



# Southern voices on climate policy choices

**Analysis of and lessons learned from civil society advocacy on climate change**

Hannah Reid, Gifty Ampomah, María Isabel Olazábal Prera,  
Golam Rabbani and Shepard Zvigadza

 **Southern Voices**  
on Climate change



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## Acronyms and abbreviations

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|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>CANSA</b>   | <b>Climate Action Network South Asia</b>  |
| <b>CBDRM</b>   | <b>Community-Based Disaster Risk Management</b>   |
| <b>CCDF</b>    | <b>Climate Change and Development Forum, Bangladesh</b>   |
| <b>COP</b>     | <b>Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC</b>  |
| <b>DRR</b>     | <b>Disaster Risk Reduction</b>  |
| <b>ECOWAS</b>  | <b>Economic Community Of West African States</b>  |
| <b>EPA</b>     | <b>Federal Environment Protection Authority of Ethiopia</b>   |
| <b>FAC</b>     | <b>Forest Clearance Authorities</b>   |
| <b>FECOFUN</b> | <b>Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal</b>  |
| <b>INSEDA</b>  | <b>Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association</b>                                       |
| <b>JANI</b>    | <b>The Joint Advocacy Network Initiative</b>  |
| <b>JCCI</b>    | <b>Jointa Climate Change Initiative</b>   |
| <b>LDC</b>     | <b>Least Developed Country</b>  |
| <b>MJUMITA</b> | <b>Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania</b>  |
| <b>MOP</b>     | <b>Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol</b>   |
| <b>NAPA</b>    | <b>National Adaptation Programme of Action</b>  |
| <b>NGO</b>     | <b>Non-governmental Organisation</b>  |
| <b>NIE</b>     | <b>National Implementing Agency</b>   |
| <b>OCCD</b>    | <b>Office of Climate Change and Development</b>   |
| <b>PPCR</b>    | <b>Pilot Program for Climate Resilience</b>   |
| <b>REDD*</b>   | <b>Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation</b>   |
| <b>REDD+*</b>  | <b>as REDD, with the addition of conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks</b> |
| <b>RPP</b>     | <b>Readiness Preparation Proposal</b>   |
| <b>SABL</b>    | <b>Special Agriculture and Business Leases</b>  |

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|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>SAFTA</b>  | <b>South Asian Free Trade Area</b>  |
| <b>SLSI</b>   | <b>Sri Lanka Standards Institution</b>  |
| <b>UNCCD</b>  | <b>United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification</b>  |
| <b>UNDP</b>   | <b>United Nations Development Programme</b>   |
| <b>UNFCCC</b> | <b>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change</b>  |
| <b>UNREDD</b> | <b>United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries</b> |

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\* The terms REDD and REDD+ are commonly used interchangeably, a practice adopted in this report.



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# Foreword

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The climate change problem became recognised over two decades ago and in response, governments began to negotiate and then to implement the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Annual Conferences of Parties (COPs) to the UNFCCC negotiated solutions and reviewed progress on tackling the problem. Since the start, civil society has worked alongside governments in fashioning emerging global agreements and keeping an eye on implementation (and sometimes the lack of implementation) of these agreements. In the early years, most civil society groups or NGOs involved at the international level were from industrialised countries and consisted mainly of large environmental organisations. In recent years, however, the number of southern NGOs and large international development NGOs at the COPs has increased. This has ensured that representation of NGOs attending the international negotiations is now better balanced. Until a couple of years ago, however, the southern NGOs who attended international meetings were not well networked either at home in their respective countries or at the regional level. In 2009, in the run-up to COP15 in Copenhagen, this began to change and many national and regional NGO networks in the South made significant progress in terms of getting better organised around climate change and development issues at national and regional levels. This report brings together some examples of the work these NGO networks have undertaken.

Many southern networks are rapidly getting better at coordinating efforts to speak for themselves on climate change issues. In recent years networks have proliferated and whilst some are new and just finding their feet, others have had serious policy clout and are well-organised and vocal. This is important because in the past, the main voice of civil society at the international level was from international NGOs, which prioritised environmental issues over development issues. It is also important at the national level, where more focus was needed on adaptation as opposed to mitigation, which was often prioritised because liberals and environmentalists in industrialised countries were pressing for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

At the national level, many of these networks have been able to shift government policy, raise awareness amongst civil society at large, and importantly, make the connection between climate change and local level development issues. They provide a crucial link between government policy making and practice, people suffering on the ground, and international climate change policy and negotiations.

The challenges southern networks face in responding to climate change are immense. Networks often don't have the skills they need or even the resources required to meet

on a regular basis. Email and internet use can be difficult and distances between organisations can be large. Climate change is still a low (but ever increasing) priority for governments in poor nations. Despite these challenges, the energy, creativity and passion shown by networks in the South to date are clear from this report. Southern civil society networks need our support and commendation for achievements to date.

As these networks get more effective at national and regional levels they need to establish better links with other stakeholders such as the media as well as with governments (both local as well as national). Here, their role needs to be one of 'critical friend' where they praise governments when they do good things and criticise them when they don't. Southern NGOs and their networks also need to enhance their own capacities and staffing to enable them to add climate change work to development work at local, national and regional levels, whilst maintaining close links with the global level as well. This will be a challenging task going forward, but an excellent start has already been made.

Dr Saleemul Huq  
Senior Fellow  
International Institute for Environment and Development

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# Preface and acknowledgements

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This report is the first joint product of the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme. More than 20 climate networks and their member organisations have contributed to the report with their experiences of advocacy on climate change issues through case studies and policy analyses from a wide range of countries - including many of the poorest - in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

The Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme aims to support and strengthen the advocacy skills and institutional capacity of southern climate networks to benefit those who are most vulnerable to climate change. Its roots go back to 2008 when high expectations for the COP15 Climate Summit in Copenhagen inspired five Danish and two international NGOs to join forces in the 'Climate Capacity Consortium', with the aim of engaging southern civil society organisations in the negotiations towards Copenhagen. These high expectations and the widespread mobilisation of interest in addressing climate change fuelled the demand for climate justice from both civil society and governments in the South. Even though the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit was disappointing and provided only 'a muffin' while the expectation was for a 'three layered cake', as the Head of the UNFCCC Yvo de Boer then expressed it, this mobilisation and the claim for climate justice did not go away.

The present Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme was launched in January 2011, with the focus on strengthening some of the many NGO climate networks in the South which emerged from or engaged with the mobilisation towards COP15. The heightened awareness about climate change issues due to COP15 is now motivating networks to engage in advocacy activities that increasingly target national policy makers, regional institutions and other actors.

In this report we have selected material prepared by southern networks to provide a better understanding of the motivation, successes and challenges faced during their advocacy initiatives. The purpose of the report is to share lessons, advice and recommendations from climate change advocates in the Southern Voices Programme and beyond.

The report aims to respect a diversity of views, experiences and recommendations. These are not necessarily the views or policy positions of all report authors and contributors, networks listed or Southern Voices partner organisations. Any errors made, however, are likely to be due to the transcription, writing and editorial

process undergone whilst producing this report and are therefore the responsibility of the writing team rather than those contributing the original material.

Further information on the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme is available at: [www.climatecapacity.org](http://www.climatecapacity.org)

Members of the Climate Capacity Consortium – behind the Southern Voices Programme are: DanChurchAid, Ibis, Sustainable Energy, CARE Denmark (lead agency), the Danish 92-Group, Climate Action Network International and the International Institute for Environment and Development. The programme is funded by DANIDA as part of Denmark's Fast Start Finance.

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- Civil Society Network for Climate Change and REDD (RSC-REDD), Central African Republic
- Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC), Malawi
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- Climate Change Development Forum (CCDF), Bangladesh
- Climate Change Network Nepal (CCNN)
- Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), Vietnam
- Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), Zimbabwe
- Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA)
- Cook Islands Climate Action Network (CICAN)
- Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG), Vietnam
- Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change (ECSNCC)
- Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA), Ethiopia
- Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)
- Forest Watch Ghana
- Forum for Environment (FfE), Ethiopia
- Grupo de Financiamiento en México
- International Network For Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) including regional networks in South Asia and Africa
- Joint Advocacy Network Initiative (JANI), Vietnam



- Kiribati Climate Action Network (KiriCAN)
- Liga de la Defensa del Medio Ambiente (LIDEMA), Bolivia
- National Climate Change Network (NCCN), Cambodia
- National Committee of NGOs on Desertification (CNCOD), Niger
- Niger Youth Network on Climate Change (RJNCC / AYICC)
- NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF)
- Papua New Guinea Eco Forestry Forum
- Population, Health and Environment-Ethiopia (PHE-Ethiopia)
- Poverty Action Network Ethiopia (PANE)
- Reso Climat Mali
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## Selection of photos from the Southern Voices Planning Meeting at COP17

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## Selection of photos from the Southern Voices-Climate Action Network side event at COP17

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## Executive summary

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Climate change is happening now and is leading to a number of impacts, which are particularly detrimental to the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. Governments at every level are responsible for helping communities respond to these changes, and yet governments often only take action when under pressure from civil society. Civil society therefore has a key role to play, both in terms of raising awareness about climate change at local and national levels and also helping governments, donors and international organisations plan for a climate change constrained future.

Increasingly, non-government organisations and other stakeholders have been coming together at the national level to form civil society networks in some of the countries that are most affected by climate change. These networks have been involved in a wide range of activities to raise awareness about climate change, support climate change adaptation activities that benefit the most vulnerable, develop low-carbon development pathways to help mitigate climate change and improve local livelihoods, conduct research and disseminate results, build capacity on climate change and influence government planning processes at a variety of levels through a multitude of advocacy activities.

Civil society has also come together at the regional level in some parts of the world. For example Climate Action Network Latin America, Climate Action Network South Asia and Sustainability Watch Latin America all operate at regional levels.

These civil society networks have directed much of their advocacy efforts on particular government policies or actions, but also on international processes, donors and in some cases the private sector. Some of these advocacy activities have been hugely successful, whilst others came across challenges and hurdles that not everyone foresaw as problematic. The authors hope that in collecting some of these stories together this report will inform, inspire and perhaps in some cases forewarn the growing body of dedicated climate change advocates around the world about what advocacy activities have worked, what ones haven't, and where others are focusing their efforts.

The report defines advocacy as "seeking with, and on behalf of, poor people to address the underlying causes of poverty, bring justice and support good development through influencing the policies and practices of the powerful" (Shaw, 2011) and describes advocacy initiatives that fall into two broad categories. Firstly, relationship-building, otherwise known as lobbying, which is about building relationships with people in authority and speaking with them about particular issues or community needs. Secondly, mobilising the public, otherwise known as campaigning, which is about raising

awareness about certain issues amongst the general public in order that this precipitates action due to increasing public demand.

Many advocacy activities described here acknowledge the central role played by the media in the context of climate change advocacy. Strong engagement with media can facilitate outreach to ordinary people who may not be aware of the issues highlighted, but also government officials and key decision-makers. Examples of media engagement include telling stories in a regular radio show or television programme, writing an article or letter for a newspaper or magazine or telling a journalist about a situation. More recently, forms of social media such as Facebook and Twitter have also played an important role in raising awareness of climate change issues. In order to effectively engage the media it is important to consider the target audience and adapt the media outputs accordingly. Media coverage of climate change issues has been increasing in vulnerable countries over the last few years and awareness of climate change issues amongst the media is rising, in part due to activities undertaken by civil society networks.

Civil society networks have been working to influence various international processes that have implications for climate change. Most, but not all efforts at the international level have focused on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In many instances civil society plays a key role as part of the government negotiating team at UNFCCC meetings, training or briefing negotiators before each negotiating session starts and supporting them throughout the negotiating process. Similarly, civil society organisations have played an important role providing feedback to civil society at large once international climate change meetings are over. Many attempts to influence government negotiating positions have also been made. This has been through general awareness-raising campaigns, and also more targeted approaches on issues such as REDD and international climate change funding.

Not all international climate change related advocacy has focused on the climate change negotiations. Networks are also focusing their efforts on the Rio+20 process and the Millennium Development Goals. A human rights based approach to international climate change negotiations is also being pursued outside the UNFCCC process by some networks.

Civil society networks have been broadening their scope for conducting advocacy work from international and national level activities to regional level policy arenas in recent years. Regions targeted include Latin America, South Asia, West Africa and East Africa where there are already a number of joint policy agreements in place covering issues such as planning for development and climate change, including low-carbon development, planning for the delivery of energy services at a regional level, planning for the regional management of climate change finance and trade. Not all of the regional policy arenas identified as important by civil society networks have climate change or low-carbon development as their primary focus. For example, the relationship between trade and climate change has been gaining increasing attention in South Asia.

Most civil society advocacy activities target national level government activities. This may be for a number of reasons, but does not necessarily mean that other stakeholder groups are not considered important advocacy targets by southern networks.

The national context in which civil society networks operate is varied. Countries such as Bangladesh and Vietnam have a number of policies and programmes directly addressing climate change and are ahead of other poor countries in terms of planning for climate change. Other countries, however, are less advanced in this context and have no climate change policies or national plans or strategies on climate change. In most countries, however, government levels of awareness and prioritisation of climate change issues has grown rapidly in recent years.

Networks have adopted a variety of approaches to influence their governments. They have played a key role in the context of holding government to account on promises or commitments made, drawing attention to any failures to meet these commitments and tackling the problems of implementation. Particular focus areas for advocacy efforts include disaster management, financing and REDD. Despite many successes, civil society has not always found it easy to influence government policy making and implementation as much as it would like. Material in this report makes it clear, however, that civil society has often been able to have a considerable impact on policy making and planning when relationships with government are good.

It is perhaps less common than advocacy activities that hold governments to account on commitments made, but there are also examples of networks providing praise where praise is due, for example if governments respond to public pressure, take strong positive action or honour their promises and commitments. And in some instances civil society activities have gone further than holding governments to account and have actively sought to change specific activities, policies or government decisions which are viewed as contrary to what is best for the country, the environment or those who are most vulnerable to climate change.

Civil society networks have been very active in the context of pushing for new laws, programmes, policies or strategies, or pressing governments to dedicate more resources to issues or places that they feel have been neglected. This can be by strengthening existing programmes, extending them to new areas or advocating for the ratification of existing global agreements. The range of subject areas on which these advocacy activities have focused has been broad and varies from the development of specific climate change units or policies, to policies relating to energy access, low-carbon development, disaster risk management, migration, REDD and wetland management. In some instances civil society has successfully advocated for new climate change units or policies at the highest possible government level. In other instances the advocacy efforts continue, and in some cases the networks acknowledge that they don't necessarily have skills and resources required to meet the advocacy objectives they would like.

Many civil society networks identified the lack of joined-up government responses to climate change as a key barrier to securing effective action at the national level. Despite the obvious links between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, for example, national policies are often poor at adopting an integrated approach to the two fields. Networks have therefore conducted advocacy work towards improving integration between different ministries, policies and government bodies responsible for climate change related issues. In many instances this has involved advocacy activities to integrate climate change into existing policies and processes, but it also involved advocacy work to integrate key stakeholders and other government processes and policies into emerging climate change policies.

Civil society plays a particularly important role in ensuring that poor and vulnerable people, who so often lack political voice themselves, are not forgotten in national policy making and planning processes. Much advocacy work has been undertaken to influence the degree to which these communities are part of climate change related policy making processes in different countries, and also likely to benefit from existing and emerging government strategies and plans on climate change. A common approach is to try to influence government policy by supporting demonstration projects and using lessons from these to feed into wider policy debates and decision making processes. Given that many network member NGOs have good links with poor communities and a strong development focus to their work, small existing or new development projects have been an obvious starting point for those wishing to integrate climate change issues into their activities, and they have consequently formed the basis for ensuing advocacy work.

Not all network advocacy activities target the national government level. Local level advocacy activities target both local levels of government and also local communities themselves with a view to sharing lessons learnt and scaling up pilot initiatives to a wider scale. Activities targeting local levels of government can help raise awareness amongst government officials, and some projects tried to use advocacy activities conducted at the local level to scale up the level of influence to the national level.

Both donors and the private sector tend to develop their own agenda based on insufficient interaction with the affected or targeted communities. But resources – both human and financial – to cover all desirable advocacy actions across all sectors are limited so networks are forced to limit their activities and have tended to focus efforts on national governments and government processes. Donor funding for climate change activities has increased dramatically in recent years, however, and with more available funding, the need to influence how this funding is spent has grown. Many networks have therefore been working to influence the way in which multilateral and national donor funding agencies have provided in-country support. In some instances this has involved trying to advocate for more funding, and in others it has involved trying to influence how available funds are directed and what issues or sectors should be prioritised. In many cases civil society organisations can influence donor decisions by conducting research to identify critical areas which need donor support but currently lack it.

In some instances, civil society has adopted a more critical approach to in-country donor activities and tried to draw attention to actions or processes that fail to take account of certain vulnerable groups or important existing national policies and legislation, or plan to take the country down a certain route (such as taking on a large loan) which the network feels is not commensurate with sustainable development for the country or an appropriate response to climate change. World Bank activities are a case in point here and have come under fire from civil society networks in a number of countries. Processes supported by foundations and donors to put a value on reductions in carbon emissions for sale in the carbon market have also received intense civil society criticism in places.

Levels of climate change awareness within the private sector tend to be much lower than in government, the media and other groups. And the reputation that the private sector has for respecting sustainable development principles is not strong. The private sector has, however, much to contribute and many competencies relevant to both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Its strengths in technological innovation, the design of climate resilient infrastructure, improved information and marketing systems and the implementation of large-scale projects in partnership with government hold much potential in terms of helping people combat climate change. The need to engage more with the private sector is therefore acknowledged by many civil society groups. Influencing the private sector, however, is difficult because ultimately businesses are motivated primarily by profits as opposed to the view of electorates, philanthropy, sustainable development or poverty reduction. Many advocacy initiatives involving the private sector therefore involve civil society working together with (as opposed to campaigning against) businesses to have a positive impact, for example by providing incentives for sustainable or renewable energy projects that can benefit a community.



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# Sumario ejecutivo

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El cambio climático es algo que está sucediendo ahora y que ocasiona una serie de impactos, especialmente perjudiciales para las comunidades del mundo más pobres y vulnerables. Los gobiernos, a todos los niveles, son los responsables de ayudar a las comunidades a encontrar una respuesta a estos cambios, pero en realidad solo pasan a la acción cuando son presionados por la sociedad civil. Es por ello que la sociedad civil tiene un papel clave a desempeñar, tanto en términos de concienciación sobre el cambio climático, en el ámbito local y nacional, como en ayudar a los gobiernos, donantes y organizaciones internacionales a planificar un futuro constreñido por el cambio climático.

Cada vez con mayor frecuencia, organizaciones no gubernamentales y otros actores se vienen reuniendo a nivel nacional en algunos de los países más afectados por el cambio climático, para ir formando redes de sociedad civil. Estas redes han trabajado en una variedad de actividades como la concienciación sobre el cambio climático, la adaptación al cambio climático de manera que los más vulnerables salgan beneficiados, la creación de formas de desarrollo con bajas emisiones de carbono, para así contribuir a mitigar el cambio climático y mejorar el sustento local, la realización de investigaciones y la divulgación de sus resultados, la formación sobre el cambio climático, y también han influido en los procesos de planificación gubernamentales en una variedad de niveles, mediante diversas actividades de cabildeo.

Asimismo la sociedad civil se ha reunido a nivel regional en algunos lugares del mundo. Por ejemplo, tanto la Red de Acción Climática (CAN por sus siglas en inglés) de Latinoamérica, la Red de Acción Climática del Sudeste Asiático, o Sustainability Watch Latinoamérica, funcionan en un ámbito regional. Estas redes de sociedad civil han centrado gran parte de su esfuerzo de cabildeo en políticas o acciones gubernamentales específicas, pero también en procesos internacionales, donantes y, en algunos casos, el sector privado. Algunas de estas incidencias han tenido un enorme éxito, mientras que otras se encontraron con retos y obstáculos que no todos preveían como problemáticos. Los autores esperan que, reuniendo algunas de estas historias, este reporte resultará informativo, servirá de inspiración y quizá en algunos casos pondrá sobre aviso al creciente número de dedicados defensores contra el cambio climático de todo el mundo, sobre qué actividades de cabildeo han funcionado, cuáles no y dónde están otros centrando sus esfuerzos.

La definición para este informe de la palabra cabildeo es: “tratar de encontrar, junto con las personas pobres y en su representación, las causas subyacentes de la pobreza,

traer justicia y fomentar el buen desarrollo influyendo en las políticas y prácticas de los poderosos” (Shaw, 2011) y describe actividades de cabildeo que caen en dos categorías principales. La primera es establecer relaciones, también llamada ejercer presión, que trata sobre entablar relaciones con personas de autoridad, y hablar con ellas sobre temas específicos o necesidades de la comunidad. La segunda categoría es movilizar al público, llamada también hacer campaña, que trata sobre concienciar al público general sobre ciertos temas, para que ello dé lugar a una acción, como consecuencia de la creciente demanda pública.

Muchas actividades de cabildeo descritas aquí reconocen el papel fundamental de los medios de comunicación en la incidencia contra el cambio climático. El fuerte compromiso con los medios de comunicación puede facilitar el llegar a la gente corriente que podría no ser consciente de los temas destacados, pero también a las autoridades gubernamentales y a los responsables clave. Ejemplos de compromiso con los medios serían contar historias en un programa radiofónico o televisivo habitual, escribir un artículo o carta para un periódico o revista, o contarle la situación a un periodista. Últimamente las redes sociales como Facebook y Twitter también han desempeñado un papel importante en la concienciación de temas sobre el cambio climático. Para que el compromiso con los medios de comunicación resulte eficaz, es importante tener en cuenta al público objetivo y adaptar la producción de los medios al mismo. La cobertura por parte de los medios de comunicación de temas relacionados con el cambio climático ha ido en aumento estos últimos años en países vulnerables, y existe una creciente concienciación de los medios sobre estos temas, en parte debida a las actividades llevadas a cabo por redes de sociedad civil.

Las redes de sociedad civil han trabajado para influir sobre varios procesos internacionales que tienen implicaciones para el cambio climático. La mayor parte de los esfuerzos en el ámbito internacional, aunque no todos, se han centrado en la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (UNFCCC por sus siglas en inglés). En muchos casos la sociedad civil desempeña un papel fundamental como parte del equipo de negociación gubernamental en reuniones de la UNFCCC, formando a los negociadores o informándolos antes de cada sesión negociadora, y apoyándolos a lo largo del proceso de negociación. De forma similar, las organizaciones de la sociedad civil han desempeñado un papel importante ofreciendo retroalimentación a la sociedad civil en general una vez finalizadas las reuniones sobre el cambio climático. También se han llevado a cabo numerosos intentos de influir sobre posiciones negociadoras gubernamentales, mediante campañas de concienciación general y otros enfoques más específicos sobre temas como REDD y la financiación internacional de temas relacionados con el cambio climático.

No todo el cabildeo internacional sobre el cambio climático se ha centrado en las negociaciones sobre el mismo. Las redes han centrado también sus esfuerzos en el proceso de Río+20 y en los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio. Algunas redes emplean un enfoque basado en los derechos humanos en las negociaciones internacionales

sobre el cambio climático, fuera del proceso de la UNFCCC. En los últimos años las redes de sociedad civil han ampliado su campo para pasar de trabajar en actividades de cabildeo a nivel nacional e internacional, a arenas políticas de ámbito regional. Entre las regiones objetivo se encuentran Latinoamérica, el Sudeste asiático y África occidental y oriental, donde ya funcionan varios acuerdos de política conjunta que tocan temas como la planificación del desarrollo y el cambio climático, incluyendo el desarrollo con bajas emisiones de carbono, así como la planificación del suministro de servicios energéticos en un ámbito regional y de la gestión regional de las finanzas y el comercio relacionados con el cambio climático. No todos los sectores de política regional reconocidos como importantes por redes de sociedad civil tienen el cambio climático o el desarrollo con bajas emisiones de carbono como foco principal. Por ejemplo, en el Sudeste asiático es la relación entre el comercio y el cambio climático la que ha ido ganando atención.

La mayoría de las actividades de cabildeo de la sociedad civil se centran en actividades gubernamentales en un ámbito nacional. Ello puede deberse a varias razones, pero no significa necesariamente que las redes del sur no consideren a otros grupos de actores objetivos importantes para una labor de cabildeo.

El contexto nacional en el que funcionan las redes de sociedad civil es variado. Países como Bangladesh y Vietnam tienen un cierto número de políticas y programas que tratan directamente con el cambio climático, y están por delante de otros países pobres en términos de planificación para el cambio climático. Sin embargo otros países están menos avanzados a este respecto y no tienen políticas de cambio climático, planes nacionales ni estrategias sobre el tema. De todos modos, en los últimos años se han incrementado con rapidez los niveles de concienciación y priorización del gobierno sobre el cambio climático.

Las redes han adoptado una variedad de enfoques para influir sobre sus gobiernos. Han desempeñado un papel clave en hacer responsable al gobierno de las promesas hechas o los compromisos adquiridos, llamando la atención sobre el incumplimiento de estos compromisos, y abordando los problemas de la puesta en práctica. Entre los ámbitos de especial interés para las actividades de cabildeo se encuentran la gestión de desastres, la financiación y REDD. A pesar de sus muchos éxitos, a la sociedad civil no le ha resultado tan fácil como hubiera deseado influir sobre la determinación de políticas gubernamentales y su puesta en práctica. No obstante, hay material en este informe que deja claro que la sociedad civil, cuando las relaciones con el gobierno son buenas, ha tenido a menudo un impacto considerable sobre la determinación y la planificación de políticas.

Tal vez no sea algo tan corriente como las actividades de cabildeo que responsabilizan a los gobiernos sobre los compromisos adquiridos, pero también hay ejemplos de redes que los alaban, cuando es justo hacerlo, por ejemplo si los gobiernos responden ante la presión pública, emprenden sólidas acciones positivas o cumplen con sus

promesas y compromisos. Hay algunos casos en que las actividades de la sociedad civil han ido más allá de responsabilizar a los gobiernos, y han procurado cambiar, de forma activa, labores específicas, políticas o decisiones gubernamentales que han considerado contrarias al bien del país, del medio ambiente o de aquellos que son más vulnerables al cambio climático.

Las redes de sociedad civil han estado muy activas ejerciendo presión para que haya nuevas leyes, programas, políticas o estrategias, o presionando a los gobiernos para que dediquen más recursos a temas o lugares que creen han sido descuidados. Esto se puede hacer fortaleciendo programas existentes, ampliándolos para que abarquen nuevas áreas, o abogando por la ratificación de acuerdos globales ya existentes. El número de temas en los que estas labores de cabildeo se han centrado es amplio, y varía desde el desarrollo de unidades o políticas específicas para el cambio climático, a políticas relativas al acceso a la energía, el desarrollo con bajas emisiones de carbono, gestión de riesgos de desastre, emigración, REDD y gestión de los humedales. En algunos casos, la sociedad civil ha defendido con éxito unidades o políticas para el cambio climático al más alto nivel gubernamental. En otros, los esfuerzos continúan y en ciertos casos las redes reconocen que no siempre cuentan con las habilidades y recursos necesarios para conseguir los objetivos de cabildeo deseados.

Muchas redes de sociedad civil identificaron la falta de respuestas gubernamentales integradas al cambio climático como una barrera fundamental para garantizar una acción eficaz a nivel nacional. Por ejemplo, a pesar de la obvia relación entre la reducción de riesgos de desastre y la adaptación al cambio climático, las políticas nacionales a menudo resultan insuficientes para adoptar un enfoque integrado de los dos campos. Las redes por tanto han realizado labores de cabildeo para mejorar la integración entre diferentes ministerios, políticas y organismos gubernamentales responsables de temas relacionados con el cambio climático. En muchos casos ello ha implicado actividades de cabildeo para integrar el cambio climático en políticas y procesos ya existentes, pero también para integrar a actores clave, así como a otros procesos y políticas gubernamentales, en las políticas emergentes sobre el cambio climático.

La sociedad civil desempeña un papel especialmente importante para garantizar que las personas pobres y vulnerables, que tan a menudo carecen de voz política, no sean olvidadas en los procesos de determinación de políticas nacionales y planificación. Se ha realizado una gran labor de cabildeo para influir en el grado en que las comunidades pobres y vulnerables participan en los procesos de determinación de políticas relativas al cambio climático, pero también para que puedan beneficiarse de las estrategias y planes gubernamentales, existentes y emergentes, sobre el cambio climático. Un enfoque habitual es intentar influir sobre la política gubernamental apoyando proyectos piloto y empleando lo aprendido de ellos en debates y procesos de determinación de políticas más amplios. Dado que muchas ONGs miembros de

redes tienen vínculos con las comunidades pobres y su labor se centra en el desarrollo, los pequeños proyectos de desarrollo ya existentes o nuevos han sido un punto de partida obvio para quienes desean integrar los temas relativos al cambio climático en sus actividades, y con ello han formado la base para una subsiguiente labor de cabildeo.

No todas las actividades de cabildeo de las redes tienen como objetivo el ámbito de gobierno nacional. Las actividades locales tienen como meta los ámbitos locales tanto de gobierno como de comunidad, con la idea de compartir las lecciones aprendidas y aumentar proporcionalmente iniciativas piloto en una escala más amplia. Las actividades que se centran en los ámbitos locales de gobierno pueden ayudar a concienciar a las autoridades gubernamentales, y para algunos proyectos se probaron actividades de cabildeo de forma local, para ir incrementando el nivel de influencia en el ámbito nacional.

Tanto los donantes como el sector privado tienden a desarrollar su propia agenda, basada en la insuficiente interacción con las comunidades afectadas o escogidas como objetivo. Pero los recursos, tanto humanos como económicos, necesarios para cubrir todas las labores de cabildeo deseables en todos los sectores, son escasos, así que las redes se ven forzadas a limitar sus actividades y han tendido a centrar sus esfuerzos en los gobiernos nacionales y los procesos gubernamentales. Sin embargo, las financiaciones de donantes para actividades relacionadas con el cambio climático han aumentado espectacularmente en los últimos años y, con más fondos, ha crecido la necesidad de influir en cómo se gastan. Por ello muchas redes han estado trabajando para influir en la forma en que agencias de financiación de donantes multilaterales y nacionales han ofrecido apoyo en el país. En algunos casos ello ha significado intentar abogar por más fondos, y en otros tratar de influir en la distribución de los fondos disponibles y en qué temas o sectores deberían ser prioritarios. En muchos casos las organizaciones de la sociedad civil pueden influir sobre las decisiones de los donantes realizando una investigación para detectar áreas críticas que precisan el apoyo de donantes, pero que actualmente no lo tienen.

En algunos casos la sociedad civil ha adoptado un enfoque más crítico hacia las actividades de los donantes en el país y ha intentado llamar la atención sobre las acciones o procesos que no tienen en cuenta a ciertos grupos vulnerables, sobre importantes políticas nacionales y legislación existente, o sobre los planes de llevar al país por cierto camino (como aceptar un préstamo considerable), que la red no estima adecuado para un desarrollo sostenible del país o una respuesta apropiada al cambio climático. Las actividades del Banco Mundial son un buen ejemplo de ello, ya que han sufrido las críticas de redes de sociedad civil en varios países. Los procesos respaldados por fundaciones y donantes para dar un valor a las reducciones de las emisiones de carbono que se venden en el mercado del carbono también han sido objeto de fuertes críticas por parte de la sociedad civil en algunos lugares.

