

URBAN LIVEABILITY FORUM

PRESENTS

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ROLE OF INDIAN STATES IN CLIMATE ACTION: RETHINKING THE APPROACH FOR DEVELOPING STATE ACTION PLANS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (SAPCCS) THAT ENSURE EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND POLICYMAKING

by Nazla Faizy,
Urban Liveability Forum

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IMPACT OF SAPCC: PROBABLE REASONS FOR SUCCESS AND FAILURE



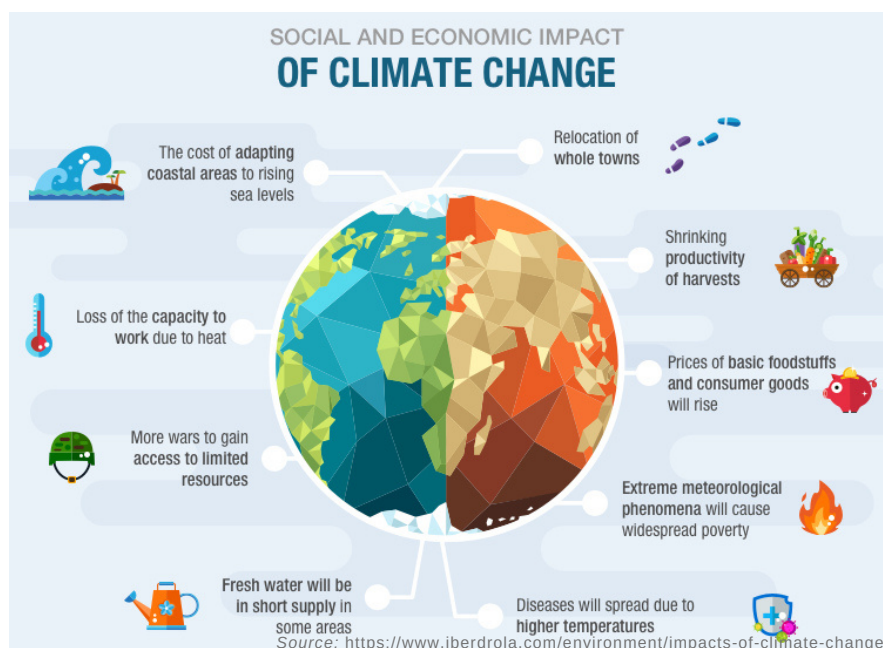
INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING / POLICY MAKING - SAPCC



NEED FOR CONTEXTUAL ADAPTATION AND DETAILED STRATEGY

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NEED FOR CONTEXTUAL ADAPTATION AND DETAILED STRATEGY

Role of Indian States in climate action: Rethinking the approach for developing State Action Plans for Climate Change (SAPCCs) to ensure effective integration of climate change concerns in development planning and policymaking -

by Nazla Faizy, Urban Liveability Forum

Government of India took its celebrated comprehensive step towards addressing the issue of climate change in 2008 through the **National Action Plan for Climate Change** by 'promot(ing) our development objectives while also yielding co-benefits for addressing climate change effectively'(Government of India, NAPCC). At the beginning of October 2015 the Government submitted its **Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)** – a pledge to cut the intensity of carbon emissions – to the UN ahead of the international climate change negotiations in Paris at the end of the year.

According to the federal structure of the country, majority of the sectors that impact climate change are under the control of State Governments, thus leading to the formulation of **State Action Plan for Climate Change** under the Prime Minister's orders in 2009.

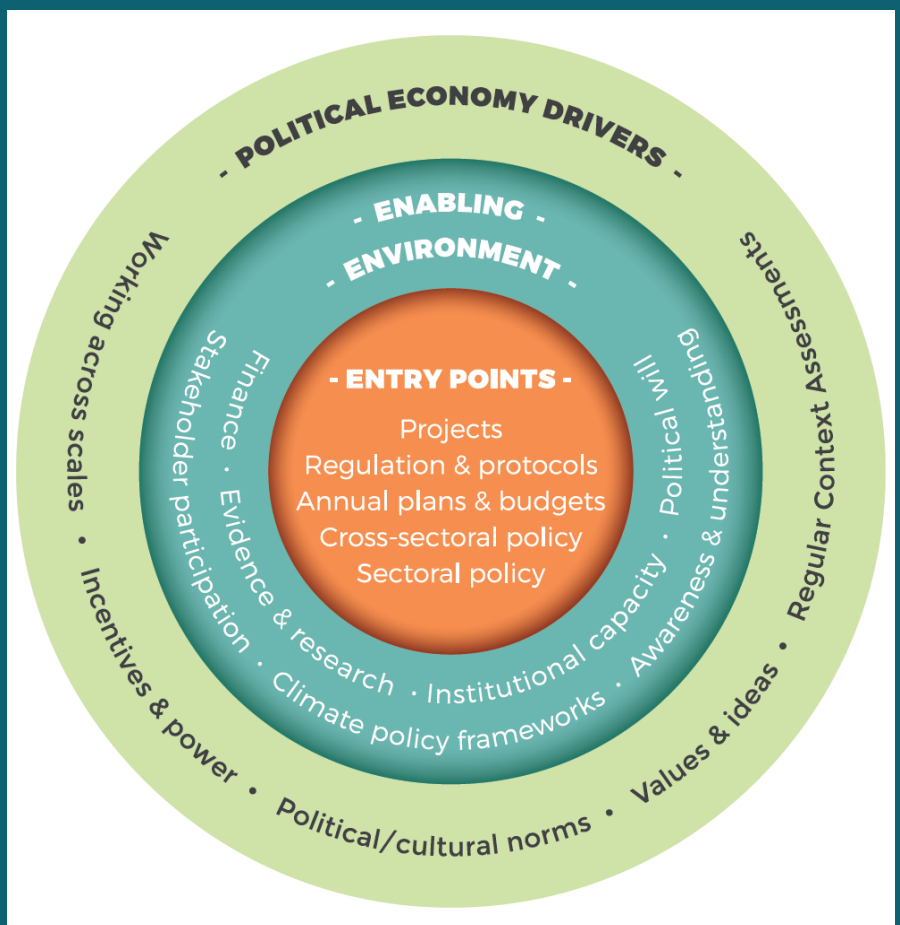
SAPCCs and their purpose:

