CARE committed to addressing climate change threats

Dr. Robert Glasser
Secretary General
CARE International

Colleagues, I would like to share with you some very alarming facts:

- Last year tied 2005 as the warmest year on record (even though we were at a solar minimum and La Niña was a cooling factor in the second half of the year).
- Temperature records were set in 19 countries covering a fifth of the world’s land area.
- The decade that has just ended included nine of the 10 hottest years on record.
- 2010 was also the wettest year ever documented and witnessed a record retreat of snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere and a near-record retreat of Arctic sea ice.

My own country, Australia, has been literally buffeted by a series of natural disasters over the past few years: record drought that triggered devastating bush fires, followed by biblical-proportion flooding and most recently a monster Cyclone, packing winds stronger than those from Hurricane Katrina. The prolonged drought devastated the Australian wheat crop.

But there is a similar picture unfolding in any one of a number of countries around the world: the deadly record heat wave that struck Russia and the virtually simultaneous unprecedented flooding (62,000 square miles) in Pakistan are examples. The current flooding in Sri Lanka is the worst in 100 years. Indeed, the expression, “once in a hundred year event” is rapidly becoming meaningless.

We’re now experiencing the second global food crisis in three years. This is the result of several factors, but what really stands out is the extent to which these extreme weather events have reduced agricultural production. And this barrage of extreme events is exactly the kind of thing we expect to see as rising concentrations of greenhouse gases change our climate — which suggests the current surge in food prices may be just the beginning.

Our colleagues in CARE country offices around the world are increasingly witnessing major environmental shocks, which are affecting the livelihoods of literally millions of people. With business as usual, climate change will lead to the single biggest reversal of our efforts to fight poverty in modern human history.

CARE needs to be firing on all cylinders if we are to have a hope of responding effectively to the unprecedented threat posed by climate change. I am committed to doing whatever I can to make this happen, and I know the CI National Directors and the CI Board members more widely are similarly committed to moving us forward. Your ideas, perseverance and continued engagement are not just welcome, but also essential for our success.
The Cancun Agreement: On December 11, the Cancun climate talks concluded with the Cancun Agreements that move international action on climate change forward. The Cancun Agreements are made up of a set of decisions on some isolated issues in order to restore trust between parties and bring negotiations forward, towards a more comprehensive agreement at COP17. CARE’s main objective in the international negotiations is to ensure that the rights and interests of poor and vulnerable people are respected and integrated into the agreements made especially with regards to adaptation, Reduced Emission in from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and gender equality.

After the breakdown of negotiations and failure to reach a fair, ambitious and binding agreement at COP15 in Copenhagen 2009, expectations for COP16 were significantly lower. The aim was to reach a set of decisions on some isolated issues in order to restore trust between parties and bring negotiations forward, towards a more comprehensive agreement at COP17. CARE’s main objective in the international negotiations is to ensure that the rights and interests of poor and vulnerable people are respected and integrated into the agreements made especially with regards to adaptation, Reduced Emission in from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) and gender equality.

The Cancun Agreement outcome was a success in terms of bringing a gender perspective into the climate change regime. It includes the need for “gender equality” and “the effective participation of women” “for effective action in all aspects of climate change” in its long-term vision statement. It also includes gender references in the operative sections addressing adaptation, mitigation, capacity building and technology. Gender text is also included in the decisions of the technical and implementation bodies of the Convention.

Capacity building: Another important objective of CARE’s presence at COP16 was to profile the work of CARE and partners in relation to climate change. While in Cancun CARE arranged nine internal sessions in order to strengthen capacity around climate change negotiations and climate change advocacy within the CARE delegation. The sessions where facilitated by CARE experts from the PECCN network and each session had a different theme such as; networks and coalitions; lessons learned from national efforts; understanding and analyzing negotiation texts and a through introduction to CARE’s main focus areas: adaptation, REDD and gender. Taking off from these sessions the participants engaged in the negotiations and worked constructively with their government delegations, providing input and advocating CARE’s positions. These interactions were key both in terms of influencing the international negotiations, but also in terms of national and local advocacy in relation to CARE’s programmatic work.

Rebuilding trust in the UNFCCC process: The Mexican presidency and in particular the Mexican foreign secretary, Patricia Espinosa, deserves much credit for creating a negotiation atmosphere that was inclusive and transparent and which helped countries regain confidence in the UNFCCC process again. Most parties stated that trust among them has been strengthened (moving past the post Copenhagen trauma) and a ‘foundation’ has been laid for valuable talks leading up to COP17.

Links: The different parts of the Cancun Agreements can be found at www.unfccc.org. CARE’s press releases, blogs and further info on COP16 can be found at www.careclimatechange.org/COP16.
Advocacy

Latin America’s vulnerability lost in global climate talks

Nella Canales Trujillo
CARE Peru Climate Change Advisor

COP 16 was held in Cancun, Mexico. And yet, even there, Latin America remained outside the main radar of negotiations, especially those related to adaptation since it is not considered a most vulnerable area when compared to Small Island States or Least Developed Countries.

Latin America recognizes the need for a fair, ambitious and legally binding (FAB) agreement, not only an issue of climate justice. Andean Community countries, for example, have contributed less than one percent of total GHG emissions in 2007, but are experiencing accelerated glacier retreat that is affecting water availability, especially in glacier fed upper watersheds. Latin American countries also know that without effective emissions reductions, all the advances in development and poverty eradication in recent years are at risk of being lost. This will minimize the impact of efforts on adaptation, and affect most those groups within countries that have contributed least to climate change.

Determining our vulnerability is a challenge given the huge gaps of information including the lack of local weather records, records with short time frames, and scarce or absent geo-referenced information, especially at the local level. As well, because there is a tendency to identify vulnerability according to GDP per capita levels, middle income Latin American countries are left out. People forget that Latin America has the highest rates of inequality in distribution of richness in the world.

When you consider differences in institutional capacities, access to resources, levels of exposure to climate risks and the sensitivity of the economies, you find that some of the most remote populations in Latin America are similar to – and in some cases even more serious than – some areas of Africa or Asia.

For Latin America, this lack of identification as a vulnerable group limits not only our current and future options for financing related to adaptation, but our choice to participate more aggressively in the negotiations by not taking a leading role in them. Therefore it is necessary that we proactively contribute to the vulnerability assessments in the negotiations and highlight the impacts of climate change within our countries, in order not to go unnoticed as the movement towards a fair, ambitious, legally binding agreement continues.

CARE’s Advocacy Team at COP16

CARE participated in this 16th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (COP) with a delegation of 22 CARE staff and partners from many different countries including Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Niger, Ecuador, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, Tanzania, Nepal, Vietnam, Canada, the United States, Germany and Denmark. One of the objectives of CARE’s participation at COP16 was to influence international climate negotiations and advocate CARE positions in relation to climate change adaptation, REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) and gender equality.

This year the CARE advocacy team at COP16 benefitted from a larger presence from CARE’s African Adaptation Learning Programme and colleagues and partners from the Latin American region with good access to their national delegations. This enabled the advocacy team to engage in policy dialogue with delegations from many countries and push for CARE’s key policy asks related to adaptation, REDD and gender.

CARE’s Advocacy team members also sought to influence climate negotiations at COP16 through providing input to speeches of their Ministers, sending letters to Ministers and Heads of State, influencing country positions, and through engaging in their national NGO networks as well as the global Climate Action Network International (CAN International, Latin America, European Union, US and Australia), and other NGO alliances. Through these collective efforts of CARE and the NGO community made a considerable effort to maintain the level of ambition in the Cancun Agreement which was forged on the last night of COP16. For more information on the Cancun Agreement, see page 2.
Erratic weather has always presented serious challenges to people dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods, but increasing variability is making farming, pastoralism and even artisanal fishing more difficult and risky. Climate change is worsening the odds of longstanding risks such as heat stress, insufficient or too much rain at crucial moments in the plant cycle, and pests or diseases.