Los niveles de concienciación sobre el cambio climático dentro del sector privado tienden a ser mucho más bajos que los del gobierno, los medios de comunicación y otros

grupos. La reputación que tiene el sector privado sobre el respeto a los principios del desarrollo sostenible no es demasiado buena. De todos modos, el sector privado tiene mucho que contribuir y posee muchas competencias relevantes tanto a la adaptación como a la mitigación del cambio climático. Sus puntos fuertes de innovación tecnológica, diseño de infraestructuras resistentes al clima, información mejorada y sistemas de mercadeo, así como la puesta en práctica de proyectos a gran escala juntamente con el gobierno, poseen mucho potencial para ayudar a las personas a combatir el cambio climático. La necesidad de comprometerse más con el sector privado es algo que reconocen muchos grupos de la sociedad civil. No obstante, influir en el sector privado es difícil porque a fin de cuentas los negocios son básicamente motivados por el beneficio, a diferencia del punto de vista del electorado, el desarrollo sostenible filantrópico o la reducción de la pobreza. Por ello muchas actividades de cabildeo que tienen que ver con el sector privado, implican a la sociedad civil trabajando conjuntamente con empresas (en lugar de hacer campaña en su contra) y así lograr un impacto positivo, por ejemplo ofreciendo incentivos para proyectos de energía sostenible o renovable que puedan beneficiar a una comunidad.

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# Résumé exécutif

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Les changements climatiques ont commencé et se traduisent par un certain nombre d'impacts qui nuisent en particulier aux communautés les plus pauvres et les plus vulnérables du monde. Les pouvoirs publics à tous les niveaux ont le devoir d'aider les communautés à réagir à ces changements et pourtant, bien souvent, ils ne se plient à leur obligation que sous les pressions de la société civile. Celle-ci a donc un rôle déterminant à jouer, que ce soit en termes de sensibilisation aux changements climatiques aux niveaux local et national ou pour aider les gouvernements, les bailleurs de fonds et les organisations internationales à préparer un avenir bridé par l'évolution du climat.

De plus en plus, les organisations non gouvernementales et les autres parties prenantes se sont réunies au niveau national pour former des réseaux de la société civile dans certains des pays qui sont les plus touchés par les changements climatiques. Ces réseaux ont participé à une grande variété de travaux pour sensibiliser l'opinion au phénomène, soutenir les activités d'adaptation aux changements climatiques qui profitent aux plus vulnérables, développer des voies de développement bas carbone pour contribuer à l'atténuation des effets des changements climatiques et améliorer les moyens de subsistance locaux, mener des recherches et en diffuser les résultats, renforcer les capacités sur l'évolution du climat et influencer les processus de planification du gouvernement à divers niveaux par une foule d'activités de plaidoyer.

La société civile s'est aussi regroupée au niveau régional dans certaines parties du monde. Ainsi, Réseau Action Climat Amérique latine, Réseau Action Climat Asie du Sud et Sustainability Watch Amérique latine interviennent tous au niveau régional.

Ces réseaux de la société civile ont dirigé une grande partie de leurs efforts de plaidoyer sur des politiques ou des actions gouvernementales précises, mais aussi sur des processus internationaux, des bailleurs de fonds et, dans certains cas, sur le secteur privé. Certaines de ces actions de plaidoyer ont rencontré un résonnant succès, alors que d'autres se sont heurtées à des défis et des obstacles qui n'avaient pas été jugés poser problème par nombre d'analystes. Les auteurs espèrent qu'en regroupant certains de ces témoignages, ce rapport saura informer, inspirer et peut-être parfois alerter le nombre croissant de travailleurs dédiés aux changements climatiques à travers le monde quant aux actions de plaidoyer qui ont donné de bons résultats, celles qui n'ont pas marché et sur quoi leurs collègues concentrent actuellement leurs efforts.

Le rapport définit le plaidoyer comme l'acte de « chercher, avec les pauvres et en leur nom, à s'attaquer aux causes sous-jacentes de la pauvreté, à promouvoir la justice et à soutenir un bon développement en influençant les politiques et les pratiques des puissants» (Shaw, 2011) et il décrit des initiatives de plaidoyer qui relèvent de deux grandes catégories. Tout d'abord, la création de liens, technique plus connue sous le nom de lobbying, qui consiste à renforcer les relations avec les figures d'autorité et à leur parler de problèmes précis ou des besoins spécifiques d'une communauté. Deuxièmement, la mobilisation de l'opinion, parfois appelée action de campagne, qui consiste à sensibiliser le public à certaines questions afin d'accélérer l'action en raison des pressions croissantes de l'opinion.

Bon nombre d'activités de plaidoyer décrites ici reconnaissent le rôle essentiel joué par les médias dans le contexte du plaidoyer sur les changements climatiques. Un engagement fort avec les médias peut faciliter le travail de proximité auprès des populations ordinaires qui peuvent ne pas avoir conscience des problèmes signalés, mais aussi auprès des agents du gouvernement et des décideurs pivots. Parmi les exemples d'engagement des médias, on peut citer les récits relatés dans des émissions régulières radiodiffusées ou télévisées, la rédaction d'un article ou d'une lettre à un journal ou un magazine ou la prise de contact avec un journaliste pour lui signaler une situation. Plus récemment, diverses formes de médias sociaux comme Facebook et Twitter ont aussi joué un rôle important pour sensibiliser l'opinion à la question des changements climatiques. Afin de mobiliser efficacement les médias, il est important de considérer le public cible et d'adapter les produits médiatiques en conséquence. Ces dernières années, la couverture des questions liées aux changements climatiques dans les médias a augmenté dans les pays vulnérables et la réalisation par les médias des enjeux que soulève le réchauffement du climat s'affine, en partie grâce aux activités entreprises par les réseaux de la société civile.

Les réseaux de la société civile ont travaillé afin d'influencer divers processus internationaux qui ont des implications pour les changements climatiques. Au niveau international, la plupart des efforts, mais pas tous, ont porté sur la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC). Dans nombre de cas, la société civile joue un rôle clé au rang de l'équipe de négociation du gouvernement aux réunions de la CCNUCC, se chargeant de former ou d'informer les négociateurs avant le début de chaque séance de négociation et les épaulant tout au long du processus. De même, les organisations de la société civile ont joué un rôle important dans la restitution de leurs impressions à l'ensemble de la société civile, après la clôture des assemblées internationales sur les changements climatiques. Beaucoup de tentatives ont aussi été faites pour influencer les positions de négociation des gouvernements. Cela s'est fait par des campagnes générales de sensibilisation de l'opinion et aussi par des approches plus ciblées sur des questions telles que le processus REDD et le financement international de la lutte contre le réchauffement du climat.



Tout le plaidoyer ayant trait aux changements climatiques ne s'est pas concentré sur les négociations relatives au climat. Certains réseaux ont focalisé leurs efforts sur le processus Rio+20 et les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement. D'autres ont poursuivi une approche basée sur les droits de l'homme en matière de négociations internationales sur les changements climatiques en dehors du processus de la CCNUCC.

Ces dernières années, les réseaux de la société civile ont élargi la portée de leur programme de plaidoyer pour passer d'une action internationale et nationale à des arènes politiques de niveau régional. Les régions ciblées comprennent l'Amérique latine, l'Asie du Sud, l'Afrique de l'Ouest et l'Afrique de l'Est où sont déjà en place un certain nombre d'accords politiques conjoints couvrant des questions telles que la planification pour le développement et les changements climatiques, y compris le développement bas carbone, la planification pour la fourniture de services énergétiques au niveau régional, la planification pour la gestion régionale des échanges et du financement de la lutte contre les changements climatiques. Toutes les arènes politiques régionales identifiées comme importantes par les réseaux de la société civile n'ont pas pour axe prioritaire les changements climatiques ou le développement bas carbone. Ainsi, les relations entre le commerce et les changements climatiques ont fait l'objet d'une attention accrue en Asie du Sud.

La plupart des actions de plaidoyer de la société civile ciblent des interventions gouvernementales au niveau national. Cela s'explique sans doute par un certain nombre de raisons mais cela ne signifie pas pour autant que d'autres groupes de parties prenantes ne sont pas considérés comme des cibles de plaidoyer importantes par les réseaux de l'hémisphère Sud.

Le contexte national dans lequel évoluent les réseaux de la société civile est varié. Des pays comme le Bangladesh et le Viet Nam ont un certain nombre de politiques et de programmes qui s'attaquent directement aux changements climatiques et qui ont de l'avance sur d'autres pays pauvres en termes de planification de l'évolution du climat. D'autres pays, en revanche, sont moins avancés dans ce domaine et n'ont pas de politiques de lutte contre les changements climatiques, ni de plans ou de stratégies à l'échelle nationale face au réchauffement planétaire. Néanmoins, ces dernières années, dans la plupart des pays, les degrés de réalisation et de priorisation des questions liées aux changements climatiques au sein des gouvernements ont rapidement augmenté.

Les réseaux ont adopté une variété d'approches pour influencer leurs gouvernements. Ils ont joué un rôle décisif pour ce qui est d'obliger les pouvoirs publics à rendre des comptes sur les promesses faites ou les engagements pris, en attirant l'attention sur tout manquement éventuel à ces engagements et en s'attaquant aux problèmes de mise en œuvre. Parmi les centres d'intérêt particuliers pour les efforts de plaidoyer, on peut citer la gestion des catastrophes, le financement et le processus REDD. Malgré de nombreux succès, la société civile a parfois eu du mal à influencer l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre de politiques publiques autant qu'elle l'aurait souhaité. Néanmoins, les données

de ce rapport montrent clairement que la société civile a souvent pu exercer un impact considérable sur la prise de décisions et la planification lorsqu'elle entretient de bonnes relations avec les pouvoirs publics.

Ils sont peut-être moins communs que les actions de plaidoyer qui obligent les pouvoirs publics à rendre des comptes sur les engagements pris, mais il y a aussi des exemples de réseaux qui attribuent des éloges lorsqu'elles sont méritées, par exemple si les pouvoirs publics réagissent à la pression de l'opinion, adoptent des mesures positives et solides ou honorent leurs promesses et leurs engagements. Et, dans certains cas, la société civile ne s'est pas contentée de demander des comptes aux pouvoirs publics, elle a activement cherché à modifier des interventions, des politiques ou des décisions spécifiques du gouvernement qu'elle considérait contraires aux meilleurs intérêts du pays, de l'environnement ou des groupes les plus vulnérables face aux changements climatiques.

Les réseaux de la société civile ont été très actifs pour ce qui est des pressions destinées à faire adopter des lois, des programmes, des politiques ou stratégies, ou encore pour forcer les autorités à consacrer plus de ressources aux questions ou aux lieux qu'ils estiment négligés. Cela peut se faire en renforçant les programmes existants, en les élargissant à de nouveaux secteurs ou en plaidant en faveur de la ratification d'accords mondiaux en place. La gamme de domaines sur lesquels ces actions de plaidoyer se sont concentrées est large ; elle va du développement d'unités ou de politiques spécifiquement liées aux changements climatiques, à des politiques ayant trait à l'accès à l'énergie, au développement bas carbone, à la gestion des risques de catastrophe, à la migration, au processus REDD et à la gestion des zones humides. Dans certains cas, la société civile a réussi à plaider en faveur de nouvelles unités ou politiques de lutte contre les changements climatiques dans les plus hautes sphères possibles du gouvernement. Dans d'autres, les efforts de plaidoyer continuent et, dans d'autres encore, les réseaux reconnaissent qu'ils n'ont pas nécessairement les compétences et les ressources nécessaires pour atteindre les objectifs de plaidoyer souhaités.

Beaucoup de réseaux de la société civile ont identifié le manque de réponses concertées du gouvernement face aux changements climatiques comme un obstacle majeur dans l'obtention d'une action efficace au niveau national. Malgré les liens évidents entre la réduction des risques de catastrophe et l'adaptation aux changements climatiques, par exemple, les politiques nationales bien souvent n'arrivent pas à adopter une approche intégrée dans ces deux domaines. Les réseaux ont donc mené une action de plaidoyer en faveur d'une amélioration de l'intégration entre les différents ministères, politiques et organes gouvernementaux en charge des questions liées aux changements climatiques. Dans nombre de cas, cela a porté sur des actions de plaidoyer pour intégrer les changements climatiques dans les politiques et processus existants, mais cela a aussi impliqué que les travaux de plaidoyer intègrent des parties prenantes clés et d'autres politiques et processus du gouvernement dans les politiques émergentes en matière de changements climatiques.

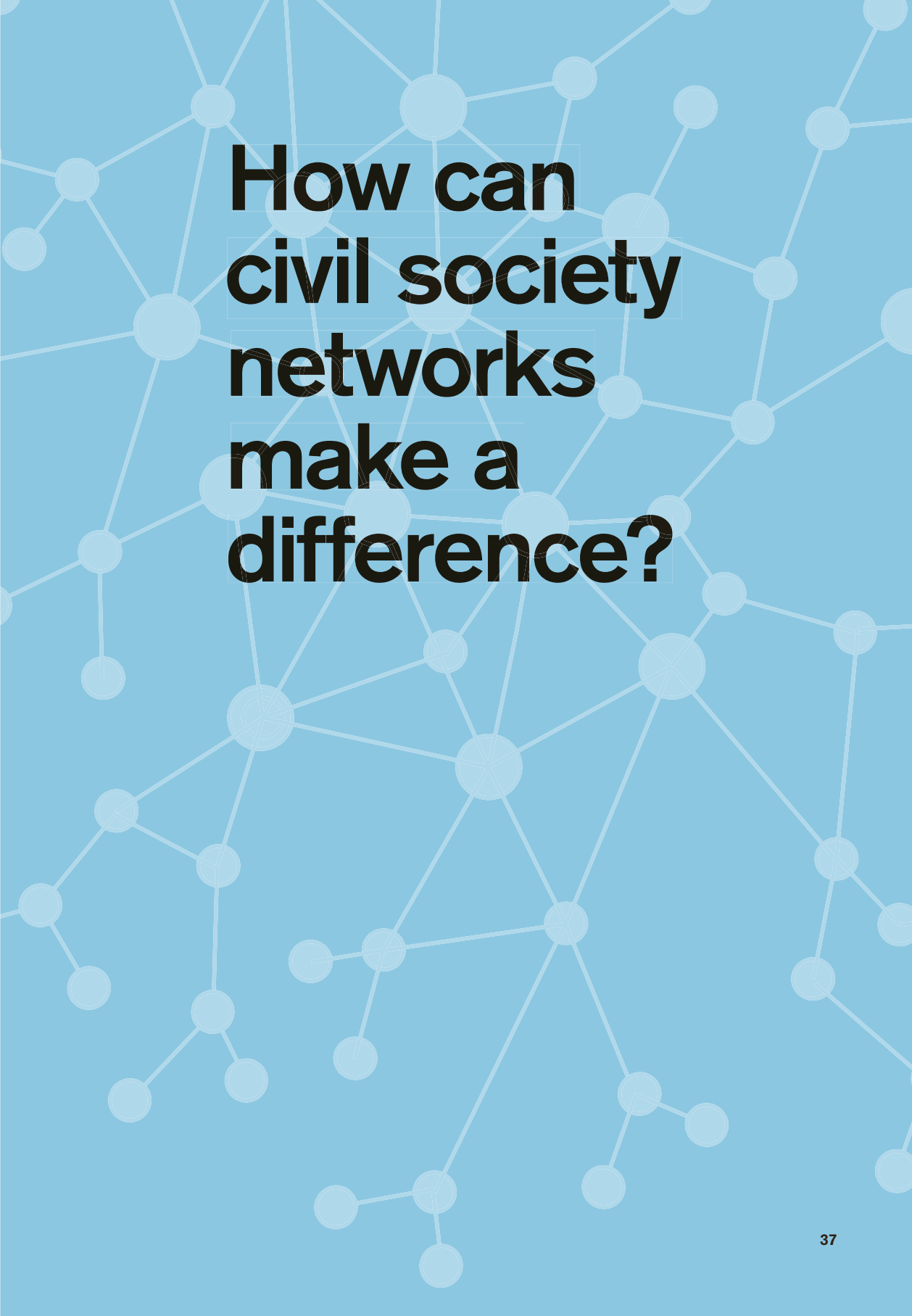
La société civile joue un rôle particulièrement important pour veiller à ce que les populations pauvres et vulnérables, qui manquent souvent de poids politique, ne soient pas oubliées dans les processus nationaux de planification et d'élaboration de politiques. Une bonne partie des travaux de plaidoyer a été entreprise pour influencer le degré auquel les communautés pauvres et vulnérables font partie des processus d'élaboration de politiques liées aux changements climatiques dans les différents pays mais aussi les chances qu'elles ont de tirer parti des feuilles de route et stratégies gouvernementales existantes et émergentes en matière d'évolution du climat. Une approche commune est de tenter d'influencer les politiques gouvernementales en soutenant des projets de démonstration et en en tirant des leçons pour les répercuter dans des débats politiques et des processus de prise de décisions plus vastes. Sachant que bon nombre des ONG membres de réseaux entretiennent de bonnes relations avec les communautés pauvres et témoignent d'un vif intérêt pour le développement dans leurs travaux, les petits projets de développement existants ou nouveaux ont été un point de départ évident pour ceux qui souhaitent intégrer les questions liées aux changements climatiques dans leurs activités et ils ont par conséquent servi de base aux actions de plaidoyer ultérieures.

Toutes les actions de plaidoyer des réseaux ne ciblent pas pour autant le gouvernement au niveau national. Des actions au niveau local ciblent à la fois les autorités locales et les communautés locales elles-mêmes en vue de mettre en commun les acquis et de porter les initiatives pilotes à plus grande échelle. Les activités qui ciblent les pouvoirs publics au niveau local peuvent contribuer à sensibiliser les agents gouvernementaux et certains projets ont tenté d'utiliser les actions de plaidoyer menées au niveau local pour démultiplier leur degré d'influence au niveau national.

Les bailleurs de fonds et le secteur privé tendent à fixer leur propre ordre du jour sur la base d'une interaction insuffisante avec les communautés touchées ou ciblées. Mais les ressources – qu'elles soient humaines ou financières – pour couvrir toutes les actions de plaidoyer souhaitables à travers tous les secteurs sont limitées, de sorte que les réseaux sont contraints de restreindre leurs activités et qu'ils ont eu tendance à concentrer leurs efforts sur les gouvernements et les processus gouvernementaux nationaux. Toutefois, le financement des bailleurs destiné aux changements climatiques a augmenté de façon spectaculaire ces dernières années et, avec plus de fonds disponibles, le besoin d'influencer comment ces fonds sont dépensés n'a fait que progresser. Beaucoup de réseaux ont donc travaillé à influencer la façon dont les agences multilatérales et les agences de financement des bailleurs nationaux ont apporté un soutien direct au pays hôte. Dans certains cas, cela a impliqué d'essayer de plaider en faveur d'un accroissement des fonds et dans d'autres, cela a nécessité de tenter d'influencer la manière dont les fonds disponibles sont dépensés et les questions ou secteurs à retenir en priorité. Dans bien des cas, les organisations de la société civile peuvent influencer les décisions des bailleurs en menant des recherches pour identifier des domaines critiques qui manquent actuellement d'un soutien dont ils ont cruellement besoin.

Dans certains cas, la société civile a adopté une approche plus critique face aux activités des bailleurs dans le pays hôte et a tenté d'attirer l'attention sur des actions ou processus qui ont omis de tenir compte de certains groupes vulnérables ou de politiques et législations nationales existantes importantes, ou qui prévoient d'entraîner le pays dans une certaine voie (p. ex. la souscription d'un gros emprunt) que le réseau estime incompatible avec le développement durable du pays ou qu'il ne juge pas être une réponse adaptée au problème des changements climatiques. Les activités de la Banque mondiale illustrent bien ce problème et elles ont fait l'objet de maintes critiques des réseaux de la société civile dans plusieurs pays. Par endroit, les processus soutenus par les fondations et les bailleurs de fonds qui donnent une valeur à la réduction des émissions de carbone pour les vendre sur le marché du carbone ont également soulevé de vives critiques de la société civile.

Le degré de sensibilisation aux changements climatiques au sein du secteur privé tend à être beaucoup plus faible que dans les pouvoirs publics, les médias et les autres groupes. Et le secteur privé n'est guère réputé pour son ardeur à défendre des principes de développement durable. Ce secteur a, néanmoins, beaucoup à apporter et bien des compétences qui sont pertinentes pour l'adaptation aux changements climatiques et l'atténuation de leurs effets. Ses points forts en matière d'innovation technologique, de conception d'une infrastructure résiliente au climat, de systèmes améliorés d'information et de commercialisation et de mise en œuvre de projets de grande envergure en partenariat avec les pouvoirs publics offrent beaucoup de potentiel pour aider les populations à lutter contre les changements climatiques. La nécessité de s'impliquer davantage avec le secteur privé est donc reconnue par bon nombre de groupes de la société civile. Toutefois, il est difficile d'influencer le secteur privé car, au final, les entreprises sont essentiellement motivées par le profit et non par le point de vue d'un électorat, la philanthropie, ou une idéologie de développement durable ou de réduction de la pauvreté. Bon nombre d'initiatives de plaidoyer impliquant le secteur privé appellent donc la société civile à travailler main dans la main avec les entreprises (au lieu de faire campagne contre elles) pour avoir un impact positif, par exemple en offrant des incitations en faveur de projets d'énergies durables ou renouvelables susceptibles de bénéficier à la communauté.

The background of the page is a solid light blue color. Overlaid on this background is a complex network diagram. It consists of numerous light blue circles of varying sizes, representing nodes, which are interconnected by thin, light blue lines representing edges. The connections form a dense, web-like structure that fills the entire page. The text is centered in the upper half of the page.

# **How can civil society networks make a difference?**

Climate change is happening now and is leading to a variety of impacts, including changing rainfall patterns, increases in the numbers of floods, droughts and storms, and slower onset changes such as rises in sea levels. This is affecting food security and water resources and leading to more disasters, especially amongst the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. Governments at every level are responsible for helping communities respond to these changes, and yet governments often only take action when under pressure from civil society. Civil society has a key role to play, both with raising awareness about climate change at local and national levels and helping governments, donors and international organisations plan for a climate change constrained future, with specific emphasis on those who are most vulnerable to its impacts.

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### ***Rising climate change awareness in Bangladesh***

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*The Climate Change and Development Forum in Bangladesh reports that awareness on climate change and associated issues varies between stakeholders. In 2008, climate change awareness was poor amongst government organisations and employees, especially at the local government level. NGOs and civil society organisations were more aware but the private sector was largely unaware about the impacts of climate change and vulnerability. In early 2011, awareness levels had improved amongst all actors.*

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Increasingly, non-government organisations (NGOs) and other stakeholders have been coming together to form civil society networks in some of the countries that have been affected most by climate change. These networks have been involved in a wide range of activities to raise awareness about climate change, support climate change adaptation activities that benefit the most vulnerable, develop low-carbon development pathways to help mitigate climate change and improve local livelihoods, conduct research and disseminate results, build capacity on climate change and influence government planning processes at a multitude of levels through a variety of advocacy activities.

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### ***The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change***

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*The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change is a loose network of Ethiopian Civil Society Organisations working on climate change. It was first conceived during a 2007 Green Forum meeting which held the first national conference on climate change. On behalf of eight European agencies, DanChurchAid, a Danish NGO, hosted a one day experience and information sharing meeting with Ethiopian partner civil society organisations in the beginning of November 2008. One outcome was the establishment of an advocacy working group which founded the National Climate Change Network of Civil Society Organisations.*

*The network was formally launched on January 2009. The Forum for Environment serves as secretariat of the Network. The Network has six founding members (Forum for Environment, Action for Development, DanChurchAid, Poverty Action Network Ethiopia, SOS Sahel Ethiopia and Sustainable Land Use Forum). Currently, the Network has more than 60 civil society organisation members. Its vision is to see an environment where the people of Ethiopia are enabled to cope with immediate and future impacts of climate change. To do this it engages in the following four core areas of activity: (i) awareness raising and familiarisation, (ii) networking, advocacy, lobbying, negotiation, (iii) research, publications and documentation, and (iv) capacity building.*

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### ***The NGO Forum on Cambodia***

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*For 2009-2011, the NGO Forum on Cambodia agreed that climate change should be a cross-cutting issue that should be taken into account in NGO Forum programmes. Climate change related issues were mainstreamed into five different projects, particularly those with advocacy efforts on land, forestry, environment, pesticide and hydro-power issues. The main activities of each project included a public campaign, a press release, a conference, a poster, a debate, a consultative workshop, policy dialogue, research and information dissemination, including a focus on sensitive issues related to environment and climate change.*

*The NGO Forum is working with 11 active NGO networks including more than 200 national and international NGOs and civil society organisations in Cambodia. Through these networks, the voices of communities most vulnerable to climate and environmental impacts have been heard and taken into account at various levels, particularly in the development of national policy and programmes. The Cambodian government has gradually mainstreamed climate change issues into all the policies of government ministries under the coordination of the National Climate Change Committee and National Committee for Disaster Management to address climate change and disaster risk issues in Cambodia.*

*For 2012-2014, NGO Forum programmes will focus more on climate change policy advocacy and implementation of the projects into which climate change was mainstreamed. The Forum environment programme has four projects focusing on hydro development and community rights, and policy monitoring of REDD, climate change and agriculture. These projects will include advocacy work for effective climate change policy implementation by the Cambodian government and the allocation of climate funds for sub-national and community levels where vulnerability to climate hazards is highest. The network of NGOs under the NGO Forum will actively engage with and monitor government policy formulation and implementation relating to environment and climate change. Furthermore, the land and resettlement programme, development issues programme and core programme of the NGO Forum will also take climate change into account in their action plans for 2012-2014.*

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This is also the case at the regional level in some parts of the world. Climate Action Network Latin America, for example, is one of the regional nodes of Climate Action Network International. It operated as a network for many years, however, before Climate Action Network was established. In 2005, Climate Action Network International raised enough funds to bring Latin American members to the COP. It was then that Climate Action Network Latin America was reborn. The process started here became diluted, until only one person from Climate Action Network Latin America took part in Climate Action Network International. In 2009, Climate Action Network Latin America moved into a new era, and restructured itself, with support from its members and Climate Action Network International, to better manage its development and sustainability. Funding provided the organisation with the push it needed to organise a capacity building workshop and General Assembly. Participation in the international negotiations improved. Membership has doubled since 2009 and the organisation now has 30 members organisations - all of them non-governmental - from 13 Latin American countries. Network members identify advocacy as one of the main network tasks, and 96 per cent of member NGOs have education, training and public awareness programmes on climate change.

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### ***The advantages and disadvantages of dedicated network funding***

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*At present, Climate Action Network Latin America does not have any funding apart from that provided by the Southern Voices Programme. In the past, the network managed itself as many networks do, through the use of sudden opportunities, funded meetings or workshops. This had advantages and disadvantages. The down side is that network activities fluctuate because of a lack of sustainable support, and this directly affects the political impact that the network can have, as well as its momentum. On the plus side, it has led to the optimal use of the resources that Latin American organisations have had. Climate Action Network Latin America has used these to work in an effective way through the arrangement of alliances that boost the work and activities of the whole network, maximise performance and allow the network to aim for more ambitious objectives, such as realising two meetings a year instead of one: in 2011 these meetings were the Latin American Capacity Building workshop in Buenos Aires in June, and a meeting in Santiago de Chile focusing on capacity building for advocacy tools.*

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Climate Action Network, South Asia (CANSAs) was established in the 1990s by five like-minded development experts to redress environment and development concerns through civil society association. It then graduated from individual to institutional partnership and has since expanded horizontally with 80 organisational members in all South Asian countries, and vertically including national level civil society organisations right down to grassroots organisations. The original philosophy of learning and sharing



has been retained, however, and CANSA abides by the following three principles which it believes are crucial for a network to be effective: accountability, transparency and networking. The network frames its own agenda based on South Asian priorities, which ensures that its work is relevant to all stakeholders in the region.

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### **Charting the growth of a regional network: Climate Action Network South Asia**

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*Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) has gone through many phases of experimentation and learning to get where it is today. These can be divided into three phases:*

**1. Mobilisation** - *four like-minded stakeholders came together in the 1990s as a 'club of friends' to share learning about climate change. Evidence for climate change was limited at the time so many meetings were spent debating. A strong sense of ownership developed, however, and the foundations for collective action on climate change within South Asian civil society that can still be seen to this day were laid. Like-minded institutions were then brought on board to broaden the debate. The increase in the number of countries represented to six precipitated the need for stronger network governance systems. These were established but not implemented adequately, which compromised the ability of the network to conduct policy advocacy, capacity building and awareness raising activities. As the issue of adaptation has gained prominence over the last five years, development organisations have increasingly joined CANSA. Such diversity in membership was embraced, but also required continuous efforts by members to consult with each other to ensure consensus was reached. The ever increasing membership required a more formal strategy with clear objectives to be developed. This gave rise to collective agreement on the following three network objectives:*

- a) To put a fair, ambitious, binding and equitable climate change regime on the global agenda and to influence international decision making processes accordingly.*
- b) To empower civil society organisations to conduct effective action on mitigation and adaptation.*
- c) To network and coordinate with regional actors to develop a strong regional voice on critical issues.*

**2. Team Building** – *over the last two years, the network has grown and now has an established secretariat staff working from several South Asian countries. Better representation of the voices of vulnerable communities at the regional level has occurred, and reviews of national and regional policies have built the advocacy capacity of network members. Better linking of research-based advocacy efforts with existing thematic nodes has also been successful.*

**3. Content Building** - *The network is currently working to 'connect the dots' better. To do this, CANSA members present their respective research outcomes to each other, and then areas where further collective research is required in order strengthen advocacy efforts are identified. The network has been very conscious not to 're-invent the wheel' and to build on research already conducted by its members. Research areas include improving understanding of climate change impacts in South Asia; establishing innovative practical solutions to climate-proof agriculture and ensuring food security; biofuels; and, low carbon development options for South Asia. By sharing knowledge in this way CANSA is building skills and a common understanding amongst all of its South Asian partners.*

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Working at the regional level in Latin America, Sustainability Watch Latin America has been involved in a series of activities since 2008 focused on three areas: (1) Advocacy activities at international, regional, national and local levels, through participation in important processes, and presenting positions signed by indigenous peoples and civil society organisations from different countries of the region. (2) Communications, by increasing availability of different material and documents, some for popular reading and others with more technical content from organisation members and experts. Sustainability Watch Latin America also ran a campaign in 'Central America named El Cambio Soy Yo' (in English – 'I am the change'), which targeted young urban people and tried to raise awareness about climate change. (3) Demonstrative action, whereby local activities are undertaken to reduce community vulnerability.

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#### ***Vulnerable Central America United for Life***

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*In Latin America, a number of regional networks and regional fora came together in 2011 under the banner 'Centroamérica Vulnerable Unida por la Vida' (in English – 'Vulnerable Central America United for Life') to strengthen coordination between groups and continue efforts to build joint civil society positions that member organisations can promote in their own countries and also to their official delegations and at COPs. The work of this group of networks has a strong advocacy component, with press conferences, television slots, posters and banners all complementing more formal engagement with national and regional preparatory meetings and document preparation.*

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This report describes where and how the various civil society climate change networks operating in some of the most vulnerable countries and regions around the world have decided to focus their advocacy efforts (or are recommended to focus their advocacy efforts by an external evaluation) and why. In many cases this is particular government

policies or actions, but advocacy efforts have also been directed at international processes, donors and in some cases the private sector.

