

Strategic Alliances between Development and Environmental NGOs - a call for collaboration

Matthias Duwe
Climate Action Network Europe
<http://www.climnet.org>



Who we are

- Climate Action Network (CAN) is an international coalition of around 400 NGOs united by the common goal to stop dangerous, human-induced climate change
- CAN-Europe currently represents 94 member organisations in the EU25 and beyond
- The Brussels office aims to act as a bridge between the national groups and the political processes involving the European institutions. It also actively follows the UN climate negotiations.

www.climnet.org

Structure

- Common ground? perceived + real differences
- Key themes for joint action
- Integrated strategies at different levels
- Outlook for future collaborations

Disclaimer: mainly (Northern) climate perspective, with international network experience

Searching for common ground

Development & Environment NGOs - friend or foe?

- Two separate fields of work?

Disaster relief in acute famine vs protecting local bird populations

- Two separate starting points?

Saving/improving lives vs caring for “mother nature”

Conventional perception is often one of difference (maybe even superiority...)

Little concrete cooperation - but often same supporters

In reality the fault lines are not always defined by the issues, but by geographic origin, level of activity, target groups, size of the organisation, access to funds, relationship with government

Climate change and development cooperation

- Also often perceived as being in opposition

Stopping emissions = preventing industrialisation and economic growth

Equity issue: North-South conflict inherent in climate change

- Indeed often two separate starting points

a) human suffering => improving welfare through economic opportunities

b) human interference with atmosphere => prevent dangerous impacts

- Potentially reaching the same conclusion in the end

Climate change impacts threaten development achievements

Sustainable development means a low-carbon future

Recognition that the two cannot be dealt with separately

- CAN experience: dividing lines often blurred in reality

Especially for Southern NGOs working on climate change, development aspects are inherent in their work

A number of Northern organisations integrate both elements (DE: Germanwatch, Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung)

- Existing conflicts that need to be addressed

Balancing mitigation and adaptation - “Northern” focus on emissions

The communities speak different “languages”

Summary: need for full integration of climate & development aspects

- **What are areas for exploration to reach common objectives?**



A key theme: EQUITY

- Impacts

Developing countries will be affected disproportionately by climate change

- Responsibility

Historically their contribution to the problem is small

Depending on the indicator, this will continue for a long time

- Inequity

DCs will pay the price for a problem they did not cause

Big polluters now demand emissions reductions from them

Luxury vs survival emissions

- Dilemma

Without a low-carbon development path globally, CC cannot be limited

A key theme: ENERGY

- Access to clean, affordable energy is a major item on the poverty eradication agenda

- Energy investment needs are estimated at around 8 trillion US dollars for the developing world (until 2030)

- Projections for energy-related emissions say +50% by 2030

- Decisions in this sector will determine emissions for decades

- Challenges:

What technology will be deployed?

Who will pay for the investments (especially premium for additional cost of sustainable energy technology (renewable, efficient))?

A key theme: IMPACTS & ADAPTATION

- Developing countries will bear the brunt of impacts
 - Geographic circumstances
 - Lack of resources (institutions, infrastructure, finances)
- Wide range of impacts require expertise from range of levels and disciplines
 - Disaster preparedness and disaster relief for acute catastrophes
 - Changing behaviour and adapting to slower, gradual changes
- Challenges:
 - Integration of ongoing work (climate extra), activity levels and disciplines
 - Financing of adaptation (link with mitigation mechanisms?)

A key theme: FINANCES

- Money needed for...
 - Managing impacts (adaptation and disaster preparedness) to extent possible
 - Compensation for unavoidable impacts
 - Premium for additional cost of sustainable energy technology
 - Building/ strengthening capacity (institutions and infrastructure)
 - Potentially, other related issues (deforestation)
- Challenge: where will it come from?
 - Will the big polluters agree to pay? What mechanisms are needed?
 - International climate treaties? Multilateral and bilater development cooperation? International financial institutions?
 - Clarify relationship of international, national and local levels



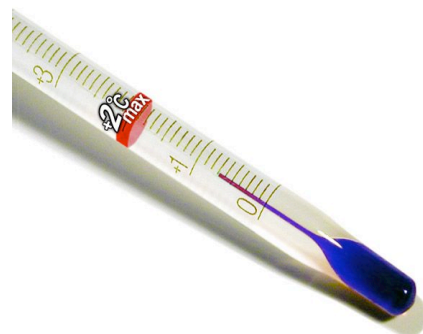
Joint strategies: which target levels?