These interact with a range of escalating stresses on rural livelihoods – such as land pressure, soil erosion, deforestation and depleted water resources – that would exist regardless of climate change. Their cumulative impact on food security can be devastating and is already affecting human migration patterns in new ways.

Changing weather patterns, which include less predictable seasons and increasingly erratic rainfall, are one of the most important but least understood impacts of global warming.

CARE International and the UN University’s Institute for Environment and Human Security, with support from the AXA financial group and MacArthur Foundation, have recently launched a new partnership to enhance the capacity of governments, civil society organisations and the private sector to better understand and effectively address the relationship between changing weather patterns, food security and human mobility in the world’s most vulnerable countries.

Partnership activities include:
- Risk research;
- Community-based Adaptation projects;
- The development of tools to measure and monitor changes in adaptive capacity;
- Advocacy; and
- Public and business-to-business education.

The on-going research will be posted to www.wheretherainfalls.org.

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CARE helps people adapt to increased flooding  
www.careclimatechange.org/hands
Southern Voices builds advocacy and policy monitoring capacity

To assist in strengthening and consolidating Southern civil society organisations (CSOs) networks working to influence climate negotiations and policies, a consortium of five Danish and two international non-government organisations (NGOs) are supporting the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme.

The 2010-2012 Southern Voices programme is coordinated by CARE Denmark and funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), and will support 11 national networks, six regional and three thematic networks.

The programme 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.

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.

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.

Read more about the Southern Voices Programme at www.climatecapacity.org, or at the CARE International PECCN site: www.careclimatechange.org/publications/advocacy.

CARE research to lift climate change advocacy efforts in Ecuador, Peru

The LIFT-UP programme, through CARE USA and six country offices, aims to scale up the impact of CARE’s advocacy efforts for more effective and adequately resourced US-government international development programmes and policies on climate change, food security, and maternal health. Research in Ecuador and Peru is focused specifically on climate change programmes and policy.

As one example, CARE Ecuador is conducting LIFT-UP research on the extent to which land tenure and equitable sharing of benefits have led to positive social and environmental outcomes for poor and forest-dependent communities engaged in common property resource management. These two topics are also part of the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards initiative undertaken by CARE Ecuador and the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA). (REDD is Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation.)

CARE Ecuador will link its LIFT-UP research with the national-level standards initiative undertaken by CARE Ecuador and CCBA to test REDD social standards and safeguards. CARE and CCBA are coordinating and meeting together with the Ministry of Environment to support the construction of the National REDD policy led by the government. The LIFT-UP research will also contribute to CARE’s advocacy on REDD social standards and safeguards with the US government as well as in the UNFCCC negotiations. The programme is supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and by CARE USA.
Advocacy is central to CARE, because many of the underlying causes of poverty, social injustice and human suffering are in the policies and institutional frameworks that define how governments operate, how funding resources are allocated and spent, how civil society and the communities we work with participate. Such policies and rules are defined at local, national and international levels and thus, deliberately influencing them at all these scales is crucial to achieving our vision and mission. Our global advocacy, including on climate change, is targeted at creating an enabling environment that supports our work with marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially women, to overcome poverty and social injustice.

The specific case of gender in the ongoing climate change negotiations illustrates why global advocacy is important. Of all the outcomes from the Rio Summit in 1992, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change - UNFCCC - was, until the recent meeting in Cancun, the only one that lacked a gender perspective. At the same time, evidence of the importance of gender considerations in responding to climate change has continued to grow. Firstly, it is recognized that climate change will affect people differently based on their capacity to adapt and this capacity is influenced by factors such as gender.

Women make up an estimated 70 percent of those living below the poverty line. They are especially vulnerable to climate change, in part because of the unequal distribution of rights, resources and power, as well as repressive cultural rules and norms. Secondly, women are powerful agents of change. Women are often key providers of food, water and fuel in their communities. They produce between 60 and 80 percent of food in most developing countries and have developed skills and knowledge on how to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They also lead some of the most innovative efforts to respond to the threat of climate change, such as Wangari Maathai’s Green Belt movement in Kenya. But women’s voices are often not heard and not taken into account.

Despite this evidence, getting gender language into the climate change negotiations was resisted by many actors, who saw this as a side issue or, at best, as addressing the concerns of one of the minority groups often listed in UN negotiations, even if women represent half of the world’s population. Thanks to the hard advocacy work of a network of organizations and of some determined government champions, the tide turned during the last couple of years, and gender considerations started to make their way into the heavily bracketed negotiation texts at a speed that is remarkable in the usual slow pace of UN decision-making processes.

The Cancun outcome, even if it has serious limitations, was a success in terms of bringing a gender perspective into the climate change regime. It includes the need for “gender equality” and “the effective participation of women” in its long-term vision statement. It also includes gender references in the operative sections addressing adaptation, mitigation, capacity building and technology. Gender text is also included in the decisions of the technical and implementation bodies of the Convention.

But what does this mean in terms of actual impacts on women and in their role in climate change responses? The agreed decisions guide national actions in all country parties to the Convention and thus, for example, enhanced action on adaptation should now follow a “gender sensitive approach,” national plans for REDD+ need to address “gender considerations,” capacity building support to developing country Parties should “take into account gender aspects.”

The inclusion of the “need to achieve gender balance” in the newly created Technology Executive Committee and in the Least Developed Countries Expert Group opens the door to enhanced women’s participation in other structures under the Convention. Further guidance is to be developed to help countries implement the Cancun decisions, funding is more likely to include these considerations, and civil society has a basis to make governments accountable for what they have decided.

We can now use this enabling framework to support national and local work, by ensuring that the gender considerations agreed by the 193 country parties to the Convention are reflected in their climate change policies and programs. We also need to contribute to the further development of the Cancun outcomes by drawing from our program learning. There is still work ahead, but gender is no longer a side issue and the UNFCCC regime has now a solid foundation to ensure that climate change action addresses gender equality and women’s empowerment as it must.
CARE staff and partners strengthen global adaptation knowledge

Tine Rossing
Global Coordinator
Climate Change
Adaptation, PECCN

It has been an exciting six months for CARE for adaptation training, and our training rollout will continue with a host of innovative training events planned for 2011. CARE’s two new digital adaptation-related toolkits – the Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) Toolkit and Integrating Climate Change into Development Projects Toolkit – were officially launched at the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum in Bangkok in October. They also received a lot of positive attention in Cancun at COP16. Since the launch, extensive training events and analysis have been carried out in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

As a result of the increasing amount of training events, CARE’s cadre of staff and partners capable of providing adaptation-related training is growing steadily. The experiences and lessons learned from recent training events and tools applications will be presented to global adaptation practitioners at the upcoming 5th International Conference on CBA to Climate Change, Dhaka, Bangladesh, where CARE will chair two sessions and contribute with presentations to four sessions.

Trainings in Latin America
Nearly 70 CARE staff and a few Bolivian partners received intensive training in the CBA Toolkit from participation in two regional training events last Fall. In San Salvador, the training targeted 35 CARE Central America (CA) staff from its four-country units (Guatemala, Nicaragua, Salvador and Honduras), as the training was closely tied to CARE CA’s preparation of its new Climate Change Programme Strategy.

In La Paz, the target audience was 35 Peru and Ecuador team members and partners to enhance their technical capacity for better project implementation of the Proyecto de Adaptación al Impacto del Retroceso Acelerado de Glaciares en los Andes Tropical (PRAA) project. The training workshops were planned and facilitated by PECCN and co-facilitated by Climate Adaptation Advisors from CARE Mozambique and Peru.

Lessons learned from these trainings and in using the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA) Handbook and the Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL) Tools will be applied to the PRAA, Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems (SCAPES) and Manejo Integrado de Bosques II (MI BOSQUE II) projects.

