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Editorial

Global and Local Climate Change Advocacy

The upcoming COP17 climate change summit in Durban South Africa will be attended by thousands of Southern civil society organisations, striving to promote climate justice and a fair, ambitious and binding climate agreement. Only five years ago it was mainly large environmental NGOs from industrialized countries who engaged in the international climate negotiations, but this changed towards COP15 in 2009.

While Copenhagen failed to deliver the climate agreement which the civil society was fighting for, the preparations for the Summit mobilized Southern civil society at a global and unprecedented scale. As the knowledge of the mechanisms of climate change became more widespread, so did the understanding of how the livelihoods of the poor and vulnerable are negatively affected by the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods, storms etc . The fact that this is related to the GHG emissions of industrialized countries and unsustainable lifestyles in the North fuelled the claim for "Climate Justice".



Copyright: The World Wants a Real Deal

Since COP15 this global mobilisation on climate change also turned local: Civil societies in the South are increasingly working to put climate change on the national agendas, and to influence policy making on the issue, often advocating for solutions which address the needs of the communities most vulnerable to climate change.

This issue of Southern Voices News features how climate networks engage constructively with national governments to promote issues like integration of adaptation and disaster risk reduction in national planning; (Vietnam and Cambodia); the priority of climate change spending in the national budget (Malawi); the need for a national climate change policy (Zimbabwe) – to mention just a few. Much more documentation on climate change advocacy in the South can be found in the report: Southern Voices on Climate Policy Choices (see below), which will be available in time for the COP17 in Durban. .

That climate change is happening now with devastating impacts on vulnerable countries is evident from the articles on the drought in East Africa and the torrential rains in Central America, where Southern civil society actors call for action to address the climate crisis.

The increased engagement of civil societies and many Southern governments in climate change is encouraging. At COP17 the large emitting countries should follow their example – and show leadership. We need an agreement with ambitious and binding reduction targets and providing new and additional climate finance. In that way we can pave the way towards a common future with more climate justice.

“It is not fair that other countries are responsible for producing the CO2 emissions (...) while we continue to bury our dead and to deal with the destruction”

“We need to build an alliance with Northern likeminded CSOs to foster the South-North climate campaign”

Central American Presidents:

We want no more deaths caused by climate change

On October 25th the Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica – and the Minister of Foreign Affairs from Nicaragua made a joint appeal to industrialized countries to reduce their emission of greenhouse gases: “It is not fair that other countries are responsible for producing the CO2 emissions that cause problems in vulnerable countries like ours, while we continue to bury our dead and to deal with the destruction” stated Mauricio Funes, President of El Salvador. “Our infrastructure has been damaged; our crops have been damaged, while other countries, especially the industrialized ones are responsible for the climate change and the harmful effects in the region.”

The Central American leaders met in El Salvador for an extraordinary summit to analyse the impact of the disaster after several weeks with torrential rains which have devastated the countries in the region: Over 100 persons are dead; more than 500,000 people had to be mobilized to shelters, roads, bridges and thousands of homes destroyed. The Summit decided to launch a joint appeal for assistance for reconstruction after the rains and to convoke a meeting for international donors on December 16th, when the specific assessment of the damages caused will be available.

The final declaration from the Central American summit calls on the “industrialized countries to have significant reductions in their emission of greenhouse gases and to recognize Central America as a region highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change”. This message corresponds with the recommendations and the advocacy work of the Central American NGO network Sustainability Watch (SUSWATCH). “The claim for recognition of Central America as highly vulnerable is part of SUSWATCH’s claims for climate justice” says Mónica López Baltodano, Coordinator of SUSWATCH in Nicaragua.

Read the full article at climatecapacity.org [here](#) – and the SusWatch position paper towards COP17 [here](#)

African Climate Justice Advocacy in the US

Interview with Dr. Habtemariam Abate, Co-Chair of ESCNCC

As part of their COP17 preparations, PACJA – the PanAfrican Climate Justice Network – sent a delegation to the US and Canada to highlight how CO2 emissions is to blame for the hunger crisis and the drought in East Africa this year. Southern Voices news interviewed Dr Habtemariam Abate who was part of the initiative.

