



ProClimate

April-2020 (Issue—VI)

A Quarterly Newsletter by Centre for Climate Change, Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow India

COVID-19 and Climate: Multifaceted Impacts

The spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has created a global public health emergency and catalysed an economic recession. The crisis also has important implications for climate action and resilience-building. This analysis highlights several of these interacting factors.

The unprecedented global public health crisis from COVID-19 has led to a deteriorating global economic outlook, but also presents a range of implications for climate change. While COVID-19's immediate impacts include emissions reductions, the longer-term impacts on climate action and resilience-building are more complex. Likewise, COVID-19 may provide insight into how prepared communities are for the increasing frequency of disasters and how financial institutions can prepare for sudden disruptions. This article will explore several of these impacts, outlining topics to watch as we strive to understand the long-term implications and ensure the safety of communities and businesses.

COVID-19 and Emissions

The rapid spread of COVID-19 has led some of the world's largest economies to grind to a halt as social distancing measures prohibit non-essential business. The resulting emissions reductions provide a small silver lining to this unprecedented global crisis. In mid-February China's emissions were 25% lower than a few weeks prior and Italy's nitrogen dioxide emissions have dropped significantly. However, these may be short-term victories for the planet.

There is much more uncertainty on long term effects. On the one hand, this period of disruption will likely be followed by economic stimulus efforts, providing credits to industries with large emissions, such as steel, cement, and airlines, driving a rapid rebound in emissions. On the other hand, experts note that there is potential for the outbreak to shift travel patterns for the long-term, leading to more telecommuting as companies get acclimated to remote work. There is potential for permanently behaviour changes that would have long term impact on oil demand and emissions. Whether or not governments focus on promoting a rebound in traditional energy or use this as an opportunity to catalyse a systemic shift to reduce emissions could be a key determinant in the impact on long-term greenhouse gas emissions.

Setbacks to Climate Action

It is evident that in the short-term ambitious climate policies are not a priority, as the attention of citizens and legislators turns to safeguarding communities and economies from the multifaceted impacts of COVID-19. Numerous climate-related events have been cancelled, and in-person negotiations planned ahead of COP-26 have been delayed through at least April. The U.K. changed its generous environmental budget allocations and Spain stopped all legislative activity, with implications for climate action. While the European Union has announced a continued commitment to its Green Deal, meant to make the European Union climate neutral by 2050, the news has gotten limited attention due to the circumstances. As increasingly severe travel and gathering restrictions begin to have rippling impacts, ongoing climate research is disrupted, including arctic research expeditions and several



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NASA projects. These studies include research on the ocean-atmosphere heat exchange, seasonal hydrology in the Mississippi River, and thunderstorms across the U.S. While NASA does not expect the delays to be detrimental to the projects, delays may range from several months to over a year. This may challenge efforts to ensure that the most current science underpins resilience-building efforts and climate progress.

Lessons Learned in Preparedness

A global pandemic is a well-rehearsed scenario in risk management, and institutions that had prepared and thought through implications of such an occurrence are faring better than those with less pre-emptive planning. For example, last October banks in Hong Kong underwent a stress test that simulated a pandemic, cyber-attack and telecom breakdown happening concurrently. Now facing an actual pandemic, some banks are grateful for additional preparedness measures they had implemented due to the stress test. The COVID-19 crisis may in turn lead banks, other businesses and governments to identify opportunities for additional preparedness measures for future risk.

Reduced Resilience

As communities around the world face various levels of restrictions and concern for large gatherings grow, supply chains are threatened and manufacturing grinds to a halt, vulnerability to climate impacts increases. If a devastating storm or wildfire forced residents from their homes into crowded evacuation centers, the typical damage, loss and public health costs would compound upon the danger and challenges already being faced due to COVID-19. Likewise, the costs of

recovery from a climate disaster would be dire on top of the increasing economic uncertainty.

Similarly, as companies face the impacts of the pandemic, including adapting to remote work if possible, an extreme weather event would complicate their efforts. While office buildings and key facilities may be prepared with generators in case of power outages and water proofing for floods, business' operations are now particularly dependent on public power and communication infrastructure, as well as the resilience of each employee's home. In addition to the disruption if employees are ill, many businesses are more vulnerable to disruptions from climate hazards during this time, which in turn increases macroeconomic vulnerability. Of course, the pandemic itself has many multifaceted economic and business impacts.

