

# PICKING UP THE PACE

## Just & Equitable Adaptation in Mediterranean-Climate Cities



**Laurel H. Hunt**

MC-4 Secretary & CUREs Director of Strategic Partnerships

LMU|LA Center for Urban Resilience



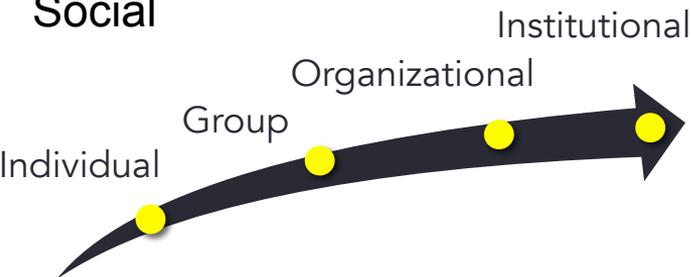
# Center for Urban Resilience (CUREs)

“Urban ecology empowering communities”

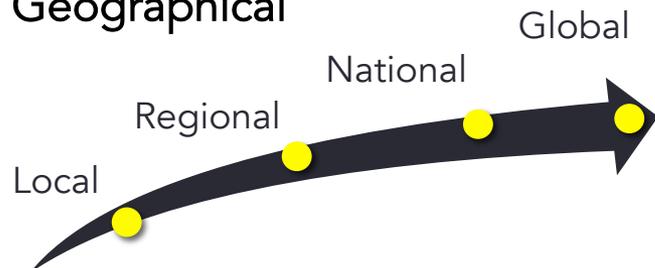
## Ecological



## Social



## Geographical



Community Engagement

Research

Education

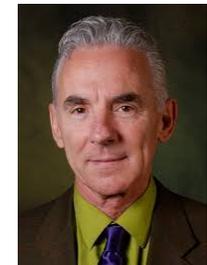


# Mediterranean City Climate Change Consortium (MC-4)

## Our Mission

We lead region-focused solutions aimed at optimizing climate change adaptation and mitigation across the Mediterranean-climate cities of the world.

- **Bridge** efforts to address climate change across sectors, agencies, jurisdictions and other governance structures within each of the five Mediterranean-climate regions
- **Leverage** finite resources to maximize outcomes and increase performance standards
- **Exchange** knowledge of both research and practice
- **Share and interpret** case studies to extract best practices and areas of improvement
- **Prioritize** cross-cutting solutions



# Urban Ecology & Climate Adaptation

## Why Cities?

Over half the world's population lives in cities (two thirds by 2030)

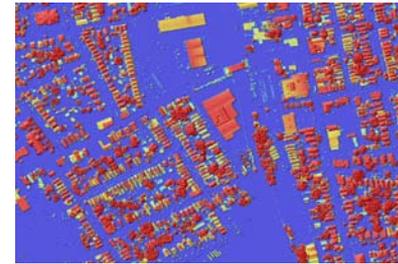
## How Cities Adapt

- 1) ...effective disaster planning, poverty alleviation and ecosystem management
- 2) incremental transformation of the physical, institutional and social systems that support our communities
- 3) transformation of the practical, political and personal spheres of change



# Urban Ecology, Climate Adaptation & Equity

“Public stakeholders, especially those in underserved neighborhoods, are suffering the impacts of droughts, excessive heat, associated pollution impacts and green infrastructure degradation that follows climate change inaction and intervention policies that neglect adaptation. These communities...are caught up in the long lag times associated with ecosystem change...climate adaptation is needed now.”



