



Report on members' Climate Change Networking Event

16 October 2008

Renfield St Stephens, Bath Street, Glasgow

Workshop run in conjunction with:



BritishRedCross



Aims of event:

To enable NIDOS member organizations to

- Share experience and network among members on current thinking on climate change and approaches or tools we use in our work strategies, planning and delivery
- Discuss what NIDOS could do to support member organizations to develop their practice in this context and what the next steps would be for any joint action as a Network

Summary of Recommendations from the Event:

- important to further raise awareness among members of the NIDOS network of the increasing importance and impact of climate change on the communities with whom we work. Climate change is not just an environmental issue but a key development issue. There are many climate related impacts on people in poverty through factors such as effects on access to water, increasing disease outbreaks, frequency of failed harvests and food security; other natural resource based livelihoods, flooding, and conflicts.
- Member organisations could be supported to look ahead and ensure their development priorities incorporate adaptation and mitigation responses to meet the changing needs of the communities, both in relation to their programme delivery and also in relation to advocacy.
- better links need to be built between organisations involved in the environmental side of climate change advocacy work and development organisations, including within the Scottish context of networks such as Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.
- Engage members through an outreach survey asking them about their organisations' current responses to climate change issues and what their priorities might be for the future – and that this survey could engage the Boards of member organisations as well as their staff
- Provide training on climate change language and issues
- Build links with BOND's Development and Environment Group and keep abreast of the advocacy work that they are involved in
- Invite interested members to get involved in setting up a Climate Change Working Group, to further consider the many useful suggestions for specific actions which came out of the workshops and to take this work forward within the Network, which NIDOS could support.

Opening Speakers:

Simon Anderson, IIED

Biography:

Principal Researcher, Climate Change Group; International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) Edinburgh. Simon has worked for 25 years in international development mainly related to natural resources management and environmental change. Experienced researcher, research manager and evaluation specialist in NGO, UK civil service (DFID) and university settings. Currently working on climate change adaptation and development issues concentrating on least developed countries.

Presentation:

Simon set the scene, outlining the major impacts that climate change has been having and will increasingly have on already vulnerable communities in Asia and Southern America and particularly in Africa. These included factors such as access to safe water, increased disease risks, changing agricultural seasons and increased crop failures, increased conflicts, among others. Showing both recent and historical contributions of different countries to climate emissions, he highlighted the climate injustices which communities in the South face in suffering disproportionately from climate change when they have contributed least to causing it. His presentation covered the history of some of the responses that there have been to this over recent decades and the economic models that have been developed to represent what needs to be done to arrest further climate change and cope with its impacts.

He called strongly for advocacy work to emphasise that international climate related policy and financial instruments should include ambitious investment in adaptation initiatives to enable vulnerable communities to cope. Also, for more to be done to ensure that research and planning looks at where the limits to adaptation are, when communities will reach a threshold where they cannot adapt any further or fast enough and what can be done to support communities when these thresholds are reached.

He also emphasised the importance of development practitioners being made aware of the clear links between climate change and development – and their role in adapting their programmes to support communities adapt and cope.

For the full details of his presentation, go to Annex 1

Dr Sean Doolan, DFID

Biography:

Climate Change Advisor, Africa Regional Department, DFID. Sean has extensive experience working of environment and sustainability issues in international development, working first in research, then with NGOs, particularly in Africa, then with DFID. He was Environment Adviser, for DFID's programme in India before his current Africa post. Participated in UK Roundtable on Sustainable Development; is an Expert Advisor to the OECD Strategic Environmental Assessment Network.

Presentation:

Sean presented the evolution of DFID's thinking on climate change. DFID has recognised the clear impacts that climate change is having on the deliverability of internationally agreed development objectives under the Millennium Development Goals and that "business as usual" is not possible within international development work in the future. DFID is looking at which levels action might be most effective and what the linkages are between development goals and climate impacts.

A key part of DFID's response is to work with partners in the international finance arena to change international aid frameworks, ensuring that government agendas, national action plans on climate change and aid agencies' programmes are in greater alignment. Funders, including DFID need to move away from a focus on project level funding through more sectoral based funding and into multi-donor budget support for governments and regions. The UK government has set up some new funding instruments including the UK's Environment Transformation Fund.

