



**Transformative  
Actions  
Program**



# TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS PROGRAM (TAP)

TAP the potential of local and subnational climate action!

## Contents

|  |    |
|--|----|
| TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS PROGRAM (TAP).....              | 2  |
| 1. Action Statement .....                              | 2  |
| 2. Transformative Actions Program (TAP) in brief.....  | 4  |
| 3. Overview of the four TAP action pillars .....       | 5  |
| 3.1 TAP Project Pipeline .....                         | 6  |
| 3.2 Online Transformative Actions Platform .....       | 6  |
| 3.3 Transformative Actions Pavilion at COP21 .....     | 6  |
| 3.4 TAP Advocacy for Accelerated Climate Action .....  | 7  |
| 4. TAP project application and selection process ..... | 9  |
| 5. Call for Partnership.....                           | 11 |



# TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS PROGRAM (TAP)

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## 1. Action Statement

The TAP aims to **improve access to existing capital flows** to cities and regions, catalyzing and accelerating additional capital flows, and **maximizing investment in low-carbon and climate-resilient urban development and governance processes**. Through the TAP, we aim to support investment in urban areas over the next ten years, as well as contributing to the elaboration of new finance mechanisms for local and subnational governments.

The TAP is:

- Embedded within the scope of the Local Government Climate Roadmap,
- Motivated by the “Lima-Paris Action Agenda” (LPAA) of the COP20 and COP21 Presidencies,
- Encouraged by the NAZCA Platform operated by the UNFCCC Secretariat, and
- In support of the Compact of Mayors and the Compact of States and Regions.

The TAP is developed:

- In collaboration with networks of local and subnational governments (ICLEI, R20, UCLG, C40, Eurocities, CEMR...)
- In synergy with the members of the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) (e.g. AFD, GIB, WWF, GEF, WB...)
- In partnership with other key institutions.

**The TAP is launched and managed by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI). It will be presented at the COP21 Pavilion co-hosted by City of Paris and City of Bristol – European Green Capital 2015 (November-December 2015).**

The subnational level – in particular cities and regions – is where climate change can be tackled effectively. City-level activities already account for a significant share of global greenhouse (GHG) emissions; Cities are also the place where the majority of climate actions can contribute to achieving ambitious global climate goals.

Further, cities, particularly in developing countries and emerging economies are facing unprecedented levels of urbanization over the next decades, with the number of urban dwellers to almost double between 2010 and 2050. This makes the urgency for effective climate action by all levels of government even more pressing. Accommodating such an influx of citizens, providing effective and necessary services, establishing sustainable green infrastructure, and creating the political, economic and social frameworks for healthy, dignified and climate-neutral livelihoods, is a task requiring strong leadership. It also requires a drastic readjustment of financing mechanisms, emphasizing programmatic support rather than isolated stand-alone measures over the short to medium-term.

A key prerequisite for this is the fundamental reconceptualization of the role of local and subnational governments to optimize their effectiveness in addressing climate change mitigation and the local impacts of climate change.

A critical barrier to the realization of the much needed numerous local and subnational actions across the globe is the range of difficulties in accessing available financing, as well as the lack of bankable projects. Whilst major financial institutions and national governments are launching financial assistance programs specifically for local and subnational governments, eligibility requirements are often too complicated, especially considering the limited capacity at local and subnational level to apply for, manage, monitor, evaluate and report on projects. This has resulted in a delay of accessing finance, in spite of considerable amounts of funds allocated to tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation. Indeed, in some countries, the situation is even further complicated by legal frameworks that do not allow for funding to go directly to the subnational government level. Hence legislation can be an additional barrier to accelerating local and subnational climate action.

The 2013 Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change<sup>1</sup> urges Nation-States to adopt an action plan at COP21 to engage local and subnational governments in climate change policies on mitigation and adaptation. It further called in supporting them through capacity building, access to finance and modern technology. A similar proposal was included both in the Technical Paper prepared by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat and by the Co-Chairs of the ADP<sup>2</sup> in 2014.

Thus, in spite of:

- i.) recognized suitable pro-green policies and regulations' experiences and practices;
- ii.) robust existing clean low carbon technologies in the field of waste and water management, energy efficiency and renewable energy; and
- iii.) comprehensive finance tools and mechanisms;

many subnational decision-makers lack required knowledge and a clear understanding on how to implement and deliver, as support structures and mechanisms are largely not in place, or are under-funded.

