

## PAMUN XII RESEARCH REPORT—QUESTION OF STRENGTHENING THE TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE (TACC)

### I. Introduction of Topic:

Climate change is one of the gravest (and most underrated) problems that face society today. While naturally, the planet performs minor changes (i.e. volcanic activity, climate fluctuations), human's have accelerated the negative effects of climate change by centuries. By doing things such as burning fossil fuels, cutting down rainforests, and raising livestock, sea levels are rising, precipitation is increased, floods are reaching new heights, and desertification and droughts run rampant.

Climate change's rise can be directly linked to developing nations. While climate change is a terrible fate that humanity now has to deal with, poverty is not a valued thing either. As nations reach out of poverty, though, their standard's of living rise. With this, more natural habitat is cut, excess fossil fuels and burnt, more electricity is used... the list is endless. Between these two evils, there seemed to be no compromise. Were we to live in a world with widespread inequality, or to dwell in a planet that might not survive our grandchildren? Seeing this, the United Nations created the Territorial Approach to Climate Change.

The Territorial Approach (TACC) to Climate Change works with local level governments (states, provinces, cities, and municipalities) in developing countries and countries in transition to increase resilience to climate change impact and reduce their carbon footprint. TACC is a partnership of five agencies that includes UNEP, UNDP, UNITAR, UN-Habitat and UNCDF.

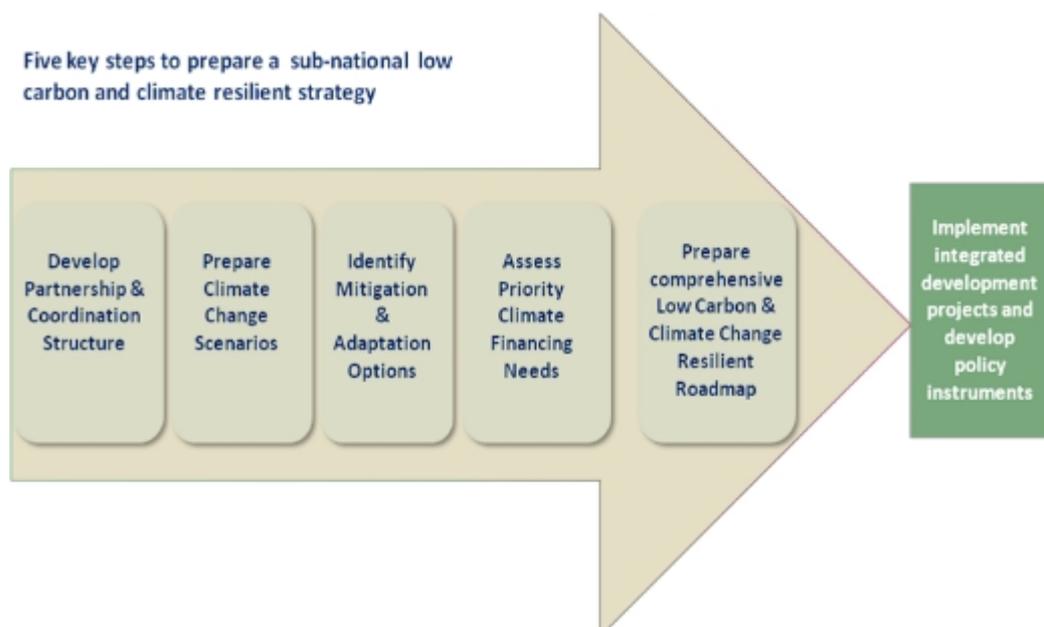


Figure 1: This is the infographic outlines the basic processes that the TACC uses to develop an environmentally sustainable plan for LEDC's.

