



Planners for Climate Action at the 10th session of the World Urban Forum

Side Event: Planners for Climate Action: Nature-Based and Decarbonizing Solutions in Heritage contexts (11 February, 12:30-13:30)

Training Event: Planning for Climate Action in Urban Heritage Contexts (10 February, 9:00-12:00)

P4CA Members Meeting (11 February, 18:30-20:30)

Two events were organised by P4CA during this 10th session of the World Urban Forum, articulated around the theme: *Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation*. P4CA had the following key messages to deliver:

- Urban planning and heritage regeneration are key to sustainable cities.
- Urban and territorial planning plays a central role in preserving cultural heritage that can be leveraged for regenerating and revitalizing urban areas.
- Such approaches need to take climate change into account, given the increasing risks to which cities and their inhabitants are exposed to.
- Urban heritage is a key driver for climate change adaptation and innovative metropolitan planning solutions to make cities less GHS emissive and less vulnerable facing higher natural risks.
- Nature-based solutions, green and blue grids can help address urban challenges exacerbated by growing urban populations and the impacts of climate change.

Through these events, P4CA had the following objectives:

- Review current approaches to regenerating and revitalizing urban areas preserving cultural and natural heritage,
- Examine the role of nature-based solutions and the most relevant innovative ones in cities with examples,
- Discuss the role of planners and how they can engage citizens in community-based process to prioritize actions and nature-based solutions to improve their lives,
- Engage new partners in P4CA.

1. Side Event Planners for Climate Action: Nature-Based and Decarbonizing Solutions in Heritage Contexts (11 February, 12:30-13:30)

Description:

Urban planning and heritage regeneration are key to sustainable cities. Urban and territorial planning play a central role in preserving cultural heritage that can be leveraged for regenerating and revitalizing urban areas. Such approaches need to take climate change into account, given the increasing risks to which cities and their inhabitants are increasingly exposed to. As a community of planners engaged in climate action since COP23 (2017), and placed under the NAZCA (Non-State Action Zone for Climate Action) of the Marrakesh Partnership, members of P4CA (Planners for Climate Action) will discuss the role of **urban heritage** as a key driver for climate change adaptation and **innovative planning solutions** to make cities less GHG emissive and less vulnerable facing higher natural risks. Nature-based solutions, green and blue grids can help address urban challenges exacerbated by growing urban populations and the impacts of climate change. They will examine to what extent nature-based solutions and decarbonizing approaches can drastically change urban landscapes and provide benefits both for city governments and for residents.

The side event was moderated by:

- **Milena Ivković**, Director of Urban Planning Advisory Teams, ISOCARP (International Society of Regional and City Planners)

With the following speakers:

- Prof **Barbara Norman**, Foundation Chair of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Canberra, Australia, Australia and New Zealand Association of Planning Schools (ANZAPS)
- **Eleanor Mohammed**, President of the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP)
- **Eric Huybrechts**, Senior Regional/Urban Planner, Paris Region, ICOMOS Climate and Heritage Network
- **Bruce Stiftel**, Professor Emeritus, School of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Tech, USA

Before introducing the speakers, **Milena Ivković** explained the role of P4CA, its mission, members and activities.

In a presentation on 'Addressing the climate challenges and protecting natural and historical heritage: the role of planning' **Barbara Norman** made a plea to strengthen climate action in the profession. She elaborated on the particular case of Australia where challenges are alarming, affecting the great barrier reef and the forests, major world heritage and natural assets at risk that threaten ecological balance. An integrated approach of planning is needed articulated around collaboration and partnerships with a long term vision and targets, requiring transparency and accountability in urban decision making. 'We are the stewards of our home, our planet' she concluded.

Eleanor Mohamed presented the case of Canada in her presentation on nature-based solutions in heritage contexts. She presented examples of approaches engaging indigenous communities defining

new planning practices that integrate traditional knowledge to address the complexity of permafrost areas. She also gave the example of urban forest management strategies meant to enhance the role of nature in cities, protect ecosystems while engaging communities. She stressed the importance of data to improve strategies, influence decision makers, integrate models into plans, improve emergency preparedness, better manage portfolios of historic properties.

Eric Huybrechts focused on climate change planning practices in heritage contexts, starting with a description of heritage at risk and describing the approaches developed by ICOMOS. He stressed the need to move away from a linear urban metabolism approach to a circular one to define the post-carbon paradigm. The circular metabolism in urban planning terms is about a more compact city to reduce mobility needs and urban regeneration that is about blue and green networks in which heritage needs to be integrated. He explained the central role of nature-based solutions in planning approaches, as exemplified in the cases of Greater Mumbai, Phnom Penh, Tripoli and Casablanca future plans articulated around blue and green networks.

Bruce Stiftel focused on the role of urban planners and the state of the profession as we face increasing climate change challenges. While needs for an increased expertise as climate change disasters impact more cities, buildings and lives, the number of urban planners around the world is rather stagnant and remain too limited in many countries. The number of planning schools and education programmes on climate change planning need to increase to keep up with growing challenges. P4CA has undertaken global research to answer the question of how well climate change education is integrated into urban planning courses and what are the experiences of practicing planners attempting to implement low-carbon, climate-resilient planning practices. He stressed the need to address immediate education and practice gaps in the current climate emergency.

