Gender and climate learning events around the world foster understanding and action

In the last six months, staff from CARE, the PECCN Secretariat and the Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) for Africa, have been active in facilitating, planning and speaking at gender and climate change learning events in Ghana, Thailand, Zanzibar and Germany.

In Bolgatanga, Ghana, ALP hosted a Gender and Community-based Adaptation (CBA) Learning Workshop that focused on understanding the dimensions of gender within the context of adaptation, and how to generate good practices and tools for effectively integrating gender into CBA programmes and projects. The workshop took place on 22-25 August and included 50 participants from CARE, ALP, partner NGOs and government, as well as external resource persons from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was planned and jointly facilitated by ALP and the PECCN Secretariat. As part of the event, the participants also spent a day in community consultations, visiting ALP project sites in the Upper East Region.

The workshop focused on solution-oriented learning and empowering approaches, moving beyond a vulnerability-focused discourse on gender and climate change. In reviewing methods, tools and participants’ experiences, the workshop looked at what approaches and conditions are needed to create enabling conditions (i.e. changes in attitudes, political and organizational will to improve gender relations, supportive leadership, etc.). The learnings are being compiled in an overview document, briefing papers and a special edition of the magazine Joto Africa.

In Thailand, Bruce Ravesloot, PECCN’s Senior Adaptation Advisor for Asia, made a presentation on CARE’s approach to gender in adaptation at the 7th Sharing & Learning Seminar on Gender and Adaptation to Climate Change on 26 August, which was organized by the Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network. He explained that CARE addresses gender inequality in adaptation by:

- Supporting women and men to access the resources, rights and opportunities they need for adaptation;
- Promoting gender in policy and programming as a long-term goal; and
- Empowering vulnerable women to build their adaptive capacity.

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Community members replant mangroves in Zanzibar’s HIMA project.

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Agnes Otzelberger, as CARE Austria staff, spoke at a 10 June meeting on Gender & Mitigation: Chances for Sustainable Development? in Bonn, Germany, as convened by the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit or GIZ) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. She outlined the Hifadhi ya Misitu ya Asili (Conservation of Natural Forests or ‘HIMA’) project’s experiences of integrating gender into the project and pointed out that organisations need to transfer existing experiences in implementing gender from other thematic backgrounds to mitigation contexts. Agnes said that integrating gender into REDD+ is often not a problem of a lack of knowledge, but of capacity, time and connecting the right people. Yet, she highlighted that REDD+ involves specific challenges for gender equality as it introduces a new commodity and mechanism to communities and involves sectors and approaches that have historically been gender-blind.

On 18-20 April, HIMA in Zanzibar brought together 30 people working on REDD pilot projects across Tanzania for a Gender and REDD Training Workshop. Together, with consultant Catherine Hill, the group covered topics ranging from ‘What is mainstreaming gender’ to ‘Influencing national policy’ and considered three areas where REDD poses a risk to gender equity:

• Forest management–This poses a risk in that people can deny women’s access to forest resources, including land for subsistence agriculture.

• Land tenure–Women’s entitlement to benefits of REDD is at risk in situations where customary rights often override legal rights; and

• Forest governance–There are existing challenges to ensuring meaningful participation and transparency and accountability of those involved in managing REDD.

While participants agreed that while such a collective discussion in the field of gender and REDD is a relatively new one and needs more in-depth guidance, the workshop helped them set an agenda as to how they can integrate gender into their projects.

Learn more through CARE’s gender toolkit: http://pqdl.care.org/gendertoolkit.

Gender Equality—or equality between women and men—refers to the equal enjoyment by women, girls, boys and men of rights, opportunities, resources and rewards. Equality does not mean that women and men are the same but that their enjoyment of rights, opportunities and life chances are not governed or limited by whether they were born female or male.

Gender Equity is defined by justice in the distribution of resources, benefits and responsibilities between women and men, boys and girls. The concept recognises that power relations between girls and boys, men and women are unequal, and that such inequalities should be addressed.