As part of designing the MI BOSQUE II, a process of field testing the CBA Toolkit was initiated in November in the Western Highlands of Guatemala. As of January 2011, CVCA exercises have been carried out in four communities with the active participation of local municipal and community authorities and representatives of the communities. The CVCA findings will be systematized and prioritized through application of CRiSTAL during early 2011 in combination with technical assistance from PECCN on how to ‘translate’ these findings into Community Adaptation Action Plans. These plans will outline short, medium and long-term concrete adaptation measures, along with necessary resources (technical and financial) and partners.

Trainings in Africa
In Africa, the CBA Toolkit is in use by the Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) in Africa team in four countries (Ghana, Kenya, Niger and Mozambique). Assisted by PECCN, a training workshop was facilitated in Bolgatanga, Ghana for the Ghana and Niger ALP teams. The training focused on the design stage of the project cycle. It also introduced the CBA Toolkit as well as a new participatory CBA design process developed by the ALP team that incorporates gender and women’s empowerment. In the workshop, the two teams developed a detailed plan for undertaking participatory design of CBA activities, building on the CVCA analysis. Similar training will be carried out in the first six months of 2011 in Kenya and Mozambique.

Trainings and analysis in Asia and the Middle East
For the last six months of 2010, the Civil Action for Socio-economic Inclusion in Sustainable Development for northern ethnic minorities in Vietnam III (CASI III) programme focused on applying the CVCA together with ethnic highland minorities in Northern Vietnam.

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Based on the findings, in conjunction with guidance provided by the Integration Toolkit, CARE Vietnam initiated discussions with partners on how to mainstream climate change into programme activities to enhance the resilience of involved communities to climate change impacts. Through these efforts, the training team identified that the toolkit guidance needs to be more specific on how to link the CVCA process to design interventions. Thus, CARE Vietnam will combine the CVCA findings with the application of CRiSTAL, and document this learning process in 2011. PECNN will also help facilitate an exchange of lessons learned from training and application in Africa and Latin America, where similar lessons have been registered.

In Jordan, training concerning the Integration Toolkit was provided to Network members for the Reduced Poverty and Sustainable Agriculture through Permaculture (REAP) Project in Al Arideh District in Balqa Governorate, Jordan. CARE Australia’s Climate Change Advisor spearheaded the trainings. The goal of the training was to increase the capacity of project staff in climate change, adaptation and vulnerability and to review the contributions of the two-year project to the climate resilience of the households targeted.

CARE Australia’s Climate Change Advisor also completed a two-week livelihoods and climate change analysis using the Integration Toolkit in the West Bank in October and November. The analysis supported the Livelihood Security and Civil Society strengthening in the occupied Palestinian territory, TATWEER-Progress, which is being implemented in an area that was highly exposed to climate hazards. The goal of this review was to better understand how the project should be modified to better integrate climate change, and to review the specific project activities in light of climate observations and projections.

In March 2011, a training workshop will focus on establishing an online training platform for a RaksThai Foundation-implemented project, Strengthening Community-based Disaster Risk Management in Asia: Shifting from Lessons Observed to Lessons Learned (SCDM+). The first step will be to review existing guidance, CARE training materials and national experience on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change adaptation, and to extract good practices and lessons learned.
In order to mitigate risks, sustain rural livelihoods and lift communities out of poverty, CARE has entered into a comprehensive partnership known as The Adaptation to the Impact of Rapid Glacier Retreat in the Tropical Andes Project (Proyecto de Adaptación al Impacto del Retroceso Acelerado de Glaciares en los Andes Tropical, PRAA) in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. CARE plays an integral role in PRAA, working directly with vulnerable communities, to strengthen their capacities to adapt to their quickly changing environment.

During the first phase, CARE in a joint effort with the environment authorities of the three countries is playing a lead role in the development and implementation of pilot adaptation projects in the region. The objective of these pilot projects is to demonstrate the costs and benefits of adaptation and generate a knowledge base that then can be used to design projects in other vulnerable communities. The overall objective of PRAA is to strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and local communities to consequences generated by the rapid retreat of glaciers in the tropical Andes.

The project aims to ensure that national and local governments in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, as well as community-based organizations and groups participating in the PRAA, incorporate into their policies and development plans strategies for progressively adapting to reduced availability of water for agriculture and human consumption, caused by the retreat of glaciers in the Andean region.

To that end, the pilot projects will generate evidence and recommendations on the costs and benefits of adaptation strategies and directly benefit families in the region. As well, leaders at regional and local levels will have increased knowledge and commitment to climate change adaptation.

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**ALP programme: Africa learns from CBA in Ghana and Niger**

In 2010 the Adaptation Learning Program – Africa (ALP) in Ghana and Niger established relations with 28 selected communities and trained teams in CBA tools and methods, monitoring & evaluation (M&E) and baseline design.

Based on early CVCA results in Niger, the ALP in 2010 successfully supported farmer pilots of improved early maturing millet and cowpea seed varieties produced by the national agriculture research institute, INRAN.

During the design process the need to go deeper into analysis of differential vulnerability and the importance of adaptive capacity building became clear. In Ghana, communities held traditional meetings to formally welcome and commit to ALP. The annual ALP meeting provided the first opportunity for the full ALP team to come together with the key donor, Department for International Development (DFID).

Kenya and Mozambique, now starting up, gained valuable inspiration from Ghana and Niger experiences. The Ghana and Niger teams also provided DFID with convincing evidence of progress, resulting in a positive performance rating in their donor annual review.

A focus for 2011 will be to develop capacity and local systems for communication of climate science together with local knowledge, in order to support adaptation planning by the target communities.
CARE and IIED developing M&E tool with climate change adaptation and participation experts

Since 2008, PECCN has participated in an informal dialogue between the UN, research institutions and non-governmental organizations interested in the monitoring & evaluation (M&E) of adaptation to climate change. This collaboration identified an important gap – namely, the lack of a user-friendly methodology for measuring, monitoring and evaluating the results of community-based/led adaptation projects.

In response, CARE, in partnership with the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), is developing an open-source M&E methodology for planners, practitioners and researchers committed to helping strengthen poor and marginalised people’s resilience to the impacts of climate change. The methodology will be participatory, practical, replicable and relevant; and it will help stakeholders continue adapting to the impacts of climate change past the lifetime of specific interventions/CBA projects.

The methodology is being developed through an inclusive process building on experience and expertise from a wide range of institutions including Action Aid, ChristianAid, the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Oxfam, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, Practical Action, Panos, Praxis, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, Save the Children, the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The methodology will be specifically geared to towards meeting the monitoring, evaluation, learning and advocacy needs of communities and community-based organisations. It must complement methodologies and frameworks designed to meet the meso and macro level needs (e.g. LAPAs & NAPAs). And it needs to complement a “programme” approach as well as “project” approach.

A draft methodology, ready for field-testing, will be available by April 2011. A number of institutions have already expressed interest in trialling the methodology and providing critical feedback essential to its rapid, collaborative evolution.

The project is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and CARE UK. For more information and to read a PowerPoint on participatory M&E, go to www.careclimatechange.org/mae.
ELAN partnership launches website
Network to focus on ecosystems and human adaptation

The Ecosystems Livelihoods Adaptation Network is working to build Communities of Practice around the role of ecosystems in human adaptation. To this end, it has launched www.elanadapt.net as a knowledge sharing site.

ELAN’s main purpose is to build resilience of poor and marginalized people to the impacts of climate change by promoting sound ecosystem management within an integrated approach to adaptation policy and practice.

To this end, ELAN links social scientists and ecologists, conservation and development practitioners, and policymakers at all levels. These efforts aim to access the best available climate adaptation science, and generate and share knowledge on “how to” integrate sound ecosystem management into human adaptation.

ELAN was initiated in 2009 by a partnership between IUCN and WWF, through financial support by the MacArthur Foundation. The partnership extended to CARE in 2010. This decision reflected and advanced the recommendation by ELAN’s Advisory Group to refocus the Network’s mission on the role of ecosystems in human adaptation.