In not having the necessary 360 degree overview of requirements and the capacity to support the transition to the green economy, subnational authorities are indeed mostly not well equipped to conduct feasibility studies, engineering and costing concepts to design a portfolio of bankable local and regional low-carbon climate-resilient projects.

This in turn leads to the perception among investors that it is too risky to invest in these projects. Here training, capacity building and capacity to act (personnel and resources) – also through learning by doing – addressing integrating policy, scoping modern and efficient technology, and exploring finance issues are key.

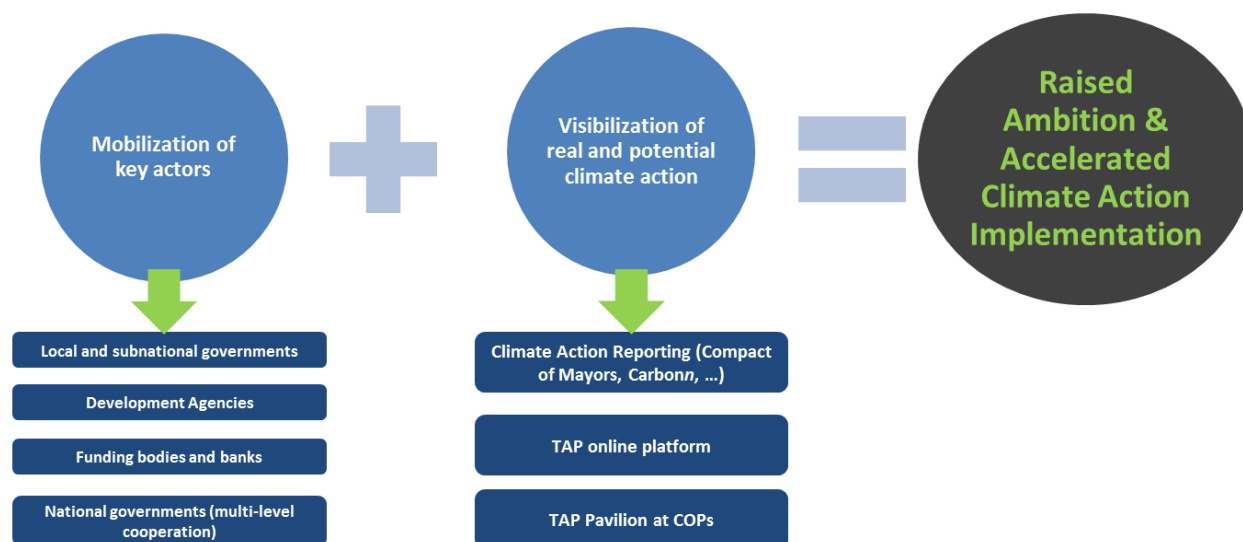
The Transformative Actions Program (TAP) is designed to address and create aiding mechanisms to help find ways to address key issues around subnational climate finance and provide tools and knowledge necessary for local and subnational governments to design and implement transformative climate actions.

<sup>1</sup> [2013 Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.

## 2. The TAP in brief

### What is the TAP?



The Transformative Actions Program (TAP) is the result of an inclusive and cooperative effort by networks of local and subnational governments to accelerate implementation of climate action of local and subnational governments. This is to be done by scaling-up their direct investments and their increased engagement in national and global mechanisms, focusing on capacity building, technology transfer and access to climate finance.

The TAP aims to:

- support climate investment in urban areas over the next ten years;
- increase the scope and quality of local and regional climate action;
- create support mechanisms to assist cities and regions in designing bankable and transformative projects;
- contribute to the elaboration of new finance mechanisms for local and regional climate action;
- create trust among subnational governments, financing institutions and investors, to lower the current perception of risk;
- support regular monitoring and reporting of project implementation developments;
- encourage multi-level cooperation and governance in the area of climate mitigation and adaptation;
- raise visibility of local and subnational climate action at the national and international level; and
- develop aiding mechanisms such as mapping exercises of funding opportunities and obstacles.