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### ***NGOs and civil society in Vietnam***

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*NGOs and civil society are the most active groups working on climate change in Vietnam. They have been actively involved in:*

- *Developing, funding and implementing various climate change programmes, both in adaptation and mitigation.*
- *Working with the Government of Vietnam in the development of climate change policies and strategies.*
- *Conducting research and analysis on climate change.*

*Local NGOs are more involved in on-ground climate change programmes: community-based adaption, capacity building, awareness raising etc.*

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Some of these advocacy activities have been hugely successful, whilst others came across challenges and hurdles that not everyone foresaw as problematic. This report seeks to share some of the advocacy activities conducted by civil society networks active on climate change in some of the world's most vulnerable countries. As Shaw (2011) acknowledges, "advocacy can be a crucial tool, alongside other tactics, in addressing climate change", but only if lessons from advocacy activities undertaken are shared more widely so that we can all learn from each other's successes and failures. The authors hope that this report will inform, inspire and perhaps in some cases forewarn others amongst the growing body of dedicated climate change advocates around the world about what advocacy activities have worked, what ones haven't, and where others are focusing their efforts.

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### ***Lessons learnt on climate change policy lobbying and advocacy work by the Zimbabwe climate change youth network***

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*Formed in 2009, the Zimbabwe climate change youth network is a coalition of voluntary youth organisations, institutions, development agents and individuals interested in working on climate change issues. The network acts as a platform for sharing climate change information (views, ideas and experiences ) with a view to raising youth awareness on climate change and enhancing their participation in national, regional and international climate change agendas.*

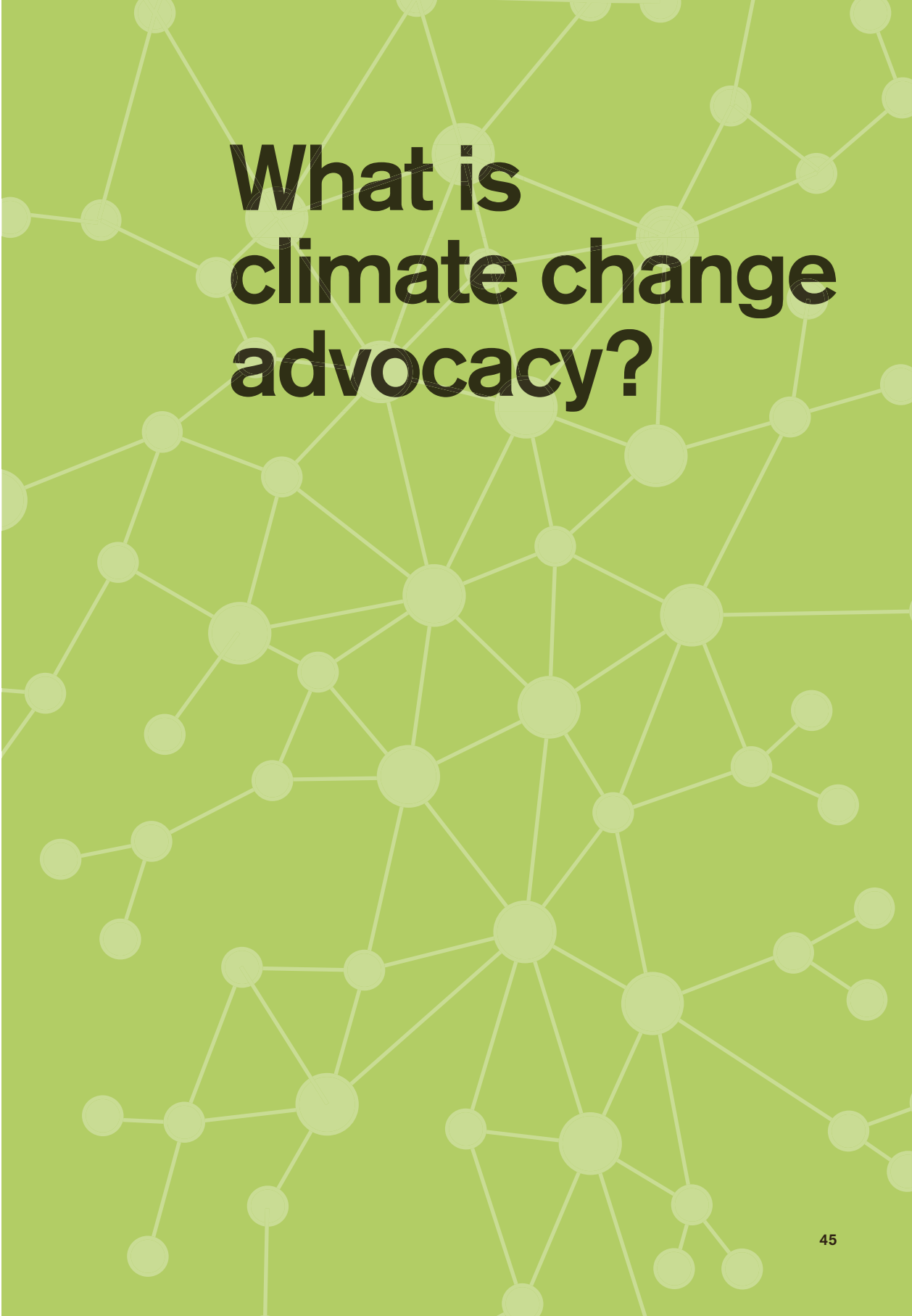
*Since its inception, the network has learnt many valuable lessons on policy lobbying and advocacy. The need for an information strategy has been a key lesson learned.*

*This is required in order to:*

- *Avoid duplication of efforts and information;*
- *Filter information so only what is relevant is passed on and shared;*
- *Develop a website displaying initiatives and actions;*
- *Develop a directory of Zimbabwean climate change organisations and networks;*
- *Develop an electronic newsletter to share highlights of network work and promote exchanges between networks; and,*
- *Develop a list-serve to act as a forum for regular news, debates, announcements about training and other activities.*

*The main risks and challenges identified by the network are as follows:*

- *The disconnect between capital-city-based policy NGOs and project implementing NGOs at the community level.*
  - *Disillusionment with the climate agenda due to the slow progress of international negotiations and low prioritisation of the issue by government.*
  - *Poor co-operation between environmental and development NGOs and with social and grassroots movements.*
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# What is climate change advocacy?

A dictionary definition of advocacy will tell you that it refers to the provision of active support for a particular cause or course of action. Tearfund provides a definition for advocacy that is more precise about whom the beneficiaries of such activities are. It defines advocacy as “seeking with, and on behalf of, poor people to address the underlying causes of poverty, bring justice and support good development through influencing the policies and practices of the powerful” (Shaw 2011).

In this report, climate change advocacy activities certainly relate to the poor and vulnerable, and this is important, because in the context of climate change it is nearly always the poorest and most vulnerable members of society who suffer most from climate change impacts. This is in part because they live in places more likely to be affected by extreme weather events and because they often have climate-sensitive livelihoods, but also because they are poor and marginalised so have little sources of external help or alternative livelihood options they can choose when disaster strikes.

This report describes a number of advocacy initiatives that have therefore sought influence the policies and practices of the powerful, with a view to both reaching those most vulnerable to climate change impacts and also the poorest sectors of society who need help to lift themselves out of poverty without necessarily increasing their contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions. In climate change jargon, these advocacy initiatives can be described as both ‘adaptation’ oriented – helping those who are vulnerable to climate change cope with its impacts – and ‘mitigation’ oriented – reducing global greenhouse gas emissions.

For many poorer nations adaptation arguably merits more attention than mitigation. For example, a 2009 study in Bolivia by Liga de Defensa del Medio Ambiente showed that 44 per cent of national institutional interventions on climate change focused on adaptation, particularly at the international or national level, as opposed to mitigation, which took just two per cent of efforts.

In the 2011 Tearfund publication ‘Why advocate on climate change’, Shaw characterises two forms advocacy commonly used in the climate change arena: relationship-building and mobilising the public.

Relationship-building, otherwise known as lobbying, is about building relationships with people in authority and speaking with them about particular issues or community needs. It involves raising the awareness of those in powerful positions and seeking to influence them. Lobbying activities can include arranging small face-to-face meetings with a decision-maker or sending letters or useful reports or information to these decision-makers. It can be a good way for civil society organisations to raise awareness amongst those in power about the poorest or most vulnerable groups. In Ethiopia, for example, the Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change has played a key role in sensitising and familiarising parliamentarians with the ever-growing global impact of climate change in general and its harmful effects in Ethiopia in particular.

Mobilising the public, otherwise known as campaigning, is about raising awareness about certain issues amongst the general public in order that this precipitates action due to increasing public demand. Campaigning activities can include educating people about an issue, arranging public meetings, writing newsletters, asking people to sign petitions, preaching a sermon or taking part in demonstrations or marches. In Bangladesh, for example, Golam Rabbani from the Climate Change and Development Forum reports that “NGOs network play a vital role in creation and increase of awareness on climate change at both community and national level.”

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### ***Awareness raising activities conducted by the Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change in 2010***

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*During 2010, the Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change conducted a variety of activities aimed at raising awareness amongst politicians, civil servants and the general public about climate change and environmental risks. Examples include:*

- *A consultation meeting for Network members focusing on three newly emerging climate change related programme documents, namely the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), Ethiopia’s Programme of Adaptation to Climate Change and Climate Resilient Green Economy*
  - *Training for Ethiopian journalists with the aim of enhancing the role of the media in national climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts*
  - *Debriefing workshop on the outcomes of the Bonn II international climate change talks for members of the Network and the general public*
  - *Training on climate change adaptation for school teachers and students*
  - *Awareness creation workshop about the Clean Development Mechanism in the Ethiopian context involving Network members, the private sector, banks and governmental institutions*
  - *Debriefing sessions on the outcomes of COP16 involving representatives of a range of stakeholders*
  - *Workshop organised on climate change and the Ethiopian five year Growth and Transformation Plan*
  - *Outreach programmes such as the dissemination of climate change information through regular popular radio programmes.*
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## Using posters for advocacy in South Asia

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These posters were presented at a regional International Network For Sustainable Energy workshop in 2011. Participants liked the posters and many wanted copies. They also made suggestions for preparing further posters for lobbying and advocacy in the South Asian region targeting different stakeholder groups.



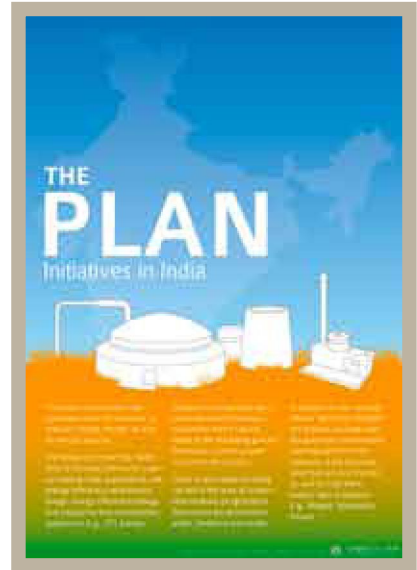
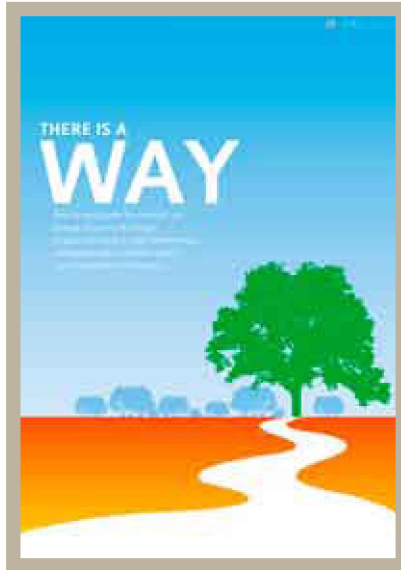


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## ***World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth***

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*This Conference took place on April 22nd, 2010 in Cochabamba, Bolivia. It was a combined effort of social movements, unions, NGOs, government parties and others. The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth was proposed at this conference. This had the following components:*

- Capitalism has imposed a process of competition, progress and unlimited growth on the earth.*
  - Countries of the world must recover, re-evaluate the situation and strengthen the knowledge, wisdom and ancient practices of indigenous peoples.*
  - The intent of a group of countries to annul the Kyoto Protocol is deplored.*
  - Free trade agreements and association agreements are deplored.*
  - Creation of an International Court of Conscience is needed.*
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The media has a central role to play in climate change advocacy activities. It reaches lots of ordinary people who may not be aware of the issues highlighted but who might want to get involved if they have more information. Government officials also generally read, watch and listen to the media, so it can be an effective way of highlighting a problem to them. Some examples of media work include telling stories relating to the issue in a regular radio show, introducing the subject matter into the story line of a well-known soap opera, writing an article or letter for a newspaper or magazine, talking on the radio or television or telling a journalist about the situation. More recently, forms of social media such as Facebook and Twitter have also played an important role in raising awareness of climate change issues like specific threats and impacts and also highlighting risks and recommended responses.

In order to effectively engage the media it is important to consider the target audience of who those conducting advocacy want to influence. For government officials, newspapers or radio may be the best way to reach them. The people who are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, however, are usually poor and without access to television or newspapers, and often illiterate, so reaching and engaging these people requires a different approach.

Civil society networks that have contributed to this publication generally report that media coverage of climate change issues has been increasing over recent years and that awareness of climate change issues amongst the media is rising. In Tanzania, for example, levels of climate change awareness amongst the national media and the degree to which they prioritise climate change issues have shown dramatic increases over the last three years.

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## **Media coverage of climate change issues in Vietnam**

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*In 2008, climate change issues began receiving more exposure in the Vietnamese media. Research by Professor Pham Huy Dung in 2009 shows the number of print stories on climate change in five newspapers increased from 24 to 102 between 2006 and 2008, and hence to 343 in 2009. Most of the stories had a local focus, with government providing the majority of information. Local people and scientists were among the least used sources. In early 2011, especially since the Copenhagen Climate Conference in 2009, climate change receives even more media exposure and coverage. There are programmes dedicated to the topic and coverage usually focuses on impacts and adaptation with little, if any, emphasis on mitigation or climate science.*

*Despite the high interest levels amongst the media in Vietnam on identifying climate change stories to air on television, information reported often lacks depth and can be poor in quality. The Climate Change Working Group in Vietnam feels that part of its future workplan could include engaging media outlets in communication activities to build their knowledge and capacity to report more effectively on climate change topics and to support the key messages of the network.*

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Part of these increases can perhaps be attributed to activities undertaken by the civil society networks themselves. In Ethiopia, for example, the Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change conducted training for Ethiopian journalists in 2010 with the aim of enhancing the role of the media in national climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. The Kiribati Climate Action Network also reports that every month it receives an international media team to report stories from Kiribati. They welcome the media because they believe that the voices of the people of Kiribati should be heard far and wide and must reach the whole world, but they have also learned that not all media is to be trusted.

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## **Engaging the media in climate change issues in Zimbabwe**

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*In Zimbabwe, the mass media, both electronic and print form, is seen as a very important conduit of information dissemination for policy makers and the ordinary person on the street. It acts as an intermediary between scientists, policy makers and local communities, it unpacks and re-packs information into simpler more comprehensible forms, it can champion important social and environmental issues and it can entertain as well as inform its audiences. It is therefore a crucial vehicle for gathering and disseminating information on climate change.*

*For a number of years, the media in Zimbabwe has been underperforming on these prescribed roles in the context of climate change. If reported at all, climate change news stories have rarely been in prominent places and are often difficult to access, read or listen to. Reporting is often not in context and fails to capture the issues that would help policy and decision-makers plan properly or take action. For example, flash floods or famine usually arouses media attention during or after the event, but the media needs to get better at providing warnings ahead of such disasters in order to push for better disaster preparedness by both policy makers and local communities alike. Climate change is complex but needs to be reported on accurately such that the cause of such events is better understood.*

*With the correct information policy makers can make more informed decisions. The general public also needs to know what government climate change policies and strategies mean for them and how they can take advantage of them and reduce their vulnerability. Messages must therefore be relevant, accurate, timely, well received and well understood by the target audience.*

*The challenges to improving climate change reporting are many. Editors and journalists usually do not prioritise environmental or development-related issues, let alone climate change, as they are not deemed 'juicy' or sensational enough. Journalists also have limited resources, so their presence at climate change events often requires the organisers to sponsor their attendance. Climate change is associated with much scientific and technical jargon, which can make it difficult to understand.*

*It became clear that journalists needed to be trained on climate change reporting and advocacy in Zimbabwe, and that senior news editors needed courting in order to persuade them of the importance of environmental and development issues. Addressing this need, the Climate Change Working Group, a coalition of over 40 civil society stakeholders involved in climate change issues, has for a number of years tried to engage the media more in climate change issues.*

*The Working Group began by inviting the media to their regular meetings, some of which included pre- or post-COP planning or reporting meetings. This improved levels of understanding amongst journalists and raised coverage levels in the media. Working Group members began to regularly update the media on key international and regional meeting outcomes and several strong alliances between Working Group members and journalists were formed. Civil society also got better at working with local journalists at the COP meetings themselves by providing the relevant intelligence for good stories back home. This all served to stimulate demand from journalists too, and various satellite national radio stations outside Harare in addition to local daily and weekly newspapers have since asked Working Group members for climate change story ideas.*

*The Working Group has been advocating for better 'climate journalism' in Zimbabwe, and in February 2011, 20 journalists from various media houses such as the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, New ZIANA, local daily and weekly newspapers and freelance*

*journalists were invited to a formal Media Advocacy Training Workshop. Sessions covered climate change journalism; climate change science; climate change politics, power, money and justice; developing strong stories; and, pitching to editors. The workshop left journalists better equipped to write stories and ask pertinent interview questions on policy issues. The current drafting of the national climate change policy was a clear focus area. Additional two-day capacity building workshops helped expose and address the lack of awareness and understanding on climate change amongst journalists. This media training has seen a remarkable increase in the number of quality television and written reports on climate change.*



Participants in the media advocacy training workshop



Journalists demonstrating an adaptation technology during a field visit



Media advocacy training workshop in Zimbabwe

*As the Working Group secretariat, ZERO was invited by the British Council and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation to join their capacity building initiative held in November 2011. This took journalists on field visits to see for themselves the impacts of climate change and to speak directly with communities affected. Several good quality stories appeared in the media following this, particularly on radio programmes like SPOT FM's Our Environment, and stations such as Voice of Zimbabwe. This is important because in rural areas, radio is still the most efficient and effective way of reaching people.*

*Inspired by many of these activities, journalists have since formed the Zimbabwe Environmental Journalists' Association.*

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The background of the page is a vibrant yellow color. Overlaid on this background is a complex network diagram. It consists of numerous light yellow circles of varying sizes, connected by thin, light yellow lines. The circles and lines are scattered across the entire page, creating a sense of interconnectedness and movement. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and energetic.

# **Where is civil society focusing its advocacy efforts?**

Based on the material submitted by civil society organisations for this report, the majority of civil society advocacy activities target national level government activities. This is even the case for a regional network - Climate Action Network Latin America - whose members conduct advocacy at local, national, regional and international scales, but with national level advocacy the most frequent of these.

A great deal of advocacy activities occur at the international level too, and many of the networks described here contribute to this through the Climate Action Network - a worldwide network of over 700 NGOs in more than 90 countries that works to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels - and through other channels. Much international level advocacy, however, is also conducted by large international environmental and development NGOs, which are not the focus of this report.

Civil society networks in vulnerable countries also focus some of their advocacy efforts on donors, such as the World Bank, which may be active in their countries, and also the private sector. Based on material provided for this report, however, advocacy activities targeting donors and the private sector receive far less attention than those targeting government policies and processes.

This focus on national level government activities could be for several reasons. It may be because focusing effort here fits best with the prevailing social and political culture of the country. People tend to have immediate reactions and responses to government actions in a way that is lacking with donors and the private sector due to language and geographical barriers. Most civil society organisations in developing countries work closely with governments on developing community development strategies, and the tendency may be for people to follow government policies and processes to try to find gaps and issues for advocacy and raising awareness.

The lack of direct connection between donors and civil society organisations active at the grassroots level, or dependency on donor support may make organisations feel a certain responsibility to their donors or an unwillingness to 'bite the hand that feeds them.' The focus, therefore, on government policies and processes does not necessarily mean that other stakeholders are not considered important advocacy targets by southern networks. Both donors and the private sector tend to develop their own agenda based on insufficient interaction with the affected or targeted communities, and the private sector in particular is often guilty of violating the principles of sustainable development. But resources – both human and financial – to cover all desirable advocacy actions across all sectors are limited so networks are forced to limit their activities.



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## International level advocacy

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Civil society networks in many vulnerable countries have been working to influence various international processes that have implications for climate change. Most, but not all efforts at the international level have focused on the international climate change regime under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In many instances civil society plays a key role as part of the government negotiating team at UNFCCC COP and Meeting of the Party (MOP) negotiations, training or briefing negotiators before each negotiating session starts and supporting them throughout the negotiating process.

Bangladesh, for example, is an active member of the UNFCCC negotiations process, in both the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group, and the G77 and China group. There is a national negotiation committee, which looks at the issues and scope of negotiations at the global and regional level. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, officially leads the committee, and most committee members attend and contribute to the UNFCCC negotiation process. Some senior level civil society organisation members are included in the negotiation committee, and civil society organisation members used to attend the government preparatory sessions before any UNFCCC inter-session meeting and COP/MOPs where they would raise relevant concerns and issues. Civil society organisations also organise media and press briefings to raise the voice of the communities and prepare issue-based position papers to assist government in the negotiation process.

Relations between civil society and government officials vary between countries, but they are generally quite good in Bangladesh where certain members of civil society are welcomed to join official government delegations. Golam Rabbani, a research fellow from the Bangladesh Centre for Advances Studies, for example, regularly follows adaptation issues at the negotiations as a member of his government delegation. He then regularly updates the whole delegation on adaptation discussions.

The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change network has been involved with training and enhancing the skills of potential climate change negotiators drawn from different major governmental institutions (including Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Finance and Economic Development, Industry, Communications, Water and Energy), and the National Climate Change Network in Cambodia led discussions with government representatives on the government position prior to COP17. In Malawi, the Civil Society Network on Climate Change has engaged with government to influence national positions prior to UNFCCC meetings since 2009. Some of the Network

participated in these meetings as part of their government delegation thereby providing much needed technical support. The Network has worked to mobilise community voices to inform national positions at the COP negotiations, which are then more representative of the situation on the ground. And in Latin America, NGOs have also been supporting their governments in their role as negotiators on international climate policies.



Debriefing in Bangladesh on developments in the international negotiation process

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### ***Using stronger scientific evidence to strengthen national positions in Niger***

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*Two civil society networks in Niger – the National Committee of NGOs on Desertification, and the Niger Youth Network on Climate Change – recommend that civil society organisations should collaborate more with research faculties, scientists, academics, students and other researchers at institutions such as the University Abdou Moumouni Dioffo and the National Institute of Agronomic Research of Niger. Such collaborations will help develop better adaptation options, and improved information regarding the adoption of appropriate policies and approaches to deal with climate change, and the monitoring and evaluation of these policies once implemented. This information will boost advocacy work by basing arguments on good science in addition to lessons learnt from daily work with grassroots communities. At the international level, this will help strengthen national positions when negotiators are up against institutions and experts from outside the country.*

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The Capacity building in the LDCs on Adaptation to Climate Change (CLACC) programme has been bringing programme members from NGOs in some of the world' most vulnerable countries to COPs since 2003. Many of these individuals are now experts in their own right and regularly follow specific negotiating tracks providing valuable assistance to their national delegations (sometimes as invited members of government negotiating teams) and also improving links with civil society and the media back home. At COP17, eight of the 16 strong CLACC team present were invited by their respective governments to join official government negotiating teams.

Civil society organisations have often played an important role providing feedback to civil society at large once international climate change meetings are over. In Ethiopia, the Forum for Environment - a non-governmental and non-profit-making environmental communication and advocacy group established in 1997 - conducts debriefing meetings on UNFCCC climate summits and negotiations. Members of the Climate Change and Development Forum in Bangladesh also arrange feedback meetings from the various government UNFCCC negotiating sessions. Following the negotiation process in Bonn during 2010, for example, those attending provided feedback on issues relating to adaptation related finance, such as the assessment of the Special Climate Change Fund and a review of the Adaptation Fund, to those attending the feedback meeting. This was facilitated by the fact that some Forum members attended the negotiations as part of their government delegations.



Briefing session on the outcomes of COP17 with members of the Climate Change and Development Forum, Bangladesh, January 2012

Elsewhere, civil society networks have been more explicit in their attempts to influence government negotiating positions. This has been through general awareness-raising campaigns, and also more targeted approaches. In 2009 and 2010, for example, Climate Action Network Latin America developed (and formally approved by consensus) two network position documents, which were declarations with guiding principles and demands to be presented and distributed among government delegates and NGOs at COP15 and COP16. Asked about the most effective way to conduct advocacy at a COP, developing a specific issue position document was the preferred strategy by Climate Action Network Latin America members. This was followed by 'personalised national advocacy' then influencing the media and lastly making declarations.

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### ***The Caravan of Hope – to Durban***

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*A large number of civil society activists travelled down from Kenya, picking up groups as they passed through several African nations on the way to COP17 in Durban in December 2011. The overall objective of the Caravan of Hope was to raise awareness about climate change and mobilise effective commitment from key stakeholders to effectively mainstream climate change concerns into development policies, strategies, programmes and practices in Africa. The trip also aimed to strengthen Africa's participation in the international climate change negotiations and ensure the continent's concerns and priorities were adequately reflected in a post-2012 international climate change regime.*

*The Zimbabwe climate change youth network joined the Caravan of Hope in the hope that it would provide greater momentum to Zimbabwe's common position on climate change at COP17. It expected the following outcomes from the trip:*

- *Advocacy conducted and awareness raised*
  - *Rural stakeholders are better informed about the threats and opportunities from climate change*
  - *Local stakeholders have improved knowledge about mainstreaming climate change concerns into development policies and practices*
  - *African stakeholders can address climate change challenges better and capitalise on opportunities presented*
  - *Effective participation of Zimbabwean youth in the Durban climate change negotiations*
  - *Enhanced support for the implementation of Africa's priority climate change initiatives and programmes*
  - *Stronger strategic alliances and partnerships emerging on Africa's climate change agenda.*
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In Nepal, Climate Change Network Nepal has been actively coordinating several national-level advocacy campaigns particularly focused on the climate change negotiations. During 2009 at the Copenhagen Climate Summit, the Network, along with other civil society networks, launched a national campaign named 'Stop Melting Life: Save the Himalayas'. This campaign aimed to heighten global media attention and hence public awareness on the issue, and demand that world leaders reach a deal addressing the plight of poorest and most vulnerable communities around the world. Campaign activities included submitting a petition to the embassies of developed countries, mass demonstrations and rallies and a grand musical event that was very well received by the national and international media.

Kiribati Climate Action Network activities over the last three years have focused on raising awareness, adaptation, negotiations and attending conferences. As such, the Network has attended LDC and Commonwealth meetings, three COPs, the Pacific Forum and other regional meetings speaking about climate change on behalf of the Pacific Island people. Its first international campaign was in Australia and New Zealand – Kiribati's closest neighbours – and the message was "Am I my brother's keeper?" Network staff have conducted a tour of Europe, visiting Belgium, Spain and Austria, and spent a short time in the United States.



Kiribati climate change campaigners



Kiribati climate change campaigners

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## **Ethiopian civil society involvement in international campaigns**

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*The Sustainable Land Use Forum is a not-for-profit non-governmental membership organisation promoting improved natural resources management and sustainable land use practices in Ethiopia. The Forum participated in a Pan African Climate Justice Alliance campaign tour to industrialised countries in 2011. The main objectives of the tour were to share the African story on climate change, forge and strengthen alliances with likeminded Northern partners (civil society and governments) sympathetic to Africa's cause, increase pressure on governments (especially the United States of America and Canada), highlight the historical responsibility of these countries to provide the necessary finance for adaptation needs in developing countries, and strengthen alliances with and support the endeavors of civil society groups and partners putting pressure on their own governments to act. The tour took place in September and October 2011, and passed through Washington and Wyoming (in the United States) and Toronto (in Canada). Notable outcomes include:*

- *Telling the African story to several high profile officials in the United States of America.*
- *Addressing high profile forums (such as the Congressional Black Caucus).*
- *Cooperation and alliance building with international organisations (including the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, Bridger Teton National Headquarters and the Murie Center).*
- *Networking with likeminded organisations (including the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Sierra Club, Action Aid USA, Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Friends of the Earth and Wyoming Council for International Visitors).*
- *Sensitising the general public (including a high school community and key public and private environmental institutions).*
- *Learning positive experiences (on nature conservation and tourism).*

*The Sustainable Land Use Forum, as part of the delegation, believes that such promising outcomes have the potential to awaken environmental movements, which could then help attain a fair, ambitious and binding climate deal through international climate change discourse in the shortest time possible.*

*The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change has also been actively engaged in international campaigns such as "America Take the Lead" under which, two million petition cards were signed, collected and delivered to the White House, and also the Count Down to Copenhagen campaign, where 32,000 petition cards were signed, collected and handed over to the Ethiopian lead negotiator and the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. Although these initiatives were quite successful in raising awareness about climate change in Ethiopia, it is unfortunate that they were rewarded by minimal results in the international climate change negotiations due to factors beyond the control of the Network.*

More targeted efforts to influence government negotiators or specific negotiating issues have also been occurring. For example, civil society has been influencing Tanzania's participation in the UNFCCC through lobbying activities conducted at UNFCCC meetings, through the Accra Caucus on Forests and Climate Change, and by organising meetings with Tanzanian negotiators prior to attending COPs to try influence the government on various issues pertaining to climate change and REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation - the process by which 'positive incentives' are available for developing countries in return for measurable reductions in deforestation). Other activities have included preparing policy briefs, awareness-raising materials, documentaries, presentations, television and radio programmes to influence the government, and by making presentations at side events during COPs.

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### ***Securing community access to national and international funding sources for REDD in Tanzania***

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*An advocacy strategy developed for the Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA) and Tanzania Forest Conservation Group for ensuring communities benefit from national REDD activities identifies several key objectives, one of which is that the National REDD+ Strategy adopts a nested approach that allows community groups to directly negotiate with the National REDD Trust Fund as well as international sources of funding by 2012. To do this the advocacy strategy proposes two key activities. Firstly, working with the National REDD+ Task Force to establish a nested approach clause in the National REDD+ Strategy and then task force members, as the Tanzanian national negotiators, advocate for this mechanism at UNFCCC meetings.*

*The second activity proposed by the advocacy strategy is for Tanzania Forest Conservation Group / MJUMITA representatives to directly advocate for the nested approach at UNFCCC meetings in order to influence the UNFCCC REDD+ framework which will in turn influence the Tanzania National REDD+ Strategy.*

*The advocacy strategy identifies some key allies to consider targeting for this work, particularly the Katoomba Group with its mission to open up the supply side of the carbon market, which could help lobby the Task Force for the protection of community benefits from the sale of carbon credits and potentially be a strong advocate for the 'nested approach'. CARE International's Poverty Environment and Climate Change Network is an important technical resource on REDD standards and safeguards that could potentially help influence the Task Force and channel advocacy activities at the international level, and also the Accra Caucus and Carbon Solidarity Asia are also identified as potentially useful allies. The advocacy strategy recommends meeting with and soliciting support from all these groups, in addition to producing a flyer on the nested approach, 60-second radio and television spots on REDD+, and the distribution of appropriate advocacy material via the internet and at UNFCCC meetings.*

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## ***Influencing the international process in Nepal***

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*As the United Nations climate change summit in Copenhagen in December 2009 approached, civil society groups in Nepal became concerned that the government had low ambition and a poorly developed strategy to influence the negotiations. So, civil society networks gathered together to encourage the Prime Minister and the Environment Minister to develop a more ambitious negotiating strategy.*

*These groups produced a statement calling on the government to advocate strongly for 1.5°C of warming to be seen as the upper limit of what should be allowed. They pressed for a stronger stance on adaptation and a commitment to ensure that full financing for adaptation was available. And they called on the government to use bilateral and multilateral forums to pressure bilateral aid donors and regional neighbours to implement more ambitious emissions cuts in order to protect Nepal from unmanageable climate change.*

*The eventual negotiating strategy that was adopted by Nepal's environment ministry incorporated most of the specific calls, and large amounts of the actual text, developed by civil society campaigners. After meeting with campaigners, the Prime Minister promised to ensure that these points were raised in every relevant place. Once in Copenhagen, Nepalese youth campaigners staged peaceful demonstrations to keep up the pressure, and other Nepali campaigners talked with delegates about the negotiations.*

*It is not possible to know exactly what was said behind the closed doors of the negotiations. But at least Nepal's negotiators were in no doubt about where campaigners stood, and they committed themselves to an ambitious negotiating stance.*

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*This case study is extracted from Shaw (2011).*

The Accra Caucus on Forests and Climate Change is a group of civil society and indigenous peoples' organisations that has also been very active on the issue of REDD, the mechanics of which are still being negotiated at the international level. Debates on what form it will take, including important details such as how safeguards will be reported on, results will be monitored and how REDD+ will be financed, are still being worked out. But the Accra Caucus has concerns that the implementation of 'REDD+ readiness' processes is too focused on mechanisms and institutions for monitoring carbon, and attracting income for this. Not enough attention has been paid to the policy and governance reforms necessary to guarantee the rights of people or the environment, and the Accra Caucus has been working to influence the REDD+ negotiations process accordingly.