The Side Event attracted 40 participants.



2. Training Event: Planning for Climate Action in Urban Heritage Contexts (10 February, 9:00-12:00)

Description: Through a series of examples and presentations on principles, the training event will explain the importance of nature-based and decarbonizing solutions in relation to urban heritage. It will explain their wide range of benefits of these solutions, from improving public health to reducing energy costs and pollution to regenerating urban spaces. In particular, it will present the methodology of the 'Climate Action Studio' developed by P4CA (Planners for Climate Action), with the example of the Dubai Creek. Through Climate Action Studios, P4CA members jointly intervene in specific cities and communities by building capacity and providing technical advice to strengthen climate change planning. Climate Action Studios aim to support specific cities and communities to address critical climate change challenges through adaptation and mitigation planning actions.

Training instructors:

- **Paulo Silva**, University of Aveiro (Portugal), AESOP
- **Olafiyin Taiwo**, Urban Regeneration and Development Expert, Commonwealth Association of Planners
- **Bruce Stiftel**, Professor Emeritus, School of City and Regional Planning, Georgia Tech, USA
- **Eric Huybrecht**, Senior Regional/Urban Planner, ICOMOS Climate and Heritage
- **Milena Ivković**, Director of Urban Planning Advisory Teams, ISOCARP (International Society of Regional and City Planners)

The training was held in three sequence: introduction, principles and examples of climate action in climate heritage contexts (Part 1), climate action studio scenario (part 2).

INTRODUCTION

- Presentation of training instructors – Ice-breaking and Mentimeter to learn about participants profiles
- Climate change challenges in urban heritage contexts
 - The urgency of climate action - the science behind threats in cities and communities
 - The city we need: resilient to climate change
 - Climate proof urban planning and design

Part 1: PRINCIPLES AND EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE ACTION IN CLIMATE HERITAGE CONTEXTS

- **Guiding principles for city climate action planning**
 - What are the key principles that should drive city climate action planning? Present the UN-Habitat Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning: a framework for ambitious and catalytic climate action in cities
 - What are the steps of the climate action planning process in cities? with examples

- **B. Climate heritage carbon mitigation and adaptation practices**
- **C. Mitigating urban heat island and heritage**
 - What types of interventions can address climate change challenges, future risks/impacts to people, community and heritage assets? Examples of nature-based solutions, ecosystem services and adaptation strategies.

Part 2: CLIMATE ACTION STUDIO SCENARIO

Role gaming exercise of a Climate Action Studio: participants will join through different stakeholders' roles and intervene in a priority setting exercise.

- Presentation of the Dubai Creek context - Exploring data/maps
- Participants are split in groups to propose interventions/catalytic projects
- Plenary dialogue on value of proposals
- Conclusion

The Training event attracted about 30 participants.



Studio session in three groups to explore interventions and catalytic projects in the Dubai Creek context.

3. P4CA Members Meeting (10 February, 18:30-21:00)



Description: This event will bring together P4CA members to exchange on progress in the working groups and the next steps.

Agenda

- 18:30 Welcome and introduction**
- Welcome
 - Introduction of participants
 - Approval of the agenda
 - Updates by UN-Habitat
- 18:50 Working group 1: Communication, dissemination, resource mobilization**
- Communication/dissemination activities (website, social media, materials)
 - Strategic opportunities for outreach in 2020
 - Resource mobilization
- 19:10 Working group 2: Knowledge & Research**
- Research project: 'Urban Planning and Climate Change: State of the Profession' – updates from partners
 - Other strategic opportunities in 2020
- 19:50 Working group 3: Education & Capacity Building**
- P4CA Climate Action Studios
 - Course Manual Repository
- 20:20 AOB and Conclusion**

Welcome and introduction

- Christine Auclair announced that Shipra Narang Suri, Director a.i. of Urban Practices Branch could not attend because of conflicting events. A warm welcome was extended to the international group of experts and urban planners attending this closed-door event.
- Round of introductions (please see Appendix B for list of participants with names, affiliations, and contact information).
- Approval of the agenda.
- UN-Habitat updates: the organization has a new structure driven by four domains of change that brings urban planning and climate at the heart of the agency.

Working group 1: Communication, dissemination, resource mobilization

Key points:

- The P4CA Website has been setup in 2018 and updated regularly. Social media is now quite active (Twitter, Facebook) and helps recruits members. However, P4CA partners need to provide content (events, news) to make this space relevant.
- A road map for 2020 should be prepared based on key events organized by P4CA partners.
- Communiqué: a first one was issued in 2018 after the first launch of P4CA to explain its reason d'être and call for action. A second one was issued during the 2019 High Level Political Forum. How can we improve our communication? Is that a core function of P4CA. It was concluded that it should be each members' role with agreed key messages of the P4CA community.
- The focus of P4CA should be on capacity building and research and encourage exchange experience between members and affiliates.
- The role of affiliates versus members was discussed. Members concluded that affiliates should have a stronger role and be included in the working groups.
- Resource mobilization: since most of the planners Institutes lack budget it is challenging to prioritize on P4CA. Experience shows in the last two years that funds are available for research, not for managing a network and promote communication.

