



Integrating  
**Climate Change**  
into City Development Strategies (CDS)

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**Climate Change**  
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# INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (CDS)

## Climate Change and Strategic Planning

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## Foreword

Today, more than half of the people on the planet live in urban areas and this proportion is expected to increase significantly over the coming decades. Meanwhile urban areas account for between 37 and 49 per cent of global GHG emissions (IPCC 2014) and are heavily vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Cities, particularly in developing countries, are especially vulnerable to climate change due to the large concentration of populations and their role as national economic hubs. In addition, many urban areas are located on the coast, making them susceptible to rising sea levels. Within cities, the urban poor are among the most vulnerable.

At the same time, cities are growing, especially in the developing world. Urbanization is a source and driver for socio-economic development. Strategically guiding city development and enabling sustainable urbanization is one of the key aspirations of City Development Strategies, and the related methodology advocated by Cities Alliance and its members. This publication attempts to provide a modest input into the effort of unifying both thematic areas, Climate Change and City Development Strategies. This attempt of climate

proofing city development strategies is an ongoing process and requires additional effort by governments, academia, and city development partners worldwide. One of those coalitions has been formed under the umbrella of Cities Alliance.

The World Bank, the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) collaborated in a Joint Work Programme (JWP) to help cities address challenges related to climate change, aiming to facilitate a coordinated, focused effort targeting cities and climate change. The JWP captured current knowledge, and supported local and national decision-makers incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation into their urban planning policies and practices. A number of deliverables have been produced during this collaboration, including: an online catalogue to facilitate access to knowledge on cities and climate change, various tools for incorporating climate change into urban policies and practices, analytic and assessment guides, handbook for mayors on climate change adaptation and mitigation in cities.



# 1



Coastal protection around Cape Town. © Sean Wilson, 2009

## INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND & METHODS

### 1.1. Who should use this guide

The guide is intended to be of particular benefit for the following groups:

- Planners working in local governments cities in low- and middle-income countries that are developing a City Development Strategy, have some knowledge of climate change and want to integrate this aspect.
- City planners working in local governments who have developed a City Development Strategy and have integrated climate change but want to review or refine the process with specific regards to climate change aspects.
- City planners working in local governments who have no previous experience in developing a City Development Strategy but who are planning to do so in the future, have basic knowledge of climate change and are actively seeking ways to integrate this aspect.

This guide may also be useful for professionals in the urban development field in cities where local governments lack specific personnel working on town planning.

### 1.2. How to use this guide

This guide takes as a starting reference the three phases of the City Development Strategy process as highlighted in the Cities Alliance conceptual framework (Cities Alliance, 2011) and, for each phase, details the relevant steps to undertake in order to ensure that climate change concerns are streamlined in the process. At each stage it incorporates important messages and, where appropriate, suggests principles to guide city planners and also shows existing decision-making

researched for this project or coming from a review of relevant literature.

**Orange-coloured boxes** to present in more depth definitions or concepts presented in the main text.

**Yellow signposts** to highlights process steps that are particularly important for communication with community members and larger stakeholders and their participation in the planning for climate change process.

### 1.3. Methodology

This guideline was composed using desk-study research, extensive literature review of the linkages between the City Development Strategy thematic areas and climate change and of existing climate change planning tools and guidelines for cities. Specifically, the methodology builds upon the lessons learned from the empirical review of experiences from seven case study cities investigated by city-based researchers selected for this occasion. The choice of the seven cities was based on a pre-selection of 38 cities in 21 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America<sup>5</sup>.

The selected cities are presented in Figure 1 and are: **Kampala** (Uganda), **Ouagadougou** (Burkina Faso), **Da Nang** (Vietnam), **Cape Town** (South Africa), **Sorsogon** (as primary focus in the Philippines and complemented with a quick assessment of **Olongapo**), **Santa Tecla** (El Salvador) and **Esmeraldas** (Ecuador).

A case study protocol to increase the understanding about climate change integration in strategic planning and City Development Strategy processes was prepared and administered in aforementioned cities. The variables for the case study protocol were developed

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