Several key messages on what is needed to make REDD+ work have emerged from studies conducted by the Accra Caucus. One is the importance of governance reforms, without which there is a very real danger that REDD+ will follow in the footsteps of

previous failed initiatives to halt tropical deforestation. An importance component of governance reform is participation in decision making. The UNFCCC Cancún Agreements acknowledge this and call on Parties to ensure the full and effective participation of stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities, in developing all aspects of their REDD+ strategies and safeguards. A key element of full and effective participation is the principle of 'free, prior, informed consent', which is enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and refers to their collective rights to give prior consent over any decisions which effect their rights to and usage of their customary lands. Following the tireless lobbying of indigenous peoples' representatives, with support from like-minded NGOs and civil society, this United Nations Declaration has been recognised in the UNFCCC Cancún Agreements on REDD+. Another issue which is apparent from the case studies collected by the Accra Caucus is the urgent need for land tenure reform and the importance of equitable benefit sharing mechanisms.

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### ***Accra Caucus recommendations for the international climate change negotiations***

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*1. The Accra Caucus urged policy makers at COP17 in Durban to produce a binding international agreement that took account of all aspects of mitigation, starting from ambitious commitments to reduce industrial emissions in Annex 1 countries. This would mitigate the greatest risk to forests through the onset of climate change.*

*2. Regarding REDD+, the Accra Caucus said that COP17 should establish clear, robust guidelines on the way information about safeguards is communicated, and stressed the need for a participatory approach to the way these safeguards are drawn up by each party. It said that monitoring requirements for performance based payments should be simple, cost effective and participatory, not requiring the development of expensive monitoring, reporting and verifying systems.*

*3. Lastly, it said that the international climate agreement should guarantee funding for forest conservation through improvement of forest governance and addressing the drivers of deforestation, rather than focusing on the mechanics and technicalities of carbon calculations for the purpose of carbon transactions. This requires upfront funding of the polices and measures to achieve this, rather than so-called 'performance based' payments for reduced emissions.*

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Like REDD, international climate change funding has also been the target of several advocacy efforts. The Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, for example, is a member of Climate Action Network Latin America and through the participation of its members has been actively involved in the Climate Action Network's international finance group.

This has started to develop a process to analyse what is being supported by climate change funding, what opportunities as receivers of funding exist for countries like Mexico, and what opportunities exist to make best use of emerging funds. The group wants to promote the development of an effective and transparent international financial architecture to fight climate change and support the transparent and effective assignation of resources to this end. Both adaptation and mitigation need to be considered in this context, as well as issues relating to human rights, gender equity and sustainability.

The Grupo de Financiamiento en México (in English – the Financing Group in Mexico) was created in July 2010 and consists of a number of national and international NGOs operating in the country. At the international level the Group aims to ensure:

- That the allocation, execution and account rendering of international funding for climate change is conducted within a human rights framework, considers gender equity issues and fulfills sustainability criterion whereby environmental and social guarantees are included in all of the funding cycle.
- That civil society be kept properly informed in a timely manner.
- That multilateral and bilateral financial flows for climate change are executed thorough homogeneous and institutionalised mechanisms, which must be transparent and have effective account rendering mechanisms.
- That mitigation instruments, such as Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, and similar adaptation instruments allow developing countries to access to international funds more easily.

Not all international climate change related level advocacy has focused on the climate change negotiations. Networks are also focusing their efforts on the Rio+20 process and the Millenium Development Goals. For example, besides focusing its advocacy efforts on the UNFCCC and national governments, Climate Action Network Latin America also targets the Transitional Committee on finance under the UNFCCC, the Rio+20 process and the Economic Council for Latin America and the Caribbean.

A human rights based approach to international climate change negotiations is also being pursued outside the UNFCCC process by the Climate and Justice Network and others. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has confirmed that climate change threatens the enjoyment of a broad array of human rights and that whilst it does not necessarily violate human rights, human rights legislation nevertheless places duties on states concerning climate change and those duties include an obligation towards international cooperation. Communities in the Maldives, which is badly threatened by flooding, were one of the to first link climate change issues and human rights. And in December 2005, the Inuit living in the Arctic filed a petition with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights that accused the United States of violating its human rights obligations by failing to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases.

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## Advocacy at the regional level

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As awareness about the potentially catastrophic impacts that climate change will have on poor countries grows, so do the acknowledged spheres under which policy activities must be taken to address climate change widen. Civil society networks have thus been broadening their scope for conducting advocacy work from international and national level activities to regional level policy arenas in recent years. Regions targeted include Latin America, South Asia, West Africa and East Africa where there are already a number of joint policy agreements in place covering issues such as planning for development and climate change, including low-carbon development, planning for the delivery of energy services at a regional level, planning for the regional management of climate change finance, and trade.

In Latin America, civil society is taking advantage of the many existing platforms for regional coordination and alliances with similar networks in the region, and also of existing regional infrastructure created by governments in the region to manage specific issues such as climate change. Some of these structures have civil society representation on them, but in others this is not the case. Existing structures include the Grupo Latinoamerica, which is a recognised United Nations negotiating group formed by the states of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America Group is a strategic policy joint space under which Nicaragua, Venezuela, Cuba, Bolivia, Dominica, Ecuador, San Vicente y Las Granadinas, and Antigua y Barbuda can come together. It focuses on the structural transformations needed for these countries to achieve the development steps needed to continue their existence as sovereign and fair nations. The Regional Agreement on Climate Change signed in 1993 by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Republics of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama aims to establish regional mechanisms related to climate change. The Antigua Declaration of the Presidents of the Legislative Commissions on Environment and Natural Resources of Central America on Climate Change was signed in 2009 by the Commissions of Environment and Natural Resources of the Legislative Assemblies of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama.

A Regional Strategy on Climate Change has been formed by member states of the Central American Integration System (including Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama). This Strategy recognises the urgency of securing evidence of the level of damage already suffered by the Central American region, and the need for political will for countries to use their own resources to reduce the impact of climate related disasters.

The Strategy has the following six Strategic Areas' under which objectives and actions are detailed:

1. Vulnerability and adaptation to climatic variability and change, and risk management
2. Mitigation
3. Capacity strengthening
4. Education, awareness, communication and citizen participation
5. Technology transfer
6. Negotiations and international management.

Although the Strategy guidelines were approved by Presidents and Heads of State in 2008, the actions detailed in the Strategy are for government authorities, the private sector and civil society. The Technical Commission on Climate Change under this strategy, however, needs to provide more openings for effective civil society participation. Civil society has tried to engage with this regional structure by inviting its delegates to participate in some of their regional meetings to be part of civil society decision making processes. The aim was to share civil society positions and strategies that could be used to work together to push agendas. Sometimes these delegates attended the meetings but commitments were not strong.

There are seven Central American countries under this System, but the policies and strategies of this sub-section of Latin America do not share a common vision. This is evident from the statements made by these different governments, and the submissions presented to the UNFCCC. Civil society has collected and analysed these submissions through liaison with government representatives and advisors (who have shared official delegation positions on important issues at the negotiations), and exposed the differences between them at their regional meetings. The region does not respond to the climate change problem in a comprehensive manner. Participation in the various climate change strategies, plans and programmes relevant to the region has been insufficient and sporadic, even the ones established by decree such as the Central American Commission for Climate Change. There is currently no formal space for dialogue for the social movements, networks and government institutions responsible for negotiating on climate change issues, so whilst political declarations are sometimes made, these have little impact on the UNFCCC negotiations. The region has, therefore, not been acknowledged as highly vulnerable to climate change, which will make it difficult to secure financial resources made available through the UNFCCC process for adaptation in vulnerable nations. The possibility of securing funds from national sources in the region is also minimal. There are currently three members from Central America (Belize, Nicaragua and El Salvador) on the Transitional Committee for the establishment of the Green Climate Fund, and this may open the door to financial opportunities in the future.

In West Africa, civil society work on climate change is highly fragmented with more than six sub-regional networks. The West African Climate Action Network is one of several networks operating at a regional level. The challenges of regional integration are also apparent at a policy level, and a study conducted by Climate Action Network West Africa recommends that one key pillar for tackling climate change in West Africa is integrating climate change into development strategies at multiple scales. Regional initiatives such as the formulation of the 'Regional Plan of Action for Reducing Vulnerability in the face of Climate Change in West Africa' supported by a number of regional institutions such as The Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel acknowledge climate change as a key issue. The suggestion is that this Regional Plan could play an umbrella role to co-ordinate regional level actions and also help West Africa's regional institutions (such as ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union) have greater weight in future international negotiations.

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### ***East African Community Regional Strategy for Scaling up Access to Modern Energy Services***

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*The East African Community is the regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. Lack of energy access is a key reason why these countries will all struggle to meet their Millennium Development Goals and reduce poverty. The East African Community has therefore developed a strategy to meet the region's energy and development targets by scaling up new and existing business models, leveraging development finance and securing programmatic support to provide an enabling environment for increased energy access. The Strategy for Scaling up Access to Modern Energy Services was adopted by the East African Community Council of Ministers in November 2006.*

*The International Network for Sustainable Energy, INFORSE, in East Africa makes the following recommendations for the effective implementation of this strategy:*

- Build the institutional capacity of key public and private sector institutions that have impact at the regional level.*
- Help member countries develop investment programmes.*
- Develop a regional strategy to inform and support national strategies.*
- Undertake a comprehensive analysis of energy policies across the region.*
- Remove barriers to the expansion of access to modern energy services.*
- Mainstream access to basic energy services within national planning and budgeting processes.*

- *Develop strategies to build national capacity to support the role of the private sector and communities in enhancing effective energy service delivery.*
- *Develop pro-poor energy policies and strategies including financing support programmes (for example soft loans and grants).*
- *Identify and promote suitable models.*

*With support from the Southern Voices Programme, the regional INFORSE coordinator for East Africa, the Uganda-based Climate and Development Initiatives, plans to undertake several advocacy activities to support the implementation of this strategy. These include:*

- *Preparing for and engaging in energy policy debates and strategies at the East African community level, for example the Regional Strategy on Scaling up Access to Modern Energy Services in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Background papers and policy briefs will be produced for lobbying activities at such fora. Other targeted bodies include the African Development Bank and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.*
  - *Undertaking research and analysis on key energy policies in the East African region to help identify how they are failing to promote investment in renewable energy and reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions. Such evidence-based advocacy can support alternative policy generation.*
  - *Organising regional and national NGO meetings on energy policies, climate change and renewable energy investment in East Africa, including issues like innovative financing from the Clean Development Mechanism.*
  - *Translating and disseminating relevant sections of energy policies so that citizens can hold policy makers accountable to commitments made and actions necessary to ensure a 'rights-based approach' to energy security and clean energy.*
  - *Lobbying appropriate authorities like East African Governments, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the African Development Bank and other donors to develop pro-poor energy policies and regulatory frameworks to attract investment from official development assistance, national budgets and the private sector.*
  - *Collecting and publishing good practice about low maintenance technologies that increase local income generation, such as the Money Maker Pump.*
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A number of joint policy platforms and agreements are in place in the South Asian region, and these too have been targeted for advocacy work by civil society networks. For example, Climate Change Network Nepal collaborated with groups such as Nepalese Youth for Climate Action to develop a joint submission to a South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation meeting.

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## **Low-carbon development in South Asia: areas for cooperation**

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*In South Asia there are roughly 600 million people who still lack access to electricity, over 45 per cent of people have no access to modern energy services and more than two thirds of households depend on traditional biomass use of as their main source of cooking fuel. Perhaps unsurprisingly, South Asia has a relatively low per capita carbon foot print. Fossil fuel and large conventional power systems are the main source of electricity in South Asia, and some members of Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) believe that the lack of energy access is a predominant issue of concern for the region. Various countries in the region have energy policies that could help put them on a low-carbon development pathway. For example, Sri Lanka has energy efficiency targets and renewable energy targets, India has a wide range of energy policies and plans, and the Maldives is committed to being carbon neutral by 2020.*

*Several members of CANSA have proposed a number of areas for energy cooperation between countries in the region. For example, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka have strong potential for hydropower development, including micro and mini hydro projects run by communities, and India has tremendous manufacturing potential and is a leader in solar photo voltaic and wind turbine manufacturing.*

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## **Influencing climate finance planning in South Asia**

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*Climate Action Network South Asia has been working to influence discussions and planning surrounding climate change financing in the region. This is occurring primarily through the production of newsletters, briefings or thematic papers developed for this purpose, and also through participation in relevant meetings and global climate finance discussions, especially through civil society organisation platforms. There is a clear need for developing a robust climate financing mechanism for South Asia, but emphasis to date has focused on the assessment of existing funding streams and how effective they are. Funding currently comes from several UNFCCC funds (the Adaptation Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the LDC Fund), bilateral (single donor country) sources, multilateral sources (groups of countries) and also institutions such as the Asian Development Bank and World Bank. There is little agreement on the best channel for providing the funds required for supporting future regional climate actions. It is unclear how international financing institutions will be integrated into future regional climate financing, and the multiplicity of funding channels for the adaptation activities in particular could give rise to duplicity and poor synergy between the donor agency activities.*

*A recent report prepared by a CANSA member has suggested that a new body dedicated to financing climate actions would be a good idea provided it does not duplicate work*



*underway already. Many CANSA members have also raised the need for pushing governments of the region to mainstream climate activities in their budgets and are against the concept of international agencies providing loans to undertake climate actions because the view is that such climate activities are needed because of the historical accumulation of greenhouse gases that the region contributed little to. They have been demanding enhanced civil society involvement in decision-making around climate finance issues, and have proposed developing a regional strategy for climate financing to ensure accountability and efficacy in a series of CANSA events held during 2010 and 2011.*

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Not all of the regional policy arenas identified as important by civil society networks have climate change or low-carbon development as their primary focus. The relationship between trade and climate change has been gaining attention in South Asia, for example, and some members of Climate Action Network South Asia recommend greater regional efforts to contend with the opportunities and challenges that need to be addressed in the South Asian region in order to ensure trade and climate change policies are mutually supportive. For example, crops in one region could enhance livelihoods elsewhere if exported, and areas with a comparative advantage in certain types of agricultural production are likely to shift in the region due to climate change. Likewise technologies in one country may be able to assist in other countries if agreements on intellectual property rights are reached. In response to this, Climate Action Network South Asia organised a panel discussion on Trade and Climate Financing in South Asia, in Kathmandu in August 2011. Recommendations emerging from this include: assessing the potential for trade liberalisation in environmental goods under the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), assessing the potential for liberalising the provision of environmental services under the South Asian Agreement on Trade in Services, and developing a common understanding and position on the liberalisation of trade in environmental goods and services at the World Trade Organisation. The meeting also recommended that SAFTA be targeted to boost intra-regional trade and that a common understanding and position on the ongoing review of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights be developed. These issues need to be discussed at the national level to secure regional agreement on appropriate processes and associated implementation mechanisms.

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## Influencing national governments

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The majority of climate change advocacy work conducted by civil society networks in the South focuses on activities at the national government level. These include activities to influence government policies, processes and funding decisions. The national context in which regional and national civil society networks are operating is varied. Some countries have a number of policies and programmes directly addressing climate change, for example Bangladesh is in many cases ahead of other poor countries in terms of planning for climate change. It has the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, the NAPA and the 6th Five Year Plan. A separate unit (the Climate Change Unit) has been established to coordinate climate change related activities within government, and the Government is thinking of establishing a Department of Climate Change. Since 2009 it has allocated part of its national budget to address climate change impacts in the country.

Likewise in Vietnam, there are a plethora of legislative instruments that deal with climate change and disaster risk management, and in Niger, a National Environment Plan for Sustainable Development has existed since 1997. The plan comprises six priority programmes including the climate change and variability programme, which prioritises gathering climate change data to inform National Communications (prepared for the UNFCCC) and plan for ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase absorption levels. Subsequently in 2003, a national strategy and an action plan on climate change and climate variability was developed. This also focuses on climate change mitigation.

Other countries, however, are less advanced in this context. Papua New Guinea, for example, does not have a climate change policy, and Zimbabwe is also one of the few countries in Southern Africa without a comprehensive climate change policy. Cambodia has no comprehensive national plan or strategy on climate change and disaster risk management. Cambodia also has insufficient laws, policies and strategies on climate change and disaster risk management, although, some policies and strategies on climate change and disaster management are in place and the government has demonstrated its commitment to developing new policies and strategies.

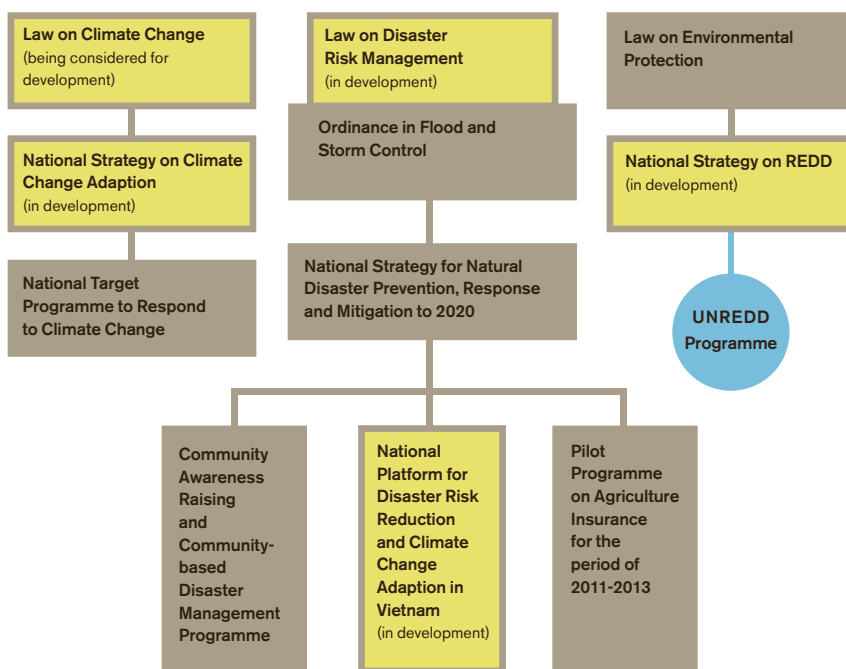
Just as the national context in which advocacy activities are occurring varies, so too do the variety of the approaches networks have taken to influence their governments. These range from activities to hold governments to account on commitments they have made, provide praise where praise is due, kick up a fuss where needed, push for greater attention to be given to certain issues, secure a more joined-up government response, and focus attention on the most vulnerable. These activities are all dealt with in turn in this section.

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## Climate change and disaster management policies in Vietnam

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A number of laws, strategies, action plans and programmes address climate change and disaster management in Vietnam. Some of these are illustrated below.



Material submitted from a wide range of countries for this report suggests that in most countries, government levels of awareness and prioritisation of climate change issues has grown rapidly in recent years. In Malawi, for example, awareness and prioritisation levels are high. In 2009, the Government of Malawi included climate change as one of its priorities within its medium-term economic development strategy - the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy - and the government also developed a Framework for Managing Climate Change in Malawi. Likewise in Niger, civil servant and government prioritisation of climate change in national politics is now very high.

A second lesson that is apparent from many of the case studies and countries featured in this report is that civil society has often been able to have a considerable impact when relationships with government are good. In Ethiopia, for example, successful advocacy is contingent on an organisation's positive relationship with the government. The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change participates in roughly eight climate change related international conferences or forums annually, about four of which are UNFCCC-sponsored meetings and the other four are pertinent international meetings. Some of

these have included high-level meetings where the Network has been given opportunities to take part in government-led missions representing civil society in Ethiopia. This clearly demonstrates the good working relationship it has established with Government. The network partook in processes developing government-led climate change related programmes such as the Ethiopian Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions, and it has a good strong working relationship with the Federal Environment Protection Authority of Ethiopia (EPA). It has proactively engaged with the EPA during the UNFCCC negotiations and has been working closely with it on adaptation research, capacity building, debriefing and climate campaign activities. Due to this good working relationship, the Network has been able to develop a regional climate change vulnerability assessment report and adaptation plan which is now endorsed and owned by the EPA. Such government collaboration with and acceptance of contributions from a civil society organisation in Ethiopia is the first of its kind. Network members have also been able to access funds from the EPA to design and implement climate change adaptation projects, which is also a huge success.

Relations between government and civil society are also good in Bangladesh, especially on climate change issues. Civil society groups are involved in government policy and programme development at several levels, and also as members of the Bangladesh delegation to the UNFCCC international climate negotiations. Members of civil society organisations are included in technical committees on climate change and the management structure for the national Climate Trust Fund.

In Cambodia, the National Climate Change Network has been working to ensure civil society organisation initiatives are included in national laws, policies and strategies. In cooperation with the network, the government has organised several roundtable discussions with concerned civil society organisations to discuss and share experience on policies and strategies related to climate change and disaster risk management. The Climate Change Department in the Ministry of Environment has started to invite Network members to roundtable discussions on the government positions prior to COPs to get ideas, concerns and recommendations. In addition, the Network has been invited by the Cambodian government to provide inputs on several important policy documents such as the draft disaster management law, National Strategic Development Plan, Green Growth Roadmap and Second National Communication.

The relationship between government and civil society is also good in Malawi. To date, the government has shown a willingness to collaborate with civil society, particularly the Civil Society Network on Climate Change, by inviting it to join the National Technical Committee on Climate Change, by allowing Network members to participate in UNFCCC COPs and intersessional meetings as part of the national delegation and by taking on board Network inputs into national positions at the UNFCCC and the National Disaster Risk Management Policy formulation.

In Niger, the importance and influence of civil society on national and international climate change policies cannot be understated, and the relationship between civil society and government is good. In fact, two thirds of the body meant to coordinate national actions on climate change - the National Environment Board for Sustainable Development - consists of civil society members, with the remaining one third representing government. Through this, civil society contributes to the elaboration of climate change strategies and policies developed by the government. Civil society has organised itself around platforms, networks and associations in order to participate in, implement, monitor and evaluate national, sub-regional and international policies related to climate change. It sits on many committees and consultation frameworks, such as those under the Strategy for Rural Development, and its involvement is a 'must' at all levels.

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### ***Organised civil society participation in the National Roundtable on Climate Change in Guatemala***

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*The National Climate Change Roundtable in Guatemala has strengthened, combined and coordinated the work of NGOs at the national level in order to influence the development of the national agenda on climate change. It has helped move Guatemala closer to having a State policy on mitigation and adaptation, that has legal and structural support for citizen participation at different levels in the national context.*

*The Roundtable provides spaces for meeting, dialogue and the coordinated determination of voluntary and designated responsibilities amongst NGOs, social organisations and government authorities. It promotes citizen participation at a national level and seeks to establish similar platforms in key government departments, as well as strategic alliances with different societal sectors.*

*Following the participation of civil society in several meetings relating to work on the National Strategy for Climate Change in Guatemala, and also the provision of inputs to the national position at COP16 in Cancún, 2010, five spaces on the official National Climate Change Delegation were given to civil society. Civil society Roundtable members could then participate as part of their official national delegation, and their inputs were highly valued by government at COP16.*

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### ***Civil society collaboration with the government of Mexico***

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*In Mexico in 2011, the government summoned the Grupo de Financiamiento en México to meetings to tackle the implementation of the UNFCCC Cancún agreements. Civil society participation in these meetings helped promote the following issues:*

- *Transparent management of resources.*
  - *Organisation of a funding event to help implement Mexican climate policies.*
  - *Civil society participation in the first meeting of the Transitional Committee for the Green Fund in Mexico.*
  - *Attendance of three members of the Climate Action Network group on finance at these meetings, which were co-chaired by a civil society representative from the Mexican Environment Law Center.*
  - *Changes to the Budget and Public Funds Responsibility Law to ensure transparent use of resources for mitigation and adaptation.*
  - *Analysis of the expenditure budget to guarantee that government commitments were fulfilled.*
  - *Organisation of an event to present the budget proposal for climatic change to congressmen.*
  - *Creation of a website to analyse international climate change funding allocations.*
  - *Organisation of an event at COP17.*
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By contrast, relations between government and civil society are not very strong in Tanzania and more needs to be done to strengthen these links. Limited consultation with civil society was conducted when preparing the draft National REDD+ strategy, and civil society has been demanding representation on the national REDD+ Task Force. Recently the Task Force has established five Technical Working Groups on: legal, governance and safeguards; monitoring, reporting and verification; the REDD financing mechanism; energy; and, agriculture. These Technical Working Groups will provide opportunities for civil society organisations and other stakeholders to effectively participate in the development and finalisation of the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plan. The Community Forest Conservation Network of Tanzania (MJUMITA) is a member of the Legal, Governance and Safeguards working group while the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group is in the Technical Working Group dealing with the REDD+ financing mechanism. In the past, coordination prior to UNFCCC meetings was inadequate. National positions concerning REDD+ were taken without consulting civil society. This situation is now being rectified and there was some consultation with civil society organisations and other stakeholders on preparations for COP17, and regular feedback on REDD+ progress in Tanzania is being provided by the Task Force.

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## Holding governments to account and supporting implementation

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Civil society has a key role to play in terms of holding government to account on promises or commitments they have made and drawing attention to any failures to meet these commitments. There are many reasons for weak policy implementation in poor countries, and these range from political infighting to a lack of political will, human resources, appropriate skills, budgetary resources and clarity on what is needed on the ground.

In Vietnam, for example, the new Pilot Programme on Agriculture Insurance for the period of 2011-2013, could well struggle because developing a weather insurance index is relatively new area in which much capacity needs to be developed. Likewise the Law on Environmental Protection (1993) in Vietnam suffers from poor state agency staff numbers and capacity when it comes to implementing environmental protection laws. A lack of financial and physical resources, and the inconsistent implementation of environmental impact assessment requirements also limits effective implementation and enforcement. The National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020 has no clear mechanism for coordinating programme implementation, and the Community Awareness Raising and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Programme to 2020 also has weaknesses which primarily relate to budgetary issues and poor implementation guidelines. The Programme was supposed to obtain 40 per cent of its budget from donors, but with no fixed donor commitments this will be difficult. Many provinces were asked to develop their action plans to implement the Programme, but these plans are generally of poor quality due to a lack of clear guidelines on how to develop them. Training to build the capacity of people working to conduct disaster risk management activities at the village level, such as local leaders and volunteers, is also needed. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently addressing these budgetary and capacity constraints and working to develop better implementation guidelines.

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### ***Implementation problems in Vietnam***

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*There is no lack of well thought out policies on climate change and disaster risk management in Vietnam: Over 200 laws, policies and strategies exist. The over-riding challenge being faced by Vietnam is implementing these policies effectively. Challenges to implementation result from many factors:*

- *Lack of horizontal integration: responsibilities for climate change and disaster management are divided amongst different ministries and agencies. This can contribute to agencies becoming protective of their authority and funding and creates barriers to coordination.*

- *Lack of vertical integration: policies are communicated down to the provincial government, but clear detailed plans and guidelines necessary to support implementation are rare.*
- *Lack of resources: limited and ambiguous budgets are often insufficiently distributed to the local levels.*
- *Lack of accountability: the monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms that support transparency, accountability and continual improvement are lacking.*
- *Lack of emphasis on vulnerable people: there are a number of barriers to engaging vulnerable people such as remoteness, language, gender roles and their ability to participate effectively. These barriers are insufficiently addressed and are intensified by the lack of support, skills, training and time provided by local staff conducting implementation.*

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### ***National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change in Vietnam***

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*The National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change was launched in 2008 with the following two objectives:*

- i) To evaluate the impact of climate change on different fields, branches and localities, and set up feasible action plans to effectively respond to climate change for the short- and long-term.*
- ii) To ensure the sustainable development of the country, take advantage of opportunities to ensure low-carbon economic development and join the international community to mitigate climate change and protect the Earth's climatic systems.*

*The Programme has several weaknesses. There are concerns that the quality of implementation at the local level is compromised because local staff does not have the experience, knowledge or expertise to work with the community to develop local action plans, nor do they have sufficient guidelines, tools or resources to support them. This needs to be addressed in order that local people, especially those most vulnerable to climate change, are engaged. There are also concerns over the budget. Programme implementation, particularly at the local level, has stalled due to a lack of resources from central government. There is currently no clear budgetary mechanism for climate change funding, and yet it is essential that budget shortfalls and budgetary distribution mechanisms are addressed.*

*The Climate Change Working Group in Vietnam has contributed to the development of the Programme, and some core Working Group members have been invited to provide comments on the Draft National Strategy on Responding to Climate Change before it is submitted to the Prime Minister. The Working Group could, however, engage further with*



*activities that support the transparent distribution of funds and increased monitoring and evaluation of climate change policies in Vietnam.*

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Nicaragua, although party to the UNFCCC, has still not submitted its second National Communication to the Convention process and it has no national adaptation plan. Likewise, although Ministerial Resolution number 014-99, approved in 1999, states that the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has resolved to create a Climate Change Commission as a result of the nation's contractual obligations under the UNFCCC, more than 13 years have passed without such an entity. The Commission's role was; (1) To inventorise national greenhouse gas emissions and seek activities to control these, (2) To study and assess national climate change impacts and adaptation opportunities, (3) To seek national consensus on strategies, programmes, projects and actions to tackle climate change, and (4) To help elaborate national positions in the international negotiations.

The absence of this Commission has unquestionably damaged the whole national process related to policies, laws, political positions and government actions related to climate change in Nicaragua.

Malawi is poor and with limited resources and there are many competing priorities for spending. Inadequate knowledge on the links between climate change and development by government decision makers means the links between climate change and other sectors such as health, education and agriculture are poorly understood, and climate change allocations from the national budget suffer as a result.