Women’s Empowerment involves awareness-raising, building self-confidence, expansion of choices, increased access to and control over resources and actions to transform the structures and institutions which reinforce and perpetuate gender discrimination and inequality. Empowerment comes from within; women empower themselves. Increase women’s power through power to; power with and power from within which focus on utilizing individuals and collective strengths to work towards common goals without coercion or domination.

Definitions from CARE’s 2009 Gender Policy

Gender refers to the social differences between females and males throughout the life cycle that are learned, and though deeply rooted in every culture, are changeable over time, and have wide variations both within and between cultures. ‘Gender,’ along with class and race, determines the roles, power and resources for females and males in any culture. Historically, attention to gender relations has been driven by the need to address women’s needs and circumstances as they are typically more disadvantaged than men. Increasingly, however, the humanitarian community is recognizing the need to know more about what men and boys face in crisis situations.

Learn more through CARE’s gender toolkit: http://pqdl.care.org/gendertoolkit.
South Africa will host the COP17 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban with the theme ‘Working Together: Saving Tomorrow; Today’ from 28-9 Dec, 2011. The Durban UNFCCC negotiations form a critical step in the development of a global framework to tackle climate change. However, whilst climate impacts are increasingly unfolding, current progress towards a global framework for cooperative climate action has been consistently slow.

CARE and the Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP) staff will work together in Durban to continue their efforts in support of an international climate change agreement that is fair, ambitious and legally binding. CARE’s main global advocacy focus is targeted on adaptation and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and informed by CARE’s extensive experience in these sectors.

CARE also actively collaborates with a multitude of NGOs and civil society organisations represented by the Climate Action Network (CAN) supporting a stronger and united voice in the UNFCCC negotiations. While CARE promotes its own policy positions in areas where it has specialist experience and a growing evidence base from its country programmes (www.careclimatechange.org/policy-engagement/policy-positions), it also supports the broader CAN expectations for Durban (see box).

For both adaptation and REDD, CARE will continue to focus its advocacy to support the needs and rights of the world’s most vulnerable populations—especially poor women and other marginalized groups.

At the UNFCCC meeting in Bonn, Germany, in May 2011, some limited progress was made on these issues and governments will continue discussions in the coming months in the lead up to Durban. CARE is monitoring the negotiations in order to identify specific advocacy targets and key messages for COP17.

Kit Vaughan, Global Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator, says that there is a huge amount of work to do ahead of Durban: ‘Whilst the talks are increasingly stalled and progress is slow, conversely climate change impacts are increasing and negatively impacting the worlds poorest and most vulnerable people. We urgently need bolder and more urgent action by parties and their negotiators in the UNFCCC towards a comprehensive global climate agreement.’

‘We need to see ambitious and binding emission reductions by developed countries, with supported actions by developing countries promoting a shift towards low carbon development. We also need early and urgent agreement on the establishment of the adaptation committee and operationalisation of the Cancun adaptation framework, together with commitments on finance and safeguards for REDD. We must see bold actions by negotiators and national governments to prioritise climate change and ensure a comprehensive framework and actions for Durban and well beyond.’

Kit adds that parties must put aside political delaying tactics and work together to find a comprehensive global solution. ‘The longer we wait,’ he says, ‘the many more millions of poor women and men are increasingly suffering from the devastating impacts of climate change. The time to act is now as any further delay only limits the capacity to minimise current and future climate impacts.’

CARE has set up a COP17 site at www.careclimatechange.org/cop17 and will send twitter feeds (sign up at http://twitter.com/#!/CAREClimate). For overall COP17 updates, go to: www.cop17-cmp-7durban.com.
CARE USA and World Wildlife Fund-US have joined their voices to speak for the planet and its people to advocate for responsible United States climate change policy. With a main focus on adaptation, finance, food security and REDD, CARE and WWF-US are drawing on their respective platforms and combined 100+ years of experience working in developing countries to articulate the importance of the poverty-environment nexus and raise the profile of climate change impacts on international development and conservation efforts.

