

Findings of the IPCC 6th Assessment Report: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability - Implications for urban programming and action

Speakers' Bios

Haoliang Xu



Haoliang Xu was appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director for the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support by the UN Secretary-General in July 2019.

Previously, he was UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific (2013-2019); Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in New York (2010-2013); UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Kazakhstan (2007-2010); Country Director, Pakistan (2005-2007); Deputy Resident Representative for Programme, Pakistan (2004-2005); Country Manager and Senior Deputy Resident Representative, Timor-Leste (2002-2004); Deputy Resident Representative, Iran (2000-2002); Programme Manager, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific in New York (1997-1999); Programme Officer/Junior Professional Officer, Kazakhstan (1997-1999).

Before joining the UN, he was a computer-aided design engineer with Louis Berger International Inc. in New Jersey and assistant lecturer at Tongji University in Shanghai. A Chinese national, he holds a Bachelors in Engineering from Tongji University in Shanghai, Masters' of Science in Management from Stevens Institute of Technology (USA), and Masters' of International Affairs in Economic Development and Policy Analysis from Columbia University (USA).

Debra Roberts



Professor Debra Roberts is currently head of the Sustainable and Resilient City Initiatives Unit in eThekweni Municipality (Durban, South Africa) and was selected as the city's first Chief Resilience Officer in 2013. Professor Roberts was a lead author of Chapter 8 (Urban Areas) of Working Group II's contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She was elected as Co-Chair of Working Group II for the IPCC's sixth assessment cycle in 2015. She was also a lead negotiator for the South African delegation involved in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations until December 2015, and a member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network Thematic Group on Sustainable Cities involved in mobilising international support for the creation of a city focused SDG (SDG11). She is an Honorary Professor at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the School of Life Sciences and has been an advisor to the Global Commission on Adaptation, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the United Nations Secretary General's 2019 Climate Summit. In 2019 she was included in a list of the World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy.

David Dodman



David Dodman is the Director of the Human Settlements Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and a Senior Teaching Fellow in the Development Planning Unit, University College London (UCL). He holds a D.Phil. in Geography from the University of Oxford, and has published widely in books and peer-reviewed journals. David works across the fields of urban geography, international development, and climate change. He has held positions in universities and policy research institutions; has worked in partnership with southern civil society organizations, local and national governments, and international organizations in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean; and has spoken extensively at major international conferences. David has contributed to major international reports including the UN Habitat Global Report on Human Settlements, and is currently a Coordinating Lead Author on 'Cities, Settlements and Key Infrastructure' for the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.

Luna Khirfan



Dr. Khirfan is Associate Professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Planning in Ontario, Canada. In her research, she develops coupled human-natural systems models to inform planning, policies, and behavior while engaging stakeholders. Her most recent research project investigates the daylighting (de-culverting) of urban streams and re-integrating them in the urban landscape to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation. She is Lead Author for Chapter 6: "Cities, settlements and key infrastructure", Working Group II's contribution to the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report.

Lisa Schipper



Dr Lisa Schipper is an Environmental Social Science Research Fellow at the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) at the University of Oxford and a Visiting Researcher at the University of Vienna.

Her research looks at fairness in development in the context of climate change. Her focus is adaptation and vulnerability to climate change in the Global South. She is especially interested in the socio-cultural drivers of vulnerability including gender, culture and, in particular, religion.

She was Co-ordinating Lead Author of the Chapter 18 on 'Climate Resilient Development Pathways' for the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report, Working Group II on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability published in February 2022. She was also an author of the 2021 UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, and is currently a member of the Science Committee for the 2023 Adaptation Futures Conference, among other things.

In addition, she has been co-Editor in Chief of *Climate and Development* (Taylor and Francis) since October 2018, and was a founding Associate Editor of the journal for a decade before that.

Bernhard Barth



Bernhard Barth is based in UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Fukuoka Japan where he oversees the country programmes in the Philippines, Lao PDR, and the Pacific Islands Countries as well as the regional climate change programme. Since August 2020 he also leads UN-Habitat's global Programme on Climate Action and Urban Environment. Prior to joining the Regional Office in 2013, he worked for six years at UN-Habitat's headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, where he provided local climate change planning support and coordinated local government training, tool development and the UN-Habitat's Partner University Initiative.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Bernhard worked for UN ESCAP and for various NGOs in the UK, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar and Germany. Bernhard holds Master's degrees in Economics and in Environmental Policy.

James Verner



James is a Climate and Cities Technical Specialist with both UNDP and UN-Habitat in support of the 2020 inter-agency enhanced collaborative framework. Previously, James participated on the UNDP Climate Promise and NDC Support Programme global management teams, specializing in country-level climate policy support, institutional strengthening and capacity building, and contributes as thematic team lead in the urban and local & regional climate space. Previously, James worked for the UNEP DTIE Energy Unit and carries a decade of experience as an environmental engineer in the private sector.