



International Workshop on **The Social Dimension of Adaptation to Climate Change** 18th -19th February 2010

Palazzo Querini Stampalia, Venice – Italy

Background and Objective of the Workshop

Even if world governments soon agree to adopt measures to stabilize GHG concentrations in the atmosphere by the end of the century, the projected residual increase in global warming will considerably alter climate worldwide. Adaptation is thus needed to respond optimally to the new challenging environment.

Adaptation will in part occur autonomously, with individuals and societies switching to new technologies and new practices, and in part will require the planning, coordination and funding of governments. In both cases individuals and society at large, including government, will need to adopt new technologies, planning tools, styles of life and behaviours. The success of adaptation will largely depend on the extent to which individuals and societies will be willing to accept change. Cultural habits and customs together with a low capacity to learn and adopt new technologies may slow down adaptation, especially in more vulnerable developing countries. Rigidity and lack of farsighted approach at governmental level might reduce adaptation capacity, also in developed countries. Without social and cultural norms that embrace change and innovation adaptation will be slow and the transition to a new climate might be costly and in some cases disruptive.

The objective of this workshop is to consider theories, pilot studies and cases to increase our understanding of factors, barriers or drivers conditioning the social and behavioural dimension of adaptation to climate change.

Contents and Topics of the Workshop

Three main topics will be considered:

- The social and behavioural dimension as key factors to adapt to climate change;
- The flexibility of social systems in adapting to climate (institutional and social capability, multistakeholder engagement, including governments, Ngos, the private sector, communities, and individuals.)
- The learning capacity as a means to overcome behavioural and social constraints to changing technologies (development and adoption of new technologies).

The workshop is structured around three main sessions, each composed by at most four papers in order to provide enough time for a in depth presentation of each participant's research.



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DAY 1: Thursday, February 18th, 2010

8:45-9:15 Registration

9:15-9:30 **WELCOME ADDRESS**

Carlo CARRARO, *Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy*

9:30-13:00	SESSION 1: Social and Behavioural Change to Adapt to Climate Change
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Chair: Ian BURTON

9:30-10:15 **Brian FAGAN**, *Archeologist*
Lesson of a Thousand Years Ago: an Archaeologist Looks at Ancient Climate Change

10:15-11:00 **Irene LORENZONI**, *University of East Anglia, UK and IPCC WG II*
The Social and Behavioural Limits to Adaptation to Climate Change

11:00-11:30 *Coffee Break*

11:30-12:15 **Chris HIGH**, *The Open University, UK*
Social Learning in the Context of Adaptation to Climate Change

12:15-13:00 **Discussion**
Introduction by: Emanuele MASSETTI, *Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Centro Euro-Mediterraneo per i Cambiamenti Climatici, Italy*

13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-18:15	SESSION 2: Reshaping Social Systems to Adapt to Climate Change
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Chair: Irene LORENZONI

14:00-14:45 **Shardul AGRAWALA**, *OECD, Paris*
Social aspects of adaptation: What Role can Microfinance Play?

14:45-15:30 **Ian BURTON**, *University of Toronto, Canada*
The Future of Adaptation After Copenhagen

15:30-16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00-16:45 **Maarten K. VAN AALST**, *Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, The Netherlands*
Community Based Risk Management

16:45-17:30 **Stephane HALLEGATTE**, *CIREN and Meteo France, France*
City Level Adaptation Strategies

17:30-18:15 **Discussion**
Introduction by: Nanki KAUR, *International Institute for Environment and Development, UK*



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DAY 2: Friday, February 19th, 2010

9:00-13:15	SESSION 3: Learning to Adapt: Overcoming Behavioural and Social Constraints to Adopt New Technologies Chair: Maarten K. VAN AALST
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9:00-9:45 **Nanki KAUR**, *International Institute for Environment and Development, UK*
The Role of Community-Based Learning for Technological Adoption

9:45-10:30 **Rasmus HELTBERG**, *The World Bank, USA*
Addressing Human Vulnerability to Climate Change

10:30-11:00 *Coffee Break*

11:00-11:45 **Fredrick CARLSSON**, *University of Gothenburg, Sweden*
Risk Sharing and Coordination Among Farmers to Adapt to Climate Change

11:45-12:30 **Wolfgang LUTZ**, *IIASA, Austria*
Improving Education as Key to Enhancing Adaptive Capacity in Developing Countries

12:30-13:15 Discussion and conclusions
Introduction by: Stephane HALLEGATTE, *CIREN and Meteo France, France*

13:15-14:15 *Lunch*



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List of Participants

Shardul AGRAWALA

OECD, France
shardul.agrawala@oecd.org

Francesca ARCA

IUAV, Italy
fra.arca@gmail.com

Serena ARDUINO

Associazione per la Cooperazione Rurale in Africa
e America Latina (ACRA), Italy
serenaarduino@acra.it

Alex ARNALL

Institute of Development Studies
University of Sussex, UK
a.arnall@ids.ac.uk

Stefano BALBI

School for Advanced Studies in Venice, Italy
stefano.balbi@unive.it

Elisa BONAZZI

Università di Bologna, Italy
EBonazzi@arpa.emr.it

Margaretha BREIL

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
margaretha.breil@feem.it

Jessica BRIGHENTI

IUAV, Italy
jessibri@hotmail.com

Mauro BUONOCORE

Centro Euro-Mediterraneo per i
Cambiamenti Climatici, Italy
mauro.buonocore@cmcc.it

Ian BURTON

University of Toronto, Canada
ian.burton@ec.gc.ca

Lorenza CAMPAGNOLO

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
lorenza.campagnolo@feem.it

Fredrick CARLSSON

University of Gothenburg, Sweden
Fredrik.Carlsson@economics.gu.se

Carlo CARRARO

Ca' Foscari University of Venice and
Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
carlo.carraro@feem.it

