

# **“Inception Meeting Report”**

## **Project 106002-001, Report 2011A1**

### **Report of the first meeting of the IDRC-funded project “Strengthening the role of civil society in water sector governance towards climate change adaptation in African cities – Durban, Maputo, Nairobi”**

Held in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, Brazil

August 22-29, 2010

By Patricia E. Perkins, Patricia Figueiredo and Beth Lorimer



Social Sciences and Humanities  
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en  
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada

**Adaptation**

IDRC \* CRDI DFID Department for  
International  
Development

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**redefine THE POSSIBLE.**

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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this three-year project, funded by the International Development Research Council through its Climate Change Adaptation in Africa program, is to develop practical strategies for strengthening urban governments in planning investments in climate change adaptation, and to strengthen the role of civil society in water management towards improved climate change adaptation. The project aims to link university researchers with community-based NGOs conducting environmental education and organizing participatory workshops in low-income urban areas with pressing climate change and water-related problems; build on proven methods of community-university collaboration to strengthen urban watershed governance; increase equity in public participation processes related to urban climate change adaptation; and foster progressive local, national and international policy development on climate change-related water management -- while training students, university researchers, NGO staff members, and community participants. The major research outcome of the project will be its contribution to understanding effective ways of strengthening local governments, NGOs and civil society organizations involved in environmental education and organizing for improved public participation in watershed governance and climate change adaptation in African urban areas.

The project partners – university researchers and NGOs based in Durban, South Africa; Maputo, Mozambique; and Nairobi, Kenya – had not all had a chance to meet each other before the project was funded. This first meeting provided that opportunity, while also allowing the partners to discuss their individual contributions and shared goals for the project, fine-tune the project's methodology, and compare notes on the pre-project situation related to climate change, water governance, and related community-based initiatives in each of the three cities. The project director, Prof. Patricia E. Perkins of York University, had obtained funding through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada which allowed this meeting to be held in Brazil, and made possible field visits to several Brazilian examples of community-based watershed development and education projects. The meeting was coordinated and the field visits organized by the Ecoar Institute for Citizenship, a leading Brazilian non-governmental organization in the area of environmental education and community-based climate change organizing. Ecoar's Director, Miriam Duailibi, and Project Coordinator Luciano Araujo helped to facilitate the meeting.

The purposes of this meeting were to:

- Get to know each other as project partners and discuss the CCAA program and this project's structure, goals, and methodologies as approved by IDRC.
- Present to each other our own various backgrounds and areas of work and expertise, as well as the existing situation in each city in relation to climate change, water governance, and civil society involvement – in a form which could provide the basis for a publication on these issues.

- Visit several examples of Brazilian community-based initiatives related to water and community action in times of climate change, and consider a range of ideas on how to approach our project.
- Develop a shared approach and agree on our project's priorities, focus, methodologies, budget, and workplan for the coming year, including plans for the next project team meeting in 2011, and finalize Memoranda of Understanding to serve as the basis for our individual and organizational involvement with the project.

In the following pages, this report contains a list of meeting participants, a detailed day-by-day agenda, copies of the presentations made to the whole group by each participant, an outline of the book we are assembling based on these presentations, a summary of the field visits we made in Brazil and their relation to our project, a summary of our discussions regarding the methodology and budget of our project, a gallery of photographs of the week-long meeting, and a conclusion.

# **Community-Based Water Management and Environmental Education in Times of Climate Change**

*A Conference/Workshop for Project Partners  
Organized and hosted by the Ecoar Institute for Citizenship*

São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil -- 22-29 August, 2010

## **University Participants**

### **Kenya**

University of Nairobi  
Professor Romanus Otieno Opiyo, Department of Urban and Regional Planning

### **Mozambique**

Universidade Eduardo Mondlane  
Professor Eugenia Cossa, Director, Faculty of Education

### **South Africa**

University of KwaZulu-Natal  
Simphiwe Nojiyeza, PhD student, Centre for Civil Society  
Rehana Dada, Masters student, Centre for Civil Society