In early 2011, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) became ELAN’s fourth and final “core partner.” As a result, CARE believes ELAN has reached an ideal balance between a conservation and development perspective.

The Network is now poised to play a leading role in addressing one of the most important of all adaptation challenges – i.e. understanding and ensuring the continuing contribution of ecosystem goods and services to climate change solutions.

Core partners are currently collaborating to raise resources for ELAN’s second phase, slated to begin by the middle of this year. Several proposals and concept notes with an emphasis on practical results in developing countries have already been submitted to potential donors.

Raks Thai Foundation/CARE Australia integrate climate change into community-based disaster risk management work

Raks Thai is collaborating with CARE Australia to expand the Raks Thai project “Strengthening Community-based Disaster Risk Management in Asia: Shifting from lessons observed to lessons learned (SCDRM+).”

While the original project design aimed to build on post-Tsunami investments to strengthen DRM capacity in India, Indonesia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand, the partnership with CARE Australia will expand the capacity building program to include CARE COs and their key partners in Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Vanuatu.

The first step will be to review existing guidance, CARE training materials and national experience on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate change adaptation, and to extract good practices and lessons learned. This will inform the development of e-learning modules on integrating climate change into DRM, which the project will attempt to link with CARE’s online Communities of Practice.

The project will also hold two regional face-to-face trainings and interactive ‘how to’ practical work in ‘learning labs’ in Thailand. The consolidated learning generated under the project will be fed into national programming for the development, or revision, of culturally and linguistically appropriate and nationally endorsed tools in participating countries.

The SCDRM+ project will provide an opportunity to look at CARE’s Integrating Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit in national contexts as well as other tools and materials, and progress integration of climate change adaptation and DRM into our practice.
Dutch NGOs to build resilience through ‘climate-proof DRR’ efforts

CARE Netherlands has announced the start of the ‘Climate-Proof Disaster Risk Reduction’ programme of the Dutch alliance Partners for Resilience, which is financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The alliance consists of five Dutch NGO’s, namely the Netherlands Red Cross, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre, Cordaid, Wetlands International and CARE Netherlands.

Partners for Resilience aim to reduce the impact of natural hazards on the livelihoods of community members in nine countries: Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Uganda.

The five partner organizations will collaborate on the intersection of Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Management and Restoration, through three strategic intervention areas: strengthening community resilience, civil society capacity building and policy dialogue at all levels.

Thai/Indonesian communities to reduce risks from coastal hazards

In heavily populated coastal areas of Thailand and Indonesia, high levels of erosion due to environmental degradation will be exacerbated by climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and increased storm surge. The resulting intrusion of salt water into shallow fresh water areas will cause significant change to ecosystems and disrupt the livelihoods of those dependent upon them. Poor people in coastal areas are also exposed to increasingly frequent and severe weather events.

In response, at the start of February, Raks Thai Foundation and CARE Indonesia – in partnership with CARE Deutschland-Luxemburg (CARE DL) and PECCN – started implementing the 36-month ‘Building coastal resilience to reduce climate change impact in Southern Thailand and South Sulawesi, Indonesia’ (BCR-CC) project. The project’s 2.1 million euro budget is funded through the European Commission’s Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Including Energy (ENRTP).

Through BCR-CC, CARE will work closely with coastal authorities and civil society organizations to progressively integrate climate change adaptation into sub-national development, environment and disaster risk reduction strategies and plans; and to design and implement innovative community-based adaptation activities that reduce risks from coastal hazards.

Cuban cooperatives unite to address drought & livestock adaptation

Through a new CARE project entitled “Livestock adaptation: A proposal for extreme droughts areas in the province of Camagüey, Cuba,” cooperatives will increase their human and technological capacities on climate risks and adaptation practices and will implement disasters risks reduction strategies based on a climate forecast system.

Actors and population linked to the livestock will have information available to help them integrate vulnerability and adaptive capacity into development policies.

While Raks Thai Foundation, CARE Indonesia and CARE DL each have significant experience in coastal resilience programming, the project will also draw on PECCN expertise to support the application of CARE’s adaptation tools at various stages of the project cycle and to backstop the adaptation capacity building proposed under the project.

The BCR-CC project was designed to align with an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) project under the same ENRTP line to form a four-country coastal adaptation program in the Mekong – covering riparian, highland and riparian systems. There are possibilities for synergies in Indonesia as well.

For more information: Patricia Chambon (chambon@carefrance.org) or Stéphanie Ah Tchou (ahtchou@carefrance.org).

For the project, CARE will partner with the Cuban Association of Animal Production (ACPA) and Meteorological Society of Cuba (SOMETCUBA). The project intends to reach nearly 150 members of cooperatives and technician (15.7% of women) organized in eight Basic Units of Cooperative Production (UBPC) and municipal and provincial actors of the livestock sector.
The Central American region, including Honduras, has been hard hit by extreme weather events in the past 20 years, including Hurricane Mitch (1998) and El Niño, which caused extensive droughts in 1997 and 2001. In the North Coast of Honduras, where most of the population is engaged in agriculture, the impacts of these events were particularly serious, including loss of life, damage to infrastructure and destruction of agricultural activity. These events, combined with other challenges including deforestation, erratic rainfall patterns, and widespread poverty, create a situation of high vulnerability in the region, particularly in the context of climate change.

For the last 15 years, CARE Canada and CARE Honduras, with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), have been working on a water and sanitation project in the North Coast. The current phase of the project, “Promoting Local Management and Good Governance to Improve Water Supply and Sanitation Services for the Poor (PASOS-III)” has a goal of generating sustainable improvement in the health and quality of life of people in the North Coast of Honduras, through enhanced access to potable water and sanitation facilities and through improved and responsive municipal governance.

Honduras - Promoting Local Management and Good Governance to Improve Water Supply and Sanitation Services for the Poor (PASOS-III)

The northern regions of Ghana are the poorest part of the country, with a high proportion of the population living in poverty. The majority of people are dependent on farming for their livelihoods, and alternative income generating strategies are limited. Achieving livelihoods security is increasingly difficult as a result of climate variability, decreasing soil fertility, increasing desertification and deforestation, and inequitable access to and control over resources. The impacts of climate change will exacerbate existing conditions and present further challenges for vulnerable people in northern Ghana.

Ghana - Local Extension Services for Agricultural Development (LEAD) Project

The project, titled Sustaining School Children’s Access to Safe Water in Garissa, is being implemented by CARE Kenya as part of the Global Water Initiative (GWI). The GWI seeks to empower poor people to manage water resources in arid and semi-arid lands. Its goal is to support poor rural communities in arid and semi-arid zones to reduce their vulnerability to water-related shocks and improve their quality of life through integrated water resource management. The GWI project aims to realize a sustained reduction in the risk of diseases related to water and environmental hygiene among children and mothers in Balambala and Central Divisions of the District. The project’s strategic objectives focus on good governance, sustainable multiple uses of water, and risk management.

Kenya - The Global Water Initiative (GWI): Sustaining School Children’s Access to Safe Water (SaWa)
Duck rearing raises Bangladeshi family out of poverty

Katihara in Northwest Bangladesh is characterized by chronic food insecurity and high vulnerability to intense seasonal flooding. Most peoples’ livelihoods depend on livestock rearing and agriculture. Their low-lying homes and the many rivers leave the region leave them exceptionally vulnerable to floods and climate change impacts. Women in the village face unequal gender power relations, including social and cultural barriers that further constrain their income and livelihood opportunities.

To combat this susceptibility, CARE Bangladesh is working with villagers to analyse the underlying causes of poverty and vulnerabilities to facilitate community-based adaptation (CBA) livelihood strategies through project called SHOUHARDO. In Katihara, community members pointed to duck rearing as a possibility for people living in flood prone areas, especially women.

