

Southern Voices on Climate Change - phase two 2012-13

Concept Note

Phase two of the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme

- Strengthening Climate Policy Networks in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific

Introduction

The Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme provides support for Southern climate policy networks with the aim of *“increasing their capacity for carrying out advocacy and monitoring activities and raising public awareness at national, regional and international levels in order to help implement and develop climate change policies which promote environmental integrity and sustainable development benefitting poor and vulnerable people”* (immediate objective).

The first phase of the programme was initiated in January 2011 and is planned to run for 18 months until the end of June 2012. The programme was planned in consultation with the MEK office in the Danish MFA during 2010 as a follow up to the project “A stronger voice for developing countries in the international climate negotiations” implemented from Jan 2009 to Dec 2010; this project focused on capacity building and participation of Southern civil society organisations at COP15 and – with an extension - towards COP16. The evaluation of the project recommended taking this process forward by supporting and consolidating the climate policy networks which grew out of the mobilisation towards COP15, with an emphasis on climate advocacy at the national and regional levels – while maintaining an engagement in the international climate negotiations.

The Southern Voices programme was developed to run over three years from Jan 2011 through to Dec 2013 and submitted to the Danish MFA in October 2010 with a view to funding from the Danish Climate Envelope – Denmark’s Fast Start Funding. Here the project was granted DKK 8 mill. to cover implementation during the first 18 months until mid 2012. A follow up application will be prepared for the second phase from mid 2012 until the end of 2013, to be submitted for funding for the Danish Climate Envelope for 2012.

A mid-term review of the programme is initiated in November to be completed by February 2012. The review will assess the progress and the challenges in the programme over the first year of implementation with a view to identifying needs for adjustment. The review will inform the application of the phase two of the programme, planned to run from June 2012 to December 2013.

This concept note presents a broad outline and the budget for the phase two application.

The more detailed planning will be informed by the findings in the review which is prepared in consultation with the climate networks supported.

Outline and status of implementation of Southern Voices by end of 3rd quarter 2011

The Programme – called “Southern Voices” for short – supports some 20 climate policy networks in the South through a consortium comprised of four NGOs in the Danish 92 Group (DanChurchAid; Ibis; Vedvarende Energi, and Care) and two international NGOs (CAN-International and IIED), with CARE Danmark as the lead agency. The networks include 9 national, 6 regional and 3 thematic networks, See the list of networks attached in annex 1.

Key elements in the first phase of the programme are the following:

- 1) A modest grant for each network (maximum normally around DKK 50.000) will allow for implementation of activities based on the priorities by each network – within the following categories: part-time staff/secretariat. internal meetings, capacity-building/organizational development, studies, evidence based advocacy and awareness raising, meetings and travel costs (including UNFCCC meetings)
- 2) Key outputs required from the networks supported are the following:
 - a) A network capacity analysis – assessing the capacity of policy advocacy of each network, and setting out targets and activities for capacity building
 - b) Development of an advocacy plan for each network
 - c) Preparation of Climate Change Country Assessment Reports in the form of policy assessments and case studies analyzing national and regional climate policies from the perspective of the civil society. These studies will serve as a basis for evidence based advocacy by the networks, and feed into the international report of the programme
- 3) A web based Learning Platform including (climatecapacity.org), a website – mailing list and a newsletter is implemented by the Secretariat, based at Care Denmark to promote interaction and learning between networks.
- 4) An international report – now titled “Southern Voices on Climate Policy Choices”, will be prepared based on inputs from the networks in the programme – edited by the IIED – International Institute for Environment and Development.

The philosophy of the programme is to support existing networks – not to create a new one. The intention is not to establish a new super-network, let alone a common political platform, but to support and strengthen the advocacy work of a wide range of climate networks and promote mutual learning of experiences as well as cooperation where networks find it relevant.

The first nine months in the implementation have been very busy. In addition to the work required as inception work for setting up the framework of contracts and work-plans by networks, most of the tangible “deliverables” by networks mentioned under 2 above have been due during the first 6-9 months: 11 network capacity reports have been prepared, most including also advocacy plans, and a range of different and varied inputs in the form of case studies and policy analyses have been prepared for the international report – titled Southern Voices on Climate Policy Choices and expected to be ready in a draft version at COP17.

By mid-October it is evident that there are large variations in capacity and competences between the various networks in the programme, and in the pace of implementation as well. Some networks have really taken off, for others the process has been more complicated and not so fast. Most networks have prioritized to have an inclusive and participatory process for developing their advocacy plans and capacity analyses; one of the lessons is that the time required to prepare capacity analyses, advocacy plans, and country reports was underestimated in the implementation plan. Processes have been more time consuming than expected, particularly in regional networks covering many countries – or in a large country like India. Some of the networks have proved more fragile than expected when planning the programme and in a few cases a network in a country has been dropped by a consortium member and replaced with another (e.g. in Cambodia and Niger).

