Report Back from the Climate Change and Development Learning Workshop
June 1, 2007

<u>Background on the Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development (C4D)</u>

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated in its 2001 assessment report that, "the impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor persons within all countries, and thereby exacerbate inequities in health status and access to adequate food, clean water, and other resources". The report also notes that, "hazards associated with climate change can undermine progress toward sustainable development", highlighting the devastating impact of natural disasters such as droughts, floods and heat waves, which in turn affect human health, agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of poorer communities. The majority of these communities contribute little to the global increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases, yet they will bear the largest part of the burden, both in suffering the impacts and in pursuing a low-carbon future to mitigate the causes.

As Canadians, we have a responsibility both to take the necessary steps to reduce our contribution to global climate change, and to assist vulnerable communities to cope with its impacts. As civil society organizations, we have a responsibility to advocate for effective support and adequate resources in national and international forums on behalf of those we represent, and to ensure that our own actions and programs reduce vulnerability to climate change.

There is an opportunity, while the current Canadian government establishes its approach and outlines its policies with respect to climate change and international development, for civil society organizations to have a voice in shaping how Canada responds to the climate crisis. There are many existing gaps in funding and planning at the federal level. Of particular concern is the current lack of development assistance resources for environment and climate change initiatives. Also, efforts under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process to provide support for developing countries to adapt to the effects of climate change and to pursue sustainable economic development have been slow to mobilize, creating a strong imperative for civil society organizations to take action.

The challenge for the environment and development community is to ensure that efforts to address climate change maximize opportunities for poverty reduction and sustainable development, and avoid further marginalizing already vulnerable communities. As organizations, there is a need to increase our collective awareness of the implications of climate change on our development efforts. In effect, the development community faces the requirement to "climate-proof" its activities to increase their sustainability in the context of a changing climate. This climate-proofing process requires a broader understanding of environmental sustainability which incorporates the risks posed to the success of a project by climate change. This implies a new approach to analyzing and managing risks in development projects and programs. To ensure that this happens will require new approaches, additional resources and partnerships among a variety of stakeholders.

Environmental organizations have been active in the climate change dialogue since its beginning, in particular through networks such as the Climate Action Network (CAN). However, there is a lack of effective participation by development NGOs, who need to increase their understanding of the issue and its implications for their work, and who have a great deal of experience to bring to the debate. To meet this challenge, development and environment organizations in the UK, the Netherlands, Australia, and a number of other countries are forming coalitions to campaign, share information, and develop joint programs on climate change. The Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development follows this lead by bringing together interested and like-minded organizations in order to develop a common vision on tackling climate change and development.

C4D Goal and Objectives

The goal of the Canadian Coalition on Climate Change and Development is twofold:

- To bring the voice of the international development community to the climate change dialogue in Canada; and
- To develop knowledge and capacity in the international development community to address the global challenges associated with climate change and development.

In support of this goal, the members of C4D have agreed on two objectives for the coalition in the near term:

- Through public awareness campaigns and advocacy initiatives, C4D will encourage the Canadian government to adopt policies that support sustainable energy in development, to integrate climate change in development programming, and to work with industrialized countries to achieve deep reductions in domestic GHG emissions in order to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- C4D will enhance our collective knowledge of climate change as a development issue, and will 'lead by example' through the development of appropriate tools and methodologies that address climate change mitigation and adaptation in development programming.

Rationale and Objectives for Learning Workshop

The workshop built on the objective to "enhance our collective knowledge of climate change as a development issue". The idea for a Learning Workshop on Climate Change and Development was born in the C4D meeting held in January 2007. It was felt by the group that an event was needed to bring all members of the coalition to a common level of understanding of the issue, and to catalyze future actions by the C4D.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share knowledge of the implications of climate change for development organizations
- Share experiences in addressing climate change in development programming
- Identify opportunities for collective and individual action to address climate change

Workshop Agenda

The agenda was designed to give a brief overview of the key issues related to climate change and development, allow participants time to discuss the information presented, and to give some of the organizations with experience working on climate change an opportunity to share their knowledge. Following this introduction to the issues, participants had an opportunity to discuss and prioritize actions for the group and for individual organizations.

