
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

2nd International Conference on Evaluating Climate Change and Development “Tackling a Key 21st Century Evaluation Challenge” Washington, D.C. – November 4-6, 2014

WASHINGTON D.C. – A conference to tackle the evaluation of climate change and development will be held in Washington, D.C. from November 4-6, 2014.

Evaluating climate change and its often complex interactions with other development areas, such as natural resources management, exemplifies a key 21st century challenge facing the global evaluation community. The conference will pull together a limited but representative number of evaluation practitioners and stakeholders from across the world to reflect on existing evaluation tools and methods on the one hand, while consolidating new and innovative approaches that address emerging climate change and development evaluation on the other.

Several critical climate change and evaluation events have been scheduled for 2014 and 2015: the UN Heads of State’s Summit on Climate Change in New York in late September 2014 in preparation of the global climate change agreement expected to be adopted in Paris at COP21 in December 2015; the transitioning of the global community in 2015 towards the adoption of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are expected to prominently feature environment and climate change issues; and the International Year of Evaluation in 2015. Scheduled ahead of these events, this conference is timed to allow policy makers and evaluation practitioners to collaboratively explore cutting-edge learning and knowledge sharing approaches so as to spur greater use of evaluative evidence in decision making.

The 2nd international conference will build upon the gains made by the first one held in Alexandria, Egypt in 2008. But unlike the 1st conference, this one pivots around emerging challenges of the evaluation of climate change mitigation and adaptation and the policies and its relations to natural resources management.

“What we have seen is that climate change is increasingly a cross-cutting issue throughout natural resources management and development in general. We know the poor will most likely suffer the most from climate change as confirmed by the IPCC recently, and as evaluators, we need to look at the impact of climate change on natural resources management and development issues and discuss our approaches, methods and toolboxes to address these in our evaluations. This will be an essential part of the 2014 conference” says Rob D. van den Berg, Director of the Global Environment Facility Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO), one of the joint organizers of the conference.

Central to the organization of this 2nd conference is Climate-Eval, an online Community of Practice hosted by the GEF IEO, alongside several bilateral donors such as the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (DANIDA), and the Swedish Development Corporation Agency (SIDA).

Target Audience:

Evaluation practitioners, policy makers and development practitioners from governments, academia, NGO and the private sector from the North and South.

How to Get Involved:

An online web page has been created on the website of Climate-Eval, the online Community of Practice, where you can track pre and post conference activities. Learning, knowledge exchange and capacity development webinars touching on central aspects of climate change and development evaluations will be organized on Climate-Eval before, during and after the conference. For interested practitioners, policy makers and other stakeholders unable to attend the conference there will be live stream of proceedings of the conference. Lastly, stakeholders will get a chance to voice their views and thoughts through a discussion forum planned to be launched in late July 2014 in the community of practice (Climate-Eval) website.

Contacts:

For specific contributions to the proposed themes of the conference, **submissions of abstracts** and other inquiries, please contact David Akana, Executive Secretary of the Steering Committee at dakana@thegef.org.

Notes for Media:

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism for international cooperation providing new and additional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of securing global environmental benefits. It works in partnership with the GEF Partner Agencies, national governments, civil society and the private sector. The GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) is in charge of the evaluation function within the GEF and hosts the Secretariat of the Climate-Eval online Community of Practice.

In 2008, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina hosted the 1st international conference on evaluating climate change and development in Alexandria, Egypt, which led to the birth of Climate-Eval.

The overarching goals of Climate-Eval, whose current membership stands at more than 2000 are to establish standards and norms, support capacity development, and share good practices in evaluations of climate change and development and—most recently—natural resource management.

The online Community of Practice is in the second phase of implementation of its planned activities - 2012-2015. A key part of the activities is the organization of this follow up international conference on evaluating climate change and development.

The Swedish International Development Agency, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the Independent Evaluation Office of the Global Environment Facility (GEF IEO) provided funding for the second phase (July 2012 - June 2015).

A Steering Committee composed of evaluation and development experts from the North and South has been assembled to provide overall strategic direction and planning of the conference.

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