Chameli Begum is 46, shy with a lean, defined figure with resolute eyes. In the past, her family faced constant food shortages that fueled frequent tension within her family. Her husband, Soleman Ali, was often unable to provide livelihood security for the family through his small business selling Gur (palm sugar) and fabric to surrounding villages. The situation became particularly dire during Monga, a time of year when many families sink into poverty and hunger. These months each year are often exacerbated by monsoonal rains and melting snow caps in the Himalayas that create devastating floods – ushering in death, disease, injury, population displacement and economic loss. During this time, Chameli and her family often went hungry as the floods kept her husband being able to trade his goods.

Chameli joined the SHOUHARDO project in 2007 where he learned how to hatch and rear ducks through training by SKS Foundation, a CARE partner. She learned about sanitation, management, marketing, feeding and incubation. However, Chameli said her greatest gain from the training was networking. Here she met buyers and suppliers in the poultry value chain, members of financial institutions capable of providing her capital, and other women also beginning their voyages into business and self-determination. She sold 250 ducks from SHOUHARDO and a local savings group.

It is now October 2010 and nearing the end of the rainy season. Chameli has sold most of her ducks. The few ducks that remain are foraging for food. The ducks live in duck pens and indoor incubators that are part of an elevated house she built on 1 acre of land, with support by SHOUHARDO. Nearby are two dairy cows she purchased with her income, and the tumpu she bought for her son so he could make money as a driver. A tumpu is a three wheeled vehicle capable of transporting 10 to 12 people.

Because of this business and her assets, Chameli’s family now remains mostly unaffected by the annual flooding. This is substantial. Not only has she created economic stability and food security for her family, she has generated an empowering environment within her family and community. Chameli now makes household decisions alongside her husband and works side-by-side with him in income generation. Before, they could not afford to send their children to school. Now, their youngest son attends a residential school.

Additionally with many Katihara women, Chameli joined an Empowerment, Knowledge and Transformative Action (EKATA) group. EKATA group addresses women’s rights violations, particularly early marriage, girl’s education and violence against women. By late 2007, Chameli was an active member raising awareness about the problems around them in their village, fighting to find realistic solutions, empowered with a feeling of solidarity, and trained in enterprise development and business management.

For Chameli and rural women like her, duck rearing plays an important role in her socio-economic development. Three years ago, Chameli was dependent on her husband and, like most Bangladeshi women, was rarely involved in the decision-making processes of disaster response.

Now, through SHOUHARDO training, she has learnt not only about the risks and impacts of natural disasters, but has been shown how she can increase her chances of weathering future storms.

Across the village, encouraged by the women’s development, people have begun to raise the foundations of their homes above flood-levels. This ensures that when waters sweep through, life can continue. Ducks and possessions are saved, as are the resources needed to see out the storm.

But what is perhaps most striking in Chameli’s story is the legacy carried on by her daughter who was recently married and moved to a nearby village to join her husband. Here, with the help of Chameli, she has set up her own duck rearing farm and learnt the business from her mother. This alone vividly illustrates the sustainability of duck rearing and exemplifies the continuing journey for women’s economic and social empowerment in northwest Bangladesh.
Framework connects dimensions of women’s empowerment

CARE promotes working with both men and women on gender-transformative activities

In order to achieve the sustainable empowerment of women, we need to address all three dimensions.¹

It is important to note that our focus on women’s empowerment does not mean CARE only works with women. To change unjust structures and relations, we need to work with women and men, as well as with policy- and other decision-makers at all levels.

Read more in the Adaptation, Gender and Women’s Empowerment Brief at www.careclimatechange.org publications/adaptation

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CARE’s experiences in reducing poverty have proven that women are central to lasting solutions. When women are able to earn an income, their families benefit. Research indicates that income is more likely to be spent on human development when women control the cash.¹ In the Philippines, for example, the greater the share of household income earned by women, the greater family members’ consumption of calories and protein.

In Ghana, the greater the share of cereals under women’s control, the greater family members’ consumption of calories. As well, research has shown that women are more risk averse than men and are, therefore, more likely to take decisions that minimize risks. It has also been found that women are more open to advice and are more willing to change their strategies in response to new information.²

These qualities suggest that empowering women in household and community affairs is likely to yield decisions that strengthen adaptive capacity. This is a major reason why gender-transformative activities, including efforts to empower women, form a fundamental part of CARE’s approach to adaptation.

CARE defines women’s empowerment as “the sum total of changes needed for a woman to realize her full human rights – the combined effect of changes in her own aspirations and capabilities, the environment that surrounds and conditions her choices, and the power relations through which she negotiates her path.”

We refer to these dimensions of empowerment as agency, relations and structures, respectively.

RELATIONS: Power relations through which she negotiates her path

Examples:
• Acceptance by men of women making decisions on household livelihoods strategies
• Mobility by women to escape danger from floods, cyclones, etc.

AGENCY: Changes in her own aspirations and capabilities

Examples:
• Knowledge of climate trends
• Access to appropriate technologies for adaptation

STRUCTURE: Environment that surrounds and conditions her choices

Examples:
• Gender equitable social and cultural norms and beliefs
• Gender equitable adaptation plans at local and national levels

¹ Human Development Report, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), 1996
Activities that reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) have the potential to benefit communities and their environments if they can be designed to contribute to conservation, promote sustainable management of forests and enhance forest carbon stocks (REDD+). However many activities might also pose serious risks, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) initiative aims to develop a set of standards that can be used by governments, NGOs, financing agencies and other stakeholders to design and implement REDD+ programs that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities while generating significant social and environmental co-benefits.

The standards are being designed for government-led programs of policies and measures for REDD+ implemented at national or state/provincial/regional level and for all forms of fund-based or market-based financing. The standards have been developed through an inclusive process engaging governments, NGOs and other civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples organizations, international policy and research institutions and the private sector. The standards initiative is overseen by a Standards Committee representing a balance of interested parties and is facilitated by the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and CARE International.

The standards can be used to:
1. Provide good practice guidance;
2. Provide a framework for reporting on performance; and
3. Assess conformance with respect to requirements of the standards (a true standard).

If the standards are successful, they will:
• Help the early adopters to build support for their programs both nationally and internationally, for example enabling preferential access to funds;
• Encourage improved social and environmental performance for REDD and other forest carbon programs in other countries and sub-national states and provinces; and
• Build enhanced global support for effective and equitable REDD+ action.

The standards will also include a monitoring, review and reporting (MRR) process that aims to balance participation and ownership by stakeholders with enhanced transparency and accountability while also encouraging improved performance. MRR processes are being developed in each country tailored to the country context while remaining consistent with the overall approach of the initiative. The initiative will launch a website in March at www.redd-standards.org. Until then, please review information at www.climate-standards/redd+ and www.careclimatechange.org/publications/carbon-finance in English, French, Portuguese, Swahili and Spanish.

Download the REDD+ SES PowerPoint presentation from COP16 at www.careclimatechange.org/cop16/presentations.
Carbon Finance Theme Team

During the past six months, the Carbon Finance Theme Team has focused on developing and implementing a portfolio of high quality carbon finance projects that demonstrate best practices – especially with regards to reducing poverty, securing rights, enhancing gender equality and supporting adaptation to climate change.

In the area of REDD, activities are underway for the HIMA and KFCP projects in Tanzania and Indonesia respectively (read about KFCP, pg. 18). As well, project designs incorporating REDD components were recently submitted in Nepal and Guatemala for 2011 work.

CARE is also playing a leading role in the development of the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards with the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (pg 16), and we are working with Forest Trends, the Center For International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and other partners to develop tools for assessing the social impacts of REDD+ projects and national REDD programmes. Piloting of these tools is planned for 2011.

To address carbon project risks, PECCN is supporting the development of a set of internal standards which are designed to supplement existing external standards (notably CCB and Gold standards). CARE is focusing primarily on financial, reputational and gender-related areas within these standards.

CARE is addressing agroforestry and agriculture through implementation of its Kenya Carbon project (pg 18), and recently completed pre-feasibility assessments and funding proposals in Mozambique, Vietnam and Tanzania. In the area of energy, CARE has launched a pro-poor cook stove project in East Africa (see below).