Timing	Session	Facilitator / presenter
Morning	Welcome and Introductions Review of agenda	Kaia Ambrose, CARE
	Setting the stage: latest research on climate change impacts	Angie Dazé, CARE
	Small group discussion on impacts and adaptation	Kaia Ambrose
	Break	
	Plenary on impacts and adaptation	Kaia Ambrose
	Climate change and development 101	Elizabeth Harvey, CIDA
12:00	Lunch Provided by: The Table Restaurant 1230 Wellington Street West	
Afternoon	The global response to climate change: the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol	Paul Cobb, The Pembina Institute
	Experience with climate change: mitigation and the carbon market	Paul Cobb Deborah Murphy, IISD
	Break	
	Experience with climate change: adaptation	Simon Carter, IDRC Angie Dazé
	What's a development NGO to do?	Angie Dazé
	Small group discussion on action areas	
	Plenary on action areas	Kaia Ambrose
	The way forward	Kaia Ambrose
4:45	Wrap-up and closing	Angie Dazé and Paul Cobb

<u>Key Climate Change Concerns</u>

During the morning session, an overview of the most recent climate change science was presented, followed by small group discussions wherein participants were asked to prioritize their key concerns related to climate change and the work of their organizations.   The following summarizes the key concerns that were presented by the groups in the plenary session:

- The need to focus on a holistic approach to reducing vulnerability.
- The importance of empowering the most vulnerable in decision-making on the use of climate change funding.
- Are we challenging the development model?
- Are we prepared to capitalize on opportunities to engage the public in development and climate change issues?
- Are we prepared to engage in the global policy dialogue around climate change (e.g. post-2012)?
- The challenges to sustainable livelihoods posed by changing ecosystems.
- In the context of climate change, mainstreaming environmental sustainability into programming becomes more challenging, but more important.
- The health impacts are not well understood.
- Climate change may create or exacerbate resource conflicts and/or lead to refugee situations
- The risk of flooding in coastal areas.
- How do civil society organizations fit in to advocacy on the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)?
- Holding northern governments to account while protecting the ODA budget.
- Political will to allocate resources for climate change in developing countries.
- The need for a paradigm shift in development to tackle climate change, both in terms of programming and in terms of operations
- The risks inherent in "mainstreaming" – what does mainstreaming mean in the context of climate change? How do we ensure that it doesn't become another ineffective cross-cutting issue? How can we learn from experiences with mainstreaming gender/HIV & AIDS/environment?
- The need to balance adaptation and mitigation efforts.
- The challenge of balancing energy needs with increasing emissions. Breaking the link between carbon-emissions and energy.
- Supporting southern research on climate change and bridging north-south experience and knowledge.

<u>Taking Action on Climate Change</u>

In the afternoon session, participants formed four groups to discuss possible actions in four areas: adaptation programming, mitigation programming, advocacy and organizational change[1].   The results of the discussion are presented in the following table:

ACTION	OPPORTUNITIES	CHALLENGES
Adaptation Programming		
Focus on "biodiversity-based" agriculture	Promote traditional knowledge and methods; increasing diversity in agriculture	Industrial agriculture model; ecosystem failure; migration
Learn about community-based adaptation (CBA) through exchange of information and identification of best practices	Networking "in field" among Canadian NGOs; use existing forums	Time; competing priorities; knowledge needs must be addressed; scaling CBA up to policy change
Removing barriers to adaptation	New strategies; new tools; new sense of appropriate responses	Multi-stakeholder collaboration;
Mitigation Programming		
Increase efficiency of use of traditional energy sources	Sustainable harvest; energy efficient technologies; can be integrated into other programming	Availability/sufficiency of fuel supply; cost; capacity
Promote sustainable natural resource management for carbon sequestration	Ecosystem benefit sharing	Verification of carbon stored
Avoided deforestation	Small enterprise development	Institutional/cultural framework; reluctance to take risks in livelihoods strategies; short term loss of income
Increase use of Renewable Energy	Access to energy improves livelihood opportunities; low/no fuel costs; can be deployed rapidly, even in remote/rural communities. Can be very simple technologies (treadle pumps, efficient stoves, etc)	Low familiarity with technology; often high up-front cost (efficient stoves, solar, etc)
Advocacy		
Canadian political scene		
Lobby/engage CIDA	Sectoral policy initiatives (e.g. agriculture and food security); climate change focal point; policy capacity	Current government's lack of interest in climate change, particularly from an international development

[1] Note that mainstreaming climate change into programming was discussed both in the adaptation group and in the organizational change group, but results are reported under organizational change.

		perspective
Public engagement	Link to environmental NGO networks; immediacy of impact in global south; opportunities for individual action and change	Don't want to revert to "charity" response model
Organizational Change		
Mainstreaming climate change ("climate-proofing")	Tools are available; networking and sharing experiences; use "window" of environment as a cross-cutting issue; links are easy to draw; lessons from mainstreaming other issues (e.g. HIV/AIDS); co-benefits; setting standards ourselves before they are imposed on us	Reluctance to change approaches; issue weariness; making climate change relevant; resources and capacity
Reducing carbon footprint	Videoconferencing; "good" offsets; calculators are available; pooling offset purchases; marketing – shows corporate environmental responsibility; increases profile of energy	Procedures can be difficult; legitimacy of offsets; travel is often not optional

The Way Forward

In the final session of the day, the group examined some of the actions identified in the previous session and attempted to reach agreement on some short term actions for the group.