The PACJA delegation attended the 41st Annual Congressional Black Caucus in the US during a debate on energy investments and employment. “We asked them: How can you focus on employment in the United States – when in East Africa climate change is



Dr Habtemariam among students at Journey High school

devastating ecosystems and livelihoods, and turning millions of pastoralists into climate refugees? Dr Habtemariam explains. “The Secretary of the Interior – mentioned that they were aware of climate change happening in the US and of the icecap in Greenland melting, but it was new to him that climate change had such impacts in Africa.” It was a very productive event according to Habtemariam.

The delegation visited high schools and

“We have the right to survive on this Planet - we are all humans”

The networks presented strategies on how they can work together for the betterment of most vulnerable communities and ensure a stronger and binding outcome from the negotiations

Contact information for all Southern Voices Climate Networks is available at www.climatecapacity.org

universities as well and also met climate change skeptics. “Few doubted that climate change is happening, but many questioned that it is man-made” Habtemariam recalls and mentions that the PACJA delegation used graphs to illustrate how global temperature increase has taken off following industrial revolution. “But it was the pictures and the video which really touched people’s emotions” Habtemariam explains “They saw how the camels –known to survive in the desert – were not able to walk and were practically dying. This was a forceful illustration on how the livelihoods of the pastoralists are destroyed.

Read the rest of the article at the website [here](#)

You can find the report from PACJA’s visit to the US and Canada [here](#).

Read the article on the East African Drought below.

Dr. Habtemariam Abate is director of the Ethiopian NGO – Sustainable Land Use Forum (SLUF), co-chairperson of the Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change (ECSNCC), and member of the board of PACJA.

Southern African NGO Voices gear up for COP17

*By Sherpard Zvigadza and Joseph Madzvamuse,
Zimbabwe Regional Environmental Organization (ZERO)*

As world nations warm up to the COP17 International Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa, NGOs from six Southern African countries joined the tempo by gathering recently in Johannesburg from 29-30 August, to spruce up their networks and partnerships so as join the jamboree with one common voice that will bolster their options and positions for the crucial negotiations. Countries represented seven countries in Southern Africa and informed the meeting about the networks in their countries; what they are doing, their successes and challenges. This created a basis for discussion and debate.



Participants at the meeting represented Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Botswana, South Africa, and Kenya and the COP 17 Caravan of Hope Campaign by PACJA

The networks presented strategies on how they can work together for the betterment of most vulnerable communities and ensure a stronger and binding outcome from the negotiations. This is quite critical for African countries as they are the hardest hit by climate change as the face of the continent is already changing due to prolonged droughts, floods, unpredictable rains and subsequent crop failures.

There is need for improved regional coordination of networks, sharing of experiences and capacity building on adaptation

Some local non-governmental organisation missed out on a US\$1 million grant - due to the lack of a national policy

WWF South Africa focused on the COP negotiations modalities which included negotiation for certain texts, finance mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation. Of importance to note from the presentation was the issue of how networks or can become effective at COP 17 in Durban. It highlighted the need for networks to have clear objectives for participation at the event. This included having the right information on the issues being negotiated, tactics for effective lobbying and advocacy as well as targeting messaging and communications.

One of the key focuses on climate change is adaptation. In order to share and achieve similar goals there is need for improved regional coordination of networks, sharing of experiences and capacity building on adaptation. The meeting noted that this could be achieved through engagements with respective governments on climate change legislation or policies, climate change policy development and capacity building of policy makers and local communities.

The meeting was organized by Zimbabwe based ZERO Regional Environment Organization and Indigo-South Africa and is coming at a time when developing nations, particularly African countries are clamouring to be heard and their demands met by developed countries.