SAPCCs were intended to be **adapted contextually** to each state by taking into account the vulnerabilities faced by the state. The task was undertaken and completed by most states between 2010 and 2011 with the help of consultants provided by developmental agencies. These SAPCCs focus on the sectors that have major contribution to the State GDP like Industry and Agriculture, trying to bring about adaptation methods that will result in sustainable development. However, comprehensive assessment of climate change and its impact on the state have only been carried out by a few.

Reasons for lack of successful implementation:

The SAPCCs in existence lack successful implementation due to a variety of factors including the **lack of leadership and political will**. As the plan is a Central Government initiative, the local State Governments do not have the dedication required to successfully carry out the details. The principal reason for the lack of quick action being that the leaders and political parties in power are **ignorant of the impact that climate change could have on long term development**. Thus, awareness of both the leaders and the citizens play a primary role in successful implementation of SAPCCs. This should start with government initiatives to educate all on the reasons for climate change and its immediate and long term impacts on individuals, community and overall development of a region.

Formulating Detailed Strategy for Implementation of SAPCCs and its need in the Socio-Political environment



Source: <https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/61934>

Currently, most State Action Plans for Climate Change rely on **climate adaptation** measures while completely **ignoring mitigation measures**. Though climate adaptation is a proven method for **sustainable development**, in conditions like the present where man-made disasters are occurring at a more frequent rate, climate mitigation measures are to be taken into serious consideration. This would include measures to **reduce Green House Gases** and its emissions in all leading sectors of the economy, complete protection of existing green cover, utilising advanced technology for better energy efficiency and so on.

Strategies for successful implementation:

Though the above measures have been mentioned in the National Action Plan for Climate Change, **SAPCCs lack the detailed strategy** necessary for its implementation. Each State should thus have a dedicated team for the development of area specific climate strategies that could help in building a **climate resilient environment**.

Need for Immediate Climate Action



Need for Climate Finance



For the successful implementation of SAPCCs, it is mandatory that climate change is given the attention and importance it deserves. This may be made possible if climate change is given a human dimension while looking from an economic standpoint. Thus, the **politics of climate finance becomes an integral part of fighting climate change**. Those in power are to be made understood that climate change is an incremental process that requires a **long term perspective**. For example, states face droughts and floods as a result of **changing climatic patterns which has resulted in loss of life and livelihood in all sectors** of the society. This in turn has a negative impact on the economy of the region and its progressive development leading to higher need of government funds. Thus, **climate finance should qualitatively quantify the impact that sustainable practices can have on an areas economy**, its impact on overall development and thus the need to use such methods for long term development.

This would include a **step-by-step strategy that elaborates the details starting from the development of an idea to its financial viability to procuring investment to commencement and implementation**. With such a comprehensive plan, the chances of completion and movement towards a climatically resilient future is more attainable. Similarly, acquiring international support and funding also becomes possible through a well researched strategy plan.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the approach for developing a successful State Action Plan for Climate Change is to educate both the leaders and citizens on the cause and impact of climate change on individual and community development. It includes the **understanding that climate resilience is a long term process with positive results in terms of economy and growth**, if strategies utilised for the same are well researched and detailed. Furthermore, it is to be emphasized that climate change is the reality of today and that it requires counteractive measures through both climate adaptation and mitigation.

ABOUT THE WRITER



Nazla Faizy is a young urban professional with an architectural background who is passionate about climate change (adaptation and mitigation) measures for a sustainable and resilient future. She did her Architecture undergraduate degree at College of Engineering Trivandrum, and her Masters in Urban Planning from CEPT(Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology) University, Ahmedabad. She currently works with Urban Liveability Forum as a Content Writer.