### 3. The four TAP action pillars

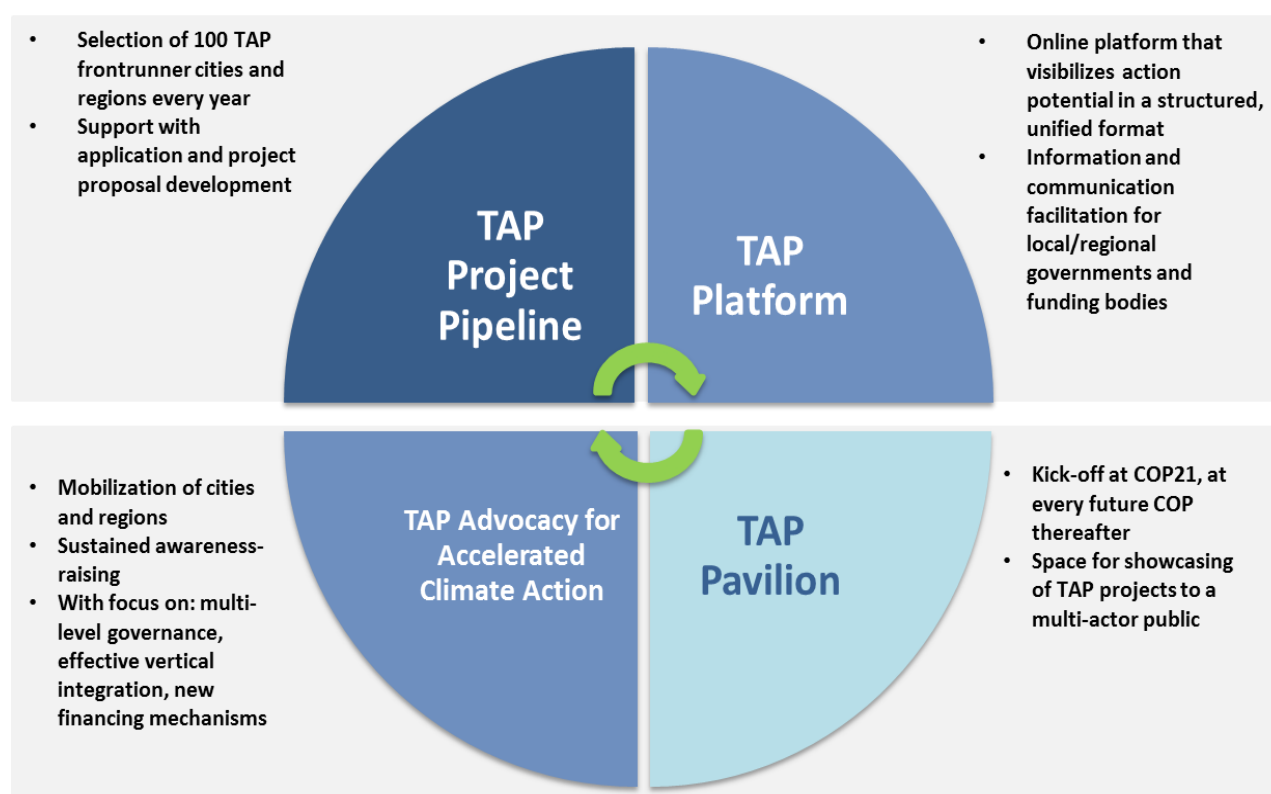
The TAP is a long-term Action Program that will collect and present ambitious, cross-cutting, multi-sectorial, inclusive and innovative mitigation and/or adaptation actions led by local and subnational governments. It will focus especially on those projects and action plans that have the potential to discernably contribute to the international pre- and post-2020 climate regime. The TAP also focuses on explicitly identified needs for climate capacity-building and/or financing.

The TAP will be officially launched at the UN Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21/CMP11) to be held in Paris-Le Bourget, France on 30 November - 11 December 2015.

Through the TAP, every year during the COP meetings of the UNFCCC, a number of well-defined, ready-to-accelerate transformative actions will be brought to the attention of international climate negotiations and implementation partners. At this stage 100 proposals per year are envisaged, fairly representing local and subnational governments of different sizes around the globe.