– Dr. Eric Strauss, CUREs Executive Director



# Mediterranean Cities & Climate Change



## Mediterranean Snapshot: The Five Regions

- California, central Chile, Western Cape of South Africa, southwestern Australia, Mediterranean Basin
- Over 250 million residents
- Under 3% of world's total land area
- About 20% of world's plant biodiversity



# Shared Climate – Shared Solutions

## Why Work Together?

### Examples of Similarities:

- Major coastal cities
- Mild climates
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Rapidly increasing urban populations
- Tourism-supported economies

→ Add *Climate Change* (Resilience Stressor)

### More Similarities:

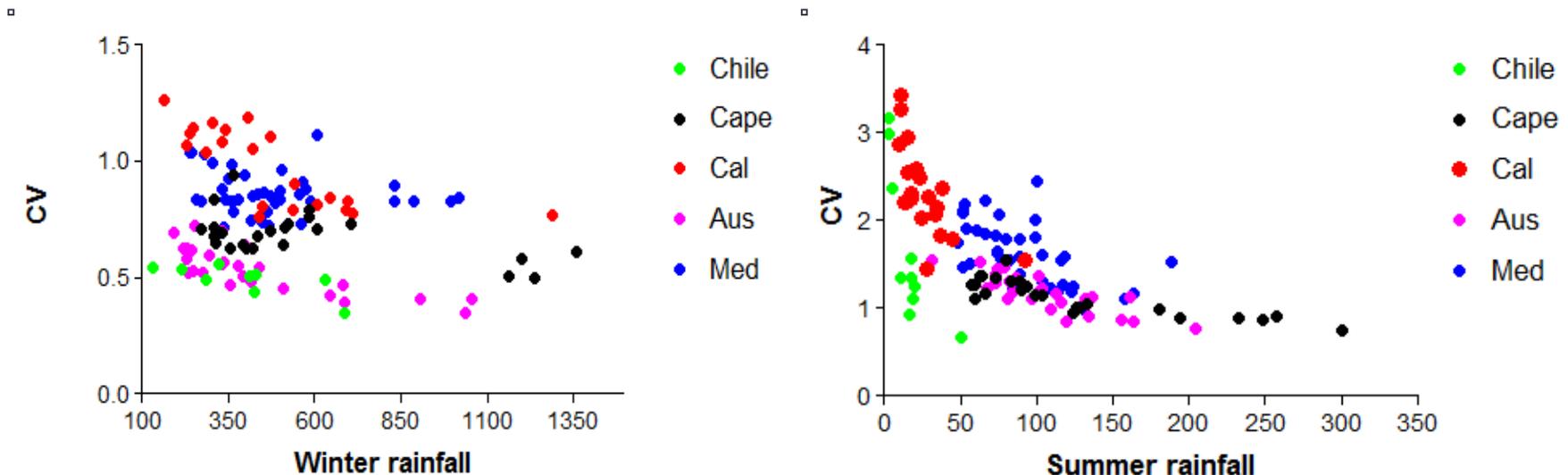
- Running out of water
- New fire management concerns
- Sustainable industries & resource use
- Losing natural habitat to agriculture

How can we build upon and strengthen each other's climate adaptation strategies?



# Differences Are Important Too

- Enhancing comparative studies
- Promoting leapfrog development
- Providing opportunities to test new ideas and technologies at lower cost and with greater regulatory flexibility



Cowling, Ojeda, Lamont, Rundel & Lechmere-Oertel 2005 *Global Ecol Biogeog*



# MC-4 Impact

- 2012 conference
- 2014 conference
- CityAdapt newsletter
- Cities and the Environment Journal special issue
- Meetings
- Webinars
- Side events
- Speaking panels
- Collaborative projects
- Research partnerships
- Municipal planning grants
- And more...



