

2024 Innovate4Cities Conference (I4C24)
Montréal, Canada (10-12 September, 2024)

Organizations bridging climate change science and the needs of cities join forces to amplify their impact to increase adaptation globally

According to Chapter 6 of the IPCC 2022 report on impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, efforts to adapt can be accelerated by closer collaboration between the diverse actors deploying adaptation. To encourage increased collaboration and accelerate adaptation globally, an international network of boundary organizations on adaptation was created during Adaptation Futures 2023 in Montreal. Each member organization is bridging the gap between scientific evidence and adaptation decision-making. Several work with communities and cities. They individually contribute to accelerating adaptation to climate change and long-term change in the decision-making ecosystems by providing tailored information and tools for decision-makers. As a network, they can learn from each other and accomplish even more.

The panel will include presentations by network members, including from regions – Asia and Africa - where much of the growth in cities is expected to occur and exposure to climate hazards is particularly high.

For example, in densely populated Bangladesh, there is little or no space for retreat from steadily increasing climate change induced river-bank erosion. The large cities can hardly take more people in. A potential solution is to equip smaller towns, so they become climate resilient and migrant-friendly. Bangladesh-based ICCCAD will present its work with a rural development NGO, the Global Centre for Adaptation and local government entities to develop town climate adaptation plans and establish local climate adaptation centers.

Senegal-based CSE works with communities in West Africa whose livelihood depend on climate sensitive natural resources and is an accredited entity of the Green Climate Fund. CSE will present its work on the implementation of the Reference Office on Climate Change and Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies, which builds the capacity of local authorities to integrate adaptation and mitigation strategies into local plans and policies and mobilize the necessary financing to support their projects.

Canada-based Ouranos will present some of its work with the city of Montreal, including the Montreal Climat Lab, which called on researchers led by INRS-UCS to question and integrate climate change adaptation into concrete urban planning and governance practices, with Lachine-Est as case study. Ouranos, who is currently hosting the INBOA secretariat, will moderate the session.