During both phases – pre and post-2020 - TAP objectives will be translated into action through the following components:

#### The 4 Action Pillars of the TAP



### 3.1 TAP Project Pipeline

The TAP Project Pipeline is a collection of up to 100 TAP projects and action plans selected every year, and presented at the annual UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COP), starting at the COP21 in Paris-Le Bourget from 30 November to 11 December 2015. Cities and regions are invited to submit their Transformative Actions Program projects and action plans using the available application form. These will be screened, with a limited number (maximum 100 projects) selected and given official TAP approval based on selection criteria (proven feasibility, transformative potential, etc.).

Two project types are called for, namely:

- a. “Fast-track Transformers”
- b. “Post-2020 Transformers”

See section 4.1 for information on the characteristics of each type of project.

### 3.2 Online Transformative Actions Platform

Building on the existing framework developed by the major local and subnational climate action reporting platforms<sup>3</sup>, the Transformative Action Platform will act as a central depository of TAP projects and action plans and a global facilitation platform. It will allow, on the one hand, local and subnational governments to present their designed and nearly-ready-to-implement transformative climate actions with a clearly identified need for investment (direct or in-kind financing, capacity-building, etc.) in a structured and unified format. It will, on the other hand, support public and private financiers (incl. national governments, development aid agencies, international organizations and programs) to identify projects they could potentially finance.

By offering and enhancing visibility and global trustworthiness, the Transformative Actions Platform aims to increase the number and diversity of mitigation/adaptation actions to be implemented by local and subnational governments using global financing mechanisms.

### 3.3 Transformative Actions Pavilion at COP21

To enhance visibility and credibility of Transformative Actions, every year at the UNFCCC COP, the TAP will offer local and subnational entities a physical space – called **the TAP Pavilion** - where they can present their TAP projects and action plans and engage with potential funding and/or capacitation partners.

The first TAP Pavilion will be organized during COP21 in Paris-Le Bourget. A selection of up to 100 proposed projects/action plans will be presented to national delegations, international donors and financing agencies, from the public and private sector.

It will offer local and subnational entities the opportunity to engage in dialogues with potential implementation partners, national and global financing institutions.

<sup>3</sup> E.g. carbonn Climate Registry – [carbonn.org](http://carbonn.org)

High level representatives of subnational authorities will present key messages. They will also engage with national delegations, facilitated by the LGMA Constituency focal point, inviting them to explore innovative acceleration activities that can be replicated in-country. The organization of the Transformative Actions Pavilion will benefit from the experience gained from the Local Government Climate Lounge at COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, as well as the Global Town Hall at Rio+20 in 2012.

#### Logistical information:

- located in the COP21 “Climate Village” in Paris-Le Bourget, the designated UNFCCC area for civil society and other non-state actors during the COP.
- 200m<sup>2</sup> space for presentations, debates, exhibitions as well as closed meetings.
- an additional smaller venue in the restricted area is reserved for confidential discussions with national delegations, offering a space close to the UNFCCC negotiations.

The multiple activities at the Pavilion will be supported by an experienced Advocacy and Transformation Team – comprised of all city networks keen to engage – to act as host, facilitate contact, communication and dialogue with and between relevant actors. A well-designed communication strategy will ensure coordination and targeted high-quality outreach - before, during and in the aftermath of COP21.

#### Transformative Actions Pavilion at COP21 (TAP2015)

- 30 November – 11 December 2015 at COP21 in Paris-Le Bourget, France
- Jointly organized by C40, UCLG, R20, ICLEI, etc.
- Facilitated by ICLEI
- Hosted by the City of Paris and the City of Bristol (European Green Capital 2015)
- Endorsers (tbc): UN Climate Change Secretariat, Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, Troika of COP19-20-21 Presidencies, LGMA Constituency to the UNFCCC, Compact of Mayors, Compact of States and Regions, Local Government Climate Roadmap
- Sponsors (tbc): AFD, GDF Suez, City of Bristol, Urban-LEDS project (funded by European Union)
- Strong synergy with parallel events such as the UCLG World Council, C40-SIEMENS City Climate Leadership Awards, and the CEMR European Summit.

### 3.4 TAP Advocacy for Accelerated Climate Action

Continuing with climate advocacy in the scope of the Local Government Climate Roadmap, in support of momentum created by the Compact of Mayors, and in close collaboration with the allies and Friends of Cities in the climate negotiations, the Transformative Actions Program aims to accelerate positive climate advocacy at the local, national, and international levels.

