



# Capacity Building for Environmental Protection and Combating Climate Change

**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



On behalf of  
Federal Ministry  
for Economic Cooperation  
and Development

## Combating Climate Change Means Fighting Poverty

The interdependence between ecology, economy and poverty poses one of the biggest challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Environmental degradation can no longer be seen as a local problem but has in many cases a global impact. At the core of this challenge lies the rapid progress of anthropogenic climate change. Fighting poverty can only be successful if the unavoidable effects of climate change are taken into account and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, since impoverished communities are already suffering the most from extreme weather events such as floods and storms. Droughts destroy harvests, depriving innumerable people of their livelihoods and claiming human lives. The poorest countries and peoples, those least responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases that are damaging the climate, are the ones who will suffer the most from the impacts of climate change. Poverty and climate change can therefore not be considered separately.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, established on 1 January 2011, brings together under one roof the long-standing expertise of the Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED) gGmbH (German Development Service), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH (German technical cooperation) and InWEnt – Capacity Building International, Germany. This brochure reflects the activities of the Environment, Energy and Water Division of former InWEnt.

# Climate Change: The Key Challenge for Global Sustainability

In today's world, virtually all areas of the environment and efforts for its protection are deeply interconnected with climate change.

From rising sea levels to floods and droughts, from endangered biodiversity to reduced cultivable land – climate change has an effect on global environmental systems and increasingly also on the livelihood of large parts of the global population. It is the overarching issue and key challenge in the quest for global sustainability.

Living conditions for future generations will ultimately depend on today's climate and environmental policies and their successful implementation. Strategies to combat the complex impacts of climate change can therefore only be successful if the issue is being mainstreamed into all areas of environmental and economic policy.



## GIZ's Answer: An Integrated Approach to Capacity Building for Environmental and Climate Policy

The GIZ's Environment, Energy and Water Division addresses the challenges of integrated environmental and climate policy by providing demand-oriented capacity building programmes in partner countries worldwide. We believe that global environmental sustainability depends on the adaptation capacity of systems, organisations, institutions and each and every individual. Developing and strengthening these capacities to respond to the impacts of climate change is at the heart of our work.

Our classic instruments of capacity building focus on cross-boundary, cross-sectoral advanced training for leaders and change agents from the environmental arena. Our portfolio includes the development of appropriate training strategies, guidelines and educational material, along with management tools for the development and planning of capacity building measures. Change management, information flow, programme planning and coordination, as well as training of trainers, are impor-

tant parts of our climate change- and environment-related activities.

In addition, GIZ has been introducing a set of innovative programme formats that focus on informal dialogue and network building among current and future leaders, thus creating channels of communication and a basis of mutual trust among key actors from different countries and stakeholder groups with often diverging interests and viewpoints towards environmental and climate policy.

## Enabling key actors to combat climate change

Mitigation – reducing greenhouse gas emissions to prevent dangerous climate change – is essential, although alone it is not enough when it comes to fighting the negative effects of climate change. Global warming has already begun, and it will continue even if emissions are quickly reduced. Adaptation to the changing environment has become a necessity. This is why GIZ's Environment, Energy and Water Division regards mitigation and adaptation as equally relevant. In development cooperation, both aspects need to be integrated into a single strategy, a process known as "climate mainstreaming". At its core is capacity building.

Our Division provides its partners with the skills needed to implement low-carbon models of development. Through our training schemes and dialogues, key

stakeholders in the mitigation and adaptation policy processes are enabled to take action to create the necessary framework conditions and support good governance and policy coherence.

### Climate Leadership

Many of today's leaders remain focused on their own organisation and sector, but climate change is confronting them with new and complex challenges. It therefore requires new action and reform-oriented management and leadership skills. The leaders of the future need to think in a cross-sectoral fashion, and they must be able to manage change in their organisations from this perspective. One of GIZ's innovative flagship programmes in this field, the Climate Leadership Programme (CLP), aims at combining concepts of

personal leadership development, change management tools and new learning methodologies with particular topics related to climate change. It brings together promising leaders from a wide range of sectors to debate on climate-related issues, develop their leadership skills and elaborate joint, international prototype initiatives for combating climate change.

### Dialogue with Emerging Powers

With their high economic growth rates, the world's newly emerging powers such as China, India, South Africa, Brazil and Mexico are essential partners in any attempt to resolve global climate change issues. Parallel to international climate negotiations, joint strategies must be developed to reconcile economic development and ambitious climate protection measures. For this purpose, GIZ has developed an innovative dialogue format that enables constructive and open debate and network building among policy experts from these countries which also play an increasingly important role in shaping global environmental governance. As a second track approach in addition to official negotiation channels, the dialogue forums take place in an atmosphere of mutual trust and constructive debate and foster the establishing of sustainable networks among key actors. They provide opportunities for formulating concrete policy recommendations for international action to combat climate change.



# Building Partnerships for Dealing with Risk

With natural catastrophes affecting an ever increasing number of people worldwide, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is becoming a key challenge for the environmental policy sector in every nation. Many natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, are closely linked to the effects of climate change, and form an important part of adaptation strategies in countries most affected by changing climatic conditions. But natural disasters also include other catastrophes such as earthquakes or tsunamis. Dealing with such a catastrophe is a complex matter that involves a wide spectrum of action fields: risk assessment, education and awareness, planning and implementation of the adequate infrastructure, disaster preparedness and sustainable management of resources.