One central lesson which can be mentioned even before the programme review is undertaken, is that it is a challenge to promote synergy and learning between networks when it is facilitated through electronic communication alone, particularly in countries and regions where several

networks are active. If the objective of learning and knowledge sharing is to be furthered, there is a need for resources for physical meetings between networks and for a more systematised knowledge management in the programme.

Policy issues covered in phase 1 to be carried forward into Southern Voices phase 2

The following list provides an indication of the main policy issues and targets reflected in advocacy plans, country- and case studies, and capacity analyses during the first 9 months of implementation:

- A general perspective on mainstreaming climate change into existing development plans, poverty reduction plans etc. and to involve civil society in this. (Ethiopia, Cambodia, Malawi, Niger, Malawi and more)
- In most countries a focus on adaptation through NAPAs and other national level programmes with the perspective to promote community based approaches with involvement of the civil society.
- In several countries a focus on the need to integrate adaptation and disaster management (Malawi, Cambodia, Vietnam)
- A critical perspective on the way REDD+ is unfolding at the national level with a focus on the safeguards and social and environmental standards in REDD+ projects, and REDD readiness policies (Tanzania, Nicaragua, Ghana, Vietnam), and the opportunities for benefit-sharing for forest dependent communities and indigenous peoples
- Promotion of renewable energy solutions and policies – with a key on the community level solutions – regionally in South Asia, East Africa, Malawi, Mali, Niger etc. Also a critical perspective on large scale solutions such as hydropower negatively impacting local communities (Vietnam)
- An engagement in World Bank Policies – the PPCR – including a critical focus on debt (Niger and Nepal), as well as critical focus on FCPC as implemented in Nicaragua
- A focus on governance of climate change funding (Malawi, CANSouth Asia, Mexico)
- In most countries awareness raising on CC (civil society, media, youth, outside capital)
- A focus on regional actors on climate change and commitments to promote cc policies and compatible development – including the SAARC (CANSAs), and the AMCEN and the African Union, CEPAL and SICA in Central America
- Continued engagement in the UNFCCC process – based on the experience from national and regional levels

Outline for a phase 2:

Building on the groundwork from phase one and learning from the lessons.

Since the SV Programme was first planned with a three year horizon, the intention is to base the application for a phase 2 on the original project document – with the modifications following from

the fact that the initiatives in phase 1 will now have been implemented – and from the lessons learned from implementation in phase 1.

Key elements in the second phase of Southern Voices which are more or less in continuation of the phase one

- The climate networks selected and participating in Phase 1 will continue as the primary target group – only in case of non performing networks support can be terminated and new networks be considered
- Each network will receive a budget for implementing key activities identified as priorities through the capacity analysis and the advocacy plan developed in Ph 1. The network must develop a small project document with an action plan outlining the activities to be covered by SVoices and the milestones against which progress / success will be measured.
- Programme Secretariat based at Care DK in Copenhagen – in charge of coordination and knowledge sharing.
- End of project evaluation – to measure achievements and lessons against the programme logframe and milestones set by networks.

The following elements are proposed as new or reinforced ones – requiring some extra funding

- Knowledge management and learning across networks: Increased emphasis on for learning, knowledge sharing, and training activities cutting across networks in the programme. A separate budget line will be set aside for this, allowing inter alia for physical meetings between networks in the programme.
- Improved electronic learning platform now also in French and Spanish: Increased resources for knowledge sharing and documentation on Southern civil society climate advocacy – for improving the web-based learning platform, including capacity in French and Spanish
- Publishing the lessons from the programme in a report: A Climate Change Advocacy Toolbox – based on experiences from Southern Voices networks – and other sources. The toolbox will include also briefs to assist CSOs and NGOs on the climate change specific elements which are necessary to command for doing efficient cc advocacy interventions.

The elements outlined above will be further developed and detailed following the outcome of the review – where Southern Voices networks and their members are consulted and provide their inputs for adjusting the project proposal.

A new project document will be based on the one from the first phase (developed for three years) but with a modified logframe, budget, implementation plans etc. to follow the adjustments indicated above. An **budget outline is attached, estimated at 10,2 million DKK**

Proposed time frame for preparation of phase 2 application

- Nov – Dec 2011: Review initiated at COP17 and through selected country visits
- Jan – Feb 2012: Annual reporting by networks including inputs to phase 2
- Mar: Finalising review and preparing application for second phase
- April: Sending in application for second phase of programme
- July 2012: Start of phase 2 of the programme.