The recognition and acknowledgement of the scope and quality of local and subnational climate action by relevant national and international entities has been one of the key successes of climate advocacy in recent years. The TAP advocacy work will build on this, further strengthen and deepen the liaison with national and international bodies, with effective communication on the advances in our joint efforts. It will also articulate the needs and demands of local and subnational governments, particularly addressing access to climate finance and systems to ensure optimal use thereof.



The TAP Advocacy work will help raise awareness of the potential of transformative, subnational climate action, in support of national climate action, through effective vertical integration. This includes showcasing success stories, highlighting their wide range of benefits for multiple stakeholders, and the interrelation to sustainable development.

Hence, the TAP advocacy work creates an essential interaction nexus between the local-subnational level and the national-international spheres of debates, negotiations and policies. It offers specific concepts for effective subnational climate action.

The TAP advocacy work will strengthen and diversify climate advocacy, by:

- ✓ increasing information flow to and between local and subnational governments;
- ✓ accompanying local and regional governments in identifying, designing and implementing low-carbon and climate-resilient projects and action plans;
- ✓ deepening the dialogue with national governments, in particular on in-country acceleration and effective vertical integration between different levels of government;
- ✓ reinforcing the engagement with international and national funding bodies and development agencies, linked to the mission of the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA); and
- ✓ continuing the coordination of information sharing and debate on local and subnational climate finance in the realm of international climate negotiations and related fora such as the UNFCCC/ADP negotiations, activities within the scope of post2015 Development Agenda, and active engagement in the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in July 2016.



## 4. TAP project application and selection process

The Transformative Action Program (TAP) calls for project applications from subnational authorities that are ambitious, cross-cutting, and inclusive - our definition of transformative.

### 4.1 The Type of Projects

| "Fast-track Transformers"   | "Post-2020 Transformers"  |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ready-to implement, fully designed projects/action plans with an identified need for funding (investment and/or grants)</li> <li>• Projects/actions plans with a clear budget, clear action plan and management concept</li> <li>• To be implemented pre-2020</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-designed project concepts</li> <li>• Identified need for funding, capacity building, technical advice, strategy development, finance expertise, etc.</li> <li>• To be implemented post -2020</li> </ul> |

### 4.2 Defining the Transformative Potential of Projects

TAP applicants should have the potential to transform society, and particularly respond to ACI – ambitious, cross-cutting, and inclusive. These 3 key components of “transformative” are captured in the definition below:

| Ambitious  | Cross-cutting  | Inclusive   |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b><u>First-time projects/ action plans</u></b><br/>that will serve a meaningful percentage of the population</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b><u>Existing projects/ action plans</u></b><br/>that will be scaled up and that will serve an increasingly large amount of the population/ jurisdiction area/etc.</p> | <p><b><u>People</u></b><br/>Demonstrate how citizens, in particular those identified from disadvantaged communities, will benefit in the short- and mid-term, e.g. urban poor, unemployed, elderly, youth, women, ethnic minorities, etc.</p> <p><b><u>Place</u></b><br/>Improve different aspects of the location by optimizing the use of local resources [air, water, waste, land, biodiversity / ecosystems, energy] across services and sectors</p> <p><b><u>Planet</u></b><br/>Contribute to national and global sustainability goals (SDGs)</p> | <p><b><u>City administration</u></b><br/>Coordinate within the city administration, i.e. cross-departmental coordination processes and mechanisms have to be in place to assure effective project implementation and financing</p> <p><b><u>Civil society</u></b><br/>Engage citizens and local stakeholders actively, encouraging their participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of the project.</p> <p><b><u>Multi-level governance</u></b><br/>Establish concrete efforts to foster collaboration and cooperation with governmental stakeholders at all governance levels: municipal, local, sub-national, national, regional</p> <p><b><u>Business</u></b><br/>Reach out to local business and industry to stimulate green growth in the local private sector</p> |

