**Climate Change, Water and Health: Practical**

Thursday 13 February 2012, 10-11 am

**Learning objectives**

By the end of this practical, you will be able to

1. Find information about national health problems related to climate change and water for various countries
2. Explain what the main problems are related to climate change, water and health in a selected country
3. Understand the policy implementations/plans aimed at mitigating, reducing or preventing climate change
4. Understand how these policy implementations will affect public health
5. Explain why some policies related to climate change succeed or fail in meeting their objectives
6. Formulate your own policy recommendation for a selected climate change affected country

**Course material relevant to this session**

For the core of the practical:

* These instructions

For background reading you might want to have a look at:

* The WHO report: *Protecting Health from Climate Change: connecting science, policy and people*
* The WHO/DFID report: *The resilience of water supply and sanitation in the face of climate change*

**How does this practical work**

The practical focuses on the national health (and water) related problems of countries affected by climate change. In this practical we will split up into four smaller groups. Each of the groups will focus on one country. You can pick one of the following two countries with different climate change induced health / water problems:

* South Africa
* Bangladesh

You can select another country if you like, but please make sure there are climate change policy documents available online for the country of choice.

The practical will be 1 hour. Please note that the last 15 minutes are reserved for presenting your findings to the other groups. You are kindly requested to finish your search, discussions and presentation in 45 minutes.

### Question I – Major Climate Change Induced Health Threats on National Level

What do you consider to be the 3 major health (and water) related health threats in your country, which are a direct or indirect result of climate change?

### Question II – Policy implementations and policy plans

Search for online (policy) documents regarding climate change for your country. Some recommendations are given below:

South Africa

* Government of the Republic of South Africa: National Climate Change Response Website: http://www.climateresponse.co.za/home/gp/toc
* Department of environmental affairs and tourism. A National Climate Change Response Strategy. (September 2004) www.saaqis.org.za/filedownload.aspx?fileid=11
* Madzwamuse, M. Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Preparedness in South Africa (March 2010). <http://www.boell.org.za/downloads/HBF_web_SA_28_2.pdf>
* White paper on national climate change response: <http://www.info.gov.za/view/DownloadFileAction?id=152942>
* Climate change response strategy: http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/seminar/application/pdf/sem\_sup3\_south\_africa.pdf

An organisation that has done a lot of research and feasibility studies to climate change, water and health in South Africa is CSIR. You might consider adding them to your search strategy.

Bangladesh

* General Economics Division, Planning Commission, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh & UNDP Bangladesh. *Policy Study on The Probable Impacts of Climate Change on Poverty and Economic Growth and the Options of Coping with Adverse Effect of Climate Change in Bangladesh.* (2009).http://www.plancomm.gov.bd/The%20probable%20impacts%20of%20climate%20change%20on%20poverty%20and%20economic%20growth%20and%20the%20options%20of%20coping%20w.pdf
* Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. *Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2008.* (September 2008) http://www.sdnbd.org/moef.pdf
* Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. *National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)* (September 2005) http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/napa/ban01.pdf

An organisation that has done a lot of research and feasibility studies to climate change, water and health in Bangladesh is BCAS. You might consider adding them to your search strategy.

### Describe one of the major policies/activities that have been implemented in your country, in the last decades, with the aim to mitigate, reduce or prevent health problems related to climate change. What level (individual/district/national/etc.) has it been implemented?

### Describe one of the policy plans are still in the pipeline for implementation in the next few years (this could also be recommendations by professional bodies that have not yet been accepted by the policy makers).

### Do you think the policy described under A is effectively addressing the climate change problems? What do you think is most remarkable in the countries approach?

**Question III: Recommendations**

Based on the information you gathered about your country, what would be your main policy recommendation for the next 5 years? Why?

**Further reading**

* Parry ML *et al* eds. (2007). *Climate change 2007: Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.* Cambridge, Cambridge University Press
* WHO (2009) *Protecting Health from Climate Change: Global Research Priorities,* Geneva, World Health Organisation.
* Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2008). *Climate change and water.*  IPCC Technical Paper