

# ACTIVITY BRIEF

## Regional Workshop on Options for an Innovative Climate Finance Regime for South Asia

19-20 August 2013 | New Delhi, India

### BACKGROUND

Climate finance is needed to help vulnerable communities adapt to, and also mitigate, the adverse effects of a changing climate. The governance of climate finance is a crucial issue for countries in South Asia, both in terms of how international sources of finance are governed, as well as the capacity of national institutions to make best use of climate finance when it is available.

Given the importance of climate finance, a the Regional Workshop on “Options for an Innovative Climate Finance Regime for South Asia” was organised by the Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) – a designated institution or sub-regional node within the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN). The workshop was supported by the USAID funded ADAPT Asia-Pacific project and Low Emissions Asian Development Program (LEAD).

The workshop brought together a group of participants from eight South Asian countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They included government officials, members of civil society as well as the business sector.

### OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the workshop was to:

- Enhance understanding among national decision makers of existing public and private climate finance mechanisms available to South Asian countries, and map preparatory actions and options for sourcing climate finance
- Identify potential sources of new and innovative finance in both the public and private sectors, and characterise their suitability for use in South Asia
- Identify good practice models of climate finance governance at the national level.
- Identify research needs to help fill remaining gaps in knowledge about the availability, nature or suitability of new and innovative sources of finance
- Explore possible avenues for continuing national and regional coordination



Many South Asian countries are vulnerable to rising sea level and extreme weather events.

### WORKSHOP PARTNERS



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## ABOUT APAN

APAN is the leading climate change adaptation network in the Asia-Pacific region. Our primary goal is to assist countries to build climate change resilient and sustainable human systems, ecosystems, and economies. Our initiatives turn knowledge into policy action and trainings into tangible benefits.

## APAN PARTNERS



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## OUTCOMES

The workshop highlighted some of the key issues and knowledge gaps in understanding climate finance, including the linkage between climate finance with poverty issues.

Other issues that were highlighted included: the gaps existing in adaptation finance; the lack of definition on what constitutes climate finance; and the gaps between pledges and disbursement.

Participants better understood the current financial flows, potential sources of new and innovative finance in both the public and private sectors, and their feasibility and suitability for South Asia.

The role of regional institutions, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), in garnering climate finance and spearheading related regional coordination was also discussed.

In addition, interactive sharing of knowledge on country policies by government representatives also led to a better understanding of the existing capacity to assess the financial needs and the ability to raise the resources through domestic and regional sources.

## CONCLUSION

Recommendations from the workshop included the need for setting up appropriate mechanisms of finance at the regional level. This regional level mechanism could be mobilised and set up by using already existing regional mechanism such as SAARC.

The need for generation of new knowledge on the role of the private sector in climate financing and the design of a mechanism to provide direct and easy access to climate finance to countries in the region were identified.

The two days of deliberations on the issue achieved the identified objectives of enhancing the understanding among national decision makers on existing public and private climate finance mechanisms available in the region.

Participants discussed and exchanged knowledge on various climate finance sources at the country-level, which were considered as ideas to be implemented. The scope of private sector sources and clarity on the role it needs to play were emphasised, including the need to explore possible avenues for continuing national and regional coordination.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/apan-cansa-20130819>