PECCN is also striving to be a substantial contributor to global knowledge and learning about carbon finance programming.

Read about our work and projects at www.careclimatechange.org/publications/carbon-finance.

Carbon markets to improve fuel efficiency in East Africa

Poor households often rely on polluting and inefficient stoves for their household energy needs. In East Africa, nearly 9 out of every 10 people cook with charcoal or use firewood with inefficient stoves. This takes a daily toll on people’s health, and creates a large time burden on women and children in fuel collection.

As response to these challenges, the Fuel Efficient Stoves in East Africa project aims to provide households with sustainable access to affordable and efficient cook stoves in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Through setting up a Programme of Activities under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), stove suppliers will have access to the carbon market, and hence funds to initiate and implement improved cook stove projects in the region.

By accessing the carbon market, the intent is to overcoming the barriers of usability, affordability and accessibility by reducing the selling price of the stoves, making them more affordable for poor households; and making selling stoves in rural areas possible by covering the higher distribution and marketing costs, thus expanding the market for improved cooking stoves.

Through the dissemination of improved cooking stoves, CARE and Uganda Carbon Bureau expects through the programme “Fuel Efficient Stoves in East Africa” to:

- Improve indoor climate by reducing emissions from burning wood or charcoal on more efficient cooking stoves and thereby reducing air pollution and respiratory diseases;
- Reduce the impact on the local forests and biodiversity in the struggle to collect firewood; and
- Reduce CO2 emissions.

The main responsible for the coordination and head of the programme is Uganda Carbon Bureau, while CARE provides the support needed for training and capacity building staff and partners to secure proper implementation. The programme has potential to continue for up to 28 years as financed by revenue from selling of CDM carbon credits (Certified Emission Reductions [CERs]). At full-scale potentially 576,000 households can benefit from more efficient cook stoves in East Africa. The two-year project is supported by the Nordic Climate Facility, with co-funding from the Uganda Carbon Bureau and CARE Denmark.

For further information, contact: Rolf Herno, Program Coordinator, at rhernoe@care.dk, or Mads Jensen, Programme Officer, at mjensen@care.dk.
KFCP project to reduce greenhouse emissions in Kalimantan Forests

The governments of Indonesia and Australia recognize that strong partnerships are needed in the global effort to tackle climate change through Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD). This shared vision lead to the recently launched Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP), a REDD demonstration activity under the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership (IAFCP) founded in 2008.

The KFCP is the first large-scale REDD demonstration activity of its kind in Indonesia, and is currently funded with more than AUD 30 million by the government of Australia. It was initiated in 2009 and will continue until mid-2012 with a possible one-year extension.

The KFCP is intended to be a learning activity in which technical, scientific and institutional innovations are tested, refined and communicated to add to the body of global REDD knowledge and experience. Within this initiative, CARE serves as an implementing partner to lead a comprehensive community engagement strategy that ensures equitable, transparent processes as well as facilitating key technical interventions, including:

- Village-based land use planning;
- Community-based forest management;
- Fire management;
- Strengthening local institutions;
- Sustainable livelihoods opportunities; and
- Payment mechanisms to distribute REDD incentives.

With its strong emphasis on equity, KFCP aims to ensure that all project interventions, as far as possible, contribute to respecting and securing rights and reducing poverty, and at the very least do no harm. In addressing this social dimension of REDD, the project places emphasis on the interest and rights of Indigenous Peoples, women and other marginalized groups.

Read more at www.careclimatechange.org/publications/carbon-finance

Farmers aim for food security through carbon finance in Kenya

Global interest is growing in using carbon finance to promote large-scale, sustainable farming and land management practices within agricultural landscapes in the developing world. Nowhere is the need for such an initiative greater than in the rain-fed agricultural lands of sub-Saharan Africa where land degradation compounded by climate change is leading to declining crop and livestock productivity.

Agroforestry and certain conservation agriculture practices that increase the carbon content of the landscape provide a genuine ‘win-win’ opportunity for carbon finance to deliver on climate mitigation, climate adaptation and poverty reduction goals. However, this is true only if the carbon finance helps to overcome barriers at the farmer and higher levels (and related policy constraints) that are limiting adoption of these practices.

To explore this opportunity, CARE and the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) programme of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) have launched a long-term project with funding support from the Rockefeller Foundation: Making Carbon Finance for Sustainable Agriculture Work for Poor People in Western Kenya.

The project focuses on Nyanza Province and specifically the Nyando River catchment where there are high levels of poverty and serious environmental degradation. The project aims to demonstrate how carbon finance can be used to enhance farm production – and thus food security – and build resilience of livelihoods and farming systems to climate change, while at the same time delivering on climate mitigation goals.

Read more about the project at www.careclimatechange.org/publications/carbon-finance
COP16 presentation text --

What is “Mainstreaming Gender in REDD?”

View the following presentation (video/slides) at www.careclimatechange.org/COP16/presentations.

CARE has been working on the subject of gender for decades. And we believe that we are able to do gender-sensitive and gender equitable programming in many, many sectors. And REDD has us slightly confused because we are not sure what difference the REDD bit makes to the whole art and craft of mainstreaming gender. I’m going to speak in this presentation about a particular project that I’m attached to and know very well called HIMA in Zanzibar. After I’ve described that project and a little bit about what we are doing on gender in that project, I’m going to raise a more general question on what does that mean for mainstreaming of gender, particularly in REDD – what difference does REDD make?

Let me start off with a little background about HIMA. It’s a pilot project for REDD financed by the government of Norway. It has an explicit gender objective in its project design. So for us gender is not imply a nice way of doing things or the good way to do something, it’s actually a declared objective, and the project will be a failure for us if it’s not gender equitable. Which means that we have all these layers of ambition in the project. We have to protect forests, which is what the who purpose of the project is. We have to do it through community management. Because it’s REDD we have to make sure that we are generating carbon income as a result of that community-management for protecting forests. Because we are a development agency, we have to make sure it has an impact on poverty. And all of that has to be done in a gender-sensitive way. So we are trying to do gender-sensitive, pro-poor, carbon-income-generating, community-managed protection of forests, which as you can imagine is a very ambitious task.

Just a little bit of background on Zanzibar so you have an idea of what I’m going to present on project design. The main drivers of deforestation are clearing of land for shifting cultivation, and cutting for firewood and charcoal. Now the cutting of firewood is not only for domestic fuel, it is also a source of cash income especially for women. And so there is a strong indication that there is a gendered dimension to the drivers of deforestation in Zanzibar.

The other issue I want to raise is about the ownership of land. In Zanzibar, land is owned by the government and only ceded to the communities on a usage basis, which means that nobody is a land owner, therefore the issue about women’s rights to land is not necessarily about ownership but about their command of power within community decision-making structures. And then finally, one of those community decision-making structures is the village conservation committee, which is the main organ at local level that manages community forests, and therefore needs to be the starting point for any local initiative on REDD.

That’s background. So this is the logic of the project. We’re going to reduce deforestation and degradation in order to improve the lives of men and women. Sounds simple. We’re also making it slightly complicated because we are also trying to generate carbon income, which we are also hoping will improve the living conditions of men and women, though we have this duel objective of benefiting people directly and indirectly. And we’re doing that through two main sets of activities. One is protecting the forest to reduce deforestation, but the other one – which is more important in fact – is to reduce pressures on deforestation so that the rate of deforestation is sustained. Now actually most of is not REDD, and that is one of the issues that is a complication for us when we talk about gender in REDD.

A large part of this project is good development; good gender-sensitive conservation. It’s about protecting forests, reducing pressure on forests, and not much about REDD. That REDD bit is that income bit. What the innovation that REDD has generated in this whole debate about development and conservation is that it’s generated a source of money for something called carbon. And that’s the novelty that we are trying to get our head around. This is the bit that’s challenging us. How do you make that bit gender sensitive?