Conclusion: Underscoring the Need for Resilience

COVID-19 has understandably pushed climate action to the back burner as the public health crisis unfolds and fears of a long-term economic recession are pressing. However, the ways policymakers, business and individuals respond to today's public health emergency and the resulting successes and failures may provide lessons for responding to other multifaceted disasters, applicable to extreme weather events and natural disasters. Likewise, the COVID-19 crisis may reinforce the value of preparedness for businesses and communities and help highlight opportunities to invest in adaptation and resilience.

Source: <http://427mt.com/2020/03/18/covid-19-and-climate-multifaceted-impacts/>



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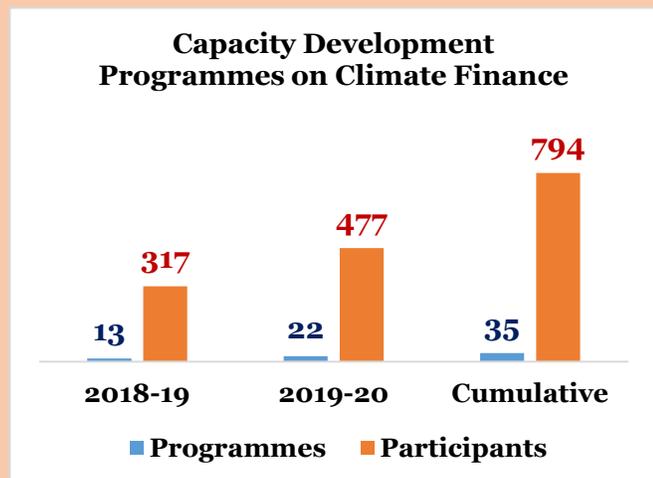
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Capacity Building Programs

Organized: 2019-20

During 2019-20, 477 participants attended 22 programmes conducted by Centre for Climate Change taking the cumulative position to 794 participants in 35 programmes, including 02 international programmes with 46 participants from 34 countries. The programmes focused on climate finance project concept development, green financing, environmental and social impact assessment, adaptation mainstreaming, SAPCC review, among others. The participants included government departments, banks, NGOs, NABARD officers and international participants.



Inception meeting on Climate Adaptation and Finance in Rural India (CAFRI)-NABARD Project

An inception meeting was organised at NABARD, Head Office, Mumbai on 14th February 2020 to develop shared understanding about CAFRI-NABARD project and discuss broad strategy and approaches for implementation of the project. The meeting with attended by NABARD, GIZ and

BIRD. The issues deliberated touched upon – capacity development of NABARD officers to provide coaching support, designing of climate risk screening tools and procedures for NABARD developmental projects and infrastructure projects, climate proofing of business models of FPOs etc., among others. It was decided to organize a planning workshop some time during April or May 2020 for smooth implementation of the project.

Meeting with United nations Agencies

The Director, BIRD and In-charge –CCC had one-to-one meeting with UN agencies located at UN House, New Delhi on 04 March 2020. The meetings coordinated by Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Country Coordinator, UNV was attended by Mrs. T S Raji Gain, Director, Dr. Diwakar Hegde, GM/FM from BIRD along with Dr. Shailendra Dwivedi and Mr. Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Advisors from GIZ, New Delhi. The UN agencies participated in the meetings were - Mr. Sankarasubramaniam Sriram, Country Operation Analyst, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD; Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative and Mr. Saba Kalam, Programme Officer, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Mr. Tomio Shichiri, Country Director, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The main purpose of the meeting was to understand the activities of UN agencies and explore areas of mutual interest and support available from these agencies for collaboration towards climate action. The deliberations were useful in identifying areas for collaboration to address the challenges posed by climate change in the country.



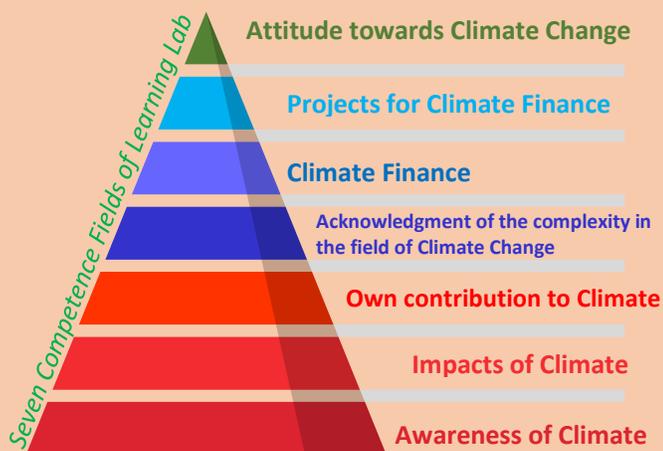
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Climate Change Learning Lab

The learning lab will provide a congenial learning environment with focus on problem-centric and active learning experience. The lab is being set up at BIRD with technical support from GIZ.



