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Christophe Nuttall, Executive Director, R20 Regions of Climate Action, Austria

Christophe Nuttall has an Ecological Engineering degree and a PHD in Development Geography. He worked in Senegal for three years (1986 – 1989) as a junior scientist for ORSTOM (the French institution for research in developing countries), and at US Clark University. From 1989 to 1990, he was a space engineer at CNES (the French spatial agency), and then took on the role of Scientific Advisor within the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1990 – 1992), where he contributed to the launch of the Mitterrand – Kohl Arch Summit initiative on the Sahara and Sahel Observatory.

In parallel to his early career, he was elected as Deputy Mayor to a French sous-prefecture.

Christophe Nuttall then joined UNITAR (the United Nations Institute for Training and Research) in 1993, where he was in charge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Since the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), he developed the Decentralization Cooperation Programme in which he developed a network of 12 training centers around the world for local and regional authorities. He also launched the International Multi-Partnerships Initiative on access to basic services, adopted at the 2007 UN-HABITAT Board. The Initiative was later adopted at the 2009 ECOSOC, which led to the listing of *access to water* as a human right in 2011.

In 2005 he joined UNDP as the Director of the Hub for Innovative Partnerships. He led the development of partnerships with local / regional authorities for the UN system. He has developed a number of initiatives among which the Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC), which aims to chart a new low-carbon route to development at the subnational level with official recognition from the UNFCCC's COP 16 in Cancun.

In January 2012, following exchanges between Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, and with approval from R20's members and partners, Christophe Nuttall was appointed as the first Executive Director of the R20 Regions of Climate Action.