### **Canada**

York University  
Professor Patricia E. Perkins, Faculty of Environmental Studies  
Patricia Figueiredo, Project Coordinator  
Elizabeth Lorimer, Masters student, Faculty of Environmental Studies

## **NGO Participants**

### **Kenya**

Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN)  
*Towards a Free, Just and Equitable Society*

*Mission: To become the national platform for collective action committed to the total cancellation of Kenya's public debt and its effective management and to empower the public on issues of economic justice and sustainable development through debate, advocacy and organizing.*

Participant: Wahu Kaara, Executive Director

#### Kilimanjaro Initiative

*Mission: To encourage young people to have self-belief and to assist in providing opportunities that will enable them to take on a constructive role in their communities.*

Participant: Sadique Bilal Issa, Sports and Sports Facilities Coordinator

### **Mozambique**

#### Justiça Ambiental

*Mission: To engender a culture of civil action in Mozambique both through actions to protect the environment, and by actively engaging in developmental decisions pertaining to issues of environmental justice, here in Mozambique and throughout the rest of the world.*

Participants: Erika Mendes and Tiago Esmael

#### Mulher, Gênero e Desenvolvimento (MuGeDe: Women, Gender, Development)

*Mission: To promote a healthy environment through the combined efforts of different social groups, including the government. To focus on the environment and rural development from a gender perspective.*

Participant: Saquina Mucavele, Executive Director

### **South Africa**

#### Umphilo waManzi (Water is Life)

*Mission: To engage in advocacy and action research around issues related to water and sanitation, the environment, and health in South Africa.*

Participant: Mary Galvin, Executive Director

#### South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

*Mission: To protect and ensure an environment conducive to positive well-being of the citizenry; to promote "clean" development that aids local job creation; to protect resources for present and future generations and to ensure development that is not detrimental to the health of residents, especially children.*

Participant: Lushendrie Naidu, Projects Officer

#### Climate Justice Now! South Africa

*Mission: To enable and facilitate solidarity amongst and with those affected and most vulnerable to climate change. To challenge and expose unsustainable practices and*

*false solutions to the climate crisis such as trade liberalization, privatization, carbon markets, CCS and agro fuels. To seek out, promote and facilitate genuine solutions to the climate crisis that meets the rights of people to live a good life while ensuring the rights of nature, culture and peoples.*

Participant: Rehana Dada

## **Facilitators**

Ecoar Institute for Citizenship

*Instituto Ecoar para a Cidadania (Ecoar Institute for Citizenship) was founded in 1992 in São Paulo, Brazil, after the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development, by professionals, academics, and environmentalists. Its mission is to contribute to the construction of a sustainable society in balance with nature. Ecoar's projects and actions take place in several of the Brazilian states, mainly in the southern and southeastern regions. To reach its goals Ecoar develops and implements projects, provides courses and workshops, develops methodologies and publications and provides consultancy. Its main expertise is focused on participatory processes for local sustainable development, socio-environmental diagnostics using Ecomaps, education on climate change and sustainability, and consultancy on corporate social responsibility, climate change and sustainability.*

Participants:

Miriam Duailibi, Director

Luciano Araújo, Project Coordinator

Fabio Schott, Translator

Flávia Hong, Translator

# Community-based water management and environmental education in times of climate change

22-29 August, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## CONFERENCE / WORKSHOP AGENDA

**Monday Aug. 23, Day 1** – Get to know each other and share information on what we are already doing in relation to water and climate change, and what we would like to do. Share our presentations and PowerPoint on the situation in each city. Begin to explore synergies and possibilities for mutual support. *If time allows*, discuss IDRC budget and financial relationships.

Outputs for the day:

--Agreed title, outline, and draft contents for our book (proposed title: Water and Climate Change in East African Cities: Challenges and Community Initiatives in Durban, Maputo and Nairobi) including both words and pictures/art!

--Links and content for our new project website, given or sent to Patty in digital form, from partner organizations.

--What kinds of materials, methods and/or supports would be most useful for everyone's ongoing work? Let's make a list.

-- What community organizations are we all working with now? What other individuals and organizations are also doing this kind of work and would make good partners? Let's make a list to start a bigger network. Who is missing here? How can this network be working for equity and inclusion of the most marginalized?