DFID is also looking at how it can be more joined up internally within all its departments, in order to integrate climate related adaptation work with delivery of development priorities, with climate related outcomes across the organisation. Also, how climate change responses are integrated across other UK Government department portfolios.

Work with African countries and the region as a whole is seen as key, with support to build a stronger capacity for African voices to be heard in climate negotiations, improved regional cooperation within Africa, greater capacity for related technology transfer and accelerated up-scaling of effective responses in Africa including agricultural, energy related and health related programmes.

For the full details of his presentation, see Annex 2.

Workshop 1: Disaster Preparedness and Adaption

Workshop Facilitators: Alison Bunting, British Red Cross and Duncan Macqueen, IIED

This workshop highlighted the work that these two NIDOS member organisations are doing in relation to disaster preparedness and adaptation – one from a programme delivery angle (BRC) and one from primarily an advocacy angle (IIED).

Please see attached power point presentations in Annex 3.

Summary of workshop recommendations:

What are the key issues to work on?

- Re-framing the debate on climate change and showing the link with development
- translating climate change language into development language and showing the relevance of climate change issues in development
- Better access to information on the effects of climate change and approaches to disaster preparedness and adaptation
- Supporting coalitions of organisations in the south/more joint working on the ground
- Developing capacity of civil society in these countries to advocate with their government to negotiate for an ambitious agreement at Copenhagen
- Adaptation needs to be a key element of UK based / Scottish based Climate Change campaign asks

What could NIDOS members and our network do on these?

- Mapping exercise with members, to see the countries where a significant number of NIDOS members are working and consult with members to ask them how climate change is affecting the communities they work with and what members are doing in response to this.
- Collating information on the climate change implications in these countries and helping member organisations working in these countries to come together and support more joint working / share information
- Consider involvement in the SIDS initiative as there is no joint working on development and adaptation within this network
- Investigating the Malawi / UNDP research on climate change – and other relevant countries too.

Workshop 2: Carbon Footprinting and reducing your organisation's footprint

Workshop Facilitators: Dorothy MacIntosh, Mercy Corps and Jill Burnett, Ecometrica

Mercy Corps has recently worked with Ecometrica to measure the carbon footprint of their organisation across the globe – both in northern and southern operations - and is now working to reduce their footprint. The facilitators presented the results for Mercy Corps and outlined how an organisation can approach measuring their footprint and prioritise areas for action.

Please see attached power point presentations in Annex 4.

Summary of workshop recommendations:

What are the key issues to work on?

- When calculating carbon foot prints it can be difficult to set the boundaries for what to include and what to exclude, because projects usually involve many different partners and data collection methods should be realistic. There are several 'layers' of calculation, and long term there should also be consideration of the impact of the project, not just the immediate CO2 use.
- For development organisations carbon foot printing will be a question of priority, e.g. for most organisations it would be impossible or not appropriate to completely stop travelling, internationally or in the field, by air as access to some areas is improved by air travel and face to face partnership building is important. But it is important to highlight also the non-financial and non-environmental benefits of reducing CO2, e.g. by investing in video conferencing/other IT facilities there is not just the financial gain of less money spent on travel, but also personal benefits as employees spend less time travelling/waiting etc.
- It can be difficult to get commitment from staff, both in the North and the South, and systems need to be put in place to make the change. An example could be to make everybody calculate their CO2 emission on all travel.
- It would be helpful for larger organisations to share their information and experience with smaller organisations
- There are resources available on-line that enable smaller organisations to calculate their carbon footprint.

For businesses

<https://www.carbontrust.co.uk/publicsites/CFCalculator/CO2Calculator.aspx>

<http://www.carbonneutral.com/business-carbon-calculator/index.asp>

Further resources are available at: <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/resource>

What NIDOS could do to help:

- Make resources and information available on-line
- Help with footprint reductions, possibly by having a person who can assist smaller organisations looking to calculate and reduce their carbon foot print
- Assist with building peer pressure in the sector to encourage more organisations to be involved.
- Assist with promoting information externally about the footprint reduction measures being taken by the sector
- Facilitate sharing of resources between organisations.