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### ***Ensuring participation in Ghana's REDD+ process***

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*One-third of Ghana is covered with forests, which are fast disappearing due to a combination of agricultural expansion, timber extraction, settlement and mineral exploitation. Recognising the need to curb deforestation rates, in 2008 Ghana was one of the first countries selected to receive World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility funds to prepare for REDD+. Under the UNFCCC Cancún Agreements, governments are expected to ensure 'full and effective participation' of forest communities in these REDD+ activities. This, however, did not seem to be occurring in Ghana.*

*Civil Society was concerned that the limited consultation in this REDD+ process represented a step backwards from the high consultation standards established in the forestry sector in the course of negotiating policies such as the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance Framework or the Voluntary Partnership Agreements under the Forest Law*

*Enforcement, Governance and Trade action plan of the European Union, which itself aims to strengthen forest peoples' tenure rights, increase transparency in decision making processes and ensure participation of civil society in policy making in the forest sector.*

*Following the World Bank mission to Ghana as part of the REDD+ readiness preparation process, the government organised three workshops in different parts of the country. Government claimed these were 'consultations' but civil society organisations insisted that they were purely about awareness creation and unidirectional information sharing because stakeholders did not have sufficient information early enough to allow them to process and react to issues before the government roadshow moved on. The Forestry Commission attributed the poor consultation levels to a lack of funds, but this should not have been a problem if funding for consultation and participation had been built into the design of the Ghana Readiness Preparation Proposal from the initial planning stages.*

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### ***Participation and respect for community rights in forest carbon projects in the Republic of Congo***

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*In 2011, the Republic of Congo launched two carbon-related projects: the National Afforestation and Reforestation Project, which aims to create one million hectares of forest and agro-forest plantations on land covering 70 per cent of the nation's forests, and the Odzala-Kokoua National Park Project, which covers 1,354,600 hectares and includes 39 villages and four urban centres, with a total of around 57,000 inhabitants in its boundaries. Both projects aim to increase carbon stores, improve conservation, and combat deforestation and forest degradation, so in principle they are in line with the objectives of REDD+.*

*The Republic of Congo is not a country with a significant history of implementing international obligations related to human rights and the environment. At the national level, the Application Decree 2009-415 of November 2009 sets out safeguards on social and environmental impact assessment, but amongst other weaknesses, it only covers environmental, not social, impacts. The law on the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous populations also requires that "indigenous populations are consulted in a suitable manner" and provides details on how consultations should be conducted. These safeguards, however, effectively cannot function as they lack decrees which set out the procedures and practical tools needed to implement them. Civil society in the Republic of Congo has expressed its concern at the development of REDD+ projects against this background of no robust, operational safeguards to guarantee community rights and environmental integrity.*

*The Republic of Congo has been committed to the REDD+ process since 2008, and it submitted the latest version of its REDD+ readiness plan in March 2011. Carbon projects*

*are already being developed with the support of partners such as the World Bank, even though the national REDD+ strategy has not yet been formulated. The country's Readiness Preparation Proposal (which is required in order to access World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility funds) clearly distinguishes between social and environmental safeguards, and REDD+ projects developed outside this process deprive communities of an important opportunity to implement robust safeguards.*

*It is perhaps no surprise that according to a telephone survey of inhabitants in the ten departments affected by the National Aforestation and Reforestation Project, rural populations had not been informed, let alone consulted, about the project.*

*Management of the Odzala-Kokoua National Park Project changed hands in 2010 when the government signed an agreement with a private company, African Network Park. The agreement makes the park management body responsible for the sale of the park's carbon stores. It will receive all revenue from payments for ecosystem services, including carbon sales. Village communities in the park had been informed of the change of legal entity managing the park, but had never been told that the new legal entity was authorised to sell the park carbon stores. Nor had these communities ever heard of REDD+ or the constraints and benefits it may involve.*

*The Cancún climate change agreement clearly indicated that REDD+ activities must be "consistent with the conservation of natural forests and biological diversity", and must not result in "the conversion of natural forests". Yet the projects reviewed here were drawn up under an environmental impact assessment system that fails to take account of the conversion of natural forest into forest plantations.*

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Civil society has been engaging with governments in a number of ways to hold governments to account and tackle these problems of implementation. Focus areas for particular advocacy efforts described below include disaster management, financing and REDD. In Vietnam, for example, plans developed under the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020 are low quality due to the availability of insufficient resources and guidelines, particularly at the local level. Members of the Disaster Management Working Group in Vietnam have been working to improve the situation by developing local level pilot programmes that contribute to Strategy development and implementation and working with government by providing inputs on related disaster management policies and strategies. They have been sharing knowledge with government via meetings, workshops and dialogues such as the national Disaster Risk Reduction forums, where good practices and lessons learnt are discussed, and they have organised public events, such as on International and National Disaster Risk Reduction Days, to raise awareness amongst policy makers, managers, media and the public.

In Malawi, the Civil Society Network on Climate Change provided policy inputs which were accepted into the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, developed by the Department for Disaster Management Affairs. This Policy is important as it addresses the fact that the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act of 1991 focuses on relief and response and provides no policy direction. The Network provided proposed policy elements based on its review and analysis of national and international policy instruments on disaster risk reduction and climate change. The Network also provided input into the overall technical content of the draft policy.

In Mexico and elsewhere, much attention has been given to the issue of climate change finance. Mexico has promoted the development of several programmes in strategic sectors, for example it has a renewable energy exploitation programme and a REDD+ strategy. These make it an attractive target for international investment. However, Mexico lacks long-term planning, strong institutions, a comprehensive analysis of climate change, and clarity on how climate change issues should be dealt with institutionally, as well as how Mexico will use the international funding it accrues or how it will plan to use its national resources effectively. This has motivated the creation of the Grupo de Financiamiento en México which seeks to ensure the transparent management of international resources to guarantee their effective use and allocation according to frameworks addressing human rights, gender equity and sustainability. This applies to resources collected from Mexican taxpayers in addition to international financing. The Group hopes that Mexico will invest or at least designate one per cent of its Gross Domestic Product to climate change. Achieving this and the sound management of international resources too, will ensure that progress towards attaining effective adaptation and mitigation responses will be significant. In addition, Mexico will save large amounts of money. The costs of climate change in the medium- to long-term are expected to be at least 12 per cent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product according to a study about the economics of climate change in Mexico conducted in 2009. The whole population, and specifically those most at risk, would therefore benefit.

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***Financing change without changing the climate – Mexico takes the lead on climate finance***

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*Several funds focusing on adaptation, clean technology and other issues have been created under the UNFCCC and other international financing mechanisms. These seek to transfer resources from developed countries to developing countries. Their target of providing at least one hundred thousand million dollars per year, however, has not been reached.*

*The Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental (in English – the Mexican Center of Environmental Law) is a member of Climate Action Network Latin America and has joined*

*Climate Action Network International's finance group, which has started to develop a process to analyse the subject of funding and emerging opportunities for countries like Mexico as a receiver of funds. In 2010, the Grupo de Financiamiento en México was created as a result of a series of workshops funded by the World Resource Institute and OXFAM México, where the international funding situation and Mexico's position in this context were analysed.*

*The group now has many members and has started to build an action plan. It has identified ten key targets to pursue. At the national level these include:*

- Ensuring the existence of mechanisms to mobilise, govern and implement financial resources to effectively face climatic change adaptation and mitigation challenges.*
- Ensuring that the generation of budgetary income and the formulation and execution of the national budget are carried out according to comprehensive and consistent public policy.*
- Ensuring adequate transparency mechanisms exist to assess how budgetary resources designated to fulfill public climate change policies are being spent.*
- Ensuring that the transport sector budget is directed to actions that reduce the number of trips through good urban planning, changes to more efficient means of transportation (public and non-motorised transportation) and promoting clean technologies.*
- Directing the energy sector budget towards better energy efficiency and more generation from renewable sources, with a 20 per cent minimum increase in current renewable energy generation by 2020 (without including big hydroelectric plants).*
- Directing the forest sector's budget towards comprehensive forest management.*
- Designating financial resources for the generation and sharing of information.*

*The Group has organised a number of advocacy related activities in 2010 and 2011 with a view to meeting these targets. These include:*

- Holding a workshop with members of government, the private sector, academies and NGOs to talk about financial alternatives to dealing with climate change in Mexico.*
- Holding a forum with government authorities about a Green Fund in Mexico.*
- Participating in a forum about the legal framework for climate change with the financial commission, where the Group interacted with legislators.*
- Analysing the national budget to propose the redirection of resources to climate change in strategic sectors like transport, energy, agriculture and forests. This proposal was sent to all responsible commissions, and as a result, 300 million Mexican pesos were allocated to climate change accordingly.*

*The Group makes a number of recommendations to those interested in replicating its approach and work:*

- *Consolidate a group of actors committed to the topic, regardless of numbers. What matters is dedication and commitment to the work.*
  - *Develop a short-, medium- and long-term workplan, if possible with national and international scope.*
  - *Create clear work standards.*
  - *Conduct an exhaustive mapping of all actors in all sectors. Map donors who could support activities.*
  - *Understand existing climate change policies, laws and programmes well in order to analyse them.*
  - *Ensure group members are trained in reading and modifying budgets and financial instruments.*
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### ***Malawi's National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)***

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*Malawi submitted its NAPA to the UNFCCC in March 2006, but no funds were released to implement the priority adaptation activities until November 2011 when the African Development Bank Group approved the implementation of one of the NAPA projects called 'Climate Adaptation for Rural Livelihoods and Agriculture'. The total cost for adaptation activities outlined in the NAPA is US\$25 million. Problems with the NAPA include: a lack of implementation due to capacity and financial constraints, especially at the district level; a lack of coordination amongst sectors implementing climate change related policies; the fact that the NAPA seems to exist in isolation of other sector policies; a lack of adequate awareness even amongst those in priority NAPA sectors about the existence of the NAPA; and, the time that has elapsed since the NAPA was developed which means it needs revising.*

*The NAPA is essentially seen as a government/UNFCCC document, so civil society does not feel it is part of the NAPA implementation process. In addition, although the NAPA stipulates that priority interventions ought to be implemented in rural communities who are most vulnerable to adverse climate change impacts, in almost all NAPA sectors, resources continue to be concentrated within central government, leaving very little for programme implementation at the local council level, which is closest to the rural vulnerable communities.*

*The Civil Society Network on Climate Change has been working at the UNFCCC level to advocate for financing for adaptation, some of which could be used to implement the NAPAs. The network also plans to advocate for resource allocation for NAPA implementation*

*from the national budget and it plans to provide inputs towards the revision of the NAPA. Additional proposals for the network include monitoring implementation (when it begins) and presenting findings from this work to relevant government institutions and the UNFCCC.*

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### ***National Environmental Policy, Malawi***

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*The National Environmental Policy was adopted in Malawi in 1996, and revisions in 2004 addressed climate change in more detail, aiming to reduce its adverse impacts. The policy addresses the challenge of balancing environmental and development concerns, and under it, the Malawi Environmental Monitoring Programme was developed to monitor and document the potential environmental impact of policy reforms being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and also monitor environmental impacts elsewhere. The programme serves as a central mechanism for gathering, analysing and disseminating information required by the government and its environmental management partners to produce regular situation analysis reports, including the State of the Environment Reports.*

*A large gap exists, however, between policy and implementation in Malawi. The lead government agency responsible for coordinating and directing the implementation of the policy is the Environmental Affairs Department, but this is one of the least staffed and funded government departments and it cannot provide the leadership required to ensure effective policy implementation. Implementation of the National Environmental Policy (and other national climate change related policies) needs to be monitored, and there is also a need to address inconsistencies, gaps and conflicts within environment and natural resources management policies and legislation to streamline decision making and maximise synergies.*

*Over the next two years, the Civil Society Network on Climate Change plans to monitor and advocate for implementation of climate change related policies including the National Environmental Policy. The ultimate aim is to build the resilience of local communities to climate change so the Network plans to include communities in stakeholder meetings with government when presenting findings about policy implementation. By providing evidence on their findings, the Network aims to exert greater influence over the decision makers to secure policy implementation.*

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Whilst negotiations on REDD+ continue at the international level, many countries are pressing ahead with 'REDD+ readiness' with the support of multilateral and bilateral donors. The provisions for REDD+ contained in the UNFCCC Cancún Agreements are explicit about the need for safeguards to be an integral part of the REDD+ process, and ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities. But experience to date in many REDD+

implementing countries regarding the transposition of these international obligations into national law in a way that improves forest governance and transparency and increases the participation and decision making of local stakeholders in natural resource management has not been encouraging. The Accra Caucus on Forests and Climate Change has been documenting some of these experiences. Several describe familiar experiences of how civil society is excluded from consultations on national REDD+ policy, and in practice, the experience of 'full and effective participation' described in the UNFCCC Cancún agreements has varied widely, often being reduced to sporadic meetings with a seemingly random selection of 'stakeholder representatives' used to legitimate an otherwise non-consultative process. There are also, however, encouraging examples of how a determined civil society and its allies can work to make a positive change.

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### ***Land grabbing and deforestation in Papua New Guinea***

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*Forests cover 70 per cent of the land mass of Papua New Guinea, and contribute over five per cent of the world's biodiversity in less than one per cent of the earth's land mass. Some 97 per cent of Papua New Guinea's total land area is held under customary ownership and is protected by law, including the country's constitution on customary tenure. Indigenous ownership of the land is further recognised by the 1996 Land Act, under which traditional landowners have absolute ownership and user rights over customary land, unless a lease is granted to the state. However, this apparently strong legal basis has proved inadequate in the fight against illegal logging and land grabbing, which have been fuelled by the controversial practice of issuing Special Agriculture and Business Leases (SABLs).*

*SABLs are allocated under the 1996 Land Act, ostensibly to stimulate development. The process has been fraught with controversy, however. Many traditional landowners were not involved in the leasing process and did not consent to any lease agreements. Logging companies are often given SABLs for activities in intact forest areas under the pretext of agro-forestry or development projects, but which are then logged. Due to weak governance and the flouting of legal safeguards, large portions of forest have been issued with Forest Clearance Authorities (FCA) for logging.*

*Papua New Guinea was one of the first countries to pilot the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UNREDD) but the ineptness of the REDD+ programme in 2009 did little to halt deforestation in the face of SABLs issued for 5.2 million hectares of pristine forest. FCAs have been issued for forest zones designated for REDD+ pilot schemes, but ordinary people are still confused about SABLs and REDD+, thinking they can coexist. De-forestation rates continue to increase.*

*Papua New Guinea does not have a climate change policy, which is a major problem for REDD+ when faced with industrial loggers and palm oil developers. It does have an Office*



*of Climate Change and Development (OCCD), which is the central coordinating agency on REDD+, but the OCCD is doing little to abate illegal forest loss. One activist, Nalau Bingeding, challenged the OCCD in one of the local papers, not to stand idly by while SABLs took custody of the major forests, but to take action to protect forests and achieve the goal of REDD+. Curbing deforestation and implementing REDD+ demonstration projects while powerful logging conglomerates have their sights set on the same forest areas is, however, a challenge.*

*The OCCD has admitted that REDD+ activities in the country are being put under pressure by the recent increase in SABLs and FCAs. It also states that landowners are important stakeholders, and that they are working closely with other state agencies to call for a moratorium on logging, conduct a compliance audit and review all existing SABLs. The call for a moratorium was long overdue, but there are serious concerns on impartiality and transparency of a process led by the OCCD and the Department of Environment and Conservation (which issues the environmental permit needed before the FCA is granted), which have long-standing passive complicity with the logging industry.*

*Accordingly OCCD's proposal for a moratorium on SABLs was rejected by Papua New Guinea's Eco-forestry Forum and other stakeholders, who pushed instead for Parliament to announce a moratorium and call for an inquiry. After a lengthy fight, the Eco-forestry Forum succeeded in getting a commission of inquiry on SABLs set up through Parliament.*

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Civil society has not, however, always found it easy to influence government policy making and implementation as much as it would like. In Vietnam, for example, the UNREDD programme began in 2009 funded by the Government of Norway and led by the Department of Forestry under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. It has some technical challenges: much of the REDD+ work occurring in Vietnam is amongst the first of its kind and requires specialist technical capacity at the local level which is currently poor. Current 'Free Prior and Informed Consent' processes do not provide the necessary time to allow the community to make informed decisions on this complicated topic and do not explain current and future opportunity costs clearly enough to the communities. There is also a lack of quality data to inform environmental improvement under these processes. The Climate Change Working group has been consulted about the development of the programme and Working Group members are providing inputs into the new programme by engaging directly with developers, but the network lacks a coordinated approach. It is aware of the need to conduct REDD+ advocacy work collectively but this is yet to occur.

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## Praise where praise is due

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It is perhaps less common than advocacy activities that hold governments to account on various commitments and promises that have been made, but there are also examples of civil society network activities that congratulate governments when appropriate, for example if they respond to public pressure, take strong positive action or honour their promises and commitments. For example, the Kiribati Climate Action Network got strongly involved with the Tarawa Climate Change Conference in November 2010 organised by government. The Network organised a two-day workshop prior to the conference and a rally/march in support of the Kiribati government during the conference. More than 1000 people from other NGOs and community-based organisations turned up to support this rally.

In the early days of the Climate Change Network Nepal, the Network was also very active in supporting the government when required. It regularly provided effective support to government during various important global conferences, and Network members joined the government negotiating team during some meetings. The Network regularly organised consultation workshops before and after global climate conferences. Those before the conferences helped raise the profile of grassroots voices in national and international arenas and in the definition of national positions, and they helped the government strategise on priority national issues and agendas for the negotiations. Those after the conferences were an excellent tool for getting information about the global negotiations out to the media and those working on policy and advocacy at the national level.

Civil society in Bangladesh provided encouragement and sincere honour to the state minister from the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Bangladesh when he participated in and instantly committed to the 'national level comprehensive assessment and plan of action on climate change and migration' at a meeting at National Press Club in November 2011 when a large number of networks were present. The minister also committed to initiate a review of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan at the suggestion of civil society organisations present.

In Zimbabwe, civil society organisations applauded the government's decision to include some members of the Climate Change Working Group on its Climate Change National Steering Committee under the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management. In 2009, the government organised a pre-COP16 National Workshop and invited civil society organisations to present their positions. This was a strategic move by government aimed at bringing some of the concerns and views of local civil society organisations into the negotiating process. This gesture of goodwill by the government was repeated again in 2011, when even more Climate Change Working Group members were invited to the final COP17 preparatory meeting. The Climate Change Working Group in Zimbabwe has voiced its approval of this government initiative.

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## Kicking up a fuss

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In some instances civil society activities have gone further than holding governments to account and have actively sought to change specific activities, policies or government decisions which are viewed as contrary to what is best for the country, the environment or those who are most vulnerable to climate change. Nepal, for example, is one of the nine recipient countries under the World Bank's Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, and the loan component of this funding has been controversial at the national level. The Climate Change Network Nepal has helped facilitate emerging discussions around the Programme in Nepal by organising a stakeholder consultation to bring those concerned together. Likewise in Bangladesh, after a long period of debate, discussion and demonstrations where the voice of civil society was strong, the World Bank will now only provide technical support for implementing the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan under the Bangladesh Climate Resilience Fund framework. Instead, the Bangladesh Climate Resilience Fund will now be managed and implemented by the government of Bangladesh.

Due to the complex nature and magnitude of climate change negotiating sessions, the Climate Change Working Group in Zimbabwe is advocating for the Zimbabwe Government to continuously and consistently ensure that the climate change negotiating team is sourced from a broader spectrum of Ministries and other recommended civil society organisations than at present. It argues that key Ministries like the Ministry of Water, Agriculture, Education and Energy should regularly be included. The Working Group argues that the team should be comprised of the same members each year for posterity and continuity, and that the government should organise pre- and post-negotiation discussions with all stakeholders, to share ideas and shape positions based on the diverse interests represented.

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### ***Analysing a national budget for climate change allocations – Malawi, 2011/2012***

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*Following an analysis of the draft 2011/2012 Malawi national budget focusing on allocations for climate change and environmental management programmes, it became clear that the allocation of public resources to these issues has stagnated over recent years and is inadequate. The analysis looked at allocations to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment, and the Department of Environmental Affairs, which are the key duty-bearers and bodies responsible for coordinating issues relating to the environment, natural resources management and addressing the negative effects of climate change. The study also analysed public resources allocated to the eight sectors identified in the Malawi NAPA, which is the main policy framework guiding the implementation of programmes and activities relating to climate change adaptation.*

*Analysing the draft national budget provided an opportunity to inform policy advocacy and lobbying activities for increased funding and allocation of resources to the environmental sector in Malawi before the budget was passed. It also helped to explore links between approved Government of Malawi policies and national budgetary allocations, and provide a basis for monitoring budget expenditure during the implementation period.*

*This analysis was initiated by the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy, the Malawi Economic Justice Network and Christian Aid with a view to assessing the government's commitment to addressing the effects of climate change, and the degradation of the environment and natural resources. It aimed to bring out salient issues for advocacy, debate and budget monitoring. It provided the impetus for a number of meetings and activities to influence policy making and planning processes in Malawi. These included: a stakeholder validation workshop, a dialogue meeting with parliamentary committees on agriculture, natural resources and budget and finance, and a dialogue meeting with parliamentarians from disaster prone areas across the country. Many of these brought together groups responsible for resource allocation with those responsible for making and implementing policies. The analysis helped engage parliamentarians in sharing a common view on the need to lobby for increased funding and resource allocations to the key sectors identified in the NAPAs.*

*Local communities were invited to many of these meetings, which provided an opportunity for those affected by climate change most severely to voice their concerns to those in power. For example, the Village Civil Protection Committee from Salima, a rural community identified as being more vulnerable to adverse climate change impacts such as droughts and floods attended the stakeholder validation workshop and requested that: the district's budget allocations should include unforeseen circumstances; government should encourage re-forestation by supporting communities with fruit tree seedlings; government should subsidise irrigation farming; and, local communities should be included in consultations on government budget formulation, implementation and monitoring. They also expressed their disappointment regarding the length of time the Government of Malawi took to respond to natural disasters such as floods.*

*Conducting the analysis was not without challenges. Much of the budget material was overly summarised to the extent that it only highlighted planned outputs and objectives. It was therefore difficult to determine exact allocations to specific NAPA interventions for example. Many sectors also inadequately defined indicators for measuring the outcomes of their budget actions from one year to the next. This meant it was difficult to determine the extent to which critical NAPA interventions were implemented through sectoral budget lines over time. Comparability of budget allocations across programmes and/or institutions was also difficult because of frequent structural changes in the budget framework. This meant it was difficult to isolate trends in budget allocations over time. For instance, some sectors had been amalgamated in the 2011/12 financial year while others had been separated or changed altogether.*



A member of the Village Civil Protection Committee from Salima presents at a national budget analysis meeting

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### **Foreign investment versus the environment and local people – success in Zambia**

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*A foreign timber logging company – The Fly Dragon Wood and Lumber Company Ltd – was on the verge of being awarded a large-scale logging concession to remove timber from Mutulunganga Important Bird Area and Local Forest Reserve number 183 in the southern Province of Zambia. The local district authority and the Forestry Department had not objected to the logging plans.*

*Mutulunganga forest and Important Bird Area is probably the largest remaining block of undisturbed lowland deciduous thicket in Zambia. One third of its 27,000 hectare area is under partial protection as a local forest reserve and the remaining area is open forest under the jurisdiction of Chiefs Sikoongo and Simaamba. It is also important habitat for several large mammals, such as the African wild dog and African elephant, for which it is an important migratory corridor. Poverty is high in the area, and natural resources are thus under pressure from agricultural expansion, charcoal burning and natural resource degradation. The area is also a low-rainfall zone, likely to suffer severe climate change impacts. The proposed logging of the forest reserve and open areas could have irrevocably destroyed the key habitats that make Mutulunganga Forest and Important Bird Area a unique site of conservation and environmental concern.*

*The forest protects the headwaters of the Mutulanganga, Bendele, Lukwechele and Lusitu Rivers that flow into the Zambezi River. It also protects surrounding areas from severe flash floods and erosion. It is an important carbon sink and central to maintaining local environmental integrity in this fragile agro-ecological zone, prone to high variability in rainfall and temperature.*

*In April 2010, due to advocacy activities by the **Zambian Ornithological Society**, **Zambia Climate Change Network**, **Community Based Natural Resources Management Forum** and the **Wildlife and Environmental Society of Zambia**, the **Environmental Council of Zambia** rejected the **Environmental Project Brief** submitted by **Fly Dragon Wood and Lumber Company Ltd** to log the area, and asked the company for a full **Environmental Impact Assessment**. This was subsequently presented and in **December 2010** it came up for review. Once again these civil society organisations, and many others spurred into action by them, submitted their objections to the project. A petition with **600 signatures** from **NGO representatives**, **local people** and **local leaders** was presented to the **Environmental Council of Zambia** along with facts from **scientific and citizen's science**. To ensure advocacy was well-informed and based on sound scientific and local knowledge, a series of meetings and investigative site visits were arranged.*



Mopane forest in Zambia is prone to soil erosion. Credit: Mike Bingham

*Many organisations and individuals fought tirelessly and in a united way on this advocacy project and were instrumental in achieving the positive outcome: In January 2011 the Environmental Council of Zambia rejected the Environmental Impact Assessment thus preventing the Fly Dragon Wood and Lumber Company Limited from logging the Mutulanganga Forest and adjacent areas. This was gratifying given the financial strength of the project proponents.*

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### ***The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility versus the Deforestation and Forest Degradation National Strategy in Nicaragua – civil society has its say***

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*Participation in the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (to help developing countries with REDD+) was promoted by the government of Nicaragua but not openly or officially announced. After finding out that Nicaragua was already committed to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the Alianza Nicaraguense ante el Cambio Climático (in English - the Nicaraguan Alliance Against Climatic Change) conducted a detailed analysis of the documents submitted under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility process. These analyses were published in January and May 2011.*

*National Workshop on REDD organised by the Alliance, discussions with the technician responsible for developing the Deforestation and Forest Degradation National Strategy revealed that Nicaragua has much to offer in terms of carbon sequestration, but the emerging proposal was for generating a model for implementing REDD in Nicaragua outside the negotiations relating to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, leaving the feeling that Nicaragua “is officially not in favor of the REDD markets, but recognises that REDD+ has lifted the forest sector profile.”*

*As the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility process continues, the official website for the Facility hosts both draft proposals as well as an assessment made by Global Witness, which contains substantive inputs from the Alliance. This is very important because it transmits these valuable contributions formally into the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility process.*

*What lies ahead will be of great importance for how Nicaragua’s valuable forest resources are administered. This is why the Alliance is insisting that such national processes include broad, effective and active participation of different civil society actors, especially forest dependent communities including indigenous people. The Alliance has conducted several targeted actions regarding climate change and Nicaragua’s important forest resources to date and will continue to share its views.*

*Simultaneously, Nicaragua has informally presented its Deforestation and Forest Degradation National Strategy, called the ‘REDD+ Preparation Stage Proposal’. At the Second National Workshop on REDD organised by the Alliance, discussions with the technician responsible*

*for developing the Deforestation and Forest Degradation National Strategy revealed that Nicaragua has much to offer in terms of carbon sequestration, but the emerging proposal was for generating a model for implementing REDD in Nicaragua outside the negotiations relating to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, leaving the feeling that Nicaragua “is officially not in favor of the REDD markets, but recognises that REDD+ has lifted the forest sector profile.”*

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## Pushing new issues

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Civil society networks have been very active in the context of pushing for new laws, programmes, policies or strategies, or pressing governments to dedicate more resources to issues or places that they feel have been neglected. This could be by strengthening existing programmes, extending them to new areas or advocating for the ratification of existing global agreements. The range of subject areas on which these advocacy activities have focused has been broad and varies from the development of specific climate change units or policies, to policies relating to energy access, low-carbon development, disaster risk management, migration, REDD and wetland management. In some instances civil society has successfully advocated for new climate change units or policies at the highest possible government level. In other instances the advocacy efforts continue, and in some cases the networks acknowledge that they don't necessarily have skills and resources required to meet the advocacy objectives they would like.

The Climate Change Working Group in Zimbabwe has been engaging strongly with the government to encourage it to come up with a comprehensive national climate change policy and strategy to guide adaptation and mitigation actions and strengthen coordination of the nation's response to climate change. The Working Group has also been advocating for the government to seriously consider climate change adaptation as well as its financing as a key priority for Zimbabwe. In October 2011, repeated Working Group engagement with the Climate Change Office Coordinator, senior negotiators and UNDP staff at several meetings led to a significant victory: the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Management announced that the process of developing a national Climate Change Strategy was underway, that the coordinator for this process had been hired and that a consultancy team to start work on the strategy in 2012 had been selected.

In 2003, a small group of civil society organisations based in Kathmandu, Nepal, started a dialogue with the government about the benefits of being party to the UNFCCC and its associated Kyoto Protocol. The main attraction at the time was potential that the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism held for Nepal. This small group successfully convinced the government to endorse the Kyoto Protocol in December 2005 thus opening the door to potential benefits from the Clean Development Mechanism. This group later formally became known as the Climate Change Network Nepal. In more recent years, the Network and its members have been working as think-tanks, providing inputs to several climate change policy making processes, such as the NAPA, where suggestions have been well received by government. The Network has often collaborated with other groups such as the Nepalese Youth for Climate Action on advocacy activities, for example developing a joint submission to the Prime Minister of Nepal before COP15 in 2009.

In Ethiopia, although wetlands are key natural ecosystems that contribute significantly to climate change adaptation and mitigation, wetland resources have long been degraded and their status undermined in various ways, particularly through policy making and planning processes. Ethiopia has not yet ratified the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Ethio-Wetlands and Natural Resources Association has therefore been coordinating advocacy activities to secure convention ratification by the Ethiopian government, and to persuade the Federal Environment Protection Authority to prepare policies and appropriate institutional arrangements for wetland management. To facilitate this process the Association has convened national and regional workshops to raise awareness about the issue, dispatched policy briefs, brochures and posters, and provided material for radio and television programmes. The development of a draft Wetland Management Policy and some progress towards convention ratification can in part be attributed to the Association's involvement of grassroots communities and local government in their advocacy activities.

The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change has also successfully lobbied for the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes and a separate climate change policy for Ethiopia. It has successfully lobbied for the mainstreaming of climate change into national development policies and programmes, and the revision of other policies. The Network has played an important role in voicing on the need for filling critical national policy gaps, notably on land use policy and climate change policy.

In Guatemala, civil society is pushing for the National Strategy of Climate Change to be approved, and simultaneously preparing an Adaptation Plan for the country with support and inputs from the National Climate Change Roundtable, government, indigenous peoples, universities and other groups. This is still in process.

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### ***Advocacy in the Cook Islands: establishing a Climate Change Unit in the Office of the Prime Minister***

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*In 2010/2011, the Cook Islands Climate Action Network was strongly involved with advocacy activities targeting the Cook Islands government, trying to make the case for institutional strengthening on climate change to provide a stronger national framework to support climate work and also stronger Cook Islands engagement in the international climate negotiations. A key priority identified by the Network was the need to establish a Climate Change Unit within the office of the Prime Minister (instead of the Environment Department) to ensure that climate change was an issue within the portfolio of the highest government officials and that decisions made were more inclusive, as opposed to the ad hoc approach of government operating at the time.*

*The Network actively lobbied government on this issue, maintaining dialogue and relations with government to keep the issue alive and 'on the table'. The Network also mobilised other stakeholders (Climate Action Network members, girl guides, churches etc.) to do*

*likewise. The Network kept the media 'on board', which helped keep ensure dialogue with government was more effective. Following a strong push from the Network, the issue was taken up at the National Climate Forum in April 2011, where it had overwhelming support from all stakeholders. It was here that government made its decision to establish the unit. It has since hired a well-qualified unit coordinator.*

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In Vietnam, the Disaster Management Working Group successfully piloted several Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) projects and advocated for the Government of Vietnam to approve the Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Programme (CBDRM Programme). The Working Group has since actively worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to roll-out the Programme, for example by developing National Guidelines for CBDRM Implementation, a monitoring and evaluation system and training documents. The CBDRM Technical Working Group has been established to provide support for government authorities implementing the CBDRM programme (including piloting projects, developing policies and guidelines, developing training materials and raising public awareness). Members of the Disaster Management Working Group have been involved in many on-the-ground activities directly linked to CBDRM so have been able to directly involve affected communities in these processes. The Group is well established and has good expertise; its members generally have a good reputation amongst policy makers.