**Tuesday Aug. 24, Day 2** – Visit the PCJ Consórcio (Piracicaba/Capivari/Jundiá watershed consortium), Cidade Americana, and learn about climate change-related water issues in São Paulo. Talk with Ecoar representatives and others we meet about the practice of NGO involvement with governments, how to push legal and regulatory openings and/or change policy, ways of doing community organizing around climate change and community-based environmental education, arts-based organizing, bringing in gender and equity concerns, etc. *If time allows*, have a discussion facilitated by Ellie and Beth and Miriam/Debora on gender and equity in water governance and community organizing.

Outputs for the day:

--Photos and notes on SP initiatives (to add to website and/or book).

--Additions to lists of useful materials/methods/supports and potential partner organizations/individuals for network-building.

**Wednesday Aug. 25, Day 3** – Travel to Rio de Janeiro and learn about climate-change-related water issues there. If time allows, begin to discuss the IDRC project framework, milestones/objectives for each quarter and whether these need to be revised, budget, and how to use the project to realistically accomplish partner organizations’ goals (discussion facilitated by Ellie and Miriam). *If time allows*, Ellie meets with Eugenia, Simphiwe and Romanus to discuss the university side of the project – finding, attracting and selecting motivated student interns; getting them involved and knowledgeable about local initiatives and prepared for international exchanges; whether each university’s format will allow individual research by students and credit for field work; supervision of students; writing up and publishing student work and summaries of project findings and outcomes; how this relates to our other ongoing work; developing an ongoing bibliography related to the project; etc.

Outputs for the day:

- Draft proposed modifications to the budget, or acceptance of its structure.
- Photos and notes on Rio and climate change (to add to website and/or book).
- Summary of goals/expectations for university partners and ideas for supports for them in meeting these goals/expectations.
- Initial bibliography of project-related documents, papers, and student work – send or give/copy links and references to Patty.

**Thursday, Aug. 26, Day 4** – Visit Rio de Janeiro water governance/community engagement sites and learn about NGO initiatives there. *If time allows*, Miriam meets with NGO partners to discuss integrating student interns and international projects in ongoing work; budget issues and how to maintain stability; the challenges of working with academics and how to choose partners and deal with them; international networking; etc.

Outputs for the day:

- Draft proposed modifications to the budget, or acceptance of its structure.
- Photos and notes on Rio community projects (to add to website and/or book).
- Summary of goals/expectations for NGO partners and ideas for supports for them in meeting these goals/expectations.

**Friday Aug. 27, Day 5** – Meetings to discuss the IDRC project: “Strengthening the role of civil society in water sector governance towards climate change adaptation in African cities – Durban, Maputo, Nairobi.”

Morning: partners from each city meet to discuss the details of how to implement project initiatives there.

Afternoon: each city group reports back to the whole group, shares ideas, and discusses implementation of the ideas including budget issues, the next project meeting, how to incorporate Participatory Action Research workshops and Monitoring and Evaluation sessions, and the overall milestones and timelines for the project. *If time allows*, also

discuss additional funding ideas, proposals everyone is or could be working on, upcoming funding opportunities, how to share ideas on this, etc.

Outputs for the day:

--Proposed modifications to the budget agreed by the whole group, or acceptance of it as it stands.

--Proposed modifications to the project goals and timelines and other project documents, or acceptance of them as they stand.

--Agreement on the plans for the book, website, networking lists and procedures, and other outputs from this week.

--Plans for the next project meeting (dates, locale, agenda, who will organize it, etc.) and general agreement regarding the subsequent meetings through 2012.

--List of upcoming funding opportunities and potential partnership ideas.

**Saturday Aug. 28, Day 6** – Country teams meet to complete reports, documentation and country-specific project planning.

**Sunday Aug. 29, Day 7** – Return to São Paulo and travel home. Send the return boarding passes and receipts for taxis and additional travel costs to Patty right away!

