

North American Symposium on Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management

Montreal, Canada
10th-11th August 2017





BACKGROUND

Climate change is known to impact coastal areas in a variety of ways. According to the 5th Assessment Report produced by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), coastal zones are highly vulnerable to climate change and climate-driven impacts may be further exacerbated by other human-induced pressures

In North America, multiple pressures - including urbanization and coastal development, habitat loss and degradation, pollution, overexploitation of fish stocks and natural hazards- affect the coastal ecosystems, hence exacerbating the impacts of climate change in coastal zones. In particular, sea level rise changes the shape of coastlines, contributes to coastal erosion and leads to flooding and salt-water intrusion in aquifers.

Climate change is also associated with other negative impacts to the natural environment and biodiversity, which include damages to important wetlands, and to the habitats that safeguard the overall ecological balance, and consequently the provision of ecosystem services and goods on which the livelihoods of millions of people depend. These impacts are particularly acute in North America, which endeavours to become more resilient to damages caused by hurricanes, floods and other extreme events.

The above state of affairs illustrates the need for a better understanding of how climate change affects coastal areas and communities in North America, and for the identification of processes, methods and tools which may help the communities in coastal zones to adapt and become more resilient. There is also a perceived need to showcase successful examples of how to cope with the social, economic and political problems posed by climate change in coastal regions in North America.

It is against this background that the **North American Symposium on Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management** is being organized by the Research and Transfer Centre “Applications of Life Sciences” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP) and the Université du Québec à Montréal. The Symposium will be a truly interdisciplinary event, mobilizing scholars, social movements, practitioners and members of governmental agencies, undertaking research and/or executing climate change projects in coastal areas and working with coastal communities in North America.

The **North American Symposium on Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management** will focus on “ensuring the resilience of coastal zones” meaning that it will serve the purpose of showcasing experiences from research, field projects and best practice to foster climate change adaptation in coastal zones and communities, which may be useful or implemented elsewhere.

AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working



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in the field of climate change adaptation in coastal zones and communities in North America, the aims of the **North American Symposium on Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management** are:

- i. to discuss the influences of, the damages and the threats posed by climate change to estuaries and coastal communities;
- ii. to introduce approaches, methods, initiatives and projects which demonstrate how coastal communities can successfully meet the challenges climate change poses to them. Here, an emphasis will be on the latest research, but also on infra-structure projects, demonstrations on the use of technologies and natural and artificial means to reduce the impacts of extreme events and sea level rise to coastal communities;
- iii. to introduce funding schemes and mechanisms which can finance climate change adaptation in coastal areas and
- iv. to network the participants, disseminate examples of best practice and foster collaboration in this very important field.

Last but not least, a further aim of the event will be to document and disseminate the wealth of experiences available today. To this purpose, the **book “Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management in North America”** will be published, with all accepted papers. This will be a further volume of the award-winning book series “Climate Change Management” published by Springer, which since its creation in 2008 has become the world’s leading book series on climate change management. The decision of the editors as to which papers may be selected and undergo peer review for the book is final.

ORGANISERS

Co-Chairs

- Professor Walter Leal, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
- Dr. Sebastian Weissenberger, professeur associé, Institut des sciences de l'environnement, Université du Québec à Montréal
- Prof. Omer Chouinard, Master programme in Environmental Studies and Department of Sociology, Université de Moncton



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Scientific Committee

- Luke He, Meteorologist, Climate Prediction Center, NCEP/NWS/NOAA, USA
- Cynthia E. Rosenzweig (NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, USA)
- Lisa Goddard (Columbia University, International Research Institute for Climate & Society, USA)
- Rosetta S. Elkin (Harvard University, USA)
- Jesse M. Keenan (Harvard University, USA)
- Adam Fenech (University of Prince Edward Island, Canada)
- Malgosia Madajewicz, (The Center for Climate Systems Research, Columbia University, USA)

Scientific Support

- Ms Svenja Scheday, International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)

Cooperating Organisations

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP)
- ISE-UQAM

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending the **North American Symposium on Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management** will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

1. members of NGOs working with climate change and coastal communities;
2. researchers at universities and research centres;
3. teaching staff at universities;
4. representatives from companies;
5. representatives from UN and national development and aid agencies working with climate change adaptation and funding/ executing projects on the ground;
6. members of social movements;



7. project officers and consultants;
8. other people interested in the topic.

It is believed that this wide range of participants will help to outline the need for and the usefulness of integrated approaches towards climate change adaptation in coastal zones and communities, and hence contribute to the further consolidation of this thematic area.

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

The **North American Symposium on Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management** will be organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: the displays

Participating organisations will be able to put-up displays describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The displays will be the backbone of the event and will allow close, one-to-one contacts between the participants and the exhibitors.

Strand 2: the presentations

A set of presentations, distributed over a set of themes will be organised, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change adaptation in coastal region and communities. Some of the topics to be tackled in the event include:

- Planning processes, activities and measures to increase resilience of coastal areas and communities
- Measurements and management of flood risks in coastal areas
- Early warning systems and management of storm surges and storm water
- Environmental impact evaluation and support to reconstruction efforts
- Monitoring, management and treatment of polluted stormwater and discharges
- Measures to monitor and reduce erosion of coastal areas
- Community-based actions to handle coastal zone depletion due to climate change
- Financial incentives and financial means to support green infra-structures

The plenary and parallel sessions, as well as the social events, will provide participants with an outstanding opportunity to interact, network and learn about the latest ideas, projects and practices, mainstreaming climate change adaptation in coastal regions.

