



# **Climate Leaders Action Network (CLAN)**

**Bringing together Practice and Research**

*Midterm Report*

**June 2010**

## BACKGROUND

CLAN, *LEAD Pakistan's Climate Leaders Action Network*, is designed so as to mobilize the expertise and interests existing within the Fellows network to promote climate change research, response strategies and advocacy across regions and sectors and to enable the development of collaborative projects and products among Fellows, researchers and institutional partners. This network is a space for dialogue, collaboration and learning. Experts in the field can interact first hand with our global sustainability leadership network and LEAD Fellows working specifically on tackling climate change.

With almost six months after the project was approved, following is a summary of the activities that have been carried out with support from LEAD International.

## ACTIVITIES

With its mandate as the centrepiece, CLAN plays a facilitative role and aims to carve a niche at a platform that connects development practitioners. In order to put the Network into action, a systematic advance to reach out to climate experts was agreed to be of critical importance. As a solution to that, a four pronged approach is being carried forward through the following avenues:

- ✓ Member Programs
- ✓ Fellows
- ✓ LEAD International
- ✓ Other organizations and institutions

How LP has been involving the aforementioned stakeholders will be covered in the section detailing the progress so far. Below is a brief overview of the a number of efforts commenced upon under the CLAN umbrella.

***The Platform:*** As a first step, communication through the NING interface kicked off as an interactive online resource for arranging virtual exchanges and consultations among members.

***LEAD-ECI Partnership:*** At the Learning Exchange organized in October 2009 at Oxford which brought together LEAD Fellows from across countries and cohorts to meet, the forum also served as a launching pad for CLAN. With researchers at the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) of Oxford University, the aim was to establish the real research needs among practitioners and identify collaborative projects between ECI students and LEAD Fellows practicing or researching climate change

As an outcome of the meeting, LEAD officially partnered with ECI. Under the initiative, LEAD is supporting the dissertation of Masters students; providing travel and research grants to four selected ECI students to carry out field research under the mentorship of a LEAD Fellow in any country or region. This initiative, as a starting point has created interest amongst students to explore regions affected by climate change, that earlier were not economical. CLAN members and any other development practitioners are able to access the generated world class research to further build upon more areas of expertise.

Building upon the success of the pilot phase, LEAD Pakistan wishes to formalise the structure of interaction with ECI under the CLAN umbrella. Realising that of all the potential solutions, renewable sources of energy are a vital part for addressing the global concern. This year, LEAD envisions using the platform to bring together experts on CLAN from the energy field and linking them to ECI students willing to undertake research in energy related areas. Concept note is being prepared and donors such as UK Energy Research Centre (UKERC) under its Meeting Place activity.

The focus will remain on bringing together research and practice by providing a mechanism where junior researchers are able to connect with practitioners and organisations and arrange short-term placements. As a value exchange, researchers will get exposure to important issues and access to the relevant people and the host practitioner/organisation will get capacity support and new knowledge and understanding in area that is important to them. Additional value is delivered through the development and support of the wider learning network/collaboration. Any other activities envisioned will be treated as complementary elements.

## PROGRESS THUS FAR

In pursuance of its objectives to bring together practice and research, certain concrete outputs were expected during the first year of proposed network on climate change. The following grid presents the outputs, and the progress against each milestone. Challenges have also been highlighted, so as to learn from and improve upon.

s/n	Outputs Envisioned	Progress	Challenges
1.	Expand membership to 300 by November, 2010, maintaining representation of multiple sectors and including non-LEAD international members.	As of June 15, 2010, subscription of <b>156 members</b> has been secured by encouraging involvement of relevant experts from the Fellows pool, as well as partner institutions outside the network for ensuring diversity and greater outreach.	Rate of response is very low.
2.	Develop and maintain a network website (via NING Platform provided by LEAD International).	As a first step, communication through the NING interface kicked off as an interactive online resource for arranging virtual exchanges and consultations among members. The website is being maintained and updated regularly.	The website has very basic features and may not be as user-friendly as required for such an interactive network.
3.	Develop and disseminate communication materials about the proposed network to relevant stakeholders.	Two brochures have been prepared. One for the CLAN as a whole, delineating the Network's goals and objectives, along with the Vision and Mission. The second one for LEAD-ECI partnership shared at various forums, raising awareness about the program.	
4.	Finalize an annual plan of activities for year 1.	A work plan has been prepared, outlining all the activities to be undertaken in the first year. The same has also been share with LI.	Activities may be carried out subject to financial availability.
5.	Begin dissemination and archiving of a monthly Climate Change news update.	Besides sharing sporadic articles and information on the Network, a monthly news update on climate	

