

## **Accelerating climate research and action in cities through advanced science-policy-practice partnerships** by *Solecki et al., 2021*, Summarized by Malan Ketcha Armand KABLAN

### **Title: Science-policy-practice for climate research and action in cities**

This paper reviews the emerging research and action agenda and explores the potential synergistic role of science-policy-practice urban partnerships in accelerating the ability to address the intensifying risks of climate change at a global scale through local action.

In fact, with the combined increasing worldwide population and climate change, cities and urban areas are continuously exposed to threats and become more and more vulnerable to climate effects. However, we have a lack of good synergy among science-policy and practice for climate research and actions.

Despite, it is well known that collaboration and partnership between science, policy, and practice communities is very important to enhance action.

Several critical conditions must be met to increase the likelihood that science-policy-practice for climate research and action in cities will achieve meaningful results and accelerate action. These conditions include understanding the divergent and convergent language and knowledge needs of communities, scientists, policymakers, and practitioners-incorporating new and emerging methods, and sustainable models for research, interaction, and financing of actions.

It is important to build trust by supporting the application of state-of-the-art methods and tools that promote interaction. These methods and tools will help build governance capacity and leadership at the local and regional level for the implementation of actions.

However, care must be taken while generating knowledge and information. Language use should not be too complex. It should be translated to specific local contexts and identifying the knowledge needs of specific user communities, as decision makers may not understand and therefore may not be able to use or apply it. For that purpose, national and local media and social media can play a significant role as the vehicle for the translation of new knowledge and practice to a mass audience. However, in turn, they need to be formed to share scientific knowledges.

Among the conditions, it is usually clear that practitioners require actionable, evidence-based science to implement mitigation and adaptation actions in short or mid time, with careful assessment of synergies and trade-offs of particular actions. However, one should notice that political timeframes and practitioner dynamics usually diverge from scientific timeframes-which are typically longer. Scientists, therefore, need to translate and coproduce knowledge and solutions faster, while policymakers and practitioners must operate in the short term but without missing a longterm perspective of the climate change challenge.

Also, one should be aware that knowledge cannot only be generated from scientists but also from a variety of local and indigenous formal and informal knowledge sources.

Concerning the financing of action, while international donors and financial institutions prefer to fund individual projects and infrastructure initiatives, it is clear that science-policy-practice partnerships help create conditions for increased effectiveness, success, and longevity of climate action through enabling increased capacity.

From the above argument, one should conclude that discussions linking science-policy-practitioner communities are never fully settled or resolved but require continual attention and dialog because the contexts are ever shifting, opportunity for failure is always present, and contestation over how disagreements are arbitrated can easily expose underlying tensions and power dynamics.

### **Summary**

- we have a lack of good synergy among science-policy and practice for climate research and actions
- collaboration and partnership between science, policy, and practice communities is very important to enhance action.
- discussions linking science-policy-practitioner communities are never fully settled or resolved but require continual attention and dialog.