

Climate Change in church development and emergency programmes

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I, Past and present activities in the framework of CC

In 1999: study on a possibly new campaign:

- Using afforestation as sinks for CO₂
- Offering token for fund raising
- In 2003: international conference with guests and participants from Pacific, India, Kenya, the WCC and Germany on „climate change and effects on developing countries“
- Kirchentag 2005
- DKH-project, starting July 2005: disaster preparedness and prevention in the light of climate change, starting in the Tsunami-affected region
- Project work: BftW app. 1500 projects in Af/As/LA;
 - Afforestation, agro-forestry, fruit tree orchards
 - Renewable energy: hydropower, biogas, solar energy
 - At the moment: only 2-3 projects

II, Importance of CC for development organizations

- It affects primarily the poor, the target group of devel. org.
- It undermines on-going efforts of devel. Programmes
- It destroys the natural resource base like soil, water, flora and fauna and contradicts the principle of sustainable development
- It touches upon socially acceptable and fair access to resources between North and South, a long-standing concern of dev. org.
- It offers new ways of fund raising, away from charity towards trade-offs

III, Why NGOs could and should play a vital role in CC-activities

- They stretch out to almost every corner and particularly to the most endangered zones
- They work with the poorer sections of the society
- They have worked out, know and use participatory approaches required for any successful type of project implementation
- They cooperate with local partners and use local expertise which is often more appropriate than foreign expert consultancy

IV, Bottlenecks to the involvement of NGOs in CC activities

- Limited manpower (staff)
- Dependence on donators (what is en vogue)
- Partners often not competent on new technical matters
- Support provided to partners often on a 3-years basis- no long-term perspective
- Afraid to intermeddle with environment org.
- Overwhelming numbers of problems (HIV-AIDS, hunger, privatisation etc.)

V, What needs to be done?

- Close cooperation of the baptized
- Find coalitions to finance joint minimal structures
- Put pressure on headquarters by using media, politicians etc.
- Get CC activities integrated into normal project work (e.g. as a sort of disaster prevention, in agricultural projects, etc.)
- Convince church leaders