- International level
 - UN negotiations (UNFCCC, CSD, MDGs); G8 summits; WTO; World Bank
- Regional
 - E.g. European Union Development Cooperation Policy, African Union, Asean
- National level
 - Gov't positions in above; development policy priorities and funding, awareness
- Local level
 - Concrete projects; awareness raising; community-based actions
- Many combinations of the above are possible / need for integration

International level

Beyond Kyoto...

- Impacts are showing: climate change is real! ...and happening faster than anticipated
- Kyoto Protocol in force, but negotiations on the future difficult, especially after reelection of G. W. Bush
- Major developing countries are not ready for a new kind of commitments
- Can the EU remain the Kyoto champion and build the necessary coalitions with the developing world?
- Major role for NGO co-operation



Example of new alliances...

- CAN International has embarked on a long-term strategy to build especially Southern NGO capacity - fund-raising through Secretariat in Bonn. Promising results after first two years. Should integrate development concerns stronger in CAN's work.
- Dutch NGOs Stichting Natur en Milieu (environment) and HIVOS (development) have started an "interdisciplinary" dialogue between environment and development NGOs on the future of the CDM, based on existing experience - wanting to join experience of development practitioners together with UN negotiations experts



Example of new alliances...

- EU experience: some dedicated actors in the institutions are moving faster, NGO collaboration not without problems
- 2003/2004: EU "Action Plan on climate change in the context of development cooperation" brought actors from two fields closer together within the Commission, Member State Ministries and NGOs (to limited extent)
- 2004/2005/... : major reform process to restructure development cooperation policy has created concrete opportunities for collaboration between Environment and Development groups (joint letters)

Thematic strategy on environment and natural resources will determine EU funding possibilities for capacity-building, energy cooperation, adaptation...

Example of new alliances...

- UK the most prominent example: the working group on climate change and development that brings together many well-known UK NGOs - released two excellent reports

Members among others: ActionAid International, Christian Aid, Columban Faith and Justice, CAFOD, IDS (Institute of Development Studies), Practical Action, IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development), Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, medact, nef (new economics foundation), Operation Noah, Oxfam, People & Planet, RSPB, Tearfund, teri Europe, WWF, WaterAid, World Vision. **Now also as new group: Stop Climate Chaos**



Up in smoke?
THINKING THROUGH OUR PROBLEMS IN THE HEAT OF GLOBAL WARMING
AN URGENT ACTION PLAN
Report by 11 UK NGOs



Africa - Up in smoke?
THE SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA
Report by 11 UK NGOs

- Other countries with good initiatives, existing efforts
 - Netherlands, France, Germany (today's conference is evidence)

Local level



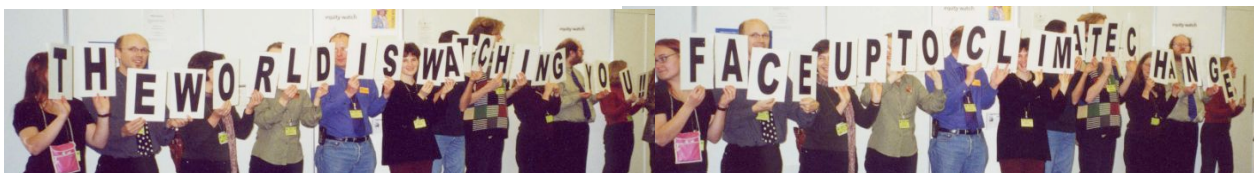
Example of new alliances...

- South South North: connecting climate and development
- A network of organisations in 4 countries: Brazil, Bangladesh, Indonesia, South Africa (with additional expert input from North and South). New groups are joining.
- Develop CDM projects with clear sustainable development benefit.
- First Gold Standard CDM project to be registered (09/2005)
 - “Kuyasa community housing project in South Africa”
- Now expanding activities into adaptation projects

“Our Ideal: Through persistent learning, leadership and participative action, the capacity of the South will be built to achieve sustainability and poverty reduction by finding new solutions to global climate change.”

Challenges ahead for strategic co-operation

- Elaborate common themes
 - Awareness raising of links between climate and development
 - Highlighting the magnitude of the challenge and equity aspects
- Expand alliances and stimulate new cooperation
 - Need to get to know each other, find “translators” to bridge gaps
 - Find concrete opportunities for concrete collaboration
 - Integrate levels of activity from international talks to local communities
- Expand together to other policy areas (foreign policy) - which has little NGO activity and could draw on distinct expertise



Thank you very much for your attention

Matthias Duwe
Climate Action Network Europe asbl
Rue de la charité 48
1210 Brussels - Belgium
+32-2-2295220 - matthiasATclimnet.org