This article is a short version – to read the full article with details and citations from the participating networks, click [here](#)

Zimbabwe CSOs Calls for a National Climate Change Policy

Joseph Madzvamuse and Tonderai Matonho, Zimbabwe Climate Change Working Group



Mr Shepard Zvigadza
chair of ZCCWG

With just a few months left before the International Climate Change Conference kicks off in Durban, South Africa, Zimbabwe's Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), has raised its voice on the climate change position. Zimbabwe, just like many other African countries, faces immense issues in dealing with both the challenges that climate change brings and some of the new opportunities and funding streams that emanate from the climate change negotiations.

Now the CCWG calls for the government to expedite the development of a comprehensive National Climate Change policy to facilitate informed and structured climate change responses in the country. This policy document is quite critical as far as resource mobilisation for climate change programmes in the country are considered. A national climate change policy is a requirement for Zimbabwe to access funding from the Global Environmental Facility and other sources of Climate Change Funds. Recently in July it was reported that some local non-governmental organisation had missed out on a US\$1 million grant – due to the lack of a national policy. Zimbabwe continues to lag behind in the implementation of climate change programmes as compared to other regional neighbours like Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania, where either national policies or strategies makes it possible for donors to channel climate change funds to these countries.

The ZCCWG followed up its policy advocacy initiatives with a workshop with the legislators and strategic parliamentary portfolio committees on the 2nd of August so that the issue could be raised and debated in parliament where all policies are crafted. This was a strategic move to facilitate engagement of government stakeholders who are influential to the process.

“To guide the adaptation and mitigation strategies we need to formulate a climate change

policy and national strategy for Zimbabwe” says Sherpard Zvigadza, chairperson of the civil society working group CCWG, “it is also needed to strengthen the coordination of the climate change responses to Zimbabwe.”

Read the rest of the article at the website [here](#)

Linking Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

Interview with Ms. Trang Chau, Climate Change Working Group in Vietnam



Ms Trang Chung Chau

Adaptation to Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management overlap in a number of ways. An acknowledgement of this has led Vietnam's Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) – a Southern Voices network – to join forces with their civil society colleagues in the Disaster Management Working Group (DMWG) in the preparation of joint advocacy strategy. “Both the working groups focus on strengthening the resilience and preparedness of local communities to climate changes and the weather patterns, and wish to promote policies which involve the vulnerable populations themselves. We use similar tools to monitor, analyze and address adverse consequences. Therefore, it is logical to consider work in these areas in an integrated manner” says Ms Trang Chung Chau, the new coordinator of the CCWG.

To set the context and inform the joint advocacy strategy, the two networks commissioned a consultancy report on climate change and disaster risk management policies in Vietnam. The document provides an overview of the most prominent climate change and disaster management policies and strategies enacted or under development in the country. The main finding of the report is that 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 is implementing these policies effectively. The report pin-points some of the factors that make implementation difficult, a key challenge being lack of involvement of the vulnerable populations.

... An interesting initiative in this context is the 6th international conference on community based adaptation. The Vietnamese Disaster Management Center has taken on the responsibility of hosting this major event, which is to be held in April 2012. This will most likely help the organizations advocating for a higher level of community involvement, to put the issue on the table.

Read the full interview on climatecapacity.org [here](#) The full policy report can be found [here](#).

Climate Change Advocacy Kicks Off in Cambodia

Interview with Mr. Kham Syngoun, NGO Forum in Cambodia

In Cambodia, civil society organizations are working hard to put climate change on the national agenda. To actively feed into the national policy process, two Cambodian civil society networks - the 'National Climate Change Network' and 'The NGO Forum on Cambodia' - recently prepared a "Joint Statement on Climate and Disaster Management". The statement is supported by 21 local and international NGOs and was distributed to the participants at the Second National Forum on Climate Change held in early October 2011,

There are a number of barriers to engaging vulnerable people such as remoteness, language, gender roles and their ability to participate effectively

