

Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme  
**Strengthening climate policy networks in Africa, Asia,  
Latin America and the Pacific**



Members of the Accra Caucus meeting at the UNFCCC session in Bangkok 2009

Since the failure of the UNFCCC climate change talks in Copenhagen to reach an ambitious global climate agreement, Southern civil society organisations (CSOs) and networks have continued to mobilise and increase their efforts to generate stronger public attention and influence climate negotiations and policies – at the international level and increasingly also nationally.

To assist in strengthening and consolidating these networks, a consortium of five Danish and two international non-government organizations (NGOs) are supporting the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme, coordinated by CARE Denmark.

The 2010-2012 Southern Voices programme, funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), has the goal that:

*The needs, rights and perspectives of civil society organisations and people vulnerable to climate change are adequately advocated for and reflected in a fair, ambitious and binding climate agreement for the period after 2012 adopted by the international community, as well as in the development and implementation of climate change policies at national, regional and international levels.*

The programme will support 11 national networks, six regional and three thematic networks (see list on page 2). It aims to ensure that the selected CSOs and networks – through south-south and north-south alliances – increase their capacity for

carrying out advocacy and policy monitoring activities, and for raising public awareness. This will help promote environmental integrity and sustainable development that benefits poor and vulnerable people.

Southern Voices will promote fair and pro-poor climate change policies and programmes in developing countries. These efforts will build on Country Assessment Reports, which will be written by the participating Southern NGO/CSO networks about the implementation and development of climate change policies and programmes by national governments, and regional and international institutions. The reports will inform the development of an international synthesis report to be released towards COP17 in 2012.

#### Civil societies unite to influence all levels of government

The Southern Voices programme will increase the capacity of the Southern CSO-networks to engage in climate change advocacy through consistent preparation and qualified inputs into these processes. It will focus on regional and international institutions as well as the global negotiations through three approaches:

1. Support for climate change **advocacy, lobbying and public awareness-raising** aimed at fair, pro-poor positions of governments and other stakeholders to their commitments related to climate issues and favouring sustainable development.

**Southern Voices consortium members** include: CARE Denmark (lead agency), the Climate Action Network (CAN) International, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), DanChurchAid, IBIS (a Danish member-based development organisation), Danish Organisation for Sustainable Energy (OVE) and the Danish 92 Group (with KULU – Women in Development as a participating member. For more information, go to [www.climatecapacity.org](http://www.climatecapacity.org).

2. **Capacity building and utilisation** will be prioritised, including organizational and technical strengthening of existing networks and their skills at national and regional levels in developing countries including organisational development, policy analysis, advocacy and media engagement.
3. Focus on **strengthening know-how** within and between the Southern networks – brokering knowledge and facilitating linkages on selected themes:
  - Adaptation;
  - Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and forest conservation;
  - Sustainable energy and energy efficiency (low carbon development); and
  - Gender and climate change.

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. This includes a focus on public officials, parliaments and other stakeholders; regional-level institutions such as the African Union and ASEAN; and international institutions that handle financial mechanisms such as the World Bank, the European Commission, UNFCCC's Least Developed Country (LDC) fund and other actors.

At the international level, the participation of CSOs in the global climate change negotiations will help them establish valuable contact with their government representatives at a level which may not be within their reach domestically. Southern Voices will support the network members to maintain and develop these relations when implementing policies and programmes at the country level – including at the level of communities where a number of CSOs and NGOs operate. This increased interaction and cooperation can make implementation of climate change initiatives at national level more effective.

Within the programme, there will also be a focus on research, documentation and developing case studies on the consequences of climate change and coping strategies where the network members work. These will be important tools for advocacy efforts to help ensure that the interests of poor and marginalised people are taken into consideration within the negotiations, as well as in development and implementation of climate change policies and programmes at the national, regional and local level.

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[www.climatecapacity.org](http://www.climatecapacity.org)

## Southern Voices Programme Networks

### The National and Regional Networks:

- **Cambodia:** National Climate Change Network of Cambodia (NCCN)
- **Central and Latin America:** Sustainability Watch Latin America as well as CAN Latin America
- **Ethiopia:** Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change
- **Malawi:** CISONICC - Civil Society Network on Climate Change
- **Mali/Africa:** FEMNET Africa (African Women's Development and Communication Network), FEMNET Mali: Gender and CC Focal Point
- **Micronesia:** CAN Micronesia
- **Niger:** The climate change commission within CNEDD as well as the Niger Youth Initiative for Climate Change
- **South Asia:** CAN South Asia (CANSA)
- **Tanzania:** MJUMITA – National Community Forestry Conservation Network
- **Tuvalu:** TuCAN
- **Vietnam:** NGO Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)
- **West Africa:** CAN West Africa, as well as West African Network on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (WANET-CSD)

### Thematic Networks:

- The **Accra Caucus** on Forests and Climate Change (REDD and forests)
- **INFORSE** – International network for sustainable energy (Low carbon development)
- **CLACC** – Programme for Capacity Building in the LDCs for Adaptation to Climate Change (Adaptation)