### 4.3 Timeline for the TAP2015 application and selection process

| When                | Stage of TAP process  | Responsible Entity            |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Early May 2015      | Launch of Offline application form  | TAP Project team              |
| Early June 2015     | Launch of Online application form   | TAP Project team              |
| May + June 2015     | Support webinars for potential applicants   | TAP Project team              |
| 15th June 2015      | 1st deadline for TAP applications   | TAP Project team              |
| June-July 2015      | Establish the TAP Project Selection Panel   | TAP Management Committee (MC) |
| 15th July 2015      | 2nd deadline for TAP applications   | TAP Project team              |
| 15th August 2015    | Final deadline for TAP applications   | TAP Project team              |
| August 2015         | First Screening/Pre-Selection of Projects based on completeness of application form | TAP MC                        |
| September 2015      | Selection of (up to) 100 TAP projects   | TAP Project Selection Panel   |
| October 2015        | Notification of successful TAP projects   | TAP Project team              |
| 30 Nov -11 Dec 2015 | Presentation of a selection of TAP projects at the TAP2015 Pavilion at COP21        | TAP Project team, TAP MC      |

### 4.4 The TAP – how we work

The TAP is comprised of 3 key entities, each with a specific function:

- A multi-disciplinary **TAP Project Team**, responsible for the day-to-day activity coordination and implementation, closely working with TAP partners.
- **TAP Management Committee** consisting of the core TAP Management and a selection of advisors from partners. It is responsible for providing strategic direction of the TAP, supporting the broad-scale mobilization of cities and regions and the pre-selection of TAP project applications based on completeness of the application form.
- **TAP Project Selection Panel** comprised of representatives of local and regional government networks, funding institutions, development banks, development institutions, and others. It is responsible for the selection of up to 100 TAP projects/action plans for 2015 that are looking for climate finance that will receive official TAP endorsement, and that will obtain an opportunity to present their project at the TAP2015 Pavilion at COP21 in Paris-Le Bourget.

## 5. Call for Partnership

The TAP aims to be **an inclusive program**. We encourage national, regional and global city networks, as well as public and private funding institutions, international organizations and NGOs working with city and regional governments on climate action, to become **official TAP partners** and help mobilize effective transformative climate action through their networks.

We welcome all development organizations and financing institutions / funding bodies to join the TAP and to contribute to the elaboration of new ways of financing local and regional climate action, ideally also supporting these in cities and regions that lack key capacities to develop their climate actions.

### ▪ What is the role of a partner?

- Local and regional governments that support other cities and regions in developing bankable projects.
- National governments can indicate their interest in exploring funding of proposed projects in national programs.
- Donors can indicate if they have grants available for local and subnational climate projects.
- Public and private funding institutions can indicate their specific geographic and/or thematic financing interests.
- Expertise to support the development of bankable projects is warmly invited from international organizations, NGOs and others.

### ▪ From our members and partners, we are looking for tri-lateral engagement:

#### ❖ Endorsement of:

- ✓ the TAP2015 Pavilion at COP21, the physical venue of the TAP and its related negotiations at COP21;
- ✓ the first Phase of the TAP, 2016-2020, starting at COP21.

#### ❖ Collaboration on the call for the “100 Transformative Actions” by means of:

- ✓ Identifying eligible, well-defined and transformative local climate actions;
- ✓ Supporting capacity building of local and subnational governments in the run-up to COP21, to meet the minimum requirements to be accepted to the TAP Platform (e.g. in planning, measuring, access to knowledge, etc.);
- ✓ Actively participating in the work of the TAP Managing Committee.

#### ❖ Financing

- ✓ Being a financing partner of the TAP2015 and/or contribute to fundraising efforts;
- ✓ Actively assisting the broadening of a financing coalition for the first phase of the TAP (2016-2020); and
- ✓ Engaging with the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance.

## Contact:

| Secretary General's Office  | TAP Coordination  |
|---|---|
| ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability<br>World Secretariat<br>Secretary General's Office<br><b>Kaiser-Friedrich-Strasse 7</b><br><b>D-53113 Bonn, Germany</b><br><br><a href="mailto:secretary.general@iclei.org">secretary.general@iclei.org</a><br><br>Tel.: +49-(0)228 / 976 299-00 | <b>Marie-Sophie Beier</b><br>COP21 / TAP Coordinator<br><br>for TAP: <a href="mailto:tap@iclei.org">tap@iclei.org</a><br><br>for TAP2015 Pavilion: <a href="mailto:cop21.pavilion@iclei.org">cop21.pavilion@iclei.org</a> |
| <a href="http://www.tap-potential.org">www.tap-potential.org</a>  |   |