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***Joint Advocacy Network Initiative in Vietnam: a joint effort to ensure community-based disaster risk management initiatives are included on the national agenda***

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*The Joint Advocacy Network Initiative (JANI) is a joint action initiative, established in 2007, between the European Commission, CARE International in Vietnam and 14 partners (mainly international NGOs and mass organisations in Vietnam) that work in the field of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM). It aims to strengthen CBDRM advocacy, information sharing and coordination through effective networking and joint initiatives. JANI is coordinated by CARE International in Vietnam and funded by the European Commission.*

*For the last 15 years, NGOs have been implementing various CBDRM models in Vietnam primarily at the local level. Setting up a network of organisations working closely with the government has been instrumental in the context of advocating for the replication of good practice models emerging from this work. The most noticeable advocacy result the government decided in 2009 to issue the Prime Minister's decision 1002 that aims to scale up CBDRM activities in two thirds of the communes in Vietnam.*

*JANI members now work closely with the Disaster Management Centre and other stakeholders to develop the 'building blocks' of this ambitious programme (including, for*

*example, development of national, provincial and commune guidelines, standardisation of training packages and drafting of a Monitoring and Evaluation framework). JANI has also been invited by government to provide input into several important policy documents such as the draft national platform as well as the draft law on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) scheduled to be passed at the end of 2012. As part of its action plan, JANI will gather the voices of communities and feed this information into the process of developing the draft DRR law. More recently, as part of its annual work plan, JANI brought those implementing school-based DRR models at the community level together with the Ministry of Education and Training to develop a set of Information Education and Communications materials that aim to mainstream DRR and climate change into the formal curriculum.*

*Every year JANI supports the celebration of national and international DRR days as a way to convey key advocacy messages to government and donors. The media are a strong network ally in this context. In 2011, JANI chose a common advocacy message drawn from the results of a survey conducted in 17 provinces (of the 63 in Vietnam) evaluating community perceptions regarding implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action - a major international agreement on disaster risk reduction. A key survey findings was the lack of funding allocated to the local level for the implementation of CBDRM activities, so "invest today for a safer tomorrow, increased investment in local action" was the key message selected by JANI for the 2011 national DRR day in Vietnam.*

*JANI will continue to advocate for the voice of vulnerable communities for DRR activities in Vietnam. As mentioned by the Vice Minister Dao Xuan Hoc (from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development) during his speech to launch the DRR day in Da Nang province in 2011: international "NGOs bring little funds but their input in the setting up of the national CBDRM programme is very much appreciated".*

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Civil society networks and NGOs have conducted many advocacy activities focusing on energy access and low-carbon development. For example, the All India Women's Conference has been working to promote the introduction of SDM 50 Solar Dryers in four regions of India with a view to providing poor women in these regions with income generating opportunities from selling dried fruit and vegetables. Following persuasion by the All India Women's Conference, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in India subsidised the costs of buying the SDM 50 Solar Dryers by 50 per cent. Following this, many women took up the opportunity to purchase these new technologies.

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### ***Biofuels: a blessing or curse for the rural poor in West Africa?***

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*Mali-Folkcenter Nyaetaa, a Malian NGO specialised in renewable energy and environmental protection, has been working since 1999 to develop pilot projects to*

*demonstrate that pure Jatropha oil can fuel Mali's future development in a sustainable way, to the benefit of local people. Its Garalo Bagani Yelen Project provides a new paradigm of energy provision for sustainable development in the region, safeguarding the supply of Jatropha oil for electricity production and providing new diversified income sources for local people. Based on this work, Mali-Folkecenter Nyaetaa proposes three pillars for sustainable biofuel production and use:*

- 1. Local production that provides a new source of income to combat poverty, and that uses intercropping and sustainable agricultural techniques with no irrigation or chemical fertilizer and provides no risk to food security.*
- 2. Transformative local action that adds real local value, creates jobs and develops 'press cake' for use as organic fertilizer.*
- 3. Local use such that local energy needs are met instead of exporting the fuel to industrialised countries, and concrete economic development is stimulated at the local level.*

*There are several ongoing advocacy activities related to this work that target government institutions and decision making processes. These activities will ensure that Mali has sustainable criteria for implementing the National Biofuel Strategy of 2008.*

*Mali-Folkecenter Nyaetaa is currently working with the national agency for the development of biofuels to mainstream sustainability criteria into biofuel production in Mali. This is a participatory process that involves a number of different stakeholders (parliamentarians, the private sector, NGOs, farmers et cetera). In September 2011, Mali-Folkecenter Nyaetaa organised an international workshop gathering experts from 13 countries to reflect on sustainability and biofuel production.*

*The national annual environmental forum has been organised every year in Mali since 2006. It brings together people from rural communities, decisions makers and development practitioners to reflect on environmental issues. It therefore allows grassroots communities to convey their concerns to decision makers. The challenges of sustainable biofuel development are amongst these concerns and were thus discussed at fourth forum in November 2010.*



The power plant at Garalo runs on Jatropha oil



At night this produces power for the village



Above: Masara Kané runs a bustling restaurant on the main road through Garalo. With the arrival of electricity she says she can stay open longer and has increased revenues. She uses electricity for lighting and for charging mobile phones. She is now thinking about investing in a refrigerator, which would allow her to sell cold water and soft drinks.



Left: Collecting Jatropha seeds in Mali

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## **Developing a network advocacy plan on sustainable energy**

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*International Network for Sustainable Energy partners met in September and October 2011, in Delhi and Kerala, India, respectively, to develop a network advocacy plan. They came out with a number of recommendations on which advocacy activities could be undertaken to influence Indian government policy. Some key points include:*

- *Top-down climate change planning approaches emphasising policy making by international organisations and states should be revised. A new system starting with rural communities, local government and NGOs is needed.*
- *Subsidies for fossil fuels should be diverted to grassroots renewable energy and environmental technology programmes. Government should establish and run rural-level energy centres.*
- *National government should support replacing the use of firewood and biomass for cooking with briquettes made from biodegradable waste material and dry leaves.*
- *The use of solar energy for lighting and water heating should be compulsory for big institutions, and targets, for example for 40 per cent of meals cooked with solar energy, should be established.*
- *Portable biogas plants should be made compulsory in all city households to convert kitchen and other waste to energy and manure. Governments should provide funds for training and post-installation services to support this, and set state targets for biogas use. Government should place special emphasis on supporting research and development in this field.*
- *Climate change mitigation should be integrated into school-level curricular and extra-curricular activities such as eco-clubs, because children and youth are important stakeholders in the future survival of our planet.*
- *State governments should make rainwater harvesting compulsory and should provide assistance accordingly.*
- *Government and companies should finance carbon credit projects, provide technical assistance and develop enabling policies for carbon credit.*

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The following two case studies provide examples of how working with and involving government in a new area of focus – in these instances developing national standards for biogas systems or supporting small-scale hydropower schemes – can serve as an advocacy tool to encourage governments to develop new policies and legislation.

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## **Developing Sri Lanka's national standards for biogas systems**

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*During the global oil crisis in the mid 1970s, biogas was viewed as an alternative energy source reducing reliance on imported energy in Sri Lanka. In the late 1970s, with the crisis over, many biogas systems became dysfunctional despite the many benefits they offered. Some of the best brains in the nation therefore came together to launch a national campaign to repair and rebuild malfunctioning biogas systems. This led to an escalation in demand for biogas systems, so Practical Action launched an awareness-raising programme using posters, leaflets, case studies, electronic media and presentations to help boost the biogas sector further. Over 1,000 dairy and organic agricultural farmers and 25,000 students and other people attended these programmes.*

*The growing momentum of interest in biogas systems prompted Practical Action to focus on the biogas sector in a more systematic manner. Experts in the sector were invited to advise the biogas programme of Practical Action through the formation of a Technical Advisory Committee. This first met in 2003, and in 2004, a sub-committee was appointed to investigate setting up draft national standards for biogas systems in Sri Lanka. Practical Action requested the Sri Lanka Standards Institution (SLSI) to approve the Technical Advisory Committee, and SLSI consequently appointed the Committee to also serve as the Technical Advisory Committee for the standardisation of biogas systems in the nation as a whole. After many consultative discussions, the Committee produced a draft Sri Lanka Standard Code of Practice for Design and Construction of Domestic Biogas Systems for SLSI. SLSI approved this draft and released it for public comment in March 2006. Practical Action organised a public workshop where SLSI Technical Advisory Committee members attended to discuss the standards. SLSI then approved the final version. Practical Action, with its extensive experience in biogas technology, people and networking, has since established the Lanka Biogas Association as an independent and autonomous body looking into the interests of the biogas sector.*

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## **Decentralising power policy and legislation – the Tungu-Kabiri Community Micro-Hydropower project in Kenya**

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*In Kenya, hydropower is a major source of electricity contributing well over 60 per cent of the country's electricity. In 2007, an electric power act permitted independent power producers to provide grid electricity to the population, but the act didn't take small-scale decentralised schemes (such as micro hydropower) which could provide power to off-grid communities into consideration. As a result, private sector investment in renewable energy businesses has been slow.*

*A micro-hydropower project located in Tungu-Kabiri in Meru South District has been operating since 1998. The project generated its first electricity in June 2001. The*



*scheme is owned, operated and managed by a community group of 150 members who have formed a corporation. Energy from the scheme powers a business centre where the corporation has rented out space to eight separate stalls for welding, a hair salon, a barber, charging mobile phones, selling cold drinks and a video show room. An additional six stalls are planned and the community wants the scheme to supply electricity to surrounding households and for pumping water in the future. The project has thus shown how small-scale renewable energy solutions can provide cheap energy to off-grid poor communities and a substitute to fossil-fuel-based electricity generation.*

*The Small Grants Programme of the UNDP Global Environment Facility provided two grants of US\$38,500 and US\$25,000 for the project. Practical Action implemented it along with the Ministry of Energy and the community. Practical Action also monitored the project and provided technical support. The community provided labour at an estimated 30 per cent of total costs.*

*Involving the Ministry of Energy as a partner from the project's inception ensured government support. Following the Ministry's experience with implementing this micro-hydropower scheme, it was inspired to review decentralised power policy in Kenya more broadly. As a direct result of involvement in this project, energy legislation and policy relating to decentralised power production has improved and the Ministry of Energy has now set official standards for the micro-hydropower sector. Capacity to undertake micro-hydro feasibility studies is stronger, as is capacity to manufacture and repair system components. Similar schemes are now emerging elsewhere in Kenya.*

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REDD is also an area where networks have been focusing their advocacy efforts. REDD is a relatively new concept, and networks have had to move fast to push for in-country REDD policies and processes to be structured in such a way that they provide opportunities that can really benefit forest communities as well as contribute to a reduction in global greenhouse gas levels.

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### ***Recommendations from Tanzanian civil society with regard to Tanzania's National REDD Strategy***

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*Tanzania has started to implement REDD readiness pilot projects before finalising the national REDD policy and institutional arrangements. Lessons learnt and findings from pilot projects can then inform policy makers and the development of a comprehensive national REDD strategy.*

*Civil society in Tanzania, including Tanzania Forest Conservation Group, Tanzania Community Forest Network, Tanzania Natural Resource Forum, Mpingo Conservation*

*and Development Initiative, Wildlife Conservation Society, Lawyers Environmental Action Team, Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation, and CARE Tanzania, have come together with a view to maintaining and enhancing community rights, and increasing community and civil society participation in REDD activities. Consequently they call for the Tanzania National REDD Strategy to:*

- Express Tanzania's support for a 'nested approach' to allow community projects to be verified and credited independently within a national accounting framework to ensure REDD benefits reach communities;*
  - Recognise that almost all unreserved forests are on village land and that village land rights will apply under national REDD policies;*
  - Recognise that carbon stored in forest biomass on village land is the property of the village;*
  - Stipulate that community groups, civil society and the private sector should be represented on the National REDD Task Force; and,*
  - Include a commitment to adopt and implement National REDD Community and Biodiversity Safeguards to complement World Bank safeguards.*
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### ***Piloting REDD+ in community forestry in Nepal: promising directions***

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*Nepal is a world leader in mainstreaming community forest management practices into forestry policy. More than 14,000 community groups, representing around 1.6 million households (about 35 per cent of the country's population), are successfully managing 25 per cent of Nepal's forests (1.2 million hectares). The Forest Act of 1993 gives them rights over the resources of forests that have been designated community forest by the government. The Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) represents community-based forests from all over the country. It has a strong record of helping community forest user groups manage their forest resources in a sustainable and inclusive way, and lobbying government for their rights.*

*Since July 2009 a pilot project to set up a national governance and payment system for emissions reductions through sustainable forest management has been implemented by FECOFUN and two partner NGOs. FECOFUN has put together a consortium of organisations, including the Nepalese Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, and collaborated closely with the government to: strengthen the capacity of civil society actors to participate in the planning and preparation of national REDD+ strategies; establish a Forest Carbon Trust Fund which takes account of both social and carbon data when calculating the entitlement of communities to REDD+ funds (the increment in forest carbon stock in the first year carries only a 40 per cent weighting, with the remaining 60 per cent*

*allocated according to social criteria); and, develop methods to monitor carbon flux in community-managed forests. This pilot aims to develop a model that can be replicated globally wherever community-forest management is practiced.*

*The project was able to make its first payments to communities in 2011. In these early years of the project, payments are donor-funded. In future, however, they will come from whatever international mechanism is agreed for REDD+ finance.*

*National REDD+ policy has been influenced by the engagement of the government in detailed implementation of this pilot programme to test the mechanisms for eventual REDD+ revenue distribution. Involving a wide variety of stakeholders, including government, in the Forest Carbon Trust Fund process has generated a widespread sense of trust and shared ownership. However it takes more than a successful pilot project to get a country ready for REDD. Considerable challenges remain for developing an effective national REDD strategy that puts the needs of community forest users uppermost.*

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The Climate Change and Development Forum in Bangladesh is involved with a large number of networks all seeking to raise urgent issues on climate change and adaptation. Alongside other networks, the Forum has recently been taking the issue of climate change and migration forward at both national and international levels. This has been challenging, however, as the Forum does not have the technical capacity for advocacy that it needs. More support is needed to develop the Forum's advocacy programme. challenging, however, as the Forum does not have the technical capacity for advocacy that it needs. More support is needed to develop the Forum's advocacy programme.

In some instances advocacy activities have focused on particular areas of a country rather than a specific topic such as REDD. In Ethiopia, for example, the Forum for Environment worked with the Federal Environment Protection Authority (the focal point for the UNFCCC in Ethiopia) to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Programme for Afar Regional State in 2010.

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### ***Vietnam – the neglected northern mountainous regions***

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*Donors and other development organisations working to address climate change in Vietnam have tended to focus their attention on southern Vietnam, partly because rising sea-levels are expected to result in vast areas of low coastal land and infrastructure being lost in the Mekong region of Vietnam by the end of this century. However, through the experience of Sustainable Rural Development working in northern Vietnam, it is clear that climate change is already having significant negative impacts among poor communities in Vietnam's northern mountainous areas. Poor people living here are vulnerable to climate change impacts*

*because they rely so heavily on natural resources – such as arable land for farming, and clean water for good health – and because they are least able to rebuild their homes and livelihoods if they are hit by natural disasters.*

*In order to find out how exactly local people in rural mountainous areas are experiencing the impacts of climate change, what their particular vulnerabilities are, and to work out how best to help them adapt, Sustainable Rural Development conducted climate change needs assessments in five different provinces in northern Vietnam. Results showed a close correlation between farmers' resilience to the impacts of climate change and their level of access to land, water and markets.*

*Sustainable Rural Development is using the information and recommendations generated from these climate change needs assessments to develop projects to support communities in mountainous areas to develop more sustainable and resilient livelihoods. One of these will be implemented in 2012. It is intended that lessons learned from these activities will then be extended to support other rural communities whose livelihoods are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts.*

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The above case studies provide examples of where advocacy activities to push new issues have met with some success. Elsewhere, advocacy activities are ongoing and in some instances although a network can identify changes it would like to see in a policy or programme, it remains unable to implement them.

In Malawi there is no specific national policy on climate change which would obligate and provide guidance to government regarding funding allocation for climate change programmes. The Civil Society Network on Climate Change is advocating for the development of such a programme and has a number of plans to influence this process. In Nicaragua too, despite of the existence of an Environment and Climate Change National Strategy, the country does not have an adaptation policy or a national adaptation plan that will promote the concrete actions needed to help the most vulnerable communities.

The Niger Youth Network on Climate Change makes a number of recommendations regarding Niger's NAPA but acknowledges it has neither the expertise nor resources to effectively engage in NAPA-related advocacy. It would like to see youth fully involved in NAPA implementation, and sufficient resources provided for educational activities, training and public awareness activities under the NAPA. To help the Network make these changes a reality, however, training, study tours, and financial and material support are needed. The unfortunate reality is that nearly all networks who submitted material for this report were able to identify areas where additional financial support or other resources could be used to improve the quality and quantity of advocacy initiatives they identify as being important.

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## Securing a joined-up response

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Many civil society networks identified the lack of joined-up government responses to climate change as a key barrier to securing effective action at the national level. Networks have therefore conducted advocacy work towards improving integration between different ministries, policies and government bodies responsible for climate change related issues. In many instances this has involved advocacy activities to integrate climate change into existing policies and processes, but it has also involved advocacy work to integrate key stakeholders and other government processes and policies into emerging climate change policies.

The problems of poor integration amongst government policies and processes are multiple. In Nicaragua, for example, political effort is needed to join the multiplicity of documents, policies, programmes, strategies and rules related to climatic change, and to transform them in practical, concrete and specific actions that truly address national priorities.

Ethiopia's first ever Environmental Policy was issued in 1997, and despite mentioning the vulnerability of the country and the need for national action to manage climate risks and mobilise international financial support, the Policy makes no mention of the need to fully integrate climate change adaptation and nationally appropriate mitigation measures into environmental policy. This deficiency is largely because the Policy was crafted before climate change was high on the political agenda.

Tanzania also suffers from inadequate coordination between different sectors in order to address climate change. For example, the country has been receiving support for climate change and REDD initiatives from Norway and UNREDD, and has now started developing its National REDD Strategy, but it still needs to prepare a national climate strategy that covers adaptation, mitigation, capacity building and technology. The National Development Vision 2025 aims for economic prosperity, equity, self-reliance, the transformation from a rural based agricultural economy to a more diversified and industrialised one, as well as sustainability by the year 2025. Yet despite the Vision's long time horizon, climate change is not mentioned. It neither discusses climate-related risks, nor strategies to mitigate or adapt to them. Similarly, the shorter-term (five-year) Tanzania Assistance Strategy does not discuss climate change either, although climate-related risks such as floods and droughts feature prominently.

Despite the obvious links between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, national policies are often poor at adopting an integrated approach to the two fields. Current Cambodian disaster risk reduction policies focus mainly on post-disaster emergency relief and programmes do not integrate global policies on climate change. The National Strategic Development Plan 2006-2010 did not clarify well how to integrate

disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies and strategies into the various development sectors. Coordination is a critical challenge for implementing existing policies and strategies effectively in Cambodia. There are many government ministries and agencies responsible for climate change and disaster management but coordination mechanisms within and between ministries and agencies, and between government and civil society organisations, is poor. The two main agencies, the Climate Change Department and the National Committee for Disaster Management, are isolated both in terms of their responsibilities and funding.

In Vietnam, the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020 suffers from insufficient integration of disaster management into Social Economic Development Plans or climate change programmes. It also lacks an integrated multi-hazard approach (hazard maps, for example, remain focused on individual hazards) and sufficient emphasis on non-water related disasters and non-structural responses.

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### ***Integrating responses to climate change and disaster risk reduction in Vietnam***

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*In most countries, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation operate largely in isolation from each other. Vietnam, however, recognises the potential value of integrating the work of these two fields and is currently developing a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. This will promote better coordination and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actions. It aims to support the implementation of relevant policies and strategies, provide a solid basis for action at the national level and be guided by evidence-based activities at the local level. Details regarding the Platform's administration have yet to be determined but one of the key challenges that could benefit from civil society inputs is the development of systems and processes that support Platform coordination by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Finance (responsible for climate change) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (responsible for disaster management). This may be by determining an appropriate lead agency for Platform management or a joint management board (with members from the two ministries).*

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Joined-up policy making has also been problematic in Papua New Guinea. Here, the Office of Climate Change and Development asserts that it has been working with the Forestry Authority and Department of Environment and Conservation (which issues the environmental permits needed for forest clearance) to halt logging activities and protect the forests in order to implement the REDD+ pilot projects. The government, however, maintains that agricultural development is critical for national food security and economic development and thus the logging continues.

Emerging policies, programmes and government institutions focusing on climate change also suffer from poor integration with other key policy processes or key stakeholders at times. The Federal Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia has recently developed Ethiopia's Programme of Adaptation to Climate Change, for example, which aims to provide the foundations for a carbon-neutral climate-resilient pathway to sustainable development in the country. It is, however, compiled from contributions made by different ministries, suggesting that climate change adaptation is not being addressed in a coherent manner. The role of non-state actors in the planning, design and implementation of activities mentioned in the work programme is not clearly defined. There were also concerns about the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of Ethiopia's NAPA, when groups such as the Women's Affairs Office and Ministry of Health were not represented.

Malawi has a number of government institutions working on climate change and related issues. These include the Environment Affairs Department, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services, the Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation, and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs. There is, however, a lack of a clear coordination mechanisms amongst these bodies.

Vietnam has a National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change, but one of the key weaknesses of this policy is integration. The policy is restricted by a lack of basic databases, maps, and satellite imagery to support the forecasting and assessment of climate change impacts. Consistency across data platforms is missing, which is likely to restrict information sharing between governmental and non-governmental bodies, and the overlapping and unclear responsibilities of ministries and agencies operating under this policy contribute to tension over management and funding.

Networks have been conducting a number of advocacy activities to secure more joined-up government responses to climate change. In Ethiopia, for example, the Civil Society Network on Climate Change has done much to help ensure climate change is viewed as a topical cross-cutting issue in the country and appropriately mainstreamed into national programmes.

Another network in Ethiopia, the Poverty Action Network Ethiopia, has also successfully lobbied for climate change adaptation to be mainstreamed into the five-year Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty, and the Millennium Development Goals in Ethiopia. Poverty Action Network Ethiopia was established in 2004, specifically to facilitate the proactive and continuous involvement of civil society in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of poverty reduction programmes and strategies. In 2009, the Network published a research report on 'the impact of climate change on the Millennium Development Goals and the Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty implementation in Ethiopia'. This was acknowledged by key ministries and used as an input for the five-year national

Growth and Transformation Plan of Ethiopia. The policy recommendations proposed in the report were taken seriously by government and climate change was consequently given more attention in the newly launched national development and transformation plan.

In Malawi, members of the Civil Society Network on Climate Change are involved in supporting implementation of the National Irrigation Policy and Development Strategy. This envisages fully utilising areas with irrigation potential, which is important because Malawi needs to identify more land suitable for irrigation so that the country can increase its reliance on predictable irrigation rather than rain-fed agriculture. The Policy does not mention climate change, but recognises that droughts are affecting crop production and addresses some of the key issues that enhance adaptation. The Network has been facilitating the implementation of a number of small-scale community-based irrigation projects as strategies for climate change adaptation. Network members have used best practices from these initiatives as evidence to engage policy makers. One key issue requiring a policy response that has arisen is the regulation of permitted distances between water sources such as rivers and gardens to ensure that fragile lands are not damaged.

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### ***Integrating REDD+ into existing forest initiatives in Ghana***

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*The REDD+ process was initially divorced from other forest initiatives in Ghana. Initiatives such as the Voluntary Partner Agreement were governed under the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance Framework framework, where all funds in the forestry sector were pooled together under the control of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning for the appropriate authorities to access after meeting certain conditions. Yet the REDD+ process under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility duplicated these existing activities in Ghana and suffered from poor oversight. Following concerns from civil society organisations and some government authorities, steps have now been taken to bring REDD+ under the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance Framework rather than it being an exclusive process confined to a few actors. This provides a window for parallel reporting from civil society to hold authorities accountable for the safeguards needed under REDD+.*

*There are also various other opportunities in Ghana at the moment to ensure REDD+ is implemented well. Civil society organisations such as Forest Watch Ghana - a coalition of about 40 NGOs and individuals working in the forest and environment sector - will continue to engage with these opportunities to ensure REDD+ activities recognise community rights, improve forest governance and respect the necessary social and environmental safeguards. Ghana is currently undergoing legal and policy reform in the forest sector and there is also an on-going national constitutional review process which local communities and civil society at large can use as a platform to push for community resource control, appropriate land tenure arrangements and a just, transparent and accountable system for sharing benefits.*

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## Focusing attention on the most vulnerable

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Civil society plays a particularly important role in the context of ensuring that poor and vulnerable people, who so often lack political voice themselves, are not forgotten in national policy making and planning processes. Material submitted from civil society networks for this report reveals great concern over the degree to which poor and vulnerable communities are both part of climate change related policy making processes in different countries, but also likely to benefit from existing and emerging government strategies and plans on climate change.

Vietnam provides many examples in this respect. Most donor funding in Vietnam is channelled through central government to support the development of key climate change policies and programmes. Some is used for research and training, but little reaches the local level and those most affected by climate change impacts. Better engagement of communities and vulnerable groups such as women and children, and better use of participatory processes in the implementation of existing programmes and strategies could be a useful area for the Climate Change Working Group in Vietnam to focus its advocacy efforts.

For example, implementation of the National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change in Vietnam is led by the Government. In May 2011, some 20 ministries and sectors at the national level, 26 northern provinces, UNDP and other partners and donors attended a workshop to inform the development of the National Strategy on Climate Change to 2050 under this Programme. Civil society was not represented at the workshop, and communities are not involved in the policy planning process. The policy-making processes underway in the development of the National Strategy on Climate Change and the National Action Plan for Climate Change are also restricted to a limited number of privileged government insiders, and narrowly define the climate change debate by focusing on biophysical issues. Similar concerns exist about Vietnam's disaster management strategies. The social components of climate change and disaster management often receive less attention from government than the biophysical and infrastructure components. The National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020 involves limited genuine and representative grassroots participation in disaster planning processes. Engaging vulnerable people in the Community Awareness Raising and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Programme to 2020 has also been challenging due to a barriers such as remoteness, language, gender roles and people's ability to participate effectively.

There are also concerns about the rights of forest communities under the emerging National REDD+ Programme in Vietnam. Most forest areas are managed by the state rather than local communities making it hard to see how the benefit sharing components of REDD+ will materialise. Ethnic minorities have no land use rights or

certificates of ownership, and governance arrangements to ensure equitable distribution of REDD+ funds are insufficient. REDD+ activities could even intensify poverty as forest resources become less available for use. The criteria set to define who is eligible to benefit from the Pilot Programme on Agriculture Insurance for the period of 2011-2013 will also restrict the involvement of some poor people. The Programme aims to compensate farmers for financial losses caused by natural disasters and diseases, but many poor households will not meet the scale of production necessary to be eligible for agricultural insurance.

Vietnam is not alone in terms of concerns over whether its climate change related policies and programmes have sufficiently engaged with or will benefit those who are most vulnerable. The development of climate change and disaster reduction policies and strategies in Cambodia was done almost entirely at the national level and failed to engage vulnerable people. Even connections between national and sub-national levels were unclear. Likewise in Niger, community voices are not apparent in national policies and strategies or valued in policy making processes. Community-based strategies are missing and climate change debates are deemed to be for 'experts' with information and explanations not shared with ordinary citizens and vulnerable groups. Case studies from around the world collected by the Accra Caucus on Forests and Climate Change also show that during the REDD-readiness phase in most countries, the focus is on carbon, not on social or environmental integrity, and that indigenous peoples and local communities have little power to participate in and influence the REDD process.

Despite these challenges, civil society organisations have been working in a multitude of ways to try and ensure that poor and vulnerable people are included in national climate change policy making and planning processes, and that they also receive benefits resulting from these processes. The NGO Forum in Cambodia, for example, has the ear of government, and acts to gather together community voices and feed these into disaster risk management and climate change related law and policy making processes. The government of Bangladesh organised the third Vulnerable Countries Forum in November 2011, and the slogan of four climate networks (including the Climate Change and Development Forum in Bangladesh) taken up by parties to this Forum was the "right to survive is non-negotiable."

In the past three or more years, Ethiopian civil society organisations have engaged the Ethiopian government and successfully lobbied for the development of pro-poor and inclusive national climate change policies and programmes in the country. Population, Health and Environment-Ethiopia, for example, is a national consortium of organisations that has lobbied for and promoted the traditional community based agro-forestry system of Wenago in the Gedeo Zone in the southern Regional State of Ethiopia. This system serves both as a strategy for environmental conservation and climate change adaptation. Population, Health and Environment-Ethiopia's successful advocacy and lobbying activities can be attributed to the following factors:

- Involving key ministries, parliamentarians and regional, zonal and local decision makers and community members in joint experience sharing, discussions and consensus building about a particular problem
- Disseminating research-based evidence to key stakeholders
- Creating wider opportunities to raise awareness amongst the public through the media
- Organisational commitment and dedication to the Population, Health and Environment-Ethiopia approach
- Good networking and good working relationships with key stakeholders; and,
- Strong links amongst institutions, such as higher learning institutions, the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation, the Ministry of Water and Energy and the Federal Environmental Protection Authority.

