



## CLIM-ATIC

### *Climate Change - Adapting to The Impacts on Communities in Northern Peripheral Regions*

Approx. timeline	Regional project activities
January 2007	Commence preparatory NPP project to develop main project application, identify communities, project partners and funding
June 2007	Submit main project application
January 2008	Proposed <b>start</b> of main Clim-Atic project
March 2008	Research to gather up to date regional climate change data
May 2008	Develop visualisations of climate change impacts on regions/communities
November 2008	Engage with communities to explore direct and indirect climate change impacts relating to agreed themes
January 2009	Carry out community and actor workshops to explore adaptation options, barriers and opportunities
May 2009	Prepare <i>community climate change adaptation strategies</i>
August 2009	Produce draft <i>community climate change adaptation toolkit</i>
September 2009	Regional and international seminars and events to disseminate lessons learnt so far
September 2010	Work with communities and actors to support and facilitate the development and implementation of real on the ground projects related to agreed themes
October 2010	Dissemination of lessons through regional study tours to project areas
December 2010	Review and refine <i>community climate change adaptation toolkit</i> with communities and actors – <b>Project end</b>

CLIM-ATIC is a preparatory project, funded through the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme. It aims to establish a transnational network within the peripheral regions of northern Europe, in order to develop a multi-partner project which will focus on:

- 1) the potential impacts of climate change on small peripheral rural communities,
- 2) how these communities could adapt to avoid or reduce the negative impacts of climate change, while taking advantage of opportunities.

The proposed collaborative main project will involve five international national regions, each with a number of public and private sector partners, working with a number of communities to develop and initiate a community climate change adaptation strategy. The relevance of, and the barriers and opportunities to, initiating such a scheme will be explored in the context of national and local political structures and policies, available grants, support from the voluntary and business sectors, cultural and social attitudes, media, and climate change awareness. The main project will have a particular emphasis on supporting the implementation of a pilot project within each community that will bring local employment opportunities, social benefits, and improved environmental management. Lessons learnt will inform future community adaptation strategies, community projects and policy decisions.

Project regions:

- Highlands and Islands, Scotland (lead region)
- County of Västerbotten, Sweden
- Lapland, Finland
- North East Iceland
- Sogn & Fjordane, Norway

It is anticipated that the main project will also be substantially funded by the European Commission's Northern Periphery Programme, with a total budget of up to 2 million Euros over 3 years. Regional funding will be required to provide up to 40% of each regional project budget. The main project proposals will be submitted on 1st June 2007, with a proposed main project start date of 1st January 2008.

Please contact Clive Bowman at the Centre for Mountain Studies, UHI, if you would like more information on this project or wish to discuss participation.

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# CLIM-ATIC



## *Climate Change - Adapting to The Impacts on Communities in Northern Peripheral Regions*

### CLIM-ATIC in the Highlands and Islands, Scotland

*Research on climate change in Scotland predicts not only changes in average temperature and precipitation, but also an increase in the frequency and duration of floods, droughts, storms and other extreme events, as well as significant sea level rise and the possible breakdown of the thermohaline circulation. The impacts of such changes to agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, transport, tourism, cultural heritage, landscape character, and environmental processes is of concern, as is the uncertainty associated with the related impacts on small and rural communities..*

*The impacts of policy decisions made by national, regional and local government organisations, in an attempt to combat climate change, on these communities are also a key issue as these have significant effects on lifestyles and business operations.*

*For a community to adapt to the impacts of climate change, through the development and implementation of local climate change adaptation strategies, the best possible understanding of the possible impacts of climate change on communities is required, together with a practical evaluation of the opportunities for, and barriers to, specific activities. Priority areas of interest raised by current project partners in the Highlands and Islands include:*

- The impact of extreme weather events and flooding on communities, transport and the delivery of community services.*
- Community participation in renewable energy generation and energy management.*
- Community awareness of likely climate change impacts and the barriers to sustainable community action.*
- The economic impact of climate change on primary sector industries and opportunities for adaptation, diversification and economic growth.*
- The political and policy frameworks that restrict or encourage communities to adapt to climate change.*

*It is anticipated that the main project will focus on three communities within the Highlands and Islands. Every community has different characteristics and thus possible climate change impacts, and so three different community types have been chosen to enable effective transfer of lessons to a wide range of other comparable communities throughout the region. The three communities currently identified for participation in the project are:*

#### *Isle of Westray, Orkney Isles*

*Westray is one of Orkney's most prosperous isles, known for its farming and fishing fleet and is a ferry journey of an hour and twenty minutes from Kirkwall. Westray has an island population which has risen to around 600 over the last few years, with its own doctor, community school, snooker room, two hotels, swimming pool, distance learning centre, safe bathing, harbour with pontoons and lots of fresh air. Westray Development Trust (WDT) recently won an award at the Scottish Green Energy Awards held in Edinburgh on the 8th December 2005. Judges were impressed with the innovative use of wind turbines to provide power to the Hofn youth centre and the pioneering project of bio fuels, using waste cooking oil to power vehicles. WDT are well on the way to installing a community owned turbine to generate electricity equivalent to the island requirements and are actively pursuing a zero waste station along with an anaerobic digester.*

### Lochinver, Assynt Foundation

*On 10th February 2005 the Assynt Foundation, a community body representing the area around Lochinver in Wester Ross, purchased the Glencanisp and Drumrunie estates in the area under the 2003 Land Reform Act. The Assynt Foundation's objectives are to manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the Community and the public in general as an important part of the protection and sustainable development of Scotland's natural environment and to advance the education of the Community about its environment, culture and/or history. A particular aim is to encourage and support the entrepreneurial ambitions of local people and create employment opportunities.*

### Cairngorm, Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community, Cairngorm National Park

*Cairngorms Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Group (CRAGG) consists of a wide range of people who are concerned with the management and care of the area lying between Aviemore and the summit of Cairngorm; an outstanding landscape and major access route into the Cairngorms. Formed in 2000, CRAGG was established to develop an integrated management strategy for the area, and to provide an agreed context for future management actions. Each CRAGG member also represents a particular set of stakeholders, and has the responsibility of communicating the group's current work in progress and strategic thinking to them.*

*The types of communities involved will determine the type and extent of community and local business interest, as well as wider stakeholder interest in the project. A firm commitment to engage and participate throughout the project period by all stakeholders will be essential to its success. Current organisations in the Highlands and Islands region expressing an interest in participating as partners or co-funders in the main project are (this list is expected to grow over the next few months):*

- *UHI Millennium Institute ; Centre for Mountain Studies (lead partner), Environmental Research Institute and Sustainable Development Research Centre*
- *Forestry Commission*
- *Scottish and Southern Energy*
- *Graham and Sibbald*
- *Cairngorm Mountain Ltd.*
- *Cairngorm National Park Authority*
- *HITRANS*

*This project summary is intended to summarise the objectives of both the preparatory project and the main project, particularly for the Highlands and Islands region, with the intention of identifying suitable communities interested in taking part in the project, and also to identify additional partners who may wish to be involved in the project or provide funding. It is anticipated that the Highlands and Islands region would be required to contribute approximately £35,000 per year, for 3 years to the project, from a mix of private and public co-financing organisations.*

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