Workshop 3: Information and Campaigning:

Workshop facilitators: Ruth Dawkins, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Una Bartley, Christian Aid

Ruth outlined the work of SCCS and the involvement of international development organisations in their network while Una gave examples of Christian Aid's campaigning activities in relation to the global justice aspects of climate change and how Christian Aid is planning for campaigning in the lead up to climate negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009. Please see attached power point presentations in Annex 5.

Summary of workshop recommendations:**What are the key issues to work on?**

- Increase awareness or recognition of the link between climate change issues and development – within our Network; in wider climate coalitions; in the public mind; among funders. There is currently more focus on climate change effects on the environment / nature and not enough recognition of effects on people.
- Mixed press messages : both strong messages on impact of climate change and continuing over-representation of climate sceptics' opinions

What could NIDOS members and our network do on these?

- Interested NIDOS members could come together and agree to cooperatively respond to press stories on climate change, or proactively seek press cover for human / international aspects of climate change
- Make links between Southern Climate change campaigning networks and the Stop Climate Chaos Scotland network to get southern input and southern stories for campaign work

- Ask member organisations if there are Southern speakers who could be involved in Stop Climate Chaos Scotland's MSP information sessions
- Find out which NIDOS members have links with MSPs with a strong international development interest and lobby them to support campaign work with international development angle – NIDOS member organisations' supporters could be facilitated to lobby their MSPs in support of Climate Bill
- Seek input from Southern organisations who have been successful in campaigning
- Make links with Community Based Adaptation workshops being run by IIED through Second-Life conferences - could upload podcasts of these types of events held in the past (making links to Newsletters) or help people engage in planned future events (Feb09 in Bangladesh and Nov 09 in Tanzania) through second –life
- Seek joint meeting between Cross Party Group on Climate Change and Cross Party Group on International Development and invite Scottish Government representatives from both environment and international development – to discuss the linkages between climate change and development

Workshop 4: Climate related incomes to support vulnerable communities

Workshop facilitators: Toby Quantrill, WWF UK and Dorothy MacIntosh, Mercy Corps

Two aspects of climate related incomes were addressed in the workshop – a) campaigning and negotiations which are ongoing to secure greater Southern involvement in international climate negotiations on income for southern communities' adaptation and mitigation measures and how BOND members are engaging with this and b) a discussion on the ethics and issues in relation to NGOs delivering carbon friendly projects within the carbon trading system. Please see attached power point presentations in Annex 6.

Summary of workshop recommendations:

What are the key issues to work on?

- Should the development sector engage with off setting of carbon emissions? There was agreement that the system of off-setting was flawed and possibly not the ideal tool to reduce carbon emissions, but the question is whether that should stop organisations from getting involved or should organisation engage with the system and try to get something out of it.
- It is important to connect the development and the environment agendas
- Organisations can get involved at a local level, while also working to improve at a macro level
- The off setting market itself is complicated and still developing, and it can therefore be difficult to get involved in.

- There is confusing and misleading language around carbon off-setting and it is important to get this right.

What could NIDOS members and our network do on these?

- Facilitate sharing of information and experience
- Possibly facilitate organisations wanting to join up in carbon off setting cluster projects

Link in with DEG (The Development and Environment Group of BOND) – for more details see: <http://www.bond.org.uk/wgroups/environment/index.html>

Concluding Discussion:

The event closed with a discussion on the issues which had arisen during the day with the aim of prioritising items for future action from the many suggestions which were put forward in workshops.

Mary Cullen, as Chair, summarised the key mechanisms for NIDOS to support members to take forward issues on Climate Change within the network:

- Information in the Newsletter
- Information and networking through the NIDOS website and members' area web forums
- Further events and seminars on climate related topics
- Member Working Groups – members can convene a working group to take forward specific pieces of work together and share approaches
- Training and workshops
- Research and mapping of activities or resources

There was consensus that it is important to further raise awareness among members of the NIDOS network of the increasing importance and impact of climate change on the communities with whom we work. Climate change is not just an environmental issue but a key development issue as well as there are many climate related impacts on people in poverty through factors such as effects on access to water, increasing disease outbreaks, frequency of failed harvests and food security; other natural resource based livelihoods, flooding, conflicts, etc. Some NIDOS members are very engaged with the issues but many are not and improved networking and information sharing would enable sharing of experience between members.