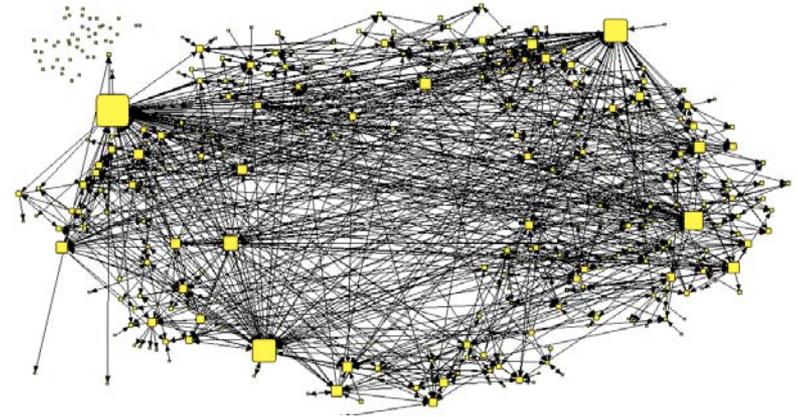
I am writing to you from the [National Adaptation Forum](#), a gathering of public and private adaptation professionals from across the United States. Held biennially, this event provides a space for knowledge exchange and support on climate change adaptation and resilience.



# Future Projects

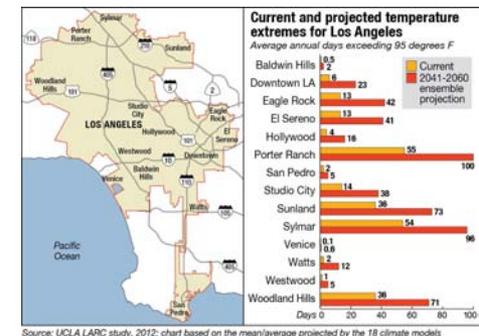
## Relevant Climate Interventions

- Data clearinghouse
- Case studies that MATTER
- Infrastructure models
- Interregional summits
- Technical assistance
- Education resources and curricula
- Local network meetings



*Join Us Today!*

Contact Laurel Hunt at [Laurel.Hunt@lmu.edu](mailto:Laurel.Hunt@lmu.edu)



# Dr. Barbara Norman



Professor Barbara Norman is the Foundation Chair of Urban and Regional Planning and Director of Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) at the University of Canberra and an Adjunct Professor with The Australian National University. Professor Norman is Chair of the ACT Climate Change Council. Barbara is a Life Fellow and past national president of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Life Honorary Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute (UK). Barbara's qualifications include a Bachelor of Town & Regional Planning, Masters of Environmental Law and a PhD on sustainable coastal planning. She also has a substantial professional background having worked at all levels of government and run her own practice. Her current research and teaching interests include sustainable cities and regions, coastal planning, climate change adaptation and urban governance. Barbara was a contributing author to IPCC 5 WG 2 report on Impacts 2014. Professor Norman advises the public and private sector in Australia and has strong international linkages within Asia, Europe and the United States. Barbara was awarded an Australian Centenary Medal for her contribution to the community through urban and regional planning.



# Bongani Mnisi



Bongani Mnisi is a Regional Manager in the Biodiversity Management of the City of Cape Town where he manages the largest part of the City's Biodiversity Network including three Nature Reserves. He is responsible for the development of strategic and operational management plans for the region; he also manages the stakeholder relationships both external and internal to enforce a participative approach towards conservation management. He coordinates the performance management and leads the mentorship program for the branch as part of his interest in Human Capital Development. Mr Mnisi is also appointed by the National Minister of Water Affairs where he serves as a Deputy Chairperson of the Board of the Breede-Overberg Catchment Management Agency. One of his current major projects is the coordination of a R45Million Expanded Public Works Programme funded by the Department of Environmental Affairs.



# Dr. Cristina García Fernández



Dr. Cristina García Fernández is a professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid in Spain. She is an expert in carbon taxes, climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation strategies in European cities. As a visiting scholar at the UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation in Los Angeles, she is assessed actions that municipalities in the region are taking to adapt to climate change, with a focus on coastal areas and health. This involved analyzing coastal adaptation plans to sea-level rise as well as health policies being developed by local health departments. More generally, she is identifying U.S. leading cities and best practices for improving climate resiliency in vulnerable communities, to be used for a comparative analysis with European cities.