The construction of the same was under process until Covid19 situation. The lab consists of seven competence fields providing an experiential learning experience to target groups resulting in innovative solutions.

Toolified Training Approach

To develop key competencies on climate finance the toolified training modules has been successfully developed and applied with Govt officials, Civil Society organisations and Bankers. Modules developed for government officials and NGOs focuses on designing of climate projects for tapping sources of climate finance at various levels. Module for bankers will help to apprise the projects and enable them to identify financing opportunities for banking projects addressing climate change risks and opportunities.

List of Modules Developed-

1. Developing Concept for Climate Projects: Toolified Approach for Competency

Development of Government Officials- (5 days).

2. Developing Concept for Climate Projects: Essentials for Government Executives- (3 Days).
3. Developing Concept for Climate Projects: Toolified Approach for Capacity Development of Civil Society Organisations (5 Days).
4. “Climate Finance Opportunities and Risks for Bankers Developing Concepts for Climate Proposals (3 Days).

Climate Change related funding agencies/funds

Special Climate Change Fund

The Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) was created in 2001 to address the specific needs of developing countries under the UNFCCC. It covers the incremental costs of interventions to address climate change relative to a development baseline.

Adaptation to climate change is the top priority of the SCCF, although it can also support technology transfer and its associated capacity building activities. The SCCF is intended to catalyse and leverage additional finance from bilateral and multilateral sources and is administered by the Global Environment Facility.

Objectives

To support adaptation and technology transfer projects. Programmes are to be country-driven, cost-effective and integrated into national sustainable development and poverty-reduction strategies; and take into account national communications or NAPAs and other relevant studies.



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Activities Supported

The SCCF has two active windows (1) Adaptation and (2) Transfer of technologies. Its governing instrument also allows it to support (3) projects on energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste management; and (4) activities to assist developing countries whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing, and export or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products in diversifying their economies.

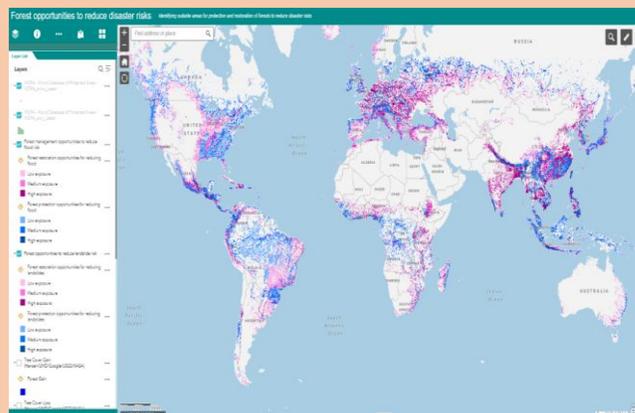
Policy News/Findings/Events

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021–2030, led by the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and partners such as the Africa Restoration 100 initiative, the Global Landscapes Forum and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, covers terrestrial as well as coastal and marine ecosystems. A global call to action, it will draw together political support, scientific research and financial muscle to massively scale up restoration.

Opportunity Mapping Tool

UNEP and UNEP-GRID have created a GIS tool that identifies opportunity areas for restoring and protecting ecosystems from certain hazards. For instance, forests can play a crucial role in reducing floods and landslides, if healthy and well-managed. Coral reefs and mangroves, on the other hand, can protect people, infrastructure and economic assets from various coastal risks, such as tropical cyclones, storms, tsunamis or coastal

flooding. These ecosystems are unfortunately under immense pressure, both at the global scale with rising temperatures, ocean acidification and sea level rise, and from local threats, such as overfishing, coastal development and agricultural expansion. You can visualize the datasets online for free, as well as download them to use them on a desktop environment for your own work.



SHARE YOUR VIEWS

Whatever your views on climate change and related issues are, share your thoughts with all of us through this newsletter. You can also send anecdotes, success stories, opinions or any other issue that you feel deeply about. We are waiting for your response.

WRITE TO US

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