## PRESENTATIONS

*Water management and climate change in Durban*

By Rehana Dada, Climate Justice Now! and University of KwaZulu-Natal

*A hot climate for civil society engagement with climate change and water in eThekweni*

By Dr. Mary Galvin, Umphilo waManzi

*Climate change in South Durban, South Africa*

By Lushendrie Naidu, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

*Linking Water, Environmental Education and Climate Change Adaptation*

By Simphiwe Nojiyeza, PhD Candidate, University of KwaZulu-Natal

*Género e Mudanças Climáticas Em Moçambique*

(Gender and Climate Change in Mozambique)

By Saquina Mucavele

Executive Director, MUGEDE- Mulher, Género e Desenvolvimento

*Clube de Educação Ambiental da Faculdade de Educação (CEAFE)*

(The Eduardo Mondlane University Faculty of Education Environmental Education Club)

By Prof. Eugenia Cossa

Director, Faculty of Education, UEM

Office, South Durban Community Environmental Alliance (SDCEA)

*Actors Integration and Water Governance in Nairobi's City: Challenges and Adaptation to Climate Change*

By Romanus Opiyo

Lecturer, University of Nairobi

*Urban Climate Change*

By Sadique Issa

Sports and Sports Facilities Coordinator, Kilimanjaro Initiative (KI)

*Towards a People-Centered Water Governance Model. From Rights to the Commons.*

By Wahu Kaara

Coordinator, Kenya Debt Relief Network (KENDREN)

[PowerPoint files and/or digital audio files of all these presentations are available upon request.]

## CONFERENCE BOOK PROPOSAL

*Outline of the book we are preparing to submit to potential publishers, and for our project website, containing material presented by the project team at our opening conference in August, 2010*

### Water and Climate Change in Three African Cities: Challenges and Community Initiatives in Durban, Maputo and Nairobi

#### Introduction

(A short introduction to climate change impacts in all three cities and also Africa in general, with a brief discussion of adaptation challenges.)

The importance of community-based organizations for equitable water governance in times of climate change

Ellie Perkins

Economic, ecological and climate justice -- literacy and politics

Wahu Kaara

Kibera youth for rivers

Sadique Bilal

Climate, health and poverty

Lushendrie Naidu

Bringing together community and academic knowledge

Eugenia Cossa

Community river restoration

Simphiwe Nojiyeza

Women, climate change, and environmental education

Saquina Mucavele

Can you educate hungry people?

Erika Mendes and Tiago Esmael

University-community alliances for water governance

Debora Teixeira and Miriam Duailibi

A hot climate for civil society engagement

Mary Galvin

Planning and climate change in Nairobi  
Romanus Opiyo

Water, climate change, and socio-political transformation  
Rehana Dada

Conclusion: Community-based responses to climate change  
Ellie Perkins and Patricia Figueiredo

Bibliography

## **Intermunicipal Consortium of the Piracicaba, Capivari, and Jundiaí River Basins** *(situated north of São Paulo in Americana City)*

On August 24, 2010, workshop participants visited the Intermunicipal Consortium of the Piracicaba, Capivari, and Jundiaí (PCJ) River Basin in Americana City. The PCJ watershed supplies water to São Paulo and this inter-watershed transfer from the PCJ river basin to the Upper Tiête river basin is the largest of its kind in Brazil.



Workshop Participants learn about the PCJ Watershed

The consortium, founded in 1989, is made up of 59 municipalities, as well as a number of businesses and civil society members, and it carries out water projects (both social and infrastructure-related) in the PCJ river basin. The consortium has a large headquarters site in Americana City, which houses offices, training rooms, and a sustainable model home, with exhibits on different sustainable design options for water and energy conservation.



Recycled toothpaste tubes are used for ceiling material in a model home

The consortium offers a number of programs on environmental education, watershed management, investment, and solid waste. During the visit, workshop participants were able to listen in on a water and environmental training session for government workers.



Prof. Perkins helps to translate information on the consortium's activities.

Workshop participants learned about how the consortium supports water management in the region, including how the use of water is monitored and controlled and how drinking water is treated.