## **II. Background:**

In specifics, the TACC achieves their goals through many means. The TACC approaches individual countries in a systematic manner. To assess the situation, they begin with a diagnostic climate profile. Then, a draft strategy is created to solve identified problems. This portion of the program is usually led by the UNEP. The plan is usually quite unique to the country, because the TACC utilizes climate change information and solutions to LEDC's, that otherwise, they would not have had access to. The UNDP is specifically the leader on this section. Furthermore, the TACC establishes a connection between themselves and the governing body to provide for sustained success in climate change resilience in the future. The UNEP, again, takes control here, especially in further independent projects with the country in question. For further elaboration, please see figure 1.

While the UN program provided is important to the success of TACC projects, the crucial players are the individual nations: more specifically, their sub national governments. This is because the sub-national governments are the middle ground between the grassroots movements (which is where the seeds of polluted action often fester) and more powerful, but often detached, government officials. Therefore, the sub-national governments have added responsibilities from both bureaucratic pools. However, this is not to say that devolved and integrated forms of power have not been effective in the TACC. The local movements have voiced their concerns up to the higher authorities in order to sustain practical plans to tackle climate change. At the macroscopic level, nations that are part of supranational organizations like the EU have been commended for their unified cooperation with the TACC.

The TACC has helped several developing nations throughout its existence. The first TACC operation was conducted in Uganda. The plan focused on building capacities, integration of climate change into regional development plans, formulated an Integrated Territorial Climate Plan (ITCP) for the Mbale region, relayed the best eco-friendly practices to the Ugandan people, and created a climate change policy and investment package.

## **III. Relevant International Agreements, Conventions, Organizations and Resolutions:**

**1992:** UN Rio Earth Summit: This summit was where the UN began to consider what could be done to reduce global warming and temperature fluctuations.

**1997:** Kyoto Protocol: This treaty provided powerful and legally binding measures, which targeted a global reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

**1998:** TACC comes as a global action: As part of the Saint Malo declaration, sub-national authorities recognized the need for collective action against climate change.

**2010:** The Cancun Agreements: At the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 16), which occurred in Mexico in 2010, was a set of decisions made by the international community that viewed the long term necessities for sustained climate change.

## **IV. Main Issues:**

**Global Nature of Issue:** Climate change does not simply affect one nation within the manmade borders. It is a supernatural issue that transcends states to affect the larger

composite. This not only makes it an extremely grave issue for all nations, but also means that one does not know if certain emissions are coming from them. For example, in ozone depletion, any state could be emitting too many GHG's and eating away the protective atmosphere. Thus, if one nation reduces emissions, another may increase and thus any effort can be negated. This means that it is extremely hard to track progress from individual states.

**Sustenance:** While TACC partnerships do instill long-term planning mechanisms, these new technologies require maintenance and funding, which often times, LEDC's cannot provide. Thus, the TACC needs to reach out to private and public investors to create a sustain momentum that they gain in the battle against climate change during the program's active stages.

**Cultural Norms:** Especially in booming economies, stereotypical signs of wealth have increased importance (i.e. big cars, houses, jewelry). These things, however, often guzzle gas themselves or utilize precious natural resources. Since these items have such a connotation, and people are willing to pay for these signs, industries, businesses, and practices that are actually detrimental to the environment are allowed to thrive. This can literally undermine the entire climate change program's strides. Thus, when an LEDC grows towards becoming a More Economically Developed Country (MEDC), the fluctuating finances of the population can be detrimental to the environment.

#### **V. Web Sites:**

The UNEP is one of the key organizations in the TACC, and provides important information on the TACC as a whole.

<http://www.unep.org/roap/Activities/ClimateChange/TerritorialApproachtoClimateChangeTACC/tabid/6844/Default.aspx>

The UNDP is another founding member of the TACC alliance, and publishes extremely informative reports on the TACC.

[http://web.undp.org/geneva/down\\_to\\_earth.html](http://web.undp.org/geneva/down_to_earth.html)

United Nations on Climate Change is a great resource to learn about climate change and the TACC's efforts to mitigate it.

<http://www.uncclearn.org/tacc>