

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Manchester, UK, 3rd-5th April 2018



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BACKGROUND

Climate Change and a whole and global warming in particular, are known to have a negative impact on biodiversity in three main ways. Firstly, increases in temperatures are known to be detrimental to a number of organisms, especially those in sensitive habitats such as coral reefs and rainforests. Secondly, the pressures posed by a changing climate may lead to sets of responses in areas as varied as phenology, range and physiology of living organisms, often leading to changes in life cycles (especially but not only in reproduction), losses in productivity or even death. On occasions, the very survival of some very sensitive species may be endangered. Thirdly, the impacts of climate change to biodiversity are estimated to be felt in the short term in respect of some species and ecosystems, but also in the medium and long term in many biomes. Indeed, if left unattended, some of these impacts may be irreversible.

The Convention on Biodiversity acknowledges the fact that biodiversity is affected by climate change, and that biodiversity, through the ecosystem services it supports, also makes an important contribution to both climate-change mitigation and adaptation. In addition, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has, in connection with its 5th Assessment Report (AR5), recognized the fact that without adaptation, further changes in climate, atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO₂), and ocean acidity are projected to have substantial impacts on water resources, coastal ecosystems, infrastructure, health, agriculture, and biodiversity.

At present, many individual governments, financial Institutes and international donors are currently spending billions of dollars in projects around climate change and biodiversity, but with little coordination. Quite often, the emphasis is on adaptation efforts, with little emphasis on the connections between physio-ecological changes and the life cycles and metabolisms of fauna and flora, or the influence of poor governance on biodiversity. There is therefore a perceived need to not only better understand the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, but to also identify, test and implement measures aimed at managing the many risks climate change poses to fauna, flora and micro organisms. In particular, the question as to how better restore and protect ecosystems from the impact of climate change also has to be urgently addressed.

It is in order to address this need that the **World Symposium on Climate Change and Biodiversity (WSSCB-2018)** is being organized by the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCI), the Research and Transfer Centre "Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management" of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), in collaboration with a set of organisations. The Symposium will be a truly interdisciplinary event, mobilizing scholars, social movements, practitioners and members of governmental agencies, undertaking research and/or executing projects on climate change and biodiversity across the world.

The importance and value of **WSSB-2018** can be assessed if one considers the fact that natural resources and biodiversity are essential to the economies of many countries, especially the developing nations in Africa, Asia, Latin America/Caribbean and Asia, where the many threats of climate change to biodiversity conservation pose a serious risk to their socio-economic development.

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Manchester, UK, 3rd-5th April 2018

The Symposium is also a concrete contribution towards reaching a set of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 1 (No Hunger), SDG 2 (No Poverty), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land), since biodiversity issues permeate all these themes.

Apart from offering a platform for specialist discussions, the Symposium will address the need to document and disseminate the experiences available on climate change and biodiversity today, by producing the peer-reviewed **Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity**, with all accepted contributions. This timely publication will be produced, so as to provide a sound and long-term basis to the documentation of current and future experiences, which may be updated on a regular basis.

AIMS

Consistent with the need for more cross-sectoral interactions among the various stakeholders working in the field of climate change, the aims of **WSCCB-2018** are as follows:

- I. to provide research institutions, universities, NGOs, cultural institutions, government and development aid agencies and enterprises from across the world with an opportunity to display and present their works in the field of climate change and biodiversity conservation;
- II. to foster the exchange of information, ideas and experiences acquired in the execution of climate change and biodiversity initiatives and projects, especially successful initiatives and good practice across the world;
- III. to discuss methodological approaches also lifelong learning, and experiences deriving from case studies and projects, which aim to show how biodiversity conservation initiatives in response to climate change may be implemented in practice;
- IV. to network the participants and provide a platform so they can explore possibilities for cooperation.

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 **Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity, a peer-reviewed publication**, will be produced. The Handbook will provide the most comprehensive assessment of the potentials, means and methods to address the challenges climate change poses to biodiversity ever produced. It will become a well-used resource by environmental managers, policy makers, planners researchers and students, as we continue to work together to address the challenges climate change poses to biodiversity. The **Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity**, similar to the “Handbook of Climate Change Adaptation” published in 2015:

<http://www.springer.com/la/book/9783642386695> 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 Handbook, is final.

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

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ORGANISERS

Chairpersons

- Professor Walter Leal, Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)
- Professor Richard Preziosi, Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)

Scientific Committee

- Prof. Javier Aliaga, Catholic University of Bolivia, Bolivia
- Prof. Abul Quasem Al-Amin, University of Malaya, Malaysia
- Ms Anabela Azul, University of Coimbra, Portugal
- Prof. Fátima Alves, Universidade Aberta, Portugal
- Dr. Nelson Amaro, Galileo University, Guatemala
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- Prof. Hassan M. El Shaer, Desert Research Center, Egypt
- Prof. Amadou Gaye, University Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal
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- Prof. Evangelos Manolas, Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
- Dr. Caroline Mulinya, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Kenya
- Prof. David Chávez Muñoz, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú, Peru
- Prof. Nicholas Otienoh Oguge, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Prof. José A. Milán Pérez, Climate Change Technologies, Nicaragua
- Prof. Osvaldo Quelhas, Fluminense Federal University, Brazil
- Prof. Michael Shilin, Russian State Hydrometeorological University, Russia
- Prof. Luis Vargas, University of Chile, Chile
- Prof. Menas Wuta, University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe

