



PRESS RELEASE – 18th JUNE 2009

**NEW RESEARCH ON THE CLIMATE CHANGE THREAT TO
BRITAIN MAKES URGENT CASE FOR ADAPTATION**

The government must act now in response to the UK Climate Impact Programme's (UKCIP) latest research which suggests that 800,000 homes could be affected by floods in the next 25 years^[1]. The research has warned that by 2040 average summer temperatures in the South of England will rise by 2C by the 2040s and up to 6.4C by 2080.

TCPA Chief Planner Hugh Ellis said:

“The implications of the latest climate change forecasts are severe and what matters now is that we urgently take action on these findings. We must adapt now, learning to live with more extreme weather events and changing weather patterns, and preparing for other changes that are unavoidable. To succeed under a changing climate individuals, organisations, local and central government will all have to do some things differently. Through policy at all levels – national to local - there must be a clear consensus on the need for adaptation and climate change adaptation strategies must ensure decisive action.”

Through the TCPA^[2]-led project **Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas and Eco Towns (GRaBS)**^[3] the 14 project partners representing eight member states

will raise awareness and increase the expertise of how green and blue infrastructure can help new and existing mixed use urban development adapt to projected climate scenarios such as heatwaves and drought.

The GRaBS Project first expert paper *'The case for climate change adaptation'*^[4] published yesterday emphasises the urgent need to act on the UKCIP scenarios. During periods of high temperatures residents of urban areas will suffer significantly. This is because buildings store heat and contribute to the urban heat island (UHI) effect. This can result in temperature differences of up to 7°C between centres of large conurbations such as London and their surrounding rural areas. But even small urban centres demonstrate a UHI effect. Heatwaves are expected to increase in frequency and severity in a warmer world, and the UHI will accentuate the affects of regional warming by increasing summer temperatures relative to outlying districts.

Hugh Ellis added:

“By sharing best practice and advancing the knowledge and expertise of the GRaBS partner staff across Europe we aim to help regional and local municipalities, decision makers, politicians and communities, to make a more informed and strategic response to climate change adaptation.”

For further information about GRaBS visit: www.grabs-eu.org and to download the first expert paper *'The case for climate change adaptation'* see: http://www.grabs-eu.org/downloads/20090617_GXP.pdf

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Notes to Editors

1. UKCIP <http://ukcp09.defra.gov.uk/>

2. The **Town and Country Planning Association** (TCPA) is an independent campaigning charity calling for more integrated planning based on the principles of accessibility, sustainability, diversity, and community cohesion. The TCPA puts social justice and the environment at the heart of the debate about planning policy, housing and energy supply. We inspire government, industry and campaigners to take a fresh perspective on major issues including climate change and regeneration. www.tcpa.org.uk.

3. **History of the GRaBS project proposal** - Working with the two initial partners in the early part of 2007, the TCPA developed an outline GRaBS project proposal, which was presented to UK local and regional government in order to gauge interest in and relevance of both the project idea and the proposed European wide exchange of experience and knowledge. The TCPA decided to offer to take on the Lead Partner role for the new project and together with the **University of Manchester**, the **City District Geuzenveld Sloterveer** (Amsterdam), the **London Borough of Sutton** and **Southampton City Council** began the process of extended European partner search. The aim was to find partners with a range of interests, cultures, experiences and needs, located in a range of climate zones. Towards the end of 2007 the **Province of Genova, Etnambiente**, the **University of Catania** (Italy), the **City of Malmö** (Sweden), the **Municipality of Kalamaria** (Greece), the **Regional Environment Centre for Eastern Europe** (Slovakia), the **South East England Development Agency** (SEEDA), the **Region of Styria** (Austria) and **CORPI** (Lithuania) joined the project as partners. The project has been co-financed by the European Union European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and made possible by the INTERREG IVC Programme.

4. Download the first GRaBS Expert Paper: The case for climate change adaptation http://www.grabs-eu.org/downloads/20090617_GXP.pdf