Alessandra CASSOL

IUAV, Italy
velba@inwind.it

Giovanni CECCONI

THETIS, Italy
Giovanni.cecconi@consorziovenezianuova.com

Lorenzo CHELLERI

INTERFASE Group
Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
Lorenzo.Chelleri@uab.cat

Stefano CLÒ

Università di Bologna, Italy
stefanoclo@hotmail.com

Valentina D'ALONZO

IUAV, Italy
valentina.dalonzo@gmail.com

Enrica DE CIAN

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
enrica.decian@feem.it

Olga DIUKANOVA

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
olga.diukanova@feem.it

Fabio EBOLI

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
fabio.eboli@feem.it

Jonathan ENSOR

Practical Action, UK
Jonathan.ENSOR@practicalaction.org.uk

Brian FAGAN

Archeologist, USA
brian@brianfagan.com

Alice FAVERO

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
alice.favero@feem.it

Davide FERRO

IUAV, Italy
davide.ferro@iuav.it

Elyssa FINKEL

Centre for European Economic Research, Germany
p-finkel@zew.de

Carlo GIUPPONI

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and
Centro Euro-Mediterraneo per il Cambiamenti
Climatici, Italy
carlo.giupponi@feem.it

Pino GONZÁLEZ-RIANCHO

Environmental Hydraulics Institute "IH Cantabria"
Spain
grian chop@unican.es



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Marco GRASSO

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy
marco.grasso@unimib.it

Stephane HALLEGATTE

CIREC and Meteo France, France
hallegatte@centre-cired.fr

Rasmus HELTBERG

The World Bank, USA
rheltberg@worldbank.org

Christopher HIGH

The Open University, UK
C.High@open.ac.uk

Demetrio INNOCENTI

United Nations International Strategy for
Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Switzerland
innocenti@un.org

Eric JOVER

Observatori de la Sostenibilitat d'Andorra, Andorra
ejover@obsa.ad

Nanki KAUR

International Institute for Environment
and Development, UK
nanki.kaur@iied.org

Yoon KIM

International Resources Group (IRG), USA
ykim@irglt.com

Katharine KNOX

Joseph Rowntree Foundation, UK
Katharine.Knox@jrf.org.uk

Irene LORENZONI

Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research
School of Environmental Sciences
University of East Anglia and IPCC WG II, UK
i.lorenzoni@uea.ac.uk

Wolfgang LUTZ

IIASA, Austria
lutz@iiasa.ac.at

Angela MARIGO

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
angela.marigo@feem.it

Emanuele MASSETTI

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei and Centro Euro-
Mediterraneo per i Cambiamenti Climatici, Italy
emanuele.massetti@feem.it

Cecilia MATASCI

EPFL ENAC INTER REME, Switzerland
cecilia.matasci@epfl.ch

Chiara MAZZORENI

IUAV, Italy

Stefano MONCADA

European Documentation and Research Centre
University of Malta, Malta
stefano.moncada@um.edu.mt

Riccarda MOSER

Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy
riccardam@yahoo.it

Francesco MUSCO

IUAV, Italy
francesco.musco@iuav.it

Jaroslav MYSIAK

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
jaroslav.mysiak@feem.it

Daniel OSBERGHAUS

Centre for European Economic Research, Germany
osberghaus@zew.de

Alberto PARATONER

Alta Scuola Società Economia Teologia (ASSET)
Fondazione Studium Generale Marcianum, Italy
altascuola@marcianum.it

Ramiro PARRADO

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
ramiro.parrado@feem.it

Morten PEJRUP

University of Copenhagen, Denmark
Mp@geo.ku.dk

Piero PELIZZARO

Kyoto Club, Italy
piero.pelizzaro@gmail.com

Roberta PIERFEDERICI

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
roberta.pierfederici@feem.it

Max POHL

Centre for European Economic Research, Germany
f-pohl@zew.de

Roberto PONCE

Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

Marc PONS

Observatori de la Sostenibilitat d'Andorra, Andorra
mpons@obsa.ad

Asim REHMAN

UNICEF, Switzerland
arehman@unicef.org

Elena RICCI

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
elena.ricci@feem.it



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Elena RIDOLFI

Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona, Spain
ridolfi_elena@libero.it

Marlot ROELOFS

Van Hall Larenstein Leeuwarden, The Netherlands
roelofsmarlot90@hotmail.com

Maura ROSSI

IUAV, Italy
rossi_maura@libero.it

Francesca SANNA RANDACCIO

Università degli studi di Roma la Sapienza, Italy
fsr@dis.uniroma1.it

Silvia SANTATO

IUAV, Italy
stanusina@libero.it

Robert STEIGER

Institute of Geography
Innsbruck University, Austria
robert.steiger@uibk.ac.at

Pierlorenzo STELLA

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Italy
pierlorenzo.stella@feem.it

Mary Summers THOMPSON

UK Department for International
Development (DFID), UK
ms-thompson@dfid.gov.uk

Stefano TIBALDI

Arpa Emilia Romagna, Italy
stibaldi@arpa.emr.it

Grothmann TORSTEN

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
Germany
grothmann@pik-potsdam.de

Paolo TRAVERS

Consorzio Venezia Nuova

Margherita TURVANI

IUAV, Italy
margheri@iuav.it

Maarten K. VAN AALST

Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre
The Netherlands
MvanAalst@redcross.nl

Federica VIGANÒ

Centro Euro-Mediterraneo per i
Cambiamenti Climatici, Italy
federica.vigano@cmcc.it

Christina VON FURSTENBERG

UNESCO, Social Sciences Sector, France
c.von-furstenberg@unesco.org