Scientific Support

- Dr. Jelena Barbir, International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCI)

Cooperating Organisations

- UNESCO, Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB)
- UN Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
- International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCI)
- United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
- Desert Research Centre, Egypt (DRC)
- Baltic University Programme

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Manchester, UK, 3rd-5th April 2018

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

Delegates attending **WSCCB-2018** will come from a cross-sectoral range of areas. These are:

1. members of NGOs working with climate change and biodiversity;
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 and biodiversity 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 mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity conservation across the world, and hence contribute to the further consolidation of this thematic area.

STRUCTURE OF THE EVENT

WSCCB-2018 will be organised in two main strands:

Strand 1: the posters

Participating organisations will be able to put-up posters describing their works and projects and to distribute the relevant information to the participants. The posters 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, divided into four main themes will be organised, distributed over parallel sessions dealing with some of the issues of strategic value in the field of climate change and biodiversity. These are:

Section 1: this section deals with climate change impacts to Fauna (e.g. fisheries, birds, insects, etc)

Section 2: this section deals with climate change impacts to flora and micro-organisms (e.g. individual plants species, fruits and vegetables, bacteria, fungi, etc)

Section 3: this section deals with the impacts of climate change to ecosystems and biomes with a focus on the macro level (e.g. oceans, mountains, tundra, forests, polar regions, arid and semi-arid areas, etc)

 WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Manchester, UK, 3rd-5th April 2018

Section 4: this section deals with the role and influence of biodiversity policies and the contribution of education, communication and information as tools to foster biodiversity conservation, including the role played by community based initiatives.

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.

DEADLINES

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 30th September 2017

Deadline for submission of papers: 20th December 2017

Deadline for registrations: 10th January 2018

Since the **Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity** is expected to be launched shortly after the event, the deadlines need to be followed.

FEES AND CHARGES

A discounted fee of Euro 300 (professionals) or Euro 150 (for students) plus 19% VAT, will be charged to those who register until 20th November 2017 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of Euro 350 and Euro 200 respectively (plus 19% VAT). The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks on 4th-5th April 2018 as well as the evening reception on 4th April 2018. Furthermore, the fee includes a **on-line copy of the "Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity"**, to be made available to the authors.

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 **whose papers have been peer-reviewed and accepted**, to request funding for their participation.

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

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TIME-TABLE

WSCCB-2018 will be held on 3rd-5th April 2018 on the campus of Manchester Metropolitan University in Manchester, United Kingdom. Manchester is the UK's second largest city, with excellent travel connections. The schedule is as follows:

Day 1 – 3 rd April 2018	Day 2 – 4 th April 2018
<p>Afternoon (15:00-18:00):</p> <p>Arrival, registration (I) and set-up of displays</p> <p>Evening: Free</p>	<p>All day: Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>Morning: Registration (II) Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Evening: Reception</p>
Day 3 – 5 th April 2018 (morning)	Day 3 – 5 th April 2018 (afternoon)
<p>Morning: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p>	<p>Afternoon: Plenary and Sessions</p> <p>Exhibition and visit to displays</p> <p>15:00-15:30- 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 Manchester in the course of 3rd April 2018, and travel back on or after 5th April 2018 from 16:00, so they can fully take part in the Symposium.

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Manchester, UK, 3rd-5th April 2018

REGISTRATION AND CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

Registrations are now open and are possible until the 10th January 2018. Regrettably, logistical limitations mean that registrations after the deadline may not be possible. Since the space for posters 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 posters. 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 Chairperson, 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 Manchester.

A discounted fee of Euro 300 (professionals) or Euro 150 (for students) plus 19% VAT, will be charged to those who register until 20th November 2017 (early bird registration). After that, delegates will need to pay the full fee of Euro 350 and Euro 200 respectively (plus 19% VAT). The fee includes lunches and coffee breaks on 4th-5th April 2018 as well as the evening reception on 4th April 2018. Furthermore, the fee includes a **on-line copy of the "Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity"**, to be made available to the authors.

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 the United Kingdom can only be sent to bona fide, registered delegates, whose papers have been accepted and who have paid their fees, and need a document to show their employers. For cancellations of registrations up to 15 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-nk/events/biodiversity.html>

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:

Walter Leal (BSc, PhD, DSc, DPhil, DEd, DLitt, FSB, FRGS, FLS)

Professor of Environment and Technology

Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and Manchester Metropolitan University (UK)

E-mail: info@iccip.net



WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Manchester, UK, 3rd-5th April 2018

CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION AND CONTACT POINT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

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

Dr. Jelena Barbir
International Climate Change Information Programme
E-mail: jelena@barbir.com.es

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 a sample abstract in the next page. 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 Dr. Jelena Barbir at: jelena@barbir.com.es.

WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY

Manchester, UK, 3rd-5th April 2018

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.