

COP13 Side event

Tuesday 11 Dec, 20.00-21.30, Room Hydro, Grand Hyatt

Perspectives on a Global Adaptation Architecture

Panel discussion on results from the ADAM project
organised by IVM

Coordinated by the UK's Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, ADAM (Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies: Supporting European Climate Policy) is a European Commission funded integrated research project running from 2006 to 2009 that is leading to a better understanding of adaptation and mitigation policies and the development of post-2012 mitigation policies and adaptation strategies.

Towards a Global Governance System to Protect Climate Refugees

Frank Biermann and Ingrid Boas

Climate Change threatens to cause the largest refugee crisis in human history. More than 200 million people, largely in Africa and Asia, might be forced to leave their homes to seek refuge in other places or countries over the course of the century. However, the existing institutions, organizations and funding mechanisms are not sufficiently equipped to deal with this looming crisis. The situation calls for new governance. We outline a blueprint for a global governance architecture on the protection and resettlement of climate refugees. Key elements of our proposal are a new legal instrument specifically tailored for the needs of climate refugees—a Protocol on Recognition, Protection and Resettlement of Climate Refugees to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change—as well as a separate funding mechanism, the Climate Refugee Protection and Resettlement Fund.

Global Governance and Adaptation to Climate Change for Food Security

Eric Massey

Food insecurity is seen as the result of a combination of various environmental, social and economic factors. In the past these have led to millions of people worldwide living in a food insecure environment, mostly in southern countries. With climate change they will become more vulnerable to decreased crop yields and crop failure. Some form of adaptation must occur to ensure greater food security in regions that will be most vulnerable. We will highlight the underlying equity issue, sketch the institutional architecture governing food security, and explore the role of global agro-business. We conclude that adaptation for food security requires adaptation at the institutional level within the UN and other world body actors, including greater private actor involvement of agro-business, and planned physical adaptive farming practices in communities and regions that are expected to become more stressed due to climatic changes.

The Fragmentation of Global Climate Governance: Challenges for Adaptation

Fariborz Zelli and Harro van Asselt

We are currently witnessing an increasing fragmentation of the global climate governance architecture. Outside of the UN climate regime, a growing number of institutions and arenas are addressing climate change in closed forums. This institutional fragmentation may prove detrimental as it mainly serves the interests of the invited countries (i.e. OECD countries and leading developing countries). Concerns of the excluded poorer countries, such as adaptation strategies, tend to be sidelined. On the other hand, fragmentation could also provide opportunities, as regional agreements on adaptation could address issues that are too difficult to address through the multilateral framework. The question, eventually, is how the different 'fragments' relate to the whole (UNFCCC).

Panel

- Frank Biermann, Eric Massey and Harro van Asselt
Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Simon Tay
Singapore Institute of International Affairs, National University of Singapore
- Benito Müller
Oxford Institute for Energy Studies, UK
- Youba Sokona
Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Tunisia
- Henry Neufeldt
Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, UK (Chair)