Working group 2: Knowledge and Research

Key points:

- A call for good practice examples yielded a small number of good examples that P4CA can share globally. A lack of capacity has hindered the turning of these examples into short social media posts and graphics. The potential for a larger database of good practice remains
- A key focus has been a research proposal on The "State of the Profession" focusing on the integration of climate action into both research education and practice. Good progress has been made in the technical working group to:
 - Assembled a high quality research team including a long list of 70 interested academics
 - Develop a coherent and common research approach in the form of a concept note, honed during two global academic seminars in November 2019
- Some key regions are under-represented (South America, East Asia)
- Centralised funding ideal but has not yet been secured
- Decentralised funding model being followed. All use common research questions/methodology, and involve components of outreach and dissemination in non-academic formats.
 - University of Melbourne has secured funding for a one-year project with these 3 research projects focused on Australia

- University of Westminster research project looking at decolonization of climate change education in the Middle East
- An application has been submitted for a small (\$27,000) grant to the Association of European Schools of Planning
- Plans are made for a multi-regional funding proposal to a US based foundation to investigate planning education
- Next steps are to strengthen the research network and identify sources of funding to enable this research piece to be completed; ideally with some centralised funding source.

Working group 3: Education and Capacity Building

Key points:

- P4CA is seen as a bridge to the academia that can be engaged for practice, studios, students (e-learning, university networks, etc). P4CA should further focus on creating synergies with the academic world and making it tangible to students.
- The P4CA Climate Action Studio of Zanzibar has been a good experience that is worth replicating. Interesting members could host P4CA Studios and call other members organizations to support, even remotely through on-line sessions to provide expertise.
- A schedule of events to promote P4CA was proposed:
 - **1-11 June 2020:** Bonn Climate Change Conference
 - **9-19 November 2020:** COP-26 in Glasgow, UK.
 - **18-20 November 2020:** Association of African Planning Schools (AAPS) conference in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
 - **July 2021:** World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC), bringing together planning educators and scholars worldwide

Conclusions and way forward

As a way forward, the working groups will be reconstituted for a new period of two years.

A call will be sent to all organizations.

Each Working Group will have a chair and a co-chair with responsibilities and roles.

Participants:

1. Aida Guardiola, Climate Change Planning Unit, UN-Habitat
2. Akash Ina, National Organization – Students of Planning India
3. Alice Preston-Jones, Prince's Foundation, Commonwealth Association of Planners, CAA, CLGF
4. Ana Yarza, Bezabel Academy, Jerusalem
5. Bruce Stiftel, GPEAN, Georgia Tech
6. Christine Auclair, Climate Change Planning Unit, UN-Habitat
7. Dyan Currie, Commonwealth Association of Planners, SAGE
8. Eleanor Mohammed, Canadian Institute of Planners
9. Heba Khalil, Cairo University
10. Mohammed Kara Bello, AEFB, FCTA Nigeria
11. Olafiyin Taiwo, Commonwealth Association of Planners
12. Paulo Silva, GPEAN
13. Peter Meyer, E.P. Systems Group, UCCRN
14. Robert Kehew, Climate Change Planning Unit Head, UN-Habitat

15. Sahil Sasidharan, GIZ India
16. Sarah Nanre Zakari, FIDA Nigeria
17. Scott Davidson, Jacobs
18. Steven Blend, Climate Change Planning Unit, UN-Habitat
19. Will Steel, RTPI
20. Xavier Crepin, AdP Villes en Développement

P4CA social medias during WUF10 - highlights



Planners for Climate Action @P4CAAction · 31 janv.

Join us at the #WUF10 in #AbuDhabi for a conversation on #ClimateAction, #heritage and #culture. #cities and #NatureBasedSolutions are at the heart of the discussion. We are looking forward to working with you! #SDG11 #SDG13

Full article here planners4climate.org/news



Did you know ...? Planning #tree canopies in #cities can have an incredible impact for #climateaction. Let's explore further #naturebased solutions at #WUF10 to build resilient cities and communities! 🌳🌿🌴
#SDG11 #SDG13
pic.twitter.com/WJITWv6PWn



RTPI International @InternatRTPI · 10 févr.

.@RTPIPlanners International Committee member @OlafiyinTaiwo attended the @P4CAAction progress meeting at #wuf10 representing the Institute in this key @UNHABITAT initiative. #Planning is key to #ClimateAction #DecadeofAction #SDG13 #SDG11 #proudoofplanning



Planners for Climate Action @P4CAAction · Feb 10

Fantastic training event at #WUF10 #AbuDhabi on climate change planning and heritage led by @CAPplanners @OlafiyinTaiwo with great participation around a Studio on Dubai Creek case study. Well done @P4CAAction 🌳🌿