The backbone of disaster prevention, however, is capacity building. Education, training and practical exercises are important aspects, but they also require a lot of coordination and cooperation. Because a variety of institutions handle training needs at all levels – local, regional, national or international as well as technical, institutional, educational or political – GIZ's Environment, Energy and Water Division supports the creation of inter-institutional networks for Disaster Risk Management. Sharing of knowledge and experience, standardisation of information exchange and the use of open-access web-based platforms open up new opportunities for cooperation, and lead to an intense and inclu-



sive communication. In the end, the network as a whole is more powerful than the sum of its individual participants.

## Training management networks

Because of the large number of partners involved in capacity building for disaster risk management, a high degree of inter-institutional network building is necessary. In close cooperation with its local partners, GIZ contributes to the development of training management unit networks that will be responsible for the planning, implementation and quality assurance of all training measures. Such local training management units work closely with all partners involved in the project, acting as both service providers and coordinators.

## IT-based Capacity Building tools

DRM necessarily involves a large number of institutions that all play a role in prevention and in the warning chain. In order to facilitate cooperation between them, GIZ provides internet-based human resource management platforms that are based on open-source software. These platforms serve to manage and document all activities: training courses, awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops and conferences. Integrated user-feedback tools help to evaluate ongoing activities and detect gaps in the training. Furthermore, GIZ offers e-Learning, e-Coaching and e-Collaboration activities through its own internet platform Global Campus 21.

# Strengthening Governance and Cooperation for Protecting Natural Resources



Under the conditions of global climate change, the preconditions for protecting natural resources and biological diversity are changing substantially. While good environmental governance remains a prerequisite for every country facing natural resource or biodiversity pressure, it has become clear that these issues can no longer be solved on a national level alone. The need for international and, in particular, regional cooperation is becoming more and more evident. For example, water resources from large river basins are often shared by several countries in a region which all have certain interests in the resource. As water is becoming even more scarce due to changing climatic conditions, this leads to complex and often conflictive situations that

can only be efficiently addressed when multilateral cooperation between key stakeholders is possible.

GIZ's Environment, Energy and Water Division responds to this need by offering tailor-made capacity building programmes.

## Regional Environmental Policy Development

Forming part of the German Federal Government's "Caucasus Initiative", GIZ is implementing a regional programme on environmental policy and law in the South Caucasus, one of the most biologically rich regions in the world. Training courses for participants from national environmental administrations are complemented by multi-

lateral study tours, expert dialogues and knowledge transfer. The programme focuses on legislation-related aspects of biodiversity management and industrial environmental policies and their implementation. With its strong focus on network building and experience exchange, it also aims at facilitating regional cooperation and crisis prevention.

## Policy Networks and Dialogue for Regional Water Governance

In the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region, water has long been a critical issue, but in the past decades human activities have enormously accelerated the disturbance of the hydrological cycle and the region's ecosystems. GIZ addresses the complex task of strengthening integrated water resource management in the region through a variety of capacity building measures. In close cooperation with two regional water management associations, action-oriented network building among policy sector experts from government and civil society institutions is supported. Since 2006, GIZ (former InWEnt) has also been conducting a series of major regional water governance dialogue forums, with the fifth forum on sharing benefits, costs and responsibilities in the sector successfully implemented in Tunisia in 2010.

## Contributions of GIZ's Environment, Energy and Water Division

In cooperation with its many national and international partners, our Division contributes to climate change mitigation and adaptation in three major fields:

### Human resource development:

The process of equipping individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge and training that enable them to perform effectively.

### Organisational development:

The elaboration of management structures, processes and procedures, not only within organisations but also when it comes to the management of relationships between different organisations and sectors (public, private and community).

### Institutional and legal framework development:

Making legal and regulatory changes to enable organisations, institutions and agencies at all levels and in all sectors to enhance their capacities. In all three fields, GIZ can build on decades of experience and a number of proven instruments for capacity building, including advanced training, dialogue, network building and advisory services for human resource development. Applying such instruments combines professional, regional, market and methodological skills.



## GIZ's partners

Most of our activities are commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). GIZ also operates on behalf of other German ministries – in particular the Federal Foreign Office, the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research – as well as German federal states and municipalities, and public and private sector clients both in Germany and abroad. These include the governments of other countries, the European Commission, the United Nations and the World Bank. We work closely with the private sector and promote results-oriented interaction between the development and foreign trade sectors.

GIZ operates in more than 130 countries worldwide. In Germany we maintain a presence in nearly all the federal states. Our registered offices are in Bonn and Eschborn. GIZ employs approximately 17,000 staff members worldwide, more than 60 % of whom are local personnel. In addition, there are 1,135 development workers, 750 integrated and 324 returning experts, 700 local experts in partner organisations and 850 'weltwärts' volunteers. With an estimated turnover of EUR 1.9 billion as at December 2010, GIZ can look to the future with confidence.

All projects are conducted in close cooperation with local institutions in partner countries including government as well

as civil society organisations at national, provincial and local levels. Media organisations and the general public also take part in the activities. When developing training guidelines and learning material, GIZ cooperates closely with both international and local universities and research institutions. This helps to ensure the highest standards in technical and educational issues, as well as their adaptation to local conditions.

## GIZ – Qualified to Shape the Future

GIZ supports people and societies in developing, transition and industrialised countries in shaping their own futures and improving living conditions. As a federally owned enterprise, we support the German Government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.

Our capacity building programmes are directed at experts and executives from politics, administration, the business community, and civil society. In addition, we provide the German business sector with support for public private partnership projects. Through exchange programmes, GIZ also offers young people from Germany the opportunity to gain professional experience abroad.

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