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# Climate change adaptation: European perspectives

**Social Justice, Climate Change and Planning  
TCPA Annual Conference 2009**

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TCPA Communications & Energy Policy Manager**



# overview

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- The scale of the international climate change challenge
  - Challenges in Europe
  - EU-funded GRaBS Project on adaptation
  - TCPA partner role and the eco-town sustainability worksheets



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# climate change the scale of the challenge

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- Greatest emerging humanitarian challenge of our time
- Global Humanitarian Forum's *Anatomy of a silent crisis* report stated:
  - Climate change is causing 300,000 deaths a year and affecting the lives of 325 million people
  - Estimated that by 2030 the number of people affected by climate change will double to 660 million, impacting on the lives of 10 per cent of the world's population.
  - Of the fatalities due to weather-related disasters, 99 per cent are in developing countries
  - Disproportionately affects the most vulnerable groups



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# climate change refugees Kenya

Kenya hit by killer drought - Microsoft Internet Explorer

bc.co.uk/1/h/8267165.stm

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News Front Page Page last updated at 15:07 GMT, Monday, 21 September 2009 16:07 UK

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## Kenya hit by killer drought

By Peter Greste  
BBC News, Samburu National Park, Kenya

**It was not hard to find the dead elephant.**

The stench of the rotting carcass made it easy to track down in the sparse bush. A young male - barely four years old and still an infant by elephant standards - lay on its side in the sand by a river.

Around its feet, the sand had been cleared in small arcs - signs of the animal's thrashing as it struggled to stand and survive.

But there was nothing to eat. Nothing. On the ground, not a blade of grass existed, every green shoot had been stripped from the trees.

The region has not had a proper wet season for three years

For Iain Douglas Hamilton, from the conservation organisation Save The Elephants, it was a heartbreaking sight.

"In all my 12 years here, I've never seen anything as bad as this," he

## Kenya, East Africa

- severe drought has created what has been coined the world's first 'climate change refugees'
- 10 million Kenyans facing a food crisis
- Water prices have risen 110% percent
- the nomadic Borana tribe, used to a life travelling in search of water and pasture for their livestock, no longer have cattle to herd because their animals have died of starvation.



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# the global politics of climate change

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- political momentum is growing in response to the need to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate
- ‘Close to home’ climate-related disasters, eg Hurricane Katrina and the 2003 European heatwave sparked concern and action to adapt to a changing climate
- We must develop an international consensus at the Copenhagen conference – for both developed and developing countries
- Institutional capacity building – UN and EU



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# climate change the challenge in Europe

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IPPC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment report (2007) found:

- Climate-related hazards will mostly increase throughout Europe, varying according to regional geography
- Flash floods are expected to increase throughout Europe and up to 1.6 million people annually will be threatened by sea-level rise and coastal flooding
- Southern Europe and Mediterranean region will suffer from increased periods of drought and fire risk

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# grabs

green and blue space  
adaptation for urban  
areas and eco towns



# what is GRaBS?



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- GR<sup>een</sup> and B<sup>lue</sup> S<sup>pace</sup> adaptation for urban areas and eco-towns
  - three-year project funded under INTERREG IVC Programme - September 2008 to August 2011
  - 14 partners from 8 member states representing a broad spectrum of authorities, climate change challenges and with varying degrees of strategic policy and experience



# GRaBS partners



- **UK:** TCPA, University of Manchester, London Borough of Sutton, Northwest Regional Development Agency and Southampton City Council
- **The Netherlands:** City District of Geuzenveld-Slotermeer
- **Italy:** Province of Genoa, Etnambiente, University of Catania
- **Sweden:** City of Malmö
- **Slovakia:** Regional Environment Centre for Eastern Europe
- **Greece:** Municipality of Kalamaria
- **Lithuania:** Klaipėda University Coastal Research and Planning Institute
- **Austria:** Provincial Government of Styria



# GRaBS overall objective

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*‘to ensure existing and new mixed use urban development is adapted to the impact of climate change through improving local and regional planning policy particularly through planning to put in place green and blue Infrastructure’*



# GRaBS

## 5 key objectives

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1. increase partner expertise on use of green and blue infrastructure
2. identify and influence regional planning policy and delivery mechanisms for adaptation
3. develop and use a risk and vulnerabilities assessment tool
4. develop regional and local adaptation action plans including a high level policy statement
5. improve community awareness and engagement in planning process



# GRaBS TCPA partner role



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- communicate the eco-towns programme – specifically the sustainability worksheets - to other GRaBS partners and their respective stakeholders
  - develop TCPA knowledge of climate change adaptation strategies
  - improve national, regional and local UK policy on climate change and planning
  - use European exchange of experience to improve policy development



# Eco-town worksheets



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- To provide practical advice to developers and planners of eco-towns
  - Cover a range of issues in developing an eco-town, many of which are applicable to various models of sustainable house growth both in the UK and further afield
  - Provide practical guidance drawing on case studies in UK and from overseas
  - Present best available knowledge, good practice and innovation
  - Be aspirational



# Eco-town worksheets



## the essential role of green infrastructure: eco-towns green infrastructure worksheet

### summary points

This Worksheet has been produced because it is recognised by the Government and a very wide range of bodies that green infrastructure is essential to both the environmental sustainability and the long-term social and economic success of eco-towns.

The Worksheet is designed to provide clear guidance on how to design, incorporate and operate green infrastructure that is fully 'fit for purpose'. This guidance is intended not just for eco-town developers and planners but also for those who will manage the new settlements and work with the new communities. It is also intended to support the emergence of green infrastructure networks that, in terms of their quality, extent and capacity to deliver the widest range of environmental, social and economic benefits, can exceed the targets and standards for green spaces pursued by the champions of new settlements in previous generations.

The Worksheet sets out the principles that should characterise an eco-town's green infrastructure and the process that needs to be gone through from inception to delivery and beyond. It places great emphasis on integrating green infrastructure completely within the detailed planning of the eco-town and on drawing a community of green infrastructure and related expertise into the planning and decision-making process. The Worksheet also gives guidance on issues such as management and funding, including long-term arrangements.

The main part of the Worksheet deals primarily with the practical aspects of green infrastructure provision and the standards to be achieved. This is complemented by Annexes which provide greater detail on individual components of green infrastructure networks and on the potential for green infrastructure to significantly underpin

eco-towns green infrastructure worksheet

- Worksheet series:
  - Transport
  - Waste
  - Community development
  - Water-cycle management
  - Green Infrastructure
  - Economy
  - Inclusive Design
  - Housing
  - Biodiversity
  - Energy
  - Delivery



# The future...



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## Global

- Build international consensus and action

## Europe

- Exchange of best practice through projects such as GRaBS

## UK

- Learn from and mainstream eco-town principles



# Further information



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## GRaBS project

- <http://www.grabs-eu.org>

## Eco-town worksheets

- <http://www.tcpa.org.uk/pages/sustainability-worksheets.html>