So our project activities to complete the projects are to protect the forests through two sets of initiatives. One is to strengthen the Village Conservation Committees but to also improve land zoning in the villages to make it very clear which areas of the forests are protected, and which areas of the forest are available for sustainable exploitation. As far as reducing pressure on the forest, we have to produce alternative sources of income so that cutting wood is no longer a strategy that poor people turn to in order to make money. And we also have to provide alternative sources of fuel if we are going to reduce the amount of wood that can be taken from the forest. Along with that we have to manage the carbon finance, otherwise it’s not a REDD project.
What is “Mainstreaming Gender in REDD?” continued...

So some of the challenges we’ve faced so far. One of the issues we’re trying to do is strengthen the Village Conservation Committees and for us, that also mean improving gender awareness. Of course those Village Conservation Committees have very low level capacity and skills in the area needed for REDD. So to add gender awareness and “genderise” the way that they work, along with all the other capacity gaps in terms of numeracy, in terms of computer skills, in terms of biomass monitoring and all those things that REDD will require is adding one more thing to a very long list. That’s one challenge.

Another activity that we are proposing in this project is that we will be involving women in the practical activities around REDD so that they can be directly involved in it and they can be directly visible as active actors in the creation of the carbon good. But the problem with that we foresee will be a great deal of cultural resistance. Zanzibar is a Muslim society and there are some pretty prescribed gender roles in terms of mobility and access to the forest. But some of those barriers are not just simply cultural. There are real risks and we have to be careful that we are not exposing women to risks that they are not capable of confronting.

The last challenge I want to talk about is the issue about how you incorporate women’s own organizations in an activity that is new for them. I am talking specifically about village savings and loan groups, which in Zanzibar are primarily female dominated, which makes them in theory a fantastic vehicle for empowering women and giving them voice and influence on village institutions. But guess what the main activity of the village savings and loan group is? Cutting wood… So we have a bit of a contradiction here about how we harness a very strong village-level organisation where one of their activities is destructive to the environment in the current circumstances. So those are some of the challenges we are having to face in putting REDD in practice on the ground.

So I’ll move on now to more of a general reflection, based on the experience of HIMA. But, what does this all mean for gender mainstreaming in REDD? In looking at our project design we’re going to flow gender mainstreaming through it. As I mentioned before, we’re struggling with what difference does REDD make? Those things – strengthening village committees, improving land use planning, alternative sources of energy – that’s business as usual. That’s just good development. That’s just good programming. There’s nothing particularly “REDD-tastic” about it. We have a list of things we are proposing to do, some we have started, others we haven’t started yet, but we still ask ourselves: “What difference does REDD make? Why do we have to put gender in REDD, why not just in everything?”

So the way we thought about it was in looking at what makes REDD different. First of all, it’s about money. It’s one of the few conservation instruments and one of the few development instruments that actually produces cash straight to the village. And it’s unlikely to be at the level of individual households. So one of the gender implications in terms of that is that you have to strengthen women’s control over that resource.

The legal empowerment of women is critical if they are going to manage working with REDD.

Another thing that’s very specific about REDD is that it’s contractual. Nobody has decided yet if it’s going to be market-based or fund-based, but either way the generator of the REDD credit will have a contractual relationship either with a private dealer or a government fund or an intermediary, which means that the rights and responsibilities attached to the flow of money from REDD are contractual and they will have a legal basis, which means the legal empowerment of women is critical if they are going to manage working with REDD.

And finally the other thing that is pretty distinctive about REDD is that it is a much longer time frame that we’re normally used to working with. Carbon contracts – particularly for REDD which has a long gestation time – are typically in the region of 30 years. Most of our projects are lucky if they reach five. So one of the implications for that is that we have to work with the next generation because they will be inheriting the obligations and the rights that are attached to a REDD project.

But still we are struggling because all of this stuff is stuff we should be doing anyway. We shouldn’t need REDD to make us work with young girls, it shouldn’t need REDD to make us think about the legal empowerment of women, and it shouldn’t need REDD to get women’s voice in financial control of women’s resources. So we’re kind of still struggling about what’s different about women in REDD.

...So some tentative conclusions just to round off: Many of the gender strategies in REDD are just good development. It’s no big deal. But it being attached to REDD gives us a way of reemphasizing it and makes us look at it again. And the standards and the safeguards that are in the REDD architecture are a useful entry point for that.

‘Going Green’ survey highlights need for greater commitment to reduce CARE’s global carbon footprint

Many CARE Members, Regional Management Units (RMUs) and Country Offices (COs) have taken steps towards becoming ‘climate smart,’ where they strive to manage the risks, responsibilities and opportunities that climate change poses to our core poverty-fighting mission. These steps are part of CARE’s long-term commitment to reducing our carbon footprint; integrating climate change into strategic plans; and maintaining leadership, as demonstrated through long-term financial investments in institutional capacity, advocacy and a growing portfolio of related programme activities.

To take stock of ‘climate smart’ achievements and establish a baseline for tracking further progress towards objectives set out in CARE’s 2010-2014 Climate Change Strategic Plan, PECCN initiated its first ‘Going Green Survey’ in November 2010. The survey had two versions; one focusing on CI members (with 10 CI Members participating) and the other focusing on Regional Management Units and Country Offices (with 25 COs and three RMUs responding).

Results suggest that CARE is still in the early stages of managing our environmental footprint. For example, only 4 of the 10 responding CI Members have formal plans or policies in place to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and only two include concrete emissions reductions targets. One CI Members has committed to reducing emissions by 40 percent by 2015 (partially through the use of offsets), while the other aims for a 10 percent reduction by 2010 and 30 percent by 2014. All 10 CI Members have already taken steps to reduce GHG emissions by installing low consumption/energy-saving light bulbs, establishing programmes or policies to reduce emissions from travel, etc.

Only three of the 28 COs and RMUs participating in the survey have formal plans or policies to reduce their environmental footprint. Nonetheless, most have taken some steps to reduce their environmental footprint through low consumption/energy-saving light bulbs, policies to reduce emissions from travel, switching off electronic equipment when not in use, reducing air-conditioner use, recycling-reusing-reducing paper consumption, or installing bio-gas digesters to convert kitchen waste, etc.

We are doing even better at planning for the future. Eight out of the 10 CI Members surveyed have integrated climate change into their most recent long-range strategic plan. In addition, climate change has been mainstreamed into seven organisational learning systems and five quality and impact measurement systems. Nearly half of the COs have integrated climate change into their most recent long-range strategic plan. Others indicated that climate change will be incorporated into their next round of strategic planning. Meanwhile, 16 of 25 COs have integrated climate change into their Emergency Preparedness Plans.

In terms of strengthening institutional capacity, eight of the 10 CI Members have policy and/or advocacy staff with ‘climate change’ as part of their job description, while all 10 have programme staff with ‘climate change’ as part of their job. Most have just one, while one of the smaller CI Members has more than three.

Eight out of 25 COs participating in the survey have policy and/or advocacy staff with “climate change” featuring explicitly in their job description, while 15 have programme staff with “climate change” in their job description. Six COs have more than three programme staff with climate change in their job descriptions.

In terms of expanding experience, six out of 10 CI Members are implementing Community-based Adaptation (CBA) projects, one is implementing carbon finance projects, and seven are undertaking climate change advocacy in their home countries. Fifteen out of 25 COs participating in the survey are implementing CBA projects, two are implementing carbon finance projects, and 10 are undertaking climate change advocacy projects.

In the area of broad-based movements, all 10 CI members are formal members of a national-level, civil-society alliance, working group or campaign to address climate change. Fifteen out of 25 COs are formal members of a national-level, civil-society alliance, working group or campaign to address climate change.

Summary of the Going Green Survey
The results reported in the survey provide a snapshot of CARE’s progress towards becoming a climate smart organization. CARE’s 2010-2014 Climate Change Strategic Plan includes the following Key Measures of Success:

- By the end of 2012, all CARE Members have institutionalised “Green Teams” in their organisational structures;

Continued on page 22
Organisational Change

‘Going Green Survey’ continued from page 21...