		change has not yet taken shape.	
6.	Maintain a high-level of electronic information sharing among members.	The Discussion Forum, Research Page for Opportunities as well as Queries is contributing towards maintaining a high level of electronic information sharing among members, enabling discussions and learning exchanges on key climate change themes. It is hoped that through this, information will be generated on critical climate change issues, as shared by multi-sectoral and multi-national group of members on CLAN.	Response to discussions from members is very low. Despite a diverse range of subjects being discussed, none have gained momentum enough to generate project ideas.
7.	1 paper by Aug 2010.	4 research papers initiated under the LEAD-ECI partnerships.	Sustaining such a program beyond the first year will require a strong fundraising strategy.
8.	0 case studies by Aug 2010.	1 case study: ECM student Kyosuke Inada from Japan, partnered with LEAD Fellow Gray Munthali, Deputy Director of Climate Change and Meteorological Services of Malawi (METMALAWI).	
9.	3 Project ideas by Aug 2010.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 4 project ideas generated by the LEAD-ECI partnership. Once research papers final (Sept 2010), avenues may be explored.</li> <li>✓ CoP 16 idea circulated, seeking members to chip in ideas on how to present CLAN's collective point of view at the forum, so that funding opportunities may be explored accordingly.</li> </ul>	Sadly no response from the members on the CoP 16 plan, in order to build upon.
10.	Collaborative interfaces will be developed with other global, regional or sub-regional networks and leading institutions on climate change active in areas of interest to the members of the network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ ECI of Oxford University has become an official partner of LEAD through CLAN, initiating genuine research.</li> <li>✓ Drawing from the LEAD-ECI model, LP has initiated talks with other international</li> </ul>	Engaging other networks would require CLAN to provide various incentives for them to join, that spark is missing.

		<p>universities under the CLAN umbrella.</p> <p>✓ Climate Leaders India members have been invited to become members of CLAN. 8-10 have joined.</p>	
11.	Prepare, and appropriately disseminate a policy brief on the position/s for the post-Copenhagen Summit situation.	<i>LEAD Climate Brief: CoP 15 Copenhagen Postmortem</i> distributed on the Network for further discourse and debate.	No feedback from any member as a starting point for any discussion to build upon, despite material being sent to personal email addresses.
12.	Encourage network member meetings with policy makers on key Climate Change issues to disseminate policy briefs.	No progress yet.	
13.	Prepare an argument for a multi-sector, multi-stakeholder, multi-level strategy on Climate Change.	No progress yet.	
14.	Prepare and maintain an electronic database of all members' information related to Climate Change and other subsequent information.	A data base of profile information is being maintained and updated periodically ( <i>utility may be gauged from one example. An ECI student wished to have those members short listed who had interested in Energy related issues to climate change. She was facilitated through the database focusing on members with the relevant interest only</i> ).	
15.	Maintain and regularly update a calendar of key international events related to Climate Change, and disseminate updates by any members who attends these events.	Climate change related events are being shared on the Network's calendar. More consolidated efforts are underway.	

16.	Develop a concept paper for CC Network serving as basis for fundraising.	As each funding agency/organization has specific requirements, a central Concept Paper may not be the best way. Instead, project related and funding source related concept notes are being developed. For example the UKERC for ECI-LEAD meeting or the one prepared for CoP 16.	
17.	Finalize a Charter for the Network.	It is too soon for the Network to provide real worth to being a member in order for them to be signatories any charter. This idea, along with charging a fee has been parked for the moment.	
18.	Number of face to face meetings with significant (>50%) attendance from network members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Work is underway for securing funding for the LEAD-ECI workshop wherein CLAN was officially launched last year.</li> <li>✓ Efforts are being made to arrange face to face meetings of CLAN members at CoP 16, Mexico.</li> <li>✓ LEAD Pakistan is in the process of incorporating informal periodic talks at the LEAD House in Islamabad, wherein experts from respective fields (CC, adaptation, technology, gender, mitigation, etc) will be invited for a casual talk. This will promote face to face interaction (more so for CLAN members in Pakistan but others will also be welcomed to join as and when feasible on a trip to Pakistan). Proceedings will be shared on CLAN for further deliberations and subsequent actions.</li> </ul>	Heavily dependant upon financial access.

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