

## Climate Change Working Group Meeting minutes – monthly meeting November 2012

**Date and Time:** 14:00- 17:00, Thursday 1 November

**Attendees:** CCWG members and interested people (see participant list attached)

**Agenda:**

- Review agenda and action points from last meeting;
- Updates and sharing from thematic groups
  - o ABC subgroup;
  - o Adaptation subgroup;
  - o Mitigation subgroup;
- Presentation – climate change and coastal livelihoods;
- Climate change in the school sector update;
- Climate finance update;
- Policy dialogue workshop update;
- Mekong workshop update.

**Objectives:** to improve sharing and learning among groups working in the same area

**Agenda item #1:** review agenda and action points from previous meeting.

**Agenda item #2:** updates

### *ABC subgroup*

#### **Advocacy Updates**

- Media Learning Group in the planning stage, hopefully implementation will start next month – the goal is to strengthen relationships between NGOs and media partners as a way of improving the way climate change and DRR projects are communicated to the public, and as a way of facilitating a more effective dialogue between the two groups
- ISEE media training – 40 journalists and 20 CSO representatives attended a training to give media reps an insight into projects happening on the ground, and to give NGOs an insight into the way stories are communicated and to facilitate a dialogue between these two groups

#### **Events**

- Green Housing Conference. Run by NGOs, representatives from academia and the Ministry of Construction. The focus was facilitating communication among businesses researchers and NGOs on Green Housing and energy efficiency. Included workshops, presentations and events, e.g. the Green Economy Competition facilitated by Live and Learn. This event attracted 900 people.

#### **Education**

- JANI is currently running a ToT in Hanoi for teachers and decision-makers from 6 provinces. Save the Children, L&L and others are managing this;
- Plan, L&L and British Council are working with MOET to expand their child-centred approach to CCE and DRRE training and resource development – MOET wants to expand this to become a national project, and British Council are looking to supersize it by bringing in their networks.
- Plan and L&L are working on a CC/DRR education and communication mapping project – almost finished the data collection stage, report due at the end of November

### *Mitigation subgroup*

- The subgroup is currently running a workshop on climate change and food security. Mitigation representatives are attending an international workshop in Rome. The focus is on social protection and food security.
- Green ID and energy alliance are running an advocacy training workshop and organizing a policy dialogue.
- Groups are facilitating carbon programs and awareness raising on REDD in Vietnam.

- There is a workshop planned for the Mekong Delta – a chance for NGOs and government representatives to have a policy dialogue.

ACTION: interested organisations who haven't replied to questionnaire around the models to be used, please do so in the next week to feed into workshop planning.

### *Adaptation subgroup*

Mitigation update – East Asia conference run by NGOs on history and peace was held in Cambodia 17-20 October.

70 participants from 19 countries in East Asia. The goal was to promote solidarity and collaboration among civil society, to understand regional issues related to history and the growth of peaceful regional collaboration. Involved workshops and presentations from experts in the field.

### **Agenda item #3: Presentation – climate change and coastal livelihoods**

Ms. Hoai Thu – Vietnam Development Forum, National Economic University

Climate change and coastal livelihood is a book that covers 5 main areas: (1. Overview of CC; 2. the vulnerability of coastal livelihood under the impact of climate change; 3. CC Adaptation for coastal livelihood; 4. Supporting for livelihood responding to CC; 5. CC and coastal livelihood in Vietnam.

The first 4 chapters are literature review of CC adaptation models, synthesis of CC responses related to CC and coastal livelihood around the world. Accordingly, the book does not mention all issues on coastal livelihood

1. Overview of climate change
  - IPCC has developed different scenarios of GHG emission. There are diverse viewpoints of the temperature increased, eg. 2.3 °C is too high according to WB.
  - When considering the trend of changing climate, CC is a major challenge facing us. According to WB, we all need to ACT NOW, ACT TOGETHER and ACT DIFFERENTLY. At the same time, CC adaptation should go together with CC Mitigation.
2. The vulnerability of coastal livelihood under the impact of climate change

Resources in coastal areas are abundant; however they are under excessive exploitation. Conflicts in extracting natural resources and CC impacts have significantly reduced the values of coastal ecosystems to human livelihoods. All these affected agriculture production and aquaculture. Changes in livelihood strategies lead to changes in productivity, crop seasons and incomes.

3. CC Adaptive capacity for coastal livelihood

Adaptive capacity (IPCC/ MONRE/USAID) is the ability in adjustment or responses to CC to gain 3 objectives: decrease vulnerability; mitigate losses and take advantage of opportunities created by CC. There are different types of adaptation: short-term, Long-term; community based vs. Eco-system based adaptation, etc.

Measures to enhance adaptive capacity: Capacity building at national level (integrating CC in development plan; awareness raising; enhancing coordination among ministries); Sectoral adaptation (agriculture, forestry, water resources, coastal resources)

\* Some coastal livelihood adaptation activities:

- + In agriculture: store water, crop diversification; adopting adaptive models
- + Aquaculture: raising new/combined species; strengthening dyke system.
- + Migration is adaptation (eg. Bến Tre, Nam Dinh and Thai Binh)

4. Community based Adaptation

The most common sources for community based adaptation is from NGOs (CCWG; NGOs' projects such as those of MCD, CARE, SRD, etc. NGOs play important role in CC response at community levels. Some comments:

At household level, adaptation is mostly spontaneous; lack of skill, finance, infrastructures.

Information abt Climate change is limited, mainly via weather forecast.

