by the event organisers/co-sponsors:

1. Whose knowledge counts? Locally-held knowledge for climate change adaptation (IDS & CCAFS Climate Change Social Learning Sand Box)
2. Brokers, translators and intermediaries: new roles and challenges for putting knowledge into practice (IDRC, IDS)
3. How to learn from climate change evaluations in and between organizations (CDKN, GEF EO, IDS)
4. Extreme events and disaster risk reduction (IDS)

The process



Drawing on the creative facilitation experience of the CCAFS-funded Climate Change Social Learning Sand Box (CCSL) and other partners, each learning theme will embark upon a process of four stages. Participants will **share** experiences, **learn and reflect** on these and then identify the **next steps**, with a view to being able to **act upon** after the event. Over the course of two days we will bring together two types of actors:

1. people working directly on issues related to the learning themes
2. people with the knowledge, experience and networks to shed light on how to overcome challenges, to share lessons and practice more widely and, if relevant, to be involved in any next steps beyond the life of this event

These actors will be drawn from southern and northern government, donor, research and civil society spaces, in order to ensure a diversity of perspectives are brought to bear. Interaction between participants

will be channelled through plenary sessions which set the scene and share insights, as well as breakout sessions in which the learning themes will be discussed. The event will be documented in a variety of ways.

To make this exchange an even stronger and memorable event that leads to effective change, we propose to integrate 'social learning' activities into the event to weave the reflections and actions together and tap into the transformative potential of social learning. We aim particularly to reflect on the relationship between individual and collective learning, seeking to identify what circumstances encourage the collaborative learning and action at scale necessary to engage with Climate Change.

The social learning experience will use the triple-loop learning approach:

- 1 Instrumental learning: acquiring new knowledge
- 2 Communicative: understanding/reinterpreting knowledge through communication with others
- 3 Transformative: examining underlying assumptions leading to change in attitudes and social norms and collective action, ideally

The programme

The programme is spread over two days, on Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th March at IDS. On day one registry is open from 8am, with the day's activities scheduled to commence at 9am and end at 5.30pm. Day two will reconvene at 9am and finish at 4.30pm.

Day 0 (Monday 4th March)

Time	Activity
18.00-19.30	Drinks reception at IDS (just next to reception)

Day 1 (Tuesday 5th March)

Time	Activity
08.00-09.00	Registration, networking, tea & coffee
09.00-11.00	Welcome & Introduction to the event and learning themes
11.00-11.30	Refreshments break
11.30-13.00	First breakout into learning themes: what are we doing?
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.30	Second breakout: what could we do differently?
15.30-16.00	Refreshments break
16.00-17.30	Share and review reflections in plenary
17.30	End of day 1
19.30	Workshop dinner – Il Duomo, Brighton

Day 2 (Wednesday 6th March)

Time	Activity
09.00-9.45	Plenary: 'what next'?
09.30-11.00	Breakout groups on 'what next'
11.00-11.30	Refreshments break
11.30-13.00	Share plans and market place of commitments
13.00-14.00	Lunch
14.00-15.00	Tangents and side conversations
15.00-15.30	Refreshments break
15.30-16.30	Final plenary – reflections on how we have learned & effective approaches for shared commitments
<i>End of workshop</i>	