PCJ Project Coordinator presents educational materials on use of water

Participants learned about the role that sector associations play in the management of water resources, including their role in water use and pricing decisions and pollution control. These associations are made up of various stakeholders, including civil society, farming associations, manufacturing associations, etc. The revenue collected from water use pricing is then invested in community programming to develop infrastructure and educational programs.

Workshop participants received complimentary copies of consortium educational materials (i.e. books and posters) to take back to Africa and use as visual aids in community workshops. We were also invited to send colleagues to an international symposium on watershed management and policy for government officials, to be hosted by the Consortium in November; this is one of a series of such international meetings, which we were welcomed to participate in.



Participants gather for a group shot in front of the consortium's model eco-home

The Consortium, and its structure and funding based in Brazil's Water Law, provide a model for water governance and community education that may have relevance in African contexts, from the local to the regional/international. The Consortium's educational programs for government officials, NGOs and community members were also interesting and inspirational. Its headquarters, with classrooms and exhibits as well as model buildings demonstrating energy efficiency, recycling, waste management and water conservation, showed examples of what can be done to advance environmental education for improved water governance and civil society participation. We will be able to build upon contacts we made with Consortium staff for ongoing communication about water and climate change education and policy steps throughout our project and into the future.

**Água Doce - Serviços Populares  
(Guanabara Bay, Rio de Janeiro) and  
its NGO partners, such as The Centro  
de Difusão de Tecnologia para  
Agricultura Familiar**

On August 26, 2010, the workshop participants visited Água Doce, founded in 2001 and located in the Baixada Fluminense, or Fluminense Lowlands, northwest of Rio de Janeiro city and bordering Guanabara Bay.



Baixada Fluminense

The Água Doce organization, which supports Agenda 21 principles, aims to (re)introduce a more sustainable way of life to the people of the Baixada through a range of social and economic community development initiatives.



Participants discuss climate change and water

People at Água Doce and the communities of the Baixada Fluminense are particularly concerned about the

imminent effects of climate change in the region, mostly due to their precarious geographical location. Increased rainfall from the mountains and rising sea levels from the Bay make the area particularly vulnerable to floods and mudslides.



Our group gathers for a photo at a local guava farm

The people of Água Doce believe in nurturing social capital in order to strengthen communities in the region. The organization offers literacy and environmental education workshops and supports schools and children's programs, as well as creating economic opportunities for women.



The co-founders of Água Doce listen attentively to workshop participants

Água Doce promotes social transformation and building the capacity of local citizens to participate in decision-making processes, especially concerning water, resource management, and local governance.



Participants visit library and community centre in Suruí

sustainability, social sustainability, and governance provided a wealth of ideas for ways of integrating community members' environmental priorities with other pressing needs in the community, and advancing on many fronts at once through community development.

The organization mobilizes funds from religious, private sector and donor organizations for its projects, which include a library and community centre in the village of Suruí and workshops on gardening and sustainable farming. We met the literacy teacher in the drop-in community library founded by Água Doce, and also visited a school where girls were engaged in a skills training program, a fruit processing cooperative where women prepare jam to be sold, and an eco-farm farther up the hillside where community members work together.



Skills training program for local girls

These visits to several Água Doce sites and projects demonstrated for us the connections among literacy, economic and social supports including job creation and community-building, and the potential of marginalized community members to become involved in collective decision-making. The organization's attention to ecological

## CONCLUSION

This meeting was a very productive, educational and uplifting way to launch our work together. Both in formal presentations to each other and in informal settings as we travelled, ate and spent leisure time together in new surroundings, we shared and learned a great deal and built a strong foundation for our communication over long distances in the years to come.

We marveled at the inspirational Brazilian examples we witnessed of how communities can be mobilized at the watershed level, through action by both government agencies and NGOs, for heightened environmental awareness and ecological protection in conjunction with job creation and income provision, social justice initiatives, food production and increased political involvement – all especially important in times of climate change.

We dissected and reassembled our project's goals and budget, integrating its intent, methodology and practical implications with our other ongoing work, and making commitments to each other about our own roles in carrying out the project's overall objectives. We incorporated a Participatory Action Research approach to our project in this initial meeting.

We are looking forward to the next stages!