CARE USA and WWF-US specifically advocate that the United States:

• Provide robust funding to meet its short-term international climate finance commitments and contribute its fair share to long-term financial needs;

• Support an integrated adaptation approach in developing countries that is pro-poor and pro-ecosystem;

• Support efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in a way that ensures social and environmental integrity;

• Promote comprehensive food security strategies that take climate change into account and integrate environmental sustainability and women’s empowerment; and

• Recognize the implications of the poverty/climate change link in the need for reducing domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

Read more: www.careclimatechange.org/publications/advocacy.

The Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme has launched a newly designed website—www.climatecapacity.org—to support its goal of strengthening southern civil society in advocating climate policies that benefit poor and vulnerable people. The website features information about networks in the programme, the history and activities of the Climate Capacity Consortium, programme areas, news, videos and a resource centre.

As well, the first edition of the newsletter Southern Voices News is available at www.climatecapacity.org/news/newsletter. This edition features interviews with key actors in the Southern Voices networks discussing their advocacy efforts. For example, Sanjay Vashist from the Climate Action Network (CAN) South Asia explains how ‘regional cooperation is essential to prevent the many latent conflicts which can arise... such as when ice and snow in the Himalayas is melting, it affects the waterways and access to water for farmers in several countries downstream from Nepal through India to Bangladesh.’

Rahima Njaidi from MJUMITA (Community Forest Network of Tanzania) discusses that ‘as REDD mechanisms are introduced into Tanzania, ‘a key objective for the organisation is to ensure that forest communities receive a fair share of the benefits from the forests.’

Monica López Baltodano from Sustainability Watch Latin America Network (SUSWATCH), Nicaragua, shares concerns about the consultation process of the World Bank’s model for REDD policy development. And Pierre Dembele from the Malian Civil Society Climate Network ‘Reso Climat Mali’ and WANET - CSD promotes Mali’s National Environmental Forum as a way to connect local people to the government.

Other topics in the newsletter include an interview about CAN’s Southern Capacity Programme, reflections on a European Union emissions proposal by the Co-Chair of ECSNCC & Director of Forum for Environment (The Ethiopian Civil Society Network on Climate Change), and an overview of an educational programme on energy, adaptation and climate change by Climate and Development Initiatives.

Selemane Hussein, 32, and his family live in Horda, a small suburb of Angoche close to the sea in Mozambique. For generations, Selemane’s family has depended on the ocean for their food and income. ‘I have always been concerned about nature,’ he says. ‘It’s simple, if we don’t catch enough to fish, we will have nothing to eat, nor will we have money to buy food. CARE and WWF are working in this area through the Primeiras & Segundas Livelihoods Project.'
Adaptation

2011 CBA Conference focuses on scaling up adaptation efforts

The PECCN Secretariat led a delegation of 12 CARE and Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP) staff at the Fifth International Conference on Community-based Adaptation (CBA) to Climate Change in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in March 2011. The annual conference plays a pivotal role in promoting the latest thinking on how to address climate change adaptation from a community point of view.

This year the theme was ‘Scaling Up: Beyond Pilots,’ which focused on the need to spread CBA knowledge and practical lessons horizontally across communities and vertically through different levels of governance and action. Nearly 400 participants attended, representing more than 190 non-governmental organizations, branches of government, international organizations and academia.

The CBA event was comprised of a three-day field visit followed by a four-day conference. The CARE/ALP delegation made a significant contribution, as PECCN Secretariat staff Charles Ehrhart (former Chief Technical Advisor) and Tine Rossing (Global Adaptation Coordinator) chaired two working sessions on key terms and concepts in CBA and tools and toolkits for adaptation in support of rapid replication and good practices, while other CARE and ALP participants presented in a total of four sessions.