On advocacy, the group seemed to feel that the best approach was to feed into ongoing initiatives to ensure that the issue of climate change is integrated. As an example, CCIC's Food Security Policy Group is planning an event with CIDA in the next six months. It was suggested that the Climate Change and Development group could work with the food security group to incorporate climate change issues into the dialogue.

Another opportunity was presented in the letter to the Prime Minister Harper on climate change at the G8 Summit. The letter was launched by the United Church of Canada and the Climate Action Network (CAN), and demanded that Canada agree to the German proposal to commit to limiting global climate change to 2 degrees C. Several members of the group signed on to the letter, which is attached as Appendix A.

> ACTION: Develop/share list of opportunities for individual or joint advocacy. Individual organizations should pro-actively discuss with directors/boards their willingness and/or desire to participate in advocacy activities in the future.

It was also suggested that group members use their networks to capture "on the ground" experiences with climate change so that these could feed into policy dialogue

and public engagement initiatives. It was also suggested that it would be useful to have some key messages/talking points that could be used by different members of the group.

ACTION: Develop common and agreed upon talking and advocacy points.

In the area of organizational change, the group focused on the mainstreaming issue and suggested that it could be useful to plan an event to share experiences and learn about available tools (e.g. IISD's CRiSTAL tool).

There was agreement in the group that there is value in continuing the learning process which was initiated by this workshop.   A series of workshops was suggested to delve more deeply into the issues that were introduced (adaptation, reducing carbon footprints, mainstreaming). These workshops would include "expert" guest speakers as well as presentation of experience of group members in working on the different areas.

ACTION: Develop Workplan for 2007/2008 (see below).

Proposed Activities for Remainder of 2007

- Conference call – mid-July
- Proposal development for workshop series – July-August
- C4D Meeting - late August/early September
- World Development Report – late August
- Food Security Event - early September (TBC)
- Learning Workshop – late September
- CoP13 Planning Meeting – late October
- CoP13 Press Release/Media – late November
- Work Planning and Budgeting Meeting for 2008 – early January

Climate Change and Development Learning Workshop
June 1, 2007
Participants List

Name	Organization	Email Address
PRESENT		
Heidi Lasi	VSO	heidi@vsocan.org
Brian Tomlinson	CCIC	btomlinson@ccic.ca
Liz Harvey	CIDA	Elizabeth_harvey@acdi-cida.gc.ca
Jocelyn Durston	EFC / Micah Challenge	durstonj@efc-canada.com
Stu Clark	Canadian Foodgrains Bank	S_clark@foodgrainsbank.ca
Susan Learoyd	CUSO	Susan.learoyd@cuso.ca
Anne Gardner	CCI	anne@cciorg.ca
Doug Brown	World Vision	Doug_brown@worldvision.ca
Richard Paterson	CARE	richardp@care.ca
John van Mossel	CUSO/Marbek	jvmossel@magma.ca
Sarah Shima	CCA	Sarah.shima@coopscanada.coop
Anthony Scoggins	Oxfam	anthonys@oxfam.ca
Beatriz Oliver	USC Canada	boliver@usc-canada.org
Deborah Murphy	IISD	dmurphy@iisd.ca
Simon Carter	IDRC	scarter@idrc.ca
Juan Gonzalez	CECI	juang@ceci.ca
Dev Sharma	CARE	dev@care.ca
Roger Peters	The Pembina Institute	rogerp@pembina.org
Stephen Cornish	CARE	Cornish@care.ca
Paul Cobb	The Pembina Institute	paulc@pembina.org
Kaia Ambrose	CARE	kaia@care.ca
Angie Dazé	CARE	angie@care.ca
REGRETS		
Mara Kerry	Nature Canada	mkerry@naturecanada.ca
Don Shropshire	Red Cross	Don.Shropshire@redcross.ca
Charlie Musoka	Red Cross	Charlie.Musoka@redcross.ca
Louise Comeau	ICLEI	Louise.comeau@sympatico.ca
Wendy Phillips	World Vision	Wendy_phillips@worldvision.ca