

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE
TOOL SERIES

PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

A STRATEGIC, VALUES-BASED APPROACH FOR URBAN PLANNERS

Toolkit

PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE: A STRATEGIC, VALUES-BASED APPROACH FOR URBAN PLANNERS - TOOLKIT

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A section of Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.
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Foreword



Cities and towns in developing countries face numerous challenges, including large proportions of people living in slums; expansion and dominance of the informal sector; inadequate basic services, especially water, sanitation and energy; unplanned peri-urban expansion; social and political conflict over land resources; high levels of vulnerability to natural disasters; and poor mobility systems. Two of the most severe challenges of our time, rapid urbanization and climate change, collectively aggravate these pre-existing challenges in a number of ways.

First, no city can be on a long-term path to more sustainable development without first addressing climate change. Without taking the impacts of climate change into consideration, today's development gains may be wiped out tomorrow.

Second, the ways our cities are planned and operate - as well as the lifestyles of people living in them - are major contributors to the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. The dependency on fossil fuel for transport and electricity for heating, cooling, lighting, and other day-to-day activities increases in tandem with the growth of sprawling cities.

Third, urban growth will increasingly be driven by climate change induced rural-urban migration.

Fourth, rapid urbanization manifests itself in growing slum populations, increasing informality of tenure, and demand for housing and basic services, and creates pressure on land and ecosystems. Often, urban expansion takes place on sites that are most vulnerable to climate change related hazards.

Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic Values-based Approach for Urban Planners was developed for city planners and other professionals to better understand, assess and take action on climate change at the local level. Targeting the needs of cities in low and middle-income countries where the challenges of planning for climate change are particularly high, the guide offers a strategic, values-based planning framework.

I would like to thank EcoPlan International and Compass Resource Management from Vancouver, Canada, for developing the original version of this guide in 2010, with input from an extensive peer review group. My gratitude as well to the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) which tested the guide in numerous cities participating in around the world.

Based on its robust methodology and its flexible approach, I sincerely hope that this guide will contribute to better urban planning and ultimately to more economically vibrant, inclusive and resilient cities around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joan Clos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Joan Clos

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director,
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