During the toolkit session, Julie Webb from CARE Australia set the stage by presenting CARE’s new CBA ‘how-to’ toolkit, developed as a guide for practitioners (www.careclimatechange.org/toolkits). She explained how the toolkit helps practitioners understand when to use different tools during the various stages of the project cycle. She also highlighted the CARE-developed CBA Project Standards and their related checklists as an inspirational tool for assuring quality into CBA processes and outputs. In the same session, Fiona Percy from ALP stressed that while tools need to develop local capacity, tackle underlying causes of vulnerability, reduce disaster risk and build resilient livelihoods, it is also important to develop robust communication systems that promote community ownership and address gender inequalities.

In an Ecosystems & Livelihoods Adaptation Network (ELAN)-led session, Nella Canales from CARE Peru stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to adaptation that combines both ecosystem and people-centered, rights-based dimensions and principles – where livelihoods are adapted in response to climate change in an environmentally sound manner. She highlighted emerging lessons from collaborative vulnerability and capacity assessment work jointly undertaken by CARE and WWF in Peru.

During the field visits, participants visited different communities where CBA is being implemented in Bangladesh. Maurine Ambani from ALP travelled to the Sirajgani district where community groups are involved in developing detailed analyses of climate impacts on their daily lives, particularly erratic rainfall and more frequent and intense floods. ‘My overall sense from the field trip was that the community is good at analysing past climate events in an effort to understand the impact of those events, especially what has changed,’ Maureen says.

‘What was missing is the forward looking and thinking outside the box on how to prepare for and respond to future climate change risks. We need to recognize that what people did in the past may no longer work in the future, and therefore enable communities to move to towards proactive strategies rather than purely reactive ones. This implies fostering an environment where new knowledge can continually be acquired; from climate projections to new technologies and livelihood options that are based on possible climate scenarios.’

A book on CBA that builds on all the working sessions is currently in progress, with inputs from the PECCN Secretariat. Next year’s CBA conference will be held in Hanoi, Vietnam, 15-22 April.

5th Annual CBA Conference Links

Overview
www.iisd.ca/ymb/climate/cba5

Summary Report
PECCN finalizes learning & knowledge management strategy

PECCN, CARE’s Centre of Expertise on climate change, finalized its global learning and knowledge management (L&KM) strategy in June. In line with its priority to cultivate and share knowledge, the strategy aims to enable CARE practitioners and partners to better support poor and marginalised people whose lives and livelihoods are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and/or unjust policy responses by empowering them with the knowledge, skills and opportunities they require to respond. PECCN will promote learning & knowledge management using a three-pronged approach: training and mentoring, collaborative learning and documenting knowledge.

Training and mentoring includes formal processes where CARE experts and partners provide knowledge and skills-based training through meetings and workshops, and informal processes where the PECCN Secretariat and Theme Team members engage with colleagues on an ongoing basis to support capacity development on climate change.

Collaborative learning will be facilitated primarily through Communities of Practice on adaptation and carbon finance. Although each community will evolve in response to member needs, priorities and interests, the Communities of Practice initially aim to serve three key functions: provide a forum for systematic sharing of relevant information, build and share knowledge, and foster peer-to-peer collaboration. The communities will operate through annual learning events that provide opportunities for face-to-face dialogue and collaboration, a virtual platform and exchange visits between CARE Country Offices.

The virtual platform is currently being piloted internally within CARE, with plans for wider distribution in the future.

Documenting knowledge is a key strategy for capturing and sharing knowledge, and is a means of engaging with target stakeholder groups—both within and outside CARE. As different stakeholder groups have different knowledge needs, the Communities of Practice aim to facilitate four types of documentation, focusing on general, practice, policy and strategic knowledge.

Within the global Communities of Practice, the adaptation community is the first to be established. The launch process for the global adaptation community began at a workshop in London in June. Over time, Regional Nodes will also be established to facilitate learning and exchange at the regional level, as well as communication in languages other than English. The carbon finance community will launch in 2012.

