

## UBC researchers provide recommendations for \$100 billion in annual climate change aid

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University of British Columbia researchers are providing recommendations for managing a \$100 billion annual commitment made by the international community at last year's United Nations climate conference to help the developing world respond to climate change – a funding promise almost equal to all existing official development aid from major donor countries today.

In today's issue of *Science*, three UBC professors - Simon Donner, Milind Kandlikar and Hisham Zerriffi - argue that the aid commitment made by developed nations is unprecedented and that the world must learn from the troubled history of international development to ensure that countries meet the commitment and provide real actions on the ground.

"[Climate change](#) is expected to have a much greater impact on people in the [developing world](#), even though they are least responsible for the problem," says Donner, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography and faculty associate in the Liu Institute for Global Issues at UBC. "This funding is critically important. We need to make sure the money is provided and supports real action."

The international community's pledge to mobilize \$100 billion in "new" and "additional" funding annually by 2020 was an agreement made at last year's [United Nations](#) climate meeting, the 2010 Cancun Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The international community will review proposals for the

management and operation of this program at a meeting in Durban, South Africa, beginning on November 28.

"The Cancun aid commitment represents a large influx of money into an international aid system already fraught with problems," says Zerriffi, an assistant professor and the Ivan Head South/North Research Chair at Liu Institute for Global Issues. "To be effective, mechanisms must be established to ensure that the funding is administered wisely so that it can be sustained through political changes and economic constraints."

Donner, Kandlikar and Zerriffi provide specific recommendations for ensuring that countries meet the funding commitment, that waste and misappropriation are minimized and that money is directed to the most effective programs. These guidelines include instituting an "adaptive" regulatory system to close funding loopholes, employing a decentralized network of third-party auditors and adopting a scientific approach to evaluating program effectiveness.

"Randomized control trials – a form of scientific experiment – are being increasingly used to improve outcomes in a wide range of development initiatives, from local governance to child education and infectious disease prevention," says Kandlikar, an associate professor at the Liu Institute for Global Issues and the Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability at UBC. "The use of such trials could be very beneficial in improving climate change outcomes."

The climate change funding, which amounts to more than twice the annual lending by the World Bank, is expected to flow through various channels, including a new Green Climate Fund (GCF) being discussed at the upcoming Durban climate summit. The UBC researchers say that careful stewardship of the initial "fast-track" [funding](#) to the GCF is critical.

"We can't afford to make mistakes in the next few years," says Donner. "That will sap the public and political will to support this incredibly important long-term initiative."

Provided by University of British Columbia

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