

CONSOLIDATED FOCUS GROUP

Session 6A, 6B and 6C Report backs,
Climate Change Summit 2009, Midrand,
3 - 6 March 2009

SESSION 6A: MITIGATION



- Six clear themes emerged within focus group on mitigation:
 - Buildings contribution to carbon emissions
 - Energy
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable energy
 - Transportation
 - Transition to a low carbon/green economy
 - Financing
 - Policy development, co-operation and co-ordination

Theme 1: Buildings



- Achievement of GHG reductions relies on emissions reductions in the building sector
- Identify and address barriers to emissions reductions in this sector
- Fiscal, regulatory and legislative packages and sectoral implementation plans to achieve GHG reductions in the building sector
 - Emissions standards for buildings is required.
- Retrofitting of residential and non-residential building stock and energy efficiency in new and existing buildings
- Effective application of matured technologies

Theme 2: Energy



- Diversify the energy mix and invest in clean energy such as renewables:
 - Retire old coal power stations
 - Halt any further development on coal powered and nuclear generation
 - Establishment of feed-in tariff for renewable energy
 - Investigate feasibility of waste to energy
 - DTI to support establishment of solar energy sector:
 - Improve competition among SHW geyser manufacturers
 - Improve the regulatory framework around renewable energy

Theme 2: Energy



- Energy efficiency:
 - Regulations that make energy efficiency mandatory
 - Invest in improved energy efficiency in coal power stations
 - Greater role for faith communities in promoting energy efficiency
 - Inclusion of energy efficiency into industries' business plans

Theme 3: Transportation



- Call for transport modal shift and consider issues of safety and security in relation to this shift
- Address institutional blockages to the implementation of mitigation measures for public transport (issues of control between national & provincial government)
- Clear guidance and direction on how transport sector should mitigate their GHGs

Theme 4: Transition to green economy



- The creation of green jobs as part of creating decent work in a sustainable low carbon economy.
- Energy services, water management and ecosystem protection would add more economic value whilst protecting other sectors from climate and carbon risk.
- More research into the job creation potential of a renewable energy sector.

Theme 5: Policy development, co-operation and co-ordination



- Government policy should consider both larger and smaller mitigation options (low hanging fruits)
- Need for voluntary commitment and action around mitigation measures
- Collaboration between local and international partners to build capacity in the climate change response
- The climate change policy process should inform the renewable energy summit

Theme 6: Financing mitigation measures



- Financial support is essential for mitigation interventions
 - Incentives and subsidies to stimulate a renewable energy sector
 - Support innovation through research and development
- Establishment of feed-in tariff
- Consideration of carbon tax

Way forward



- There were opposing views on the way forward:
 - Should South Africa attempt to mitigate before OECD countries meet their own mandatory targets?
 - Or, immediate implementation of mitigation measures even before climate change policy has been finalised?

SESSION 6B: ADAPTATION



- The following seven themes emerged from the session:
 - Governance and organisation
 - Adaptation as an autonomous activity vs a planned response
 - Equity and environmental justice in adaptation
 - Communication
 - Information
 - Adaptation-mitigation considerations
 - Urban-rural considerations

Theme 1: Governance and organisation



- The need to “anchor” adaptation to achieve better co-ordination of research and implementation of adaptation responses
- Anchoring may happen through a number of ways from institutional arrangements to policy and operational arrangements
- Require vertical(institutional) and horizontal (spatial/boundary) integration of actions and planning

Theme 2: Autonomous vs planned response



- A shift is required from coping (autonomous) to planned responses due to the (in)ability of communities to respond to climate variability.

Theme 3: Equity and environmental justice



- Adaptation provides opportunity to revisit some critical issues and develop appropriate solutions, by asking:
 - Who is adaptation for?
 - Who supports it?
 - And who does it?
- Unsustainable practices need to be addressed
- The effective application of current legislation could in itself improve ecosystem health and thus climate resilience

Theme 4: Communication



- Communication cuts across entire area of climate change and adaptation
 - Awareness raising of technological and other solutions
 - Communicating risks
 - Provision of information including early warning systems

Theme 5: Information



- Galvanising adaptation requires knowing what changes require adapting to!
- The Risk and Vulnerability Atlas is a potentially powerful tool
- Equally important are early warning systems and the information generated by these.

Theme 6: Adaptation- mitigation considerations



- Interaction of adaptation and mitigation in several sectors, particularly agriculture.
- Sustainable practices can benefit both resilience to climate shocks whilst saving on fossil fuel expenditure (e.g. no-till).

Theme 8: Urban-rural considerations



- Adaptation in urban areas should not be diminished in the face of urgent adaptation needs in rural areas, especially when considering the rate of urbanisation.
- Urban centres provide good opportunities for adaptation/mitigation synergies.
- The role of Integrated Development Plans in supporting adaptation responses is to be considered.

SESSION 6C: ADAPTATION – HEALTH AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



● Built environment:

● Include fiscal, regulatory and legislative packages as well as sectoral implementation plans in the framework for a National Climate Change Response policy that prioritises the building sector as fundamental to achieving significant greenhouse gas emission reductions

– *The full call for action on building and climate change inputs from the CIBD and CSIR on summit website*

SESSION 6C: ADAPTATION – HEALTH AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



● Built environment:

- Support for disaster management centres
- Special service strategy
- Settlement relocation capacity

● Health:

- A solid foundation required for the breakout and control of communicable diseases

● Common concerns:

- Funding resources and implications
- Climate change must not be treated as a sectoral issue
- A national framework to address adaptation capacity within municipalities



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