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### ***Raising the voices of the poor in the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan***

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*The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan was developed in 2009. It identifies 145 action measures in 44 different programmes under the six thematic areas of:*

- 1. Food security, social protection and health*
- 2. Comprehensive disaster management*
- 3. Research and knowledge management*
- 4. Infrastructure*
- 5. Mitigation and low-carbon development*
- 6. Capacity building and institutions.*

*It also recognises most climate-induced hazards including floods, droughts, sea level rise, salinity intrusion, cyclones and storm surges.*

*The process of preparing the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan needed to be participatory and based on learning from the NAPAs developed in nearly all LDCs. But the opinions of indigenous and local peoples were not sufficiently taken into account during its development. The Plan mentions gender, but only in two out of the six thematic areas, and it doesn't provide enough action measures to integrate gender issues into adaptation activities. Levels of stakeholder involvement and participation could be improved and a variety of actors including policy makers, community leaders, civil society groups active on climate change, media, academics, indigenous peoples and affected community representatives could be involved better.*

*The Climate Change and Development Forum in Bangladesh has been trying to raise the voices of the vulnerable in different ways under the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. It has prepared a position paper on the issues, conducted media briefings, shared lessons and experiences amongst members and met with government organisations especially the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Forum regularly discussed the action issues identified in the Strategy and Action Plan and ongoing implementation mechanisms in its meetings, and it analysed and presented financial allocations to different vulnerable zones and sectors.*

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***Mawale and Mzee Disaster Risk Reduction clubs, Sengabay, Salima, Malawi***

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*Climate change, population pressure and degradation of natural resources have not spared the lives of those living in Salima District in Malawi. Communities here are poor and vulnerable to the droughts that afflict the area. In 2006, the Senga-Baptist Medical Institution conducted a vulnerability assessment of the communities in the area. HIV/AIDS and malnourishment ranked highly, and climate change was also found to contribute significantly to community poverty levels. The resulting two-year Building Disaster Resilience for Communities work supported by Christian Aid focused on HIV/AIDS. Following this the Mission developed and raised funding for another proposal building on the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction but focusing on climate change adaptation. The project's main activity was community irrigation with the use of solar panels. Two local clubs, namely the Mawale and Mzee Disaster Risk Reduction Clubs, were formed, with respective membership of 20 and 27 farmers each. The Baptist Mission worked with these clubs and the local community to implement activities on the ground.*

*Recognising that it was important to influence policy as well as local practices, the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy also became involved, working mainly to increase public awareness about climate change, enhance civil society lobbying and advocacy work in climate change policy debates, build alliances for promoting civil society engagement in climate change debates, and support community-driven approaches to climate change policy making. A key challenge is that most communities are unaware of the policies and legislation surrounding climate change. The forums organised by the Centre have helped tackle this challenge by providing space to exchange issues relevant for advocacy. The Sengabay project area is now one of a number of case studies that have been used to develop civil society inputs into the National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy. Importantly, the Centre has provided space for communities to voice and advocate for their own priorities. Ownership and participation at the local level has been high, particularly amongst women.*



Photovoltaic panel and tank for Mzee Disaster Risk Reduction Club



Mr Sineki's maize field is healthier as a result of conservation farming



Community participants at a panel discussion organised by the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy

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### ***Tanzania: empowering communities in the REDD debate***

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*Tanzania has received support from UNREDD and Norway for REDD activities in the country. MJUMITA and the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group have been working to ensure that benefits from REDD reach the most vulnerable. An advocacy strategy for these two groups has been developed for:*

- 1. Ensuring that a mechanism (whether market or fund based) exists for distributing fair compensation to communities for reductions in emissions they achieve from reducing deforestation and degradation of forests they control on village land or jointly manage with government.*
- 2. Ensuring that REDD funding distribution mechanisms fairly compensate community members affected by REDD activities and avoid elite capture.*
- 3. Ensuring that the poorest members of society benefit from REDD activities and are compensated for any harm caused by REDD activities to their livelihoods.*
- 4. Ensuring that national REDD policies are effective at reducing deforestation and protecting biodiversity.*

*The advocacy strategy identifies six objectives:*

- 1. Approval of the Joint Forest Management revenue sharing agreement by the end of 2011.*
- 2. The National REDD Strategy or National Forest Policy recognises that unreserved forests on village land are under the control of the village authority by 2012.*
- 3. Carbon stored in forest biomass in village land forest reserves is recognised by the National Forest Policy as property of villages by 2012.*
- 4. The National REDD Strategy adopts a nested approach that provides the options for community groups to directly trade their credits to a National REDD Trust Fund or directly to the international market by 2012.*
- 5. Taxation on all sales and proceeds derived from carbon credits sold and received by communities either through the National REDD Trust Fund or international sources are clarified in the National REDD Strategy by 2012.*
- 6. Safeguards that protect ecosystem services including biodiversity are mainstreamed into the National REDD Strategy and other relevant policy documents by 2012 and enforced and monitored as an integral part of the ongoing REDD process in Tanzania.*

*For each of the six specified objectives this advocacy strategy identifies:*

- 1. The policy context for advocacy work*
- 2. Targets*
- 3. Allies and opponents*
- 4. How to frame messaging such that it appeals to targets*
- 5. Potential advocacy activities, such as lobbying, producing briefs, television and radio appearances, or making bumper stickers for cars.*

*The advocacy strategy identifies outcomes and indicators for all these objectives, and proposes an advocacy calendar for the activities proposed.*

*For example on objective 2, the policy context is the National REDD Framework which has claimed that 49 per cent of all forestland is 'general land' not belonging to villages. Traditional understanding as maintained by the Ministry of Land and described in the Land, Village Land and Forest Acts, however, is that only two per cent of Tanzanian land is 'general land'. The National REDD Task Force is the primary target to ensure this claim is not repeated in the final National REDD Strategy, and a number of groups such as CARE International have been identified as useful allies in these efforts as well as the Ministry of Land which already adheres to the traditional definition of village land. Opponents are likely to be certain arms of the central and district governments interested in maintaining control over land as the financial benefits of REDD become more and more apparent. In terms of messaging the recommendation is for the emphasis to be on collective action for the*

*collective good, and recommended advocacy activities include: lobbying at meetings and through one-on-one sessions with the Task Force, if possible with support from the Ministry of Land; researching and publishing a Village Land Position Paper and a Village Land Brief (for more advocacy impact); and, appearances on television and radio because the issue touches on much more than carbon and REDD and will therefore appeal to a wider audience, for example all village governments struggling to register their land and stuck in the inefficiencies of land use planning processes.*

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### ***Embedding the needs of the vulnerable in the Malian NAPA***

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*The National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in Mali is one of the first national strategies specifically designed to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change on vulnerable communities. Mandated by the UNFCCC and supported by funds from the LDC Fund, each LDC is producing a NAPA, and Mali began to develop theirs in 2005, led by the Ministry of Transport and Public Works through the National Directorate of Weather. The NAPA process was completed in 2007 and 19 priority projects were identified in order to provide urgent and immediate support to vulnerable communities in Mali. The total estimated cost of these projects is US\$49.76 million. The NAPA team adopted five criteria in their elaboration of the NAPA, the first two of which were the impact of activities on vulnerable groups and on the economic growth rates of the poor. The focus was therefore strongly on those most vulnerable to climate change impacts in Mali.*

*To date, one project – with a value of US\$3.4 million – is being implemented with co-financing from the Global Environment Facility. Other priority projects are still waiting for funding, although this project does integrate a number of components of other identified priority NAPA projects into its work plan. The project - strengthening food security in Mali to cope with change and climate variability - will last four years, and covers several pilot sites across the country.*

*The process of developing the NAPA was long and involved considerable levels of consultation with, and participation from, a wide variety of stakeholders (particularly at the regional level), local communities, private sector representatives and NGOs. Members of the Capacity Building in the LDCs on Adaptation to Climate Change network in Mali – a network of national NGOs interested in climate change issues – contributed to the NAPA process from the very beginning. Many attended the NAPA public consultations and validation workshops, and brought their expertise on both participatory processes and effective project implementation to bear on the process. Their knowledge of the particular needs of vulnerable groups proved particularly valuable, but given that the implementation of NAPA projects is so slow, the contributions that these organisations have been able to make to implementation on the ground has been limited to date.*

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## ***Establishing the first National Implementing Agency – lessons from Senegal***

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*The Adaptation Fund was established under the UNFCCC to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are particularly vulnerable to climate change. The Fund is financed from a share of proceeds from Clean Development Mechanism project activities and from other sources of funding. It is supervised and managed by the Adaptation Fund Board. In order to access support from the Fund, a country needs to establish a National Implementing Entity. This can access Adaptation Fund resources to implement adaptation activities on the ground. This principle of direct access is important as it provides a direct link between vulnerable communities and funding for adaptation, without having to go through governments or multilateral agencies such as the Global Environment Facility. The accreditation of the first National Implementing Entity in March 2010 – Le Centre de Suivi Écologique du Senegal – was a historic milestone. It marked the first concrete realisation of the direct access approach in climate financing. Approval of the first projects followed shortly afterwards marking the beginning of the implementation phase. 'Adaptation to Coastal Erosion in Vulnerable Areas in Senegal' is one such project.*

*Projects financed by the Adaptation Fund need monitoring, so the NGO ENDA in Senegal, together with its partners in a network coordinated by Germanwatch, has developed a programme to monitor these projects and to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors in this regard. The network places particular emphasis on whether mechanisms have been established in recipient countries to guarantee the involvement of local people, and whether the assigned funds contribute to poverty reduction, specifically amongst the most vulnerable groups.*

*ENDA has been very active on climate adaptation issues in Senegal both before and after the establishment of Le Centre de Suivi Écologique du Senegal as the National Implementing Entity. Prior to National Implementing Entity establishment, ENDA was very active in promoting the idea of environmental democracy in Senegal. Specifically, it played an integral role in integrating and coordinating environmental activities with major national stakeholders. ENDA shared information on expectations from the adaptation projects with key stakeholders, particularly community-based organisations at project implementation sites. After National Implementing Entity establishment, ENDA has taken on a monitoring role to ensure that the adaptation projects are well implemented in a transparent and inclusive manner. ENDA provides advice and technical support to the National Implementing Entity and executing entities such as Dynamique Femmes based in the Joal community.*

*To secure the establishment of National Implementing Entities in other countries, ENDA recommends that NGOs show high levels of interest and commitment to this aim. It is also important that the National Implementing Entity is an independent institution but at the same time good at collaborating with both governmental bodies and NGOs.*

*Based on the experience in Senegal, ENDA has gathered lots of information and tools which can be shared with civil society organisations in other countries to support National Implementing Entity establishment.*

*Senegal and its National Implementing Entity are a success story that other countries can follow. However, the fruitful implementation of projects such as 'Adaptation to Coastal Erosion in Vulnerable Areas in Senegal' should be considered a responsibility as much as an opportunity given the nation's leadership in this arena.*



Remnants of the former anti-salt dam in Joal, Senegal, where the 'Adaptation to Coastal Erosion in Vulnerable Areas in Senegal' project will be implemented

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### ***Are forest peoples really involved in the national REDD+ process in the Central Africa Republic?***

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*The Central African Republic is a member of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, and its preparation for REDD under this Facility has been in two main stages: approval of the 'Readiness Preparation Idea Note' and drafting of the 'Readiness Preparation Proposal' (RPP). Preparation of the Readiness Preparation Idea Note did not include the participation of national NGOs, local communities or indigenous peoples. Despite this, the third version was approved in December 2008.*

*The Central African Republic government launched the second stage in September 2010. This stage lasted only four months before the RPP was submitted informally to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in 2011. The consultation process was rushed and not participatory. Only one out of the ten consultation workshops held took place outside*

*the capital, Bangui. Indigenous peoples, who should be the main targets, were not consulted. National NGOs issued a statement in March 2011 highlighting some other major concerns:*

- *Pastoralism (nomadic herding), shifting cultivation and gathering of non-timber forest products were highlighted as primary causes of deforestation and forest degradation, whereas industrial logging does not appear in the RPP as a direct cause of deforestation and forest degradation.*
- *The document contains a proposal to introduce industrial logging (sustainable forest management) into the south-eastern forested area of the Central African Republic.*
- *The lack of plans to bring REDD activities into line with International Labour Organisation Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and insufficient budget allocated to social and environmental monitoring (only 0.3 per cent of the total budget).*

*NGOs working in the Central African Republic on environmental and human rights have organised themselves into a Civil Society Network for Climate Change and REDD to lobby for greater respect for local and indigenous community rights. The Network held two workshops in forest provinces in the south-west of the country in late 2010, and training and awareness raising workshops in Bangui. The network issued a statement before the RPP was discussed in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility meeting in Vietnam in March 2010 identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the RPP. The government has now committed to carrying out more consultations and hopes to resubmit its RPP in due course.*

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West African civil society, through the West African Climate Action Network, will undertake a number of advocacy activities and programmes over the coming months and years. A study conducted by a member of West African Climate Action Network recommends that West African civil society efforts should place particular emphasis on bringing a pro-poor agenda to global climate change strategies, which instead often focus on techno-managerial solutions. Civil society could strengthen links made between climate change and social justice and advocate for climate change interventions that respond to local needs and sustained financial and technical support for small producers who are directly exposed to the vagaries of climate change.

Many networks have been working to influence policy by supporting demonstration projects and using lessons from these to feed into wider policy debates and decision making processes. Given that many network member NGOs have good links with poor communities and a strong development focus to their work, small existing or new development projects have been an obvious starting point for those wishing to integrate climate change issues into their activities, and they have consequently formed the basis for ensuing advocacy work. The example below from Latin America is just one of many possible case studies in this respect.

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## ***The demonstration climate change adaptation actions of Suswatch Latin America***

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*The Sustainability Observatory, Suswatch Latin America, is a group of organisations, civil society networks, Latin American social movements, climate change leaders and others, that manage specialised technical information and work together in national spaces and platforms to influence public policies on climate change. This network was formed by Latin American organisations in Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Bolivia, Honduras and Costa Rica. Centro Humboldt in Nicaragua is the national focal point of the network and leads on regional facilitation.*

*Since 2008, Suswatch Latin America has been promoting approaches to facing climate change in an environmentally and socially responsible manner at local scales through demonstration projects. These help build local adaptive capacity and strengthen levels of community organisation to face climate change challenges. Project communities in Central America are selected according to the following criteria: the community must rank highly according to poverty indicators, it must be located in a high risk area far from major cities or provincial capitals, and it must be organised in such a way that its structures and leadership enable project implementation.*



Contention wall demonstration project, built according to the community's own initiative using recycled tyres to stabilise the slope in San Bernardo Guatemala

*The purpose of these projects is to show national governments, donor agencies and the private sector that with just a few resources, coordinated implementation and a good idea, activities can be conducted which help some of the poorest communities face the negative impacts of climate change in harmony with their local environment and available natural resources. These projects require little financial investment so can also be replicated in nearby localities if communities collaborate with each other. This is made possible because locals have had their capacity strengthened in order to jointly determine their immediate adaptation needs and through training to ensure that information on climate change is adequately understood, particularly in the context of gender equity. Activities conducted generally build on practices already known to arrest environmental damage by the communities themselves.*



Slope stabilisation demonstration project using vegetated terraces

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## Advocacy at the local level

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Not all civil society network or network member advocacy activities are targeted at the national level. Local level advocacy activities targeted both local levels of government and also local communities themselves with a view to sharing lessons learnt and scaling up pilot initiatives to a wider scale.

Activities targeting local levels of government can be to raise awareness amongst government officials where capacity might be lower. In Vietnam in late 2008, for example, whilst civil servants and government employees at the central level were quite aware of, and placed reasonable priority on climate change, those working at the local level had little to no awareness of climate change. In Bolivia, Liga de la Defensa del Medio Ambiente has played an important role at the local and municipal level, providing training and capacity strengthening in 2010 for state and municipal governments. This process strengthened the ability of 81 technicians to make decisions about climate change impacts, and understand the importance of the issue and the choices they had when it came to incorporating climate change into the municipal and state administration.

Other activities targeting local government can be to push for certain outcomes or activities. For example, International Network for Sustainable Energy partners met twice in late 2011, in Delhi and Kerala, India, respectively, to develop a network advocacy plan. One recommendation they came out with was that a specific percentage of funding accruing to local bodies should be set aside for awareness-raising and climate change mitigation training programmes. Advocacy activities targeting local government can lead to practical policy changes that benefit communities. For example, united community action with CARITAS support was able to influence local government to secure permission and funding for canal re-excavation in Bangladesh, and local farmers were supported by the Provincial Sub-Department of Plant Protection in Bac Kan Province, Vietnam in their roles as seed producers.

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### ***Canal re-excavation in Jelekhali Village, Bangladesh***

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*The 5.3 kilometre long canal re-excavated by Caritas Bangladesh in Jelekhali village was non-functional for a long time. The village is located on the banks of the Sundarbans - a World Heritage site - where saline water intrusion is increasing, perhaps because of tidal surges, cyclones, rising sea levels and unplanned shrimp cultivation. Obtaining fresh water was increasingly difficult, and this was affecting the agricultural practices of poor farmers who had to rely on rainwater alone for their crops.*

*Further intrusion of saline water following Cyclone Aila in May 2009 made accessing fresh water in the area even harder. Local options for growing food were decreasing, and many people were becoming malnourished.*

*In Jelekhali, local people began to re-excavate this canal, with the help of Caritas, with a view to increasing local access to fresh water for irrigating crops and small-scale fish culture. Some community members resisted these activities, particularly those occupying land next to the canal without authorisation. Led by Dhananjay K. Mistri from Jelekhali village, the community thus sought and was granted permission from the sub-district administration for re-excavating the canal. Uniting the many community stakeholders under one umbrella strengthened their position and ultimately helped secure this permission.*

*Caritas also helped arrange for dialogue with the union parishad (local elected council) to explore how government funds could be secured to complete the task. Of the total cost, 80 per cent was born by Caritas and 20 per cent by the community. Strong collective action at the community level helped successfully involve the union parishad who supported the re-excavation of 400 feet of the canal from the union parishad fund. Traditionally, government tends to treat such activities as their own plans and projects without involving or sharing resources with civil society, so this was also a good outcome. Local government relies on the votes of the community to stay in power, however, so this encouraged it to take note of community demands.*

*A seven member canal management committee was formed to manage the canal water. Challenges remain – such as how to ensure fair water distribution, how to effectively manage canal water and keep it free from saline water intrusion, how to ensure the committee functions well and how to raise funds for canal maintenance. But for now, the canal has transformed the livelihoods of many local people who can now cultivate different rice varieties, grow vegetables, fish, grow fodder for livestock and even keep ducks. The hope is that silted-up canals in other coastal regions can be re-excavated building on lessons learned in Jelekhali.*



Re-excavation of the canal in Jelekhali village, Bangladesh



The re-excavated canal now provides saline-free water for small-scale fish culture and irrigation



The re-excavated canal now supports the growing of rice and vegetables together with fish using integrated farming technologies

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### ***Strengthening and developing farmer rice seed systems in Bac Kan Province, Vietnam***

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*In 2005, the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development started working on a project to build farmers' capacity in sustainable community rice varieties in Bac Kan Province, Vietnam. This aimed to develop and strengthen local rice seed systems to help farmers adapt to climate change induced droughts, floods, disease spread and unstable water availability, and to support sustainable agriculture. Diverse local rice varieties can help farmers adapt to climate change impacts because they minimise the risks of pests and diseases that can damage crops, and support the selection of rice varieties suited to local conditions and resistant to unusual weather, droughts and floods.*

*The project also aimed to help farmers adapt to the impacts and implications of World Trade Organisation integration, in particular, the abolition of the government's hybrid rice price subsidy, which meant that farmers would have to manage their own rice and seed production according to local, national and international market forces.*

*The project had a strong advocacy component in that it sought to promote a supportive policy environment by bringing farmers and government authorities together to acknowledge the central role of farmers in seed production. It also encouraged government to certify varieties created and selected by farmers, reduce the use of hybrid varieties and reduce the dependence of farmers on imported rice varieties. Certification allows for control over seed quality, which is particularly important for poor farmers doing small-scale production.*



*During the implementation of the project, many meetings, workshops and field days were held in which farmers and technicians shared information and results with each other and local authorities.*

*The main local project partner was the Sub-Department of Plant Protection of Bac Kan province. Other organisations that were involved include the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Bac Kan, the Centre of Crop Seeds and Agricultural Service, and the Agricultural Extension Center.*

*The project advocacy efforts resulted in several outcomes. Two rice varieties selected by farmers were certified by the province in 2009 and the Plant Protection Sub-Department is continuing research with a view to selecting more pure-bred rice varieties for certification by the province. Participation of policy makers and authorities at all levels in provincial workshops, steering committee meetings and feedback meetings improved levels of dialogue about plans for cultivating local rice varieties. Policy makers have gradually changed perspective, and in 2011, government stopped supporting hybrid rice and instead provided funding for farmers to choose the types of rice varieties they wanted to produce.*

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Projects elsewhere have tried to use local level advocacy activities to scale up and hence influence the national level. In Niger, for example, civil society recommends linking the National Strategy and Action Plan on Renewable Energies with local Community Development Plans, and in Malawi, it is hoped that local advocacy activities at the Simulemba Wetland will also influence the National Irrigation Policy and Development Strategy and implementation of the NAPA.

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### ***The role of civil society in Niger's National Strategy and Action Plan on Renewable Energies***

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*The Prime Minister's Cabinet plays the lead role in the National Strategy and Action Plan on Renewable Energies in Niger. Funding comes from UNDP, United Nations Food Organisation and the Niger Government, and funds are managed by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and UNDP. The strategy's strengths lie in its aims to reduce the use of wood energy and instead harness energy derived from the sun, wind, water and non-agricultural biomass such as hyacinth. The high costs of investment in these newer technologies, however, are also not sufficiently accounted for. The strategy proposes no direct actions needed to implement it, but local communities, NGOs and community-based organisations are actively engaged in participatory implementation processes.*

*Those involved with implementation have decided that renewable energy implementation strategies and action plans will be carried out through programmes and projects.*

*Plans of action focus on capacity building, using and promoting renewable energy systems, reducing the use of wood and the domestic workload of women, reducing energy dependence in Niger, technology transfer and promotion of scientific and technical cooperation at regional, sub-regional and international levels.*

*The National Committee for the Coordination of NGOs fighting against Desertification feels that civil society – through NGOs and local level organisations – has a key role to play under the strategy in the implementation of small projects meant to promote the use of renewable energy. The Committee recommends taking the Community Development Plans, which exist for almost all districts in Niger, into account during Strategy implementation, and to this end it makes a number of recommendations. These include sensitising and informing target populations, reducing taxes for people wishing to install photovoltaic cells, identifying biogas production opportunities and using renewable energies to secure village water supplies.*

*Some of the members of the Committee have been working in the field to reduce the use of wood energy through the dissemination of improved fireplaces. The network also has a wider strategy, involving seminars, forums and workshops, through which it advocates for civil society needs under the Strategy.*

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### ***Promoting sustainable wetland management in Simulemba, Malawi***

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*Eight villages comprising of approximately 150 households currently use the Simulemba Wetland in Malawi, primarily for winter cropping of cash crops such as potatoes, beans and maize. Livestock production is also common on the wetland, particularly goats, and the wetland is also a source for medicinal herbs.*

*Malawi is suffering from climate change related droughts, extreme temperatures, changes in water availability and flooding, which are affecting irrigation and croplands. In Kasungu District, increases in the number of dry spells and droughts have forced local communities in the Simulemba area to rely more on the wetlands as an adaptation strategy. But these wetlands are suffering from drought, land degradation and deforestation. The capacity of local communities to sustainably use and manage the wetland is another major concern. It was widely agreed that changes in practice are needed along with a strong policy response.*

*The Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy, Malawi Enterprise Zone Association, Development Fund of Norway and local Village Natural Resources Management Committees took action to tackle these challenges. First they reviewed national policies and strategies related to the use of wetlands and climate change to assess the situation and recommend the best way forward. They also promoted the application of a Functional Landscape Approach at the local level to help people integrate environmental sustainability concerns into community level management activities.*



The Simulemba Wetlands, Malawi

*Several key issues emerged from the policy and legislation review. Specific policy instruments on wetlands and climate change are lacking. A number of policies exist but these are piecemeal and at times their implementation is conflicting even though they are supposed to regulate the same ecosystem. More generally, climate change challenges and wetland management are being addressed independently by different players. Policy tools are needed to guide wetland use and management - specifically a national wetlands policy - but all relevant policy instruments around water, agriculture and land need reviewing to ensure they are harmonised in their support of sustainable wetland management and use in the face of climate change. Key institutions such as the National Wetland Steering Committee (which is currently largely dormant) need strengthening and revitalising. The current Land Act also needs to be reviewed to ensure that security of tenure exists on the wetlands, which will facilitate sustainable land use. Lobbying and advocacy in these areas was undertaken primarily during the project period, but it has been largely ad hoc and inconsistent due to resource constraints. These areas have not been a major focus for those involved in advocacy.*

*The National Irrigation Policy and Development Strategy recognises that droughts are affecting agriculture although it does not mention climate change. Neither does it directly mention wetlands or their role in irrigation. The project thus tried to influence the National Irrigation Policy and Development Strategy to include climate change and wetlands more explicitly. In addition, it aimed to influence the implementation of the NAPA and NGO policies to improve recognition of the role that wetlands play in poverty reduction. The project successfully influenced interventions being implemented in the wetland by both*

*government agencies and NGOs by engaging with decision makers at the district level through the local District Environment Sub-Committee. Policy research results were shared with this Sub-Committee and field visits to the area facilitated. Issues requiring policy responses were presented to policy makers at a national forum held at the project end. Since project completion, however, there has been no further follow up on the uptake of issues requiring a policy response. Despite this, a national level debate at other fora on developing irrigation as an adaptation strategy is ongoing. A number of other initiatives also continue to be implemented, such as the Greenbelt initiative which is promoting irrigation along major national water bodies.*

*In the meantime, the Simulemba communities are benefitting from improved rural livelihoods through the application of a Functional Landscape Approach and sustainable land management and agricultural practices. Crop yields have increased as has community resilience to expected climate change impacts. Awareness has increased about the issues, and spaces for policy dialogue have opened up amongst key stakeholders at local and national levels.*



Crop yields have increased following improved management of the Simulemba Wetlands

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Advocacy activities that target communities as opposed to local government have also been conducted by civil society networks and their members. The Joint Climate Change Initiative in Cambodia helps build the capacity of Cambodian NGOs to integrate climate change into their programming, and the case studies below show how local level advocacy activities such as field trips, demonstration projects, rallies, slide shows and radio programmes supported wider uptake project activities in both Niger and India.

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### **Assisted Natural Re-Greening in Niger: exchange visits and community radio for local advocacy**

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*The project 'Support for Assisted Natural Re-greening in the Influence Lands of Giraffes' was an initiative of the NGO Rural Development and Forest Productions. It aimed to tackle the degradation of ecosystems and improve incomes in the two districts of Kouré and Harikanassou located respectively in the regions of Tillabéri and Dosso. Giraffes have contributed to the degradation of the area, along with local practices and climate change.*

*In addition to training 15 farmers with assisted natural re-greening techniques, a number of local advocacy initiatives helped with the uptake of project activities. Five farmers were taken on a field trip to the Department of Aguié in the Maradi Region to see results obtained from assisted natural re-greening in that area. These exchange visits played an important role in persuading locals that the techniques proposed could address water and wind erosion and help stabilise agricultural production systems in the area. Fifty radio programmes were developed to raise awareness about assisted natural re-greening techniques and three farmers were awarded prizes at the end of the project for the best implementation of these techniques.*

*The project cost a total of CFA F 17,567,771 (roughly €26,785). It was important that the necessary funding was in place to conduct all planned activities and that experienced staff were engaged because activities required patience and persuasion and results weren't visible over the short-term.*

*In intervention villages, almost 50 per cent of farmers now implement assisted natural re-greening practices, and the techniques have been spontaneously adopted in neighboring villages who listened to the radio programmes. These successes are because the local communication/advocacy activities meant that farmers are now more aware about degradation in their land whereas previously protection of the environment was not a concern for them, and because they witnessed what assisted natural re-greening could achieve in other areas.*

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### **The Joint Climate Change Initiative for capacity development of Cambodian NGOs**

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*The Joint Climate Change Initiative (JCCI) was established in April 2009 by Cord, DanChurchAid/Christian Aid and Forum Syd. It aims to build capacity amongst local Cambodian NGOs to address climate change threats. The first phase of JCCI developed the capacity of nine local partner NGOs to help them integrate climate change into their programmes. The second phase implements pilot project initiatives on climate change. Lessons from this second phase feed back into phase one. A new group of 13 partners*

*has also been selected to begin the cycle of capacity development again once phase one is complete. These organisations will receive mentoring and help with proposal development.*

*After receiving training, partner organisations have a better understanding of how to integrate climate change into their programmatic work. They were also able to identify their needs better, and these included capacity development on advocacy and communication skills, mentoring and facilitation, help conducting baseline assessments and situational analysis, and acquiring funding and writing proposals.*

*The main success story of the JCCI project is that Cambodian NGO partners are now capable of designing and implementing projects that address climate change. But the JCCI training curriculum will also be useful to help inform capacity development strategies that may figure under subsequent phases of the project or further afield. For example, the JCCI training outline (or curriculum) was tested on a number of government institutions. The tools and curriculum developed can and have been applied both at the local level, whereby participatory approaches were used to integrate climate change into a local communal development plan, and also with government agencies and development partners. JCCI activities and approaches featured at a number of key events in late 2011, such as the Second National Forum on Climate Change in Cambodia. It is hoped that this will encourage government to apply the JCCI model more widely in Cambodia.*

*During the course of JCCI project implementation, bi-monthly JCCI newsletters were produced and published with JCCI partners and other network members working on climate change. Training materials have also been updated, finalised and translated into relevant languages for sharing with other stakeholders.*

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### **Eco-villages in the Himalayan foothills**

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*Those in the remote mountainous regions of vulnerable countries such as India are already adversely affected by climate change. Action is needed now at the village level, and in the New Tehri district of Uttarakhand state in the Himalayan sub-region of India, four NGOs have come together to establish people-centred 'Micro-agro ecological villages' in four villages that focus on village livelihoods and poverty reduction through appropriate climate change related actions. The four NGOs are Women's Action For Development (the grassroots implementing agency), Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association (which provides socio-technical support), HIFEED (a local grassroots organisation from the region) and ASDA, a Finnish partner NGO.*

*Project components include building demonstration/training biogas plants, roof water harvesting systems, solar fruit, vegetable and herb dryers, solar greenhouses, smokeless kitchens, improved cook stoves, solar cookers, small-scale windmills and solar lanterns.*

*Villagers were trained to establish kitchen gardens and in organic agricultural practices, tree planting, beekeeping and techniques to preserve fruit and vegetables.*

*Efforts to share lessons learnt from these village-level activities focused on three special days:*

- 1. On World Earth Day villagers from the project sites led a the procession with banners from the project area to the celebration venue. This was followed by a picture making competition on eco-village activities with prizes for the winners.*
  - 2. On World Environment day villagers from the project site held a rally with banners before assembling at the local school for continued celebrations. These included songs and role-play on eco-village activities, a picture making competition and a debate with prizes for the winners.*
  - 3. On Renewable Energy Day, slides on how simple renewable energy techniques could generate income were shown, followed by an explanation of global warming. This generated much discussion and interest from those present.*
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## Changing the way donors work

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Most advocacy work done by in-country civil society networks looking at climate change issues to date focuses on national governments and government processes, with some targeting international levels processes. Networks have, however, been working to influence other actors such as donors and the private sector. Donor funding for climate change activities has increased dramatically in recent years, and with more available funding, the need to influence how this funding is spent has grown. Some countries are ahead of others in this respect in terms of the amount of donor support they receive and the influence they have managed to wield over the delivery of this support. It is particularly important, for example, to learn from experiences in Bangladesh on how the country's own resources under the Climate Trust Fund and donor contributions under the Climate Resilience Fund are being spent.

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### ***Monitoring donor activities in Nicaragua***

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*Nicaragua has a number of active climate change donors supporting in-country activities. The Global Environment Facility manages a Small Grants Programme, which has approved 112 projects in Nicaragua, to be implemented by UNDP. Nicaragua was also one of the first countries to benefit from funding from the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund, which is supporting a project called Reduction of Risks and Vulnerability Based on Flooding and Droughts in the Estero Real River Watershed. Nicaragua has five registered Clean Development Mechanism projects, and has received support from the Capacity Development for the Clean Development Mechanism, funded by the United Nations Environment Programme.*

*An analysis has been conducted by the Humboldt Center looking at funding accruing to Nicaragua for programmes and projects associated with climate change. This reveals that Nicaragua has obtained 152 projects for climate change, most of which are supported by development cooperation agencies (followed by multilateral funding entities) in terms of the number of projects supported. These are primarily executed by government offices. Some 60 per cent of climate change projects in Nicaragua are related to climate change mitigation, and most of these are in the energy sector. This figure tallies with figures for 2010 from the Pro Nicaragua Agency, which show that about US\$158.9 million foreign investment out of US\$508 million that year was directed to the energy sector. Only 20 per cent of projects focus on adaptation, and most of Such projects often focus on strengthening capacities and political impact, and many are conducted by members of the national civil society network – Alianza Nicaraguense Ante el Cambio Climático. Eight per cent of projects have multiple*



*foci and include action on mitigation, adaptation, risk management and food security. Only three per cent of projects correspond to private sector investments. These are associated with investment cost recovery processes through the Clean Development Mechanism projects*

### **Climate change projects in Nicaragua - by donor type and focus**

| Funding source                           | Number of projects and the percentage | Adaptation | Projects according to focus |                     |            |                        |            |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
|  |                                       |            | Regional mitigation         | Regional adaptation | Multifocal | Convention convergence | Mitigation |
| Multilateral institutions                | 46 (31%)                              | 11         | 2                           | 1                   | 2          | 4                      | 26         |
| Private companies                        | 4 (3%)                                | 0          | 0                           | 0                   | 0          | 0                      | 4          |
| Development cooperation agencies         | 67 (44%)                              | 4          | 0                           | 3                   | 5          | 0                      | 55         |
| Non-financial multilateral agencies (EU) | 15 (10%)                              | 4          | 0                           | 5                   | 3          | 0                      | 3          |
| International NGOs                       | 20 (13%)                              | 11         | 0                           | 5                   | 1          | 0                      | 3          |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>152 (100%)</b>                     | <b>30</b>  | <b>2</b>                    | <b>14</b>           | <b>11</b>  | <b>4</b>               | <b>91</b>  |
| <b>Percentage</b>                        | <b>100%</b>                           | <b>20%</b> | <b>2%</b>                   | <b>10%</b>          | <b>8%</b>  | <b>3%</b>              | <b>60%</b> |

### **The growth in donor funding on climate change in Vietnam**

*In 2008, funding for adaptation and mitigation activities from the Government of Vietnam and external sources was low. What was available was mainly for local adaptation activities rather than mitigation. This situation had changed by 2010, and Vietnam was receiving more donor funding, primarily for the development of new policies. Much of this was coming from other governments such as those of Australia, Denmark and France. Limited funding for on-ground works, however, is contributing to delays in the implementation of the Community Awareness Raising and Community-Based Disaster Risk Management Programme, and the National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change. Funding for mitigation activities has dramatically increased and includes:*

- *Nearly US\$4.4 million from UNDP / Food and Agriculture Organisation / United Nations Environment Programme for REDD+ work;*
- *US\$100 million from Norway for a REDD programme;*
- *US\$250 million from the Clean Technology Fund for urban transportation, energy savings and power transformation;*
- *US\$500 million from Japan for the Support Programme to Respond Climate Change 2010-2012.*

Civil society networks have sought to influence the way in which multilateral and national donor funding agencies have provided in-country support. In some instances this has involved trying to advocate for more funding, and in others it has involved trying to influence how available funds are directed and what issues or sectors should be prioritised. In many cases civil society organisations can influence donor decisions by conducting research to identify critical areas which need donor support but currently lack it.