By the end of 2012, all CARE Members are implementing, monitoring and reporting on steps to reduce their environmental footprint (including, but not only limited to, carbon management);

Climate change and environmental degradation have been fully integrated into guidelines for situational and Underlying Causes of Poverty/Vulnerability (UCP/V) analysis, as well as guidelines for Emergency Preparedness Planning and UBORA; and

Country Offices have greater capacity to analyse the consequences of climate change for their impact groups, and at least six Country Offices have fully integrated climate change into their Long-Range Strategic Plans.

While CARE is making progress, there is much work to be done – especially with regards to ensuring that, by the end of 2012, all CI Members are implementing, monitoring and reporting on steps to reduce their environmental footprint.

CARE Denmark reducing emissions through ‘green office’ approach

Liv Helstrup Østergaard
Communications Officer
Project Leader, CARE Denmark’s Green Team

1) Why did CARE Denmark decide to become a ‘climate-smart’ office?

During the last few years CARE Denmark has been monitoring CO2 emissions from the office in Copenhagen. And to our disappointment we have seen a steady increase in the office’s CO2 emissions during these years. Meanwhile CARE Denmark is working intensively with climate change on both a policy level in Denmark and internationally and on a programme level in developing countries. So we thought it was about time we also reverse the gaze and start to look at what we can do. You can read our policy at www.careclimatechange.org/publications/org-change.

2) What areas are you focusing on as you strive for carbon neutrality?

We decided to focus on travels, paper consumption, electricity and heating. However our Green Office Policy also includes a focus on office purchases, employee transportation to and from work and recycling. We don’t monitor CO2 emissions from these areas, but we make an effort to make our actions on these areas ‘greener’.

3) How specifically does CARE Denmark reduce carbon-intensive travel?

How to reduce travels is also the most difficult question for us and to be honest then we don’t have the golden answer just yet! However, we now have a system in place where we monitor how much CO2 each unit in CARE Denmark emits. And in the programme unit we have gone one step further and started to track how much CO2 different groups of employers emit including employees stationed abroad; consultants; and short term guests in Denmark and other countries. We give each unit a quota of CO2 emissions for each year. These are based on our baseline year 2009 and are reduced gradually. We have also encouraged programme employees to bundle trips together to limit the number of programme visits a year. While our primary goal is to reduce CARE Denmark’s CO2 emissions, we also have to take other methods into use. Travels are a prerequisite for the implementation of CARE Denmark’s projects and programmes and cannot be reduced entirely. If we want to become carbon neutral we must also offset carbon.

Our idea is to purchase the amount of carbon credits needed to reach carbon neutrality from a certified CARE project. CARE’s Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (PECCN) is currently developing carbon projects, which will generate certified carbon credits within an estimated 2-3 years time. Until CARE Denmark can purchase these carbon credits, we will make annual accruals of funds necessary for offsetting the tons of CO2 emitted by CARE Denmark in the given year beginning in 2010.

4) Do you have specific examples of achievements thus far?

Last year was the first year in which we tried to reduce our CO2 emissions. And we have succeeded in some areas, but also had disappointments in others. For example we managed to reduce usage of electricity with 17 per cent by among other thing changing low energy efficient light bulbs with high energy efficiency bulbs. We have also encouraged all employees to remember to shut down computers, lights and other electrical devices after they are done using them.

5) What are the main activities of your Green Team?

In addition to developing the Green Office Policy, the team meets several times a year to discuss how we can reduce CO2 emissions. We are also responsible for implementing these different initiatives. We also hand out the Tree Hugger Award, because she always takes care not to use electricity unnecessarily. Her office lights are always off except for her desk lamp and her computer screen shuts off after only a few minutes of no use.
In Vietnamese, Suc Manh means more than just ‘power.’ It connotes an inner strength and sense of personal empowerment. Tran Thi Yen is part of a CARE Vietnam participatory mangroves restoration project.

Powerful Hands
PECCN launches inspiring video

Building on CARE’s logo and the well-known “I am Powerful” campaign, PECCN’s new Powerful Hands video inspires and challenges viewers to use their powerful hands to help the planet and its people.

In the coming year, PECCN will support the video with publications and case studies that will inform CARE staff, donors, NGOs, media and concerned citizens about the many ways in which CARE is helping poor women and other vulnerable people learn about, plan for and implement solutions to climate change.

The aim of PECCN’s Powerful Hands theme is to:
• Share positive, practical, action-oriented images and messages that inspire people to action.
• Present poor and marginalised people – especially women – as agents of change rather than victims of climate change.
• Provide privileged people with the information they need to get involved and make a difference.

To create the video, PECCN thanks Raks Thai Foundation, McCann in Bangkok, gender specialists at CARE AUS/USA, PECCN team members and CARE USA for editing/production support. Go to www.careclimatechange.org/hands to watch in multiple languages.

CARE spreads climate knowledge digitally around the world

CARE climate change knowledge is reaching around the globe, as shown by more than 12,000 unique visitors to our website in 2010. On the web, our users are increasing on Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/CARE-Climate-Change) and Twitter @CAREclimate (http://twitter.com/#!/CAREClimate), and our videos are shown on Link TV (www.viewchange.org/videos/managing-our-mangroves-for-a-better-future & www.viewchange.org/videos/no-time-to-recover) and on our YouTube and Vimeo channels (www.youtube.com/user/careclimatechange & www.vimeo.com/channels/careclimatechange).

We are also receiving global requests to promote the adaptation toolkits on the ICARUS site (www.icarus.info); RMIT University site, Eldis site (www.eldis.org/go/home&id=56730&type=Document), Household Energy Network site (www.hedon.info/CAREToolkit) and UNDP’s Environment & Energy Group’s site (www.undpcc.org/blogs/news/archive/2010/11/15/two-new-toolkits-on-climate-change.aspx). Our Adaptation, Gender and Women’s Empowerment brief is posted at www.comminit.com/en/node/329465/306.

Hands…Strong hands. Calloused hands. My hands. With my hands, I carry water far, too far. I scrape at the land and plant… and plant again when the rains come late… or not at all. I grasp for hope when the land floods… And reach out for food that isn’t there. I watch the climate change around me. But I am also changing. We are changing.

Young hands. Old hands. Our hands. With our hands, we plant mangroves to protect our homes from typhoons. We use seeds that grow harder crops, as rainfall patterns become harder to predict. We raise animals that can survive longer drought and floods. With our hands, we plant trees for the future; and cook in ways that protect our environment. We build higher and stronger and better… and find new means to make money for our families. We are not victims of climate change. We are agents of change… We are learning, preparing, and planning – the best we can as the world changes around us. But, sometimes it’s not enough…

Capable hands. Active hands. Your hands. Your hands can help those most vulnerable to climate change. You can demand that your government supports policies that build a better world. You can make wise choices about where your energy comes from; and how you consume, commute, fly and eat. Your hands, my hands; our hands. We all hold the power to help the planet, and its people.

www.careclimatechange.org/hands
Strengthening climate policy networks in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific

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

Making carbon finance for sustainable agriculture work for poor people

The project Making Carbon Finance for Sustainable Agriculture Work for Poor People in Western Kenya aims to demonstrate how carbon finance can be used to enhance farm production – and food security – and build resilience of livelihoods and farming systems to climate change, while at the same time delivering on climate mitigation goals.

Partnership to reduce greenhouse emissions in Kalimantan Forests

The Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership is a REDD demonstration activity under the Indonesia-Australia Forest Carbon Partnership. The KFCP is intended to be a learning activity in which technical, scientific and institutional innovations are tested, refined and communicated to add to the body of global REDD knowledge and experience.

New PECCN Publications

www.careclimatechange.org/publications

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Watch how pastoralists in Ethiopia have ‘No Time to Recover’

www.youtube.com/user/careclimatechange