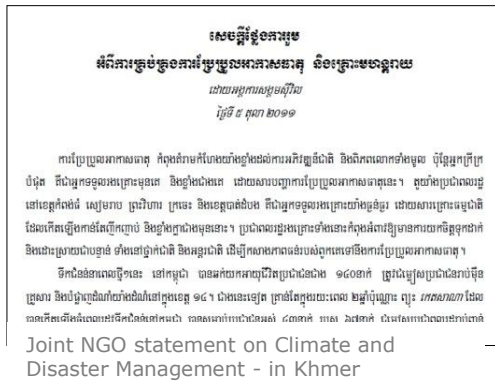
Vietnam will host the 6th International Conference on Community Based Adaptation in Hanoi from 16th to 22nd April 2012

[CBA6-Brochure](#)

climate funding processes should be transparent and accountable to the citizens

“It is very important that government start mainstreaming climate change into its strategic planning at national and sub national levels”

“There seems to be a missing link between government policies and allocation of resources”



climate change into its strategic planning at national and sub national levels, and this requires that clear guidelines, tools, and mechanisms are developed” Mr. Syngoun answers. “This should be done in wide consultation with multi-stakeholders, civil society groups, networks and the community level.”

The policy statement is informed by the findings of a new report “Climate Change and Disaster Management Policy Mapping and Analysis in Cambodia”, published in September 2011.

You can read the full article on climatecapacity.org [here](#)
The policy statement is available in [Khmer](#) and in [English](#), and the [full report in English](#) can be found at climatecapacity.org

and sent to media stakeholders and high level government officials. Among the key recommendations at the national level is a proposal to establish a common platform where all stakeholders can address climate change and disaster risk reduction in a coordinated way, and that climate funding processes should be transparent and accountable to the citizens. Southern Voices News asked Mr. Kham Syngoun – the Deputy Executive Director of the The NGO Forum on Cambodia about the most important messages in the statement. “It is very important that government start mainstreaming

Malawi:

National Budget Analysis through Climate Lenses

Interview with William Chadza, Center for Environmental Policy and Advocacy - CEPA



William Chadza, Director of CEPA

In Malawi, civil society has decided to change the focus from the flow of finances from donor countries, and instead focus on their own government’s allocation of climate financing. In June a number of Malawian NGOs published a new report titled “2011/2012 Draft National Budget Analysis with Focus on Climate Change”. Southern Voices News interviewed William Chadza, Director of CEPA – one of the organizations behind the report, on its key findings and how it serves as a tool for advocacy.

“There seems to be a missing link between government policies and allocation of national budgetary resources” William says. “The government insists that they prioritize climate change and

environment, but that has not translated into an increased flow of finances towards these issues. They say one thing and do another”. Managing Climate Change, Natural Resources and the Environment is declared by the Malawi Government as one of nine priorities in its development plan; but the budget analysis documents revealed that there has been a decrease in allocation of government funding towards climate change related sectors during the last 4 years, and that the allocation of public resources to the ministries dealing with climate change and environment has stagnated.

“One of the striking findings in the report is that there seem to be a profound lack of awareness on the existence of the NAPA and the policy framework for addressing climate change...” William Chadza states.

Here you can read [the full article](#), and the report [Malawi National Budget Analysis with Focus on Climate Change](#)

Climate Change and the Drought in Eastern Africa

By Alebachew Adem, Forum for Social Studies and ECSNCC

The current drought in the Greater Horn of Africa is a result of several consecutive years of failed rains and poor harvests

People have no time to recover before another drought hits

This has resulted in increasing poverty and chronic food insecurity - with households year after year finding it hard or impossible to get the food they need.

The current drought in the Horn and Eastern Africa is said to be the worst in 60 years. The drought has caused severe food, feed and water crisis across Somalia, Ethiopia, and Kenya that threatens the lives and livelihoods of more than 13.3 million people.

