Building development and mitigation futures: Learning from two pioneering projects

Press release

Paris, December 4, 2015 - For COP21 in Paris, most countries in the world have submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to climate action. Many INDCs are the result of intense domestic debates on how to transition towards a low-carbon and more resilient development path. However, it is clear that the INDCs submitted so far are insufficient to limit the rise in global temperatures to less than 2°C, as agreed to by the parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2010.

The Mitigation Action Plans & Scenarios (MAPS) programme and the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (DDPP) offer unique lessons – ranging from joint processes and capacity-building to analytical tools and analysis results – that can greatly help governments and other stakeholders accelerate their efforts toward achieving prosperous low carbon development and global deep decarbonization by mid-century.

MAPS has created a partnership of countries in the South to generate credible, legitimate, and relevant knowledge through a combination of mandating, research, and process. This knowledge is co-produced by local experts and stakeholders, and is concerned with exploring future pathways through building mitigation scenarios and creating a better understanding of the economic, social and environmental implications of the different development pathways. This locally-owned knowledge has been directly informing public policy, including the respective INDCs in Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru. This work has extended to further research collaborations with the Centre for Policy Research in India. The legacy is behind are the new information & tools, new skills and capabilities, new relationships & institutional development and new mindsets.

The DDPP has prepared national deep decarbonization pathways (DDPs) through 2050, which are indispensable for understanding how short-term policies and decisions can be made consistent with long-term decarbonization. The project comprises research teams from 16 countries that account for 75% of global emissions of greenhouse gases. Following COP21, the project aims to deepen understanding of how to achieve deep decarbonization in the 16 existing countries, while expanding to include new country teams.

The work of MAPS and the DDPP is highly complementary: long-term pathways are critical for understanding how countries can achieve long-term low carbon development and for mapping out short-term policy needs. Engagement with stakeholders is the only way to build broad-based understanding and buy-in, and to ensure that short-term policies address the needs of all segments
of society. MAPS and DDPP offer essential process innovations and analytical tools to support national strategies consistent with 2°C.

On December 6, both projects are convening high-level Government representatives from Brazil, Denmark, Kazakhstan, and Mexico, international organizations, think tanks, and representatives from business and NGOs to share lessons and discuss the practicalities of achieving climate-compatible development. At this event main outcomes will be shared, including the launch of major reports and future initiatives:

The **MAPS Programme outputs** comprised of:

- Several country final reports from IES Brasil, MAPS Chile, PlanCC, and ECDBC.
- 123 research papers and briefs & 12 journal articles (refer to mapsprogramme.org).
- A new book ‘Stories from the South’, a set of stories about a cooperative South-South learning journey that has taken place during the last six years.
- A Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Climate Change Mitigation in Developing Countries which explores the inherent complexity of developing country governments wanting to grow their economies in a climate friendly way.
- A MAPS Academy.

**The 2015 DDPP Synthesis Report:**

Based on sixteen individual country reports written by local research teams, the [synthesis report](#) shows that:

- Deep decarbonization of today’s highest emitting economies is compatible with limiting global warming to 2 °C is technically achievable
- Deep decarbonization is compatible with countries’ development objectives, including economic growth
- Deep decarbonization is affordable
- Deep decarbonization pathways are essential for climate policy

A data visualization tool is also available on the DDPP website to offer a first quick and easy reading of the deep decarbonization pathways developed by the country research teams.

**About MAPS**

Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios (MAPS) is a collaboration among developing countries to establish the evidence-base for long-term transition to robust economies that are carbon-efficient. In this way MAPS contributes to ambitious climate change mitigation that aligns economic development with poverty alleviation.

Central to MAPS is the way it combines research and stakeholder interest with policy and planning. Our participative process engages stakeholders from all sectors within participating countries and partners them with the best indigenous and international research. Participating countries are South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Peru.
MAPS grew out of the experience of the Government mandated Long Term Mitigation Scenarios (LTMS) process that took place in South Africa between 2005 and 2008. The LTMS, with its home-grown stakeholder-driven approach, its reliance on scenarios and the rigor of its research and modeling were key to its approach. The LTMS informed South Africa’s position for Copenhagen and is the base of much of our domestic climate change policy. Currently, the MAPS processes in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru informed their respective INDC design.

www.mapsprogramme.org

About DDPP

The Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project (DDPP) is a global collaboration of energy research teams charting practical pathways to deeply reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their own countries. It is predicated on taking seriously what is needed to limit global warming to 2°C or less.

The DDPP framework has been developed and utilized by a consortium led by the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). It currently consists of more than 30 scientific research teams from leading research institutions in sixteen of the world’s largest greenhouse gas emitting countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, UK, USA.

www.deepdecarbonization.org

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