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### ***Mauritania: influencing the Programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries***

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*In Mauritania, until 1970, arabic gum was the nation's primary export product. It was produced in all southern regions of Mauritania, especially the region of Trarza. The gums covered an area of around one million hectares. Rainfall averaged about 500 millimetres per year and the rainy season lasted roughly four to five months. Since the 1970s, a reduction in rainfall has destroyed vegetation cover. The rainy season now lasts only two to three months and bare land has replaced the huge gum tree forests. Hot dry winds (Harmattan) cause continuous sand storms and bury houses and infrastructure (roads, schools, wells et cetera). These dramatic changes in the local climate have destroyed many people's source of income.*

*Some members of the civil society network established under the Capacity building in the LDCs on Adaptation to Climate Change programme have been working to influence the Programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries. This was a EU3 million programme funded by the European Union and led by the international NGO BothENDS. The Programme aimed to support 14 developing countries in their efforts to integrate environmental dimensions into development processes, particularly on issues related to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and other strategic development policy frameworks (Millennium Development Goals, country strategy papers) including trade related issues. The NGO Tenmiya led programme activities in Mauritania.*

*The objective of the work led by Tenmiya was to integrate environmental issues into the development process and help civil society organisations provide better inputs into national planning and programming processes related to UNCCD process and targets. Key programme strengths included the capacity building of participating NGOs and also the strengthened links between decision makers and areas suffering from land degradation. Activities were designed to strengthen networks to facilitate the exchange of best practices among stakeholders, and support participatory processes in affected areas in order to link the implementation of national or regional UNCCD Action Programmes with other strategic cooperation frameworks. The work programme focused on creating awareness, and mobilizing and creating a direct link between field workers and policy makers to*

*better combat desertification and land degradation. The programme was executed through several activities: setting up a network of all national and international level stakeholders, including NGOs, strengthening NGO capacity, identifying good practices for restoring degraded lands and sharing experiences outside the network. The following advocacy tools were used:*

- *Mapping of actors to identify all those involved and clarify the nature and level of involvement and influence they had.*
- *Training workshops and awareness raising seminars to strengthen local stakeholder capacity on reducing land degradation and increase UNCCD and UNFCCC participation in the network.*
- *Study visits and sharing of experiences to help with networking and enable NGOs and community-based organisations to share their experiences with others and learn about good practice elsewhere in the fight against desertification and land degradation.*
- *Information bulletins, films and videos to share experiences of good practice and action beyond the civil society network.*

*One key challenge was the low level of appropriation of programme work by the Department of Environment. Members of the Capacity building in the LDCs on Adaptation to Climate Change network in Mauritania continue to try and influence this programme, in particular by promoting the need to support small projects relating to land restoration and land degradation, and by helping form a new local network focusing on land degradation issues.*

*The network has strong local expertise, but expertise at international levels has needed strengthening to achieve these aims. Network management has also been a challenge in this context.*

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### ***Mauritania: influencing the Natural Resources Management Programme***

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*The Natural Resources Management Programme is an initiative of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation and the Mauritanian government, which aims to work with government and local people to sustainably manage natural resources in selected areas. The programme focused on improving the capacities and willingness of vulnerable communities to adapt to the impacts of climate change.*

*Guidimakha is an area on the hard volcanic metamorphic rocks of Mount Wawa located in the highlands of Assaba. Guidimakha receives an average of 500 millimetres of rain per year and water from around the Assaba plateau. Rainfall is increasingly intense and water currents more violent so farmland here suffers from erosion. Faced with climatic uncertainties, local communities apply traditional food production techniques to adapt.*

*Programme work provided technical support to improve the recovery of degraded land and regenerate natural resources. This involved the following advocacy activities:*

- *Raising local community awareness on joint water resources management and educating communities about their own ability to adapt to or cope with climate uncertainties.*
- *Raising awareness about the benefits of creating a local natural resource management association focusing on acacia and monkey pines from local forests.*
- *Creating a local association for natural resources joint management to improve local production of arabic gum. This association has established a partnership with a marketing company for the supply of rubber.*

*The Programme was successful in that it involved many stakeholders in planning and implementation of activities, and its application of a watershed approach helped farmers restore large areas of degraded land. Today, in this region of Guidimakha, several village communities have come together to jointly manage their watersheds in order to control the flow of water. People have thus been mobilised to manage the watershed that is several tens of kilometers away from their villages and fields.*

*The primary challenge is that the programme has now finished, and yet a large area of degraded land in need of similar Programme activities remains. In the region selected, only four out of 18 municipalities were covered. The restoration of degraded lands is the best way to help the communities in the target region secure livelihoods and obtain food security, and members of the network on land degradation in Mauritania have published articles which target the donor and government to this effect in a regional newsletter. Further articles on the programme success stories are proposed to try and convince the donor to scale up programme activities, and a meeting is planned to bring together the donor with a wide variety of national stakeholders to share information and solicit further support.*

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### ***Piloting adaptation to climate change in Mali***

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*Reso-Climate-Mali (a large national network consisting of 100 Malian civil society organisations active in the field of climate change) has signed a partnership agreement with the Swedish International Development Agency Sida through a programme called 'Reso Mali Climate Change Adaptation Support Programme'. This programme aims to facilitate adaptation amongst vulnerable groups in Mali. The total programme funding amounts to €3 million for the period 2009-2012. Reso-Climate-Mali members submitted project proposals to two calls for proposals launched in February 2010 and 2011. A total of 28 climate change adaptation measures covering the agricultural, water, energy and forestry sectors were selected and are being implemented by the members of Reso-Climate-Mali. The programme has generated much excitement amongst civil society in Mali because of*

*the opportunities it provides to increase the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Mali to climate change impacts.*

*The initial results and lessons learned from this programme, which is the first of its kind in Mali since the NAPA elaboration in 2007, are being used for advocacy purposes to influence government and donors by demonstrating how adaptation projects that build the resilience of vulnerable groups can be implemented. This is timely as the government is putting in place mechanisms to access support from the Adaptation Fund. Towards the end of the programme Reso-Climate-Mali plans to capitalise on what has been learned and share lessons with actors working on climate change in Mali and elsewhere.*

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In other instances, civil society has adopted a more critical approach to in-country donor activities and tried to draw attention to actions or processes that fail to take account of certain vulnerable groups or important existing national policies and legislation, or plan to take the country down a certain route (such as taking on a large loan) which the network feels is not commensurate with sustainable development for the country or an appropriate response to climate change. In Niger, for example, technical and financial support from development partners with the design and implementation of policies, strategies and programmes tends to be based on external stimuli, such that internal processes of reflection and mobilisation of appropriate resources to provide adequate responses to the challenges of by climate change are obscured.

World Bank activities are a case in point here and have come under fire from civil society networks in a number of countries: the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience has been subject to considerable civil society criticism in Niger and elsewhere, and in Ghana, strong concerns have also been expressed over the direction of the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and Forest Investment Programme activities.

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### ***The World Bank Pilot Program for Climate Resilience in Niger***

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*The World Bank Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) aims to pilot and demonstrate ways in which climate risk and resilience may be integrated into core development planning and implementation. The PPCR budget in Niger is about US\$110 million, of which about 60 per cent will be in the form of debt. Final documents were scheduled for signing in November 2011 and implementation is planned for 2012 for a period of five years. The Ministry of Planning supervises the programme, which has four investment projects:*

- 1. The Project Development Information and Forecasting Climate project focuses on improving weather observations and information.*

2. *The Project mobilisation and utilisation of water resources project.*

3. *The Community Action Project for Climate Resilience, which is the most important with an allocation of US\$63 million and has three components: developing a methodology to integrate climate change into vulnerable sectors; financing local initiatives that will help communities adapt in the agricultural, livestock and forestry sectors; and, funding actions related to social safety nets. NGOs have a role to play in this project as service providers that work with municipalities and local communities to help implement projects.*

4. *A cross-cutting project aiming to strengthen the capacities of private operators to encourage them to participate in the implementation of the three other projects (including through insurance mechanisms, the development of agribusiness et cetera).*

*NGO advocacy activities around the PPCR in Niger have been numerous and varied. Representatives of CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme, which aims to increase the capacity of vulnerable households in Sub-Saharan Africa to adapt to climate variability and change, contributed to the design process by attending meetings and providing written material. They advocated for strong civil society representation in the PPCR process, anchoring the PPCR into existing national strategies and ensuring the establishment of a strong knowledge management process. The consultants developing the process found that the Adaptation Learning Programme had a central role to play in helping municipalities identify, design and implement micro adaptation projects as a result.*

*A meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2011, revealed that Mozambique and Zambia (other PPCR pilot countries in Africa) have refused to enter into 'climate debt' under the PPCR. The African Union shared this view and was adamant that the Bank should not be involved in the financing of adaptation at all. Niger apparently differed from this position, and has acted fast to move the PPCR forward at the national level. Speeches by state actors suggested that Niger wished to position itself to exploit all funding opportunities that arise, including the PPCR. The debt component of the financing did not seem to be a concern for these actors, but it seemed likely that the whole machinery of the new government (in place only since April 2011) had not yet taken full measure of what was occurring.*

*The Niger Youth Network on Climate Change (a member of the African Youth Initiative for Climate Change), and the National Committee of NGOs on Desertification - two important civil society networks active on climate change in Niger - decided in mid-2011 to undertake an information and advocacy/lobbying initiative to ensure the main decision-making actors understood the debates circulating at the international level about climate debt. Neither network favoured funding adaptation actions through climate debt, but differences of opinion emerged about the best strategy for taking this forward. The National Committee of NGOs on Desertification advocated for a collaborative approach and discussions with state actors, while the Niger Youth Network on Climate Change favoured active lobbying to reject the PPCR. They felt that being a victim of climate change, Niger should not have to enter into debt to developed countries, which have caused the problem, in order to implement adaptation measures.*

*Fortuitously, the coordinator of the Niger Youth Network on Climate Change met with the President of Niger in September 2011 at a dinner. The President expressed his total ignorance of the issue, promised to learn more from his government and instructed the Prime Minister to prepare him a note on the PPCR.*

*It remains to be seen how the two networks can move forward together in the future, even if their preferred strategies differ. It will also be interesting to see what official policy position will emerge now the President is better informed about the PPCR.*

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In countries that are getting ready for agreement on REDD at the international level, preparations for REDD+ are taking many forms. Some are drafting national strategies for REDD+, either as Readiness Preparation Proposals to gain access to the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, and other are preparing national REDD+ strategies with the support of UNREDD. The Accra Caucus on Forests and Climate Change has been documenting some of these recent experiences and notes that in many countries, the REDD+ readiness process is far more focused on attracting carbon income than on protecting the rights of forest peoples or the environment.

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### ***Ensuring participation in the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership in Ghana***

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*In 2008, Ghana submitted a Readiness Preparation Idea Note to the World Bank in order to start the process of securing funds REDD+ activities from its Forest Carbon Partnership Facility. This was met with reservations by various civil society organisations as it was drafted and submitted without any community or civil society involvement. Despite this, the World Bank approved Ghana's Readiness Preparation Idea Note and asked it to prepare a Readiness Preparation Proposal to access Forest Carbon Partnership Facility funds.*

*In 2009, the World Bank mission regarding Readiness Preparation Proposal preparation was rescheduled because of concerns over poor government outreach to relevant stakeholders. Additional time was requested for civil society to mobilise themselves and organise discussions around the REDD+ mechanism at the community level. Forest Watch Ghana, a coalition of 35 NGOs, community-based organisations and civil society organisations convened civil society actors interested in forest governance for two days to raise awareness about the REDD+ process and its implications for forest governance in Ghana. As a result, the World Bank mission involved comparatively more involvement of civil society organisations, many of whom stressed the need for both the mission and the FCPF process to be significantly more consultative, participatory and inclusive.*

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In March 2010, Ghana was selected to benefit from the World Bank's Forest Investment Programme, with possible funding of between US\$30-50 million, to help achieve fundamental reform of the forest sector. Prior to the World Bank Forest Investment Programme mission, Forest Watch Ghana held a meeting to educate civil society participants on the Programme and other forest initiatives in Ghana, enabling them to make inputs on the national REDD+ process. On the last day of the mission, stakeholders present were tasked to rank the priority themes for Programme support as the country prepares its national investment strategy. The result was that stakeholders felt that improving forest governance and recognising safeguards should take priority over directing resources to monitoring, reporting and measuring carbon. This is of concern because the REDD+ readiness activities under the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility seem to be skewed towards capacity to store and monitor carbon.

Other processes supported by foundations and donors to put a value on reductions in carbon emissions for sale in the carbon market have also received intense civil society criticism in places, as the case study from India describes below.

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### ***Carbon credit for household biogas plants in India***

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*For the past four years, Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association (INSEDA), with support from the Carbon Procurement Unit of the German donor agency GTZ International (in India), has been involved in the development of small-scale biogas projects for producing carbon credits in 4,000 households in the two Indian states of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh. The idea is that by displacing conventionally used firewood for cooking, greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced and the carbon credits produced can be sold on the open carbon market. The project has been developed under the Gold Standard – a Voluntary Emission Reduction scheme developed by a number of international and national NGOs who later came together to form the Gold Standard Foundation. Like a Certified Emission Reduction, a Voluntary Emission Reduction is a tradable commodity and refers to reduction of one ton of greenhouse gas emissions. Certified Emission Reductions, however, are generated according to standards set under the Kyoto Protocol and UNFCCC, whereas Voluntary Emission Reductions are independently verified by a third party. A project with Gold Standard status guarantees carbon credits with a strong sustainable development component: an attractive position for buyers wishing to do more than just offset their carbon emissions.*

*INSEDA started the dialogue with its members and partners for developing the biogas carbon credit project in the middle of 2007. For three years it was engaged in a number of activities to get the project approved by the Gold Standard Foundation. It collected data, organised a multitude of meetings and stakeholder consultations, compiled a huge amount of required project documentation and reports, hosted validators and monitored*



*results. The whole process was vastly time-consuming and used up a large quantity of INSEDA resources, which could have been directed to more cost-effective poverty-reduction activities elsewhere. After clearing each step INSEDA repeatedly wondered if it was all worth it.*

*The Carbon Procurement Unit of GTZ International (in India) “sold INSEDA the moon” in terms of what the project could achieve. And once involved, INSEDA knew it was important to maintain credibility with local people with whom they would have to keep working regardless of external involvement. The expectations of INSEDA grassroots members and partners were high.*

*Whilst carbon credit projects can provide real socio-economic benefits to rural people in India and elsewhere, at present the Clean Development Mechanism, Gold Standard and other registering bodies use mechanisms which are too cumbersome, time-consuming, and heavily loaded in favour of highly paid external consultants. Transaction costs are too high and project developers are at the mercy of external consultants, not knowing until the very end (which could take up to three or more years) whether their project will be approved or not. If for any reason the project fails at any of its complex stages, the project developer has to pay heavily, which can bankrupt a small organisation and cause it to lose credibility.*

*In view of the above, INSEDA recommends that the process be completely revamped to reduce the roles played by external consultants, transaction costs and project registration time. Registering agencies must become much more NGO-friendly and donor grants are also needed to sustain project developers and partner civil society organisations until project registration. INSEDA wants to finalise the process without filing complaints, and hoped to do so by the end of 2011, but in parallel to this registration process, INSEDA wants to inform others about the problems it has experienced, mainly via the International Network for Sustainable Energy, and through presentations at COPs. Once the registration process is over, INSEDA will consider describing the process in full to the registering organisation (relevant partners of the voluntary Gold Standard initiative) and making recommendations. The International Network for Sustainable Energy will likely be involved in this process.*

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## Influencing the private sector

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Most civil society networks that provided material for this report felt that levels of climate change awareness within the private sector were much lower than in government, the media and other national stakeholder groups. In Vietnam, for example, whilst levels of awareness about climate change issues are generally deemed quite high, climate change is yet to become a high priority for many in the private sector. In Malawi and Tanzania, levels of awareness and prioritisation of climate change within the private sector also remain low, and in Niger, the private sector is considered to have the lowest level of awareness out of all groups in the country.

The reputation that the private sector has for respecting sustainable development principles is not strong. It does, however, have much to contribute and many competencies relevant to both climate change adaptation and mitigation. Its strengths in technological innovation, the design of climate resilient infrastructure, improved information and marketing systems and the implementation of large-scale projects in partnership with government hold much potential in terms of helping people combat climate change.

Many civil society groups acknowledge the need to engage more with the private sector. For example, when International Network for Sustainable Energy partners met twice in late 2011 to develop a network advocacy plan, they came out with a recommendation for industries to fund NGO development projects as part of their corporate social responsibilities. Likewise in Vietnam, a key challenge for the development of a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation is the inclusion of tactics that encourage participation in the Platform from a range of stakeholders, particularly the private sector, which is generally under-represented in these types of forums. The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan also suggests measures to strengthen the capacity of private sector under one of its six primary themes for adapting to climate change, but it does not provide any strategy or guidance on how the private sector can get more engaged in adaptation or mitigation actions. In Zimbabwe the private sector holds potential in terms of public private partnerships relating to climate change, but levels of awareness about climate change in the private sector are low. Civil society organisations in Zimbabwe, however, are making inroads in terms of lobbying private sector stakeholders, particularly those in the manufacturing sector in order to mainstream climate change issues into their operations.

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## Targeting the private sector in Zimbabwe

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*One of the objectives identified by the Zimbabwe climate change youth network is to advance private sector support for youth work on climate change in Zimbabwe. The network has identified the following three key indicators for measuring progress on this objective:*

- 1. There will be an increase in the contracting and hiring of young Zimbabweans in private sector work related to climate change.*
- 2. Through leadership by and participation of young employees, corporate cultures will change: energy and waste audits will be conducted, alternative transport options will be encouraged (public transit, carpooling, work-from-home days), climate change friendly office practices will be instituted.*
- 3. More private sector funding will be available for community adaptation actions related to climate change.*

*The network strategy acknowledges that business and industry need to be part of the solution and that more integration between the economy and the environment is needed.*

---

Influencing the private sector, however, is difficult because ultimately businesses are motivated primarily by profits as opposed to the view of electorates, philanthropy, sustainable development or poverty reduction. Most of the case studies here therefore describe advocacy initiatives where civil society has worked together with (as opposed to campaigning against) businesses to have a positive impact, for example to provide incentives for sustainable or renewable energy projects that can benefit a community.

For example in Vietnam, some members of the Climate Change Working Group and donors have been providing support to weather risk insurance initiatives such as a project funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry in Nghe An province, since early 2011. These initiatives fall under the Pilot Programme on Agriculture Insurance for the period of 2011-2013 under which the Climate Change Working Group and the Disaster Management Working Group acknowledge that there may be difficulties engaging with private insurance companies because agriculture insurance is a high risk product and the failure of previous agriculture insurance programmes has made the private insurance sector cautious of getting involved in the programme.

The All India Women's Conference has recently conducted more than 15 solar energy fairs in the states of Delhi and Gujarat in India. Manufacturers were targeted, along with users and relevant government officers. These stakeholders were brought together to discuss and sort out the problems of implementing All India Women's Conference programmes to develop the capacity of local women from low-income groups to install, use, maintain and repair solar devices with a view to gaining income from small

entrepreneurial activities relying on the solar lanterns and water purifiers charged by these devices. After bringing these stakeholders together, a number of residence welfare associations have installed the solar devices in their areas.

In Senegal, civil society has been collaborating with the National Social Forum on Environment to influence the mining sector with a view to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For example, they organised a workshop to address the effects that mining in the town of Tabakunda (in Eastern Senegal) had on the environment.

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### **Commercialisation of improved cookstoves in Sri Lanka**

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*Sri Lanka's stove programme is now entirely sustainable. Stove dissemination is fully commercialised with over 300,000 stoves produced annually throughout the country by 185 rural potter families in 55 villages. Like any regular commercial product in the market the stoves are marketed by an existing network of private traders dispersed throughout the country without any external influence or intervention. To reach this stage, however, several strategically structured efforts by a variety of committed NGOs and individuals were employed over a period of nearly 30 years.*

*Prior to the commercialisation process, several agencies took part in the process to design a socially acceptable stove with proven technical efficiency. Government provided subsidies and government extension officers helped roll out the stove programme. This government support achieved much in terms of popularising the stoves, but despite tremendous uptake during the early stages, once government support was removed, the links between the potters, stove installers and users gradually disintegrated.*

*A later cookstove project led by Practical Action (UK) aimed to reduce fuelwood consumption for domestic cooking by designing a better cooking stove, reduce deforestation rates, reduce household spending on wood fuel and improve the quality of lives by providing cleaner kitchens, hot meals and hot water. A household using the newly designed Anagi stove can also save about one ton of carbon dioxide emissions annually, and with roughly 20 per cent of households in Sri Lanka now using the Anagi this equates to annual savings of 900,000 tons of carbon dioxide. Reduced cooking times and fuelwood consumption also improves household health, particularly of women, by reducing indoor air pollution.*

*To ensure long-term programme sustainability, the aim was to commercialise stove production and sales with no external subsidies or inputs. To achieve this degree of independence, however, required a mix of strategies. External support for designing a suitable stove was a crucial component for success. Other stoves whilst technically better in some cases, failed to fully accommodate the diverse needs of not only the user but also the producer and the distributor. In addition to making the stove simple and low cost, to accommodate user needs, the producers must find it easy to make and the dealers must find*

*also the producer and the distributor. In addition to making the stove simple and low cost, to accommodate user needs, the producers must find it easy to make and the dealers must find it easy to transport, store and deliver. Without this, commercialisation will not be effective. Practical Action's improved stove was called Anagi, and it was produced in tile factories making use of trained potters and spare capacity in the tile firing kilns. Practical Action provided technical expertise in the design, training, production and marketing of the stove.*

*Another NGO called Integrated Development Organisation, focused its efforts on rural areas which tend to fall out of government policy and private sector interests and where the poor were struggling to access stove distribution channels. Integrated Development Organisation helped train potters, with a view to producing enough stoves to meet high market demands. Whilst this helped raise awareness it did little to ease the bottleneck in the supply chain for a number of reasons including the fact that the stoves are difficult to make, they need space and are prone to breakages, profit margins are less than for other products and wholesale buyers do not visit production areas. NGO involvement also included working with community-based organisations to provide credit for stove producers. Over time, activities in Sri Lanka have demonstrated that social equity concerns can indeed be accommodated in a market-based programme despite its commercial bias.*

*External help was needed to ensure production could meet demand, as potters enjoyed their independence and did not like working in factories. In some instances they were therefore made partners rather than employees. Links between producers and existing pottery traders were also facilitated. The continuous involvement of a committed person or an organisation ensuring continuous project development and coordinating and linking the different phases of the programme was important.*



Rural potter making an improved cookstove,  
Sri Lanka



Making an Anagi cookstove



Providing training on cookstove production

*Early government subsidies and price-control, and NGO-facilitated access to international funding and experience prior to the full commercialisation process served to lay the strong foundations needed for later programme success. The programme has now been running for several years, the last ten of which have not required any outside interventions.*

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### ***Developing a supply chain to enable rural women to access solar lighting kits in Mali***

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*Most private operators are interested only in rural towns and villages that are large enough to offer a return on investment, so the majority of small villages (of 500 to 1,000 people) in Mali remain without electricity. Of 12,000 Malian villages, less than 300 have electricity. This has resulted in heavy dependence on kerosene lamps.*

*A solar lantern distribution project led by the NGO Mali-Folkecenter Nyaetaa demonstrates, however, that if appropriate market-based technology delivery mechanisms are put in place, the rural poor are valuable customers who provide a market for energy-dependent appliances on a commercial basis and not as charitable recipients. Use of these solar lanterns can support local income-generating activities, improve family health due to decreased kerosene use, provide light for extending productive working days and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

*The solar lantern distribution project is designed to be self-sustaining after 12 months, but until this time Mali-Folkecenter Nyaetaa and ACCESS SARL (an innovative Malian energy service provision company) are working to identify appropriate retailers, train them in*

*product marketing and maintenance, manage a dedicated revolving fund to lend to retailers and consumers, monitor the prices set by retailers and cap this at €30, check the marketing conducted by retailers, and provide retailers with solar lanterns. At the end of the project when the distribution network is well developed, ACCESS SARL will apply for a bank loan to purchase additional solar kits to continue distribution and upscale activities to other areas.*

*The results and working model of this project have been shared with the Malian Agency for rural electrification and domestic energy. This agency is responsible for rural electrification in Mali and provides subsidies to private entrepreneurs for project implementation. Making this connection is meant to ensure that private operators adopt and replicate the model in other areas. Mali-Folkecenter Nyaetaa is also working with local banks, such as Banque Malienne de Solidarité, to try and convince them to provide loans to entrepreneurs for such activities.*

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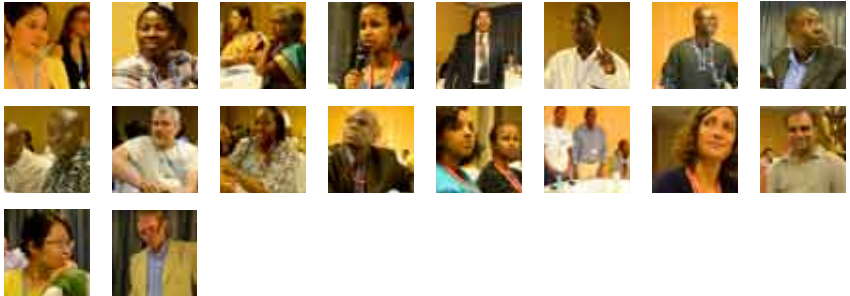


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## Southern Voices Planning Meeting at COP17



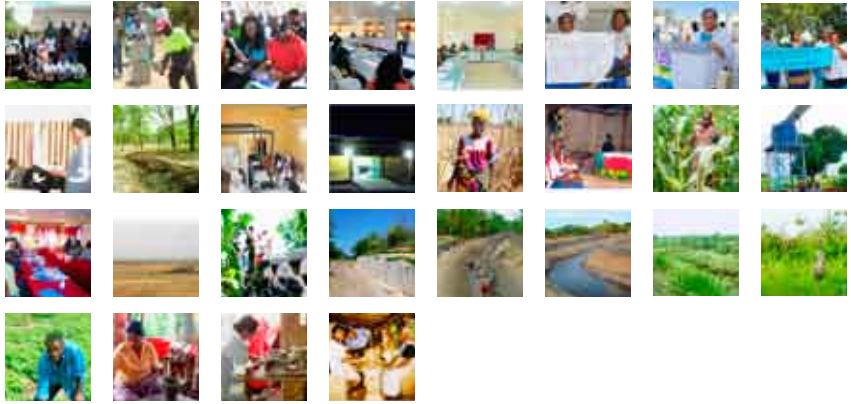
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## Case studies



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# The Climate Capacity Consortium

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## **CARE Denmark**

CARE Denmark helps more than 59 million people in 72 countries through global policy engagement, adaptation, organisational change and carbon finance. CARE Denmark acts as lead organisation of the Climate Capacity Consortium.

CARE Denmark: [www.care.dk](http://www.care.dk)

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## **Climate Action Network (CAN) International**

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THE DANISH 92 GROUP

**The Danish 92 Group - Forum for Sustainable Development**

A coalition of 23 Danish NGOs working on environmental and developmental issues.

[www.92grp.dk](http://www.92grp.dk)

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# Southern Voices on Climate Change - the programme behind the report

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This report is the first joint product of the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme, or for short: Southern Voices on Climate Change. More than 20 climate networks and their member organisations have contributed to the report with their experiences of advocacy on climate change issues through case studies and policy analyses from a wide range of countries - including many of the poorest - in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

The Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme was launched in January 2011 - with its focus on strengthening some of the many civil society climate networks in the South, which emerged from or engaged with the mobilisation towards COP15. Heightened awareness about climate change is now motivating networks to engage in advocacy activities that increasingly target national policy makers, regional institutions and other actors.

The Programme is implemented by the Climate Capacity Consortium, which includes four Danish and two international organisations: DanChurchAid, Ibis, Sustainable Energy, CARE Denmark (lead agency), the Danish 92-Group, Climate Action Network International and the International Institute for Environment and Development. The programme is funded by DANIDA as part of Denmark's Fast Start Finance.

The Southern Voices Programme supports eleven national, six regional and three thematic climate networks through the organisations in the Consortium. It aims to increase the capacity of the Southern Voices networks and organisations to carry out advocacy and policy monitoring activities and raise public awareness. The programme specifically aims to increase the ability of Southern civil society networks to promote fair and pro-poor positions of their own governments related to climate change policies and sustainable development.

**Learn more about the Southern Voices on Climate Change and the networks involved at: [www.climatecapacity.org](http://www.climatecapacity.org)**



Climate change is leading to a number of impacts which are particularly detrimental to the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. Governments at every level are responsible for helping communities respond to these changes, and yet governments often only take action when under pressure from civil society. Civil society therefore has a key role to play, both in terms of raising awareness about climate change at local and national levels, and also helping governments, donors and international organisations plan for a climate change constrained future.

Increasingly, non-government organisations and other stakeholders have been coming together at the national level to form civil society networks in some of the countries that are most affected by climate change. These networks have been involved in a wide range of activities to raise awareness about climate change, support climate change adaptation activities that benefit the most vulnerable, develop low-carbon development pathways to help mitigate climate change and improve local livelihoods, conduct research and disseminate results, build capacity on climate change and influence government planning processes at a variety of levels through a multitude of advocacy activities. These civil society networks have directed much of their advocacy efforts on particular government policies or actions, as well as on international processes, donors and, in some cases, the private sector. Some of these advocacy activities have been hugely successful, whilst others are encountering challenges and hurdles.

This report is a collection of some of these stories, aimed at informing, inspiring and, in some cases, forewarning the growing body of dedicated climate change advocates around the world about those advocacy activities which have worked, those which have not been successful, and where other efforts are being focused.



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