Pastoralists are leaving their villages with their remaining herds in search of water and pasture for their livestock. Driving his emaciated cattle, a young man of 24 years of age, Wario Dera, said ".I left my village yesterday evening around 8 pm because I heard the Melbana area is a little bit wetter. I have already lost six of my cattle in the last two months and if I lose these ones we will have nothing. My only hope for water and pasture is Melbana and I am hoping to reach there by tomorrow..."



Boy in Borena area in Ethiopia in search of greener pastures and water due to drought. Photo by Fikirte Abebe/DCA

Since the 1980s, Ethiopia has experienced at least five major national droughts, along with literally dozens of local droughts. Over the last two decades, the frequency of droughts and floods has increased in many areas, resulting in loss of lives and livelihoods. IPCC in its 2007 report has already identified the region as one of the most fragile region susceptible to adverse effects of climate change

The current drought in the Greater Horn of Africa is a result of several consecutive years of failed rains and poor harvests. The drought threatens the lives of millions of pastoral and semi-

pastoral households and comes on top of many other challenges including, prolonged conflict, displacement of people, scarcity of resources, lack of infrastructure and market access and high food and fuel prices.

Ethiopian pastoralists used to expect a minor drought every three to five years and a major drought five to ten years, but this trend has changed in the last decade. Minor droughts are now coming almost every other year, and major droughts every two to three years. As the drought events occur with more frequency, people have no time to recover before another drought hits. This has resulted in increasing poverty and chronic food insecurity – with households year after year finding it hard or impossible to get the food they need.

To learn more about the crisis at the Horn of Africa, read the [full article here](#)



**Strengthening southern voices in
advocating climate policies that
benefit poor and vulnerable people**

COP15 Dawned New Era for Kiribati Climate Change Advocacy

*Interview with Pelenise Alofa, National Coordinator of KiriCAN
By Ulamila Kurai Wragg.*

For most participants the UNFCCC COP15 in 2009 will be remembered for its controversial Copenhagen Accord – disappointing those who worked for a fair, ambitious and binding agreement.

But for Kiribati islander, Pelenise Alofa, Copenhagen dawned a new era. It was at COP 15 where she met two Pacific islanders in the Climate Action Network International - from Tuvalu and the Federated States of Micronesia.



Pacific Islander delegates at COP 16, Pelenise Alofa in middle

“The Pacific islands are so scattered and thousands of miles apart, so the three of us met for the first time in Copenhagen. It was there we first discussed a regional CAN for the Pacific, which is now work in progress; and when I came back to the islands, I mobilized a group and registered Kiribati CAN.”

By now in late 2011 KiriCAN has around 100 registered individuals working with around 60 community based organizations and non-governmental organizations, and Alofa as the National Coordinator. Since its registration, KiriCAN has become a powerful force for climate change work in the island country. Water harvesting is high on its awareness programme apart from workshops and advocacy work in-country.

Read the rest of the interview and [learn more about KiriCANs work](#)

Southern Voices on Climate Policy Choices

New report on civil society climate advocacy in the South

This new report presents and analyses a huge number of cases on climate change advocacy undertaken by civil society organisations in the South, as well as their assessments of climate policies and interventions by national governments, regional institutions, and international actors.

The report is the first joint product of the Southern Voices Programme. More than 20 climate networks and their member organizations have contributed with their experiences of raising awareness on climate change issues and from influencing climate change policies and practices in a wide range of countries - including many of the poorest - in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific.

“The Pacific islands are so scattered and thousands of miles apart, so the three of us met for the first time in Copenhagen

Since its registration, KiriCAN has become a powerful force for climate change work in the island country

“The energy, creativity and passion shown by networks in the South to date is clear from this report”

The report aims to share lessons among climate change advocates in the South to promote cross-learning and mutual inspiration

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Please set time aside in your Durban schedule to join the activities planned by the Southern Voices programme

The purpose of the report is to share lessons, advice and recommendations among climate change advocates in the Southern Voices Programme – and beyond, with a view to foster cross-learning and mutual inspiration in the efforts to promote climate policies which benefit poor and vulnerable people

Hannah Reid consulting researcher with the International Institute for Environment and Development, IIED – has edited the report with support from a team of Southern NGO-experts.