TIME-TABLE

The **North American Symposium on Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management** will be held from 9th to 11th August 2017 in Montréal, Quebec, Canada. Montréal is the 9th largest city in North America, the second largest economy in Canada and one of the largest inland ports in the



world, with a rich and diverse history, many international connections, and is often named “Canada's Cultural Capital”.

Created in 1990, the *Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement (ISE)* is an interdisciplinary space for discussion and coordination which brings researchers of several departments, research centres and groups together. It offers two graduate programs (M.Sc., Ph.D. in Environmental Sciences). It is a leading centre for environmental research and education in Quebec.

The schedule is as follows:

Day 1 –9th August 2017	Day 2 – 10th August 2017
<p>Afternoon: Arrival and set-up of displays</p> <p>Evening: free</p>	<p>All day: Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Morning: Plenary and parallel sessions</p> <p>Afternoon: Plenary and parallel sessions</p> <p>Evening: Reception: get-together of participants for informal chats and networking</p>
Day 3 –11 th August 2017 (morning)	Day 3 —11 th August (afternoon)
<p>Morning: Plenary and parallel sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p>	<p>Afternoon: Plenary and parallel sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Conclusions with the hand over of the Awards for the best papers</p>

In order to ensure an efficient use of the time, delegates are kindly asked to organise their travel in a way that allows them to arrive in Montréal in the course of 9th August 2017, and travel back on or after 12th August 2017, so they can fully take part in the Symposium.



DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th March 2017

Deadline for submission of papers: 20th April 2017

Deadline for the submission of revised papers: 30th May 2017

Deadline for registrations: 30th June 2017

Since the conference book is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of US\$ 350/C\$ 472/Euro 320 (professionals) or US\$ 180/C\$243/ Euro 150 (for students) plus 19% VAT, will be charged to those who register until 30th April 2017 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of US\$ 400/C\$ 540/Euro 360 and US\$ 200/C\$ 270(Euro 175 respectively (plus 19% VAT). Invoices can be issued in either US / Canadian dollars, or Euros. The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks on day 2 and day 3 as well as the evening reception on day 2. Furthermore, the fee includes a **on-line copy of the book “Climate Change and Coastal Zone Management in North America”** to be made available to the participants whose papers have been submitted and accepted.

Organisations or individuals not able to pay this fee should contact the Secretariat so that it may be reduced in special cases. Interested people and organisations are encouraged to register by completing the application form provided. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs** of any kind. They are however happy to issue letters of invitation to support delegates to request funding for their participation.

REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until the 30th June 2017. Regrettably, logistical limitations mean that registrations after the deadline will not be possible. Since the space for displays and the time for presentations is limited, **delegates are advised to register as soon as possible**. The organisers will notify any interested delegate or organisation in case there are any limitations with time



for presentations or space for displays. Registered delegates will then receive further details on the payment of the fees and updated information on the preparations for the event. The decision as to which papers will be accepted for presentation will be taken by the Chairpersons, following consultation with the organising committee. Participants registering to the event will do so under the condition that they will cover their own travel, accommodation and incidental costs (e.g. visa fees) related to their trip to Samoa. **This is a self-funded event and the organisers are unable to pay any travel or accommodation costs of any kind.** Letters of invitation to enter Canada can only be sent to bona fide, registered delegates, who have paid their fees and need a document to show their employers. For cancellations of registrations up to 30 days before the event, a 50% refund may be made. For cancellations afterwards, no refunds will be possible. Registrations are now open and may be made on-line at: <http://www.haw-hamburg.de/en/ftz-als/veranstaltungen/Canada>

CONTACT POINTS FOR SCIENTIFIC INPUTS AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION

All questions related to scientific inputs and strategic partnerships, as well as the book, should be sent to:

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CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

All questions related to abstracts and registrations should be sent to:

Svenja Scheday
International Climate Change Information Programme
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HOW TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

An abstract should be up to 200 words, it should describe the rationale and aims of the paper, and some of its results. General descriptions of broad contexts should be avoided. The full contact details about the author(s) need to be provided. Abstracts should be written in the third person and not in the first or second one (e.g. I, me, or my paper). Please see below a sample abstract. Authors whose abstracts have been accepted, will receive further details about how to submit their full papers, and further logistical information. Please send your abstract to Svenja Scheday: svenja.scheday@haw-hamburg.de



SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Developing Countries: breaking misconceptions and addressing information needs

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Abstract

The impacts of climate change to natural ecosystems, infra-structure and livelihood, means that the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies in developing countries has become a pressing issue. Among other factors, the undertaking of adaptation strategies is made difficult by the general lack of awareness and spread misconceptions about the real impacts of climate change which, in turn, slow down the execution of the adaptation initiatives needed, and which may ameliorate them.

This paper presents an analysis about the misconceptions related to the implementation of climate change adaptation strategies, and describes the most widespread ones, as well as their implications. A special emphasis is given to the problems and barriers caused by misinformation, which – in turn – prevent the promotion of adaptation initiatives at local level. Finally, some concrete steps which may be taken in order to break the misconceptions and foster a more systematic view of adaptation strategies, are outlined. Experiences gathered in this paper will be useful to people and organisations interested in the different levels of responses given to climate changes threats, and on some of the tools which may be used to encourage specific action to adapt to changing climate conditions.