What Vietnam should do? Enhance capacity at national level (via NTPRCC, National Strategy

responding to CC, Environment protection strategy). International supports are important, etc.

Q: Where to buy the book? - Free, contact author at vuhoaitu.neu@gmail.com; vththu@vdf.org.vn.

Q: Is migration really adaptation? From deep interviews with local people: migration is simple and effective way to adapt to CC (and to other pressures such as economic downturn).

#### **Agenda item #4: Presentation – resilience in the eyes of the youth**

Challenge to Change is really excited to recognise the power of young people as effective change agents, and support young people in developing action plans for projects they want to run, and see this through to implementation.

The goal of their work is to understand youth perspectives on climate change, and recognise the efficacy of youth skills and networks, and to utilise their energy to respond to climate change.

The program is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and ACCCRN, and projects are run in Quy Nhon, Da Nang and Can Tho. Challenge to Change supports young people 16-25 to implement their own projects.

They received 50 proposals and have selected 13 initiatives to support. The program provides training in project management and participatory approaches, and works with communities at the grassroots level to provide technical support and training. Part of the funding in each city is reserved for further initiatives if groups come up with additional ideas, and CtC also wants to encourage ideas of youth groups that did not make the initial cut; final workshops next year.

The types of initiatives include:

- Support for vulnerable communities;
- Research into how people are adapting already;
- Support existing adaptation projects;
- Support new adaptation projects;
- Add value to existing projects;

Examples of the types of projects:

- Training toolkits; participatory films; vegetable cultivation projects; impact evaluation projects in a fishing village; raising awareness for adaptive behaviour change; building networks that will be sustainable after CtC project ends; communicating CC to Khmer students; saline water treatment; underground composting model.

#### **What we have achieved so far:**

13 youth initiatives undergoing; we have a group of mentors available to young people – technical, financial, project managers incl. national and local partners – focusing on building relationships between youth and expert groups, and building a sustainable network for youth to be heard and to share their ideas and values; we have provided each city a camera, and each group can document their projects.

#### **Questions -**

How to move from raising awareness to building resilience? How far is this gap? This is a big question.

The project tries to enhance the rights and participation of young people – what are the opportunities and challenges that come out of this?

What is the need for community based adaptation, what are the conditions needed? And what is the role for young people in this?

Hien (L&L) – shared the experience of Green Generation – focusing on supporting young people to be active in environmental and climate fields. Collaborate with The Asia Foundation. Youth already active on awareness part, now focused on technical aspects – building technical skills and capacity to implement technical interventions in project areas. First have done outreach in cities, now focused

on rural and regional areas.

Working with children and youth unions - support in training, provide pathways for developing ideas, working with youth groups on project management;

Cooperate with Plan and World Vision on child-centred approach on CC/DRR education and communication. Building skills for knowledge sharing – ToT training for youth – goal – for youth to become agents for change.

**Agenda item #5 – Presentation: Growing a better future - Oxfam**

Oxfam report: rights of small scale farmers in VN and food security

- In past 20 years, have halved the poverty rate in VN;
- Growth is pro-poor;
- 1 in 5 live in poverty;
- One in 5 children in 2011 was malnourished.
- 8.7% of households in rural areas are food insecure;

Challenges:

- Sustainability; - resource intense exploitation – high inputs. Resources under strain
- Equity; - small-scale farmers are most vulnerable. The scandal of hunger, intergenerational poverty trap. Exclusive prosperity – wealth gap is increasing.
- Resilience – ppl exposed to natural hazards, increasing vulnerabilities and shocks, poor and small scale farmers will be hit the hardest.

Mekong Delta is #7 of the 8 regions with the highest levels of malnourishment; all the while it produces loads of food.

We are currently at a turning point. We see pressures and challenges – how do we make a better future?

Decisions are now about how to support the poor and small-scale farmers. Expand choices, social protections. The report shows examples of how this has been done – on and off farm diversification, strengthening small scale farming in the market (organic fair-trade coffee etc), non-conditional cash transfers etc, grassroots adaptation, promoting women's rights, linking economic and political rights,

Expand voices – building dialogues, sharing opportunities, resources etc.

5 shifts:

- End hunger; end forms of exclusion; increase investment in s-s agriculture; guarantee land rights; support people's initiatives and voices.

Q's

Linking large and small scale agricultural systems. How to change production organizations. The recommendation is that the two systems should exist dually. Livelihood security and food security are the real issues that need to be tackled.

Request: the message needs to be amplified – invite representatives in the group to get on board and share the message in the community.

High production vs community focus and protection. Where should we spend public funds? Small but not large? Serves the purpose of food security and social justice – this is where public expenditure should be directed.

Request for information and data in relation to small scale farming – very committed to providing

robust evidence for recommendations. Please get in touch if you have any information.

**Agenda item #6- sharing actions for the coming months**

Joint Advocacy Strategy:

JANI: developed by CCWG and DMWG in 2011, developed an action plan,

ACTION: Nga (CCWG) to send the workplan around again.

Need more resources to be directed towards this. Have a lot of input from JANI members. Lead organizations have been identified for each action point. Media, enhancing cooperation, mitigation subgroup planning projects on this, also planning to facilitate a lot of advocacy activities.

CCWG has been invited to attend an advocacy training workshop in Qatar for COP18 – looking for a representative to go – call for applications –

ACTION - contact Nga (CCWG) if anyone from core member groups want to go.

Expenses covered by Southern Voices. Deadline has passed – eek!

Presentations are available at: <http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/pub/presentations-ccwg-meeting-september-2012-1>