The final draft report of 76 pages will be available for download around COP17 as word and pdf document from [www.climatecapacity.org /resource-centre/international](http://www.climatecapacity.org/resource-centre/international).

In early 2012 this report will be published and available to download at the same address.

In his preface to the report Saleemul Huq, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development in Bangladesh, states that “*..the energy, creativity and passion shown by networks in the South to date is clear from this report. Southern civil society networks need our support and commendation for achievements to date.*”

Check out what's new at climatecapacity.org

Materials and changes from October and November

New report with case studies and recommendations for COP17

Is REDD-readiness taking us in the right direction?

In this new report, the Accra Caucus presents a new set of case studies examining how the Cancun decisions REDD+ Safeguards are being implemented by the parties. Cases from Ghana, Papua New Guinea, Central African Republic, Nepal and the Republic of Congo analyse REDD readiness processes and pilot initiatives from the perspective of forest user groups and indigenous peoples.

The case studies are available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#)

New on climatecapacity.org

Additional topics in the Resource Center

- The new menu ‘[Reports and Cases](#)’ features assessment reports and case studies from Southern Voices partner networks.
- Under ‘[Policies and Positions](#)’ you will find two new topic menus; ‘[UNFCCC – COP17](#)’ and ‘[REDD and Forestry](#)’. These menus will keep you updated on relevant publications concerning these topics.

Southern Voices Calendar

- **November 27: CAN Capacity Building Session at COP17**
Durban South Africa, 10.am – 1pm
The session is open for all. It is followed by CAN strategy session for CAN-members – Southern Voices Networks are welcome.
Here you find the [agenda](#)

Find the details and more events in the Southern Voices calendar at climatecapacity.org

Remember the Southern Voices side-event organized with CAN-International on Tuesday Dec. 6th

Southern Voices News

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Unless another author is presented, all articles are prepared by Peter With and Tasia Spangsborg. The Southern Voices News articles do not necessarily share the views of the other authors in the newsletter and SVN is not responsible for expressed opinions.

- **December 1: Southern Voices planning meeting during COP 17**
18:00 – 20:00, Coastlands Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa
For networks and their members in the Southern Voices Programme
- **December 1: Climate Communications Day at COP 17**
Durban, South Africa
IIED is working with Internews on the First Annual Climate Communications Day, where Journalists, bloggers, scientists and others will discuss innovative ways to communicate climate change. Further information on this event can be found [here](#). As space is limited, please register [here](#).
- **December 3: Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2011**
Durban South Africa
Registration is needed, please see [programme](#) and [invitation](#) for further information
- **December 3-4: Development and Climate Days at COP 17**
Durban South Africa
The Development and Climate Days are critical for people interested in learning about the latest in climate change and international development and for building contacts with key policymakers, researchers and negotiators from around the world. Registration required. More information can be found [here](#)
- **December 6, Southern Voices on Climate Policy Choices**
11.30-13.00, Side-event at COP 17 Durban, South Africa
Venue: Hex river meeting room
Organized by CAN-I and the Southern Voices Programme
Lessons and challenges from climate change advocacy by civil society networks at national and regional levels. Download here the [programme \(184 Kb\)](#)

The Southern Voices Programme

This newsletter is published by the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme, hosted by CARE Danmark. The programme supports some 20 civil society climate networks in the South through four Danish NGOs as well as through Climate Action Network (CAN) International and IIED – International Institute of Development and Environment, who are working together in the *Climate Capacity Consortium*.

Southern Voices News will facilitate an exchange of experiences, lessons and know-how on capacity building and advocacy interventions among Southern climate networks and their Northern partners.

Read more on the programme, the climate networks and the consortium at the webpage. www.climatecapacity.org