Member organisations could be supported to look ahead and ensure their development priorities incorporate adaptation and mitigation responses to meet the changing needs of the communities. This

could be both in relation to their programme delivery work and also in relation to advocacy work. There was also discussion on how this could be incorporated within the Best Practice work being developed in the Network.

Organisations, whether they are major international policy and funding bodies, or NGO and civil society organisations, are looking ahead and being prepared to respond when the capacity of communities' adaption will reach a threshold limit.

There was also agreement that better links need to be built between organisations involved in the environmental side of climate change advocacy work and development organisations, including within the Scottish context of networks such as Stop Climate Chaos Scotland.

Participants felt that the event had been an important first step in looking at how development organisations in Scotland do engage and could engage more in relation to climate change and how NIDOS could support its members to develop more effective ways of responding.

The next steps could include:

- Writing a report on the event and produce a paper on the issues which had emerged from the day to promote the importance of climate change to member organisations who did not attend the event
- Engaging members through an outreach survey asking them about their organisations' current responses to climate change issues and what their priorities might be for the future – and that this survey could engage the Boards of member organisations as well as their staff
- Providing training on climate change language and issues
- Building links with BOND's Development and Environment Group and keep abreast of the advocacy work that they are involved in
- Interested members setting up a Climate Change Working Group, to further consider the many useful suggestions for specific actions which came out of the workshops and to take this work forward within the Network, which NIDOS could support.

Participants List

Organisation	Name
British Red Cross	Alison Bunting
British Red Cross	Vicky Peterkin
British Red Cross	Gill Moffat
British Red Cross	Colin Moffat
Charity Education International	Dr Mozammel Huq
Christian Aid	Una Bartley
DFID	Dr Sean Doolan
Friends of the Earth Scotland	Corinne Evans
IACD	Tara O'Leary
IIED	Simon Anderson
International Network of Street Papers	Maree Adlam
Mercy Corps	Dorothy McIntosh
NIDOS	Gillian Wilson
NIDOS	Dorte Al-Gailani
SCIAF	Mary Cullen
SCIAF	Chris MacLulich
SCIAF	Steven Martin
Scotland Malawi Partnership	David Hope-Jones
SEAD	Jeni Mackay
SEAD	Jamie Auldsmith
SENSE Scotland	Rita Hopper
SIR/Mary's Meals	Andrew Parker
Stop Climate Chaos Scotland	Ruth Dawkins
Tearfund	Peter Chirnside
The Vine Trust	Calum Munro
University of Edinburgh	Neil Thin
WWF Scotland	Sam Gardner
WWF UK	Toby Quantrill

Programme:

9.30 – 10.00	Registration and refreshments
10.00	Setting the scene – Aims of event – Mary Cullen, Chair NIDOS
10.10	Simon Anderson, IIED: Climate change and climate justice from a Southern Perspective – why action needs to be taken and what NIDOS members could engage with
10.30	Dr Sean Doolan, DFID – How do agencies ensure that key development agendas continue to be tackled through a Climate Change lens
10.50	Outlining the aims of the workshops and workshop processes – Mary Cullen
10.55	Collect Tea/coffee to take into workshops
11.00 – 12.15	Workshops Session 1: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Climate adaptation and disaster preparedness in countries at risk British Red Cross and IIED co-facilitators2. Carbon footprinting in organisations and how NGOs can reduce their impact Mercy Corps and Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Management co- facilitators
12.15– 1.15	Lunch and Networking
1.15	Feedback from morning workshops and introduction to afternoon workshops and discussion
1.25– 2.30	Workshops Session 2: <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Information and campaigns Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and Christian Aid co-facilitators4. Climate related incomes to help vulnerable communities WWF Scotland and Mercy Corps co-facilitators
2.30– 2.45	Workshops Session 2: Feedback
2.45 – 3.00	Tea/coffee break
3.00– 4.00	Discussion: Issues identified from the workshops and what the priorities are for NIDOS members, next steps for NIDOS and members – Chaired by Mary Cullen
4.00	Thanks and Close