CARE explores adaptation and community forestry links in Asia

CARE, with financial support from Raks Thai Foundation, is working with the Regional Community Forestry Training Center (RECOFTC) and the Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia, on a RECOFTC-initiated research project to better understand the linkages among climate change adaptation, community forestry and mitigation activities such as REDD+.

There will be two main components to this work. One will be the development of an analytical study of the linkages between climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. This will be distilled into a series of policy briefs directed at regional policy makers, institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other relevant stakeholders.

The second will be the building of site-specific case studies for publication and to contribute to regionally targeted training materials on climate change adaptation and community forestry/REDD+. The study findings will be presented at the Second Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, 27-28 Oct., 2011, in Bangkok, Thailand. The site-specific case studies will be organized in five countries in Asia, namely Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. In Nepal (Dhanusha), Thailand (Nan Province) and Vietnam (Thanh Hoa), the case studies focus on CARE project sites and the data collection and analyses will be supported by CARE staff and the PECCN Secretariat.
In June 2011, the Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP) worked with community members in Nanighi Village in North Eastern Kenya to create digital photo stories about what climate change impacts affect them the most and why; and how they are coping.

The resulting digital photo stories show that people from different groups in communities are impacted in different ways, and have different coping strategies and adaptation priorities. The women’s group highlighted the impact of human and livestock diseases; the elderly men’s group showed the history and impacts of degradation of pasture and range land; and the young men’s group prioritised livestock deaths as impacting them the most. See the stories at www.careclimatechange.org/videos/africaalp.

These messages originated during Climate Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (CVCA) meetings held with the larger community as part of a baseline assessment for the five-year ALP programme, implemented by CARE in four countries. In Kenya, CARE is working in six communities in the North Eastern Province. Nine people (three women; three young men; three elder men) were selected to work with CARE in making the digital photo stories through a workshop designed and facilitated by Tamara Plush, PECCN Communications Officer, working together with ALP staff from CARE Kenya and six local journalists.

During a showing of the finished digital photo stories to community leaders, Mahat Barrow, former chief in Nanighi Village, said, ‘In the past, many organizations used to come here, but we’ve never had an initiative where the community has been able to express their own opinions using such methods. Many things are happening here that the world is not aware of, and we want you to share this message. This shows us that we can express ourselves to a world audience, just like on the radio.’

Women were especially impacted by the process as they normally do not speak up in community meetings, and shy away from media. ‘The elders talking here have appreciated what we have done. This has given us more confidence because no one is criticizing,’ said Makay Barrow Shuriye. ‘This is important because sharing information with the local community makes people understand more about the activities of women in our village.’

The digital photo stories were developed as part of the ALP monitoring and evaluation system which focuses on community and participatory monitoring (PM&E) at the local level. The photo stories enable the communities to track and understand changes over time in their priority adaptation issues, in a form which is easily and powerfully communicated to audiences at every level. They have multiple purposes and are being used for community awareness-raising about climate change impacts; community empowerment in having a direct voice with sharing across communities as well as with local government, to understand and monitor change over time; and for advocacy.

The workshop in Kenya was the first test of the programme-specific methodology in using digital photo stories for PM&E, and will be applied in the three other ALP countries (Mozambique, Ghana and Niger) in 2011-2012.
ELAN completes consultation workshops in Africa, Asia and Americas

Over the past six months, the *Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network (ELAN)* has gained significant momentum, rolling out a series of initiatives that seek to embed knowledge jointly developed by ELAN partners into the adaptation agendas of social scientists and ecologists, conservation and development practitioners, and policymakers alike. ELAN is a partnership between CARE (led by the PECCN Secretariat), the International Institute for Environmental Development (IIED), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and WWF. It aims to enhance poor and marginalized people’s resilience to the impacts of climate change by integrating ecosystem and rights-based approaches into adaptation policies and practices.

Building partnerships and implementing activities at the country level: Between March and May 2011, ELAN participated in five consultation workshops with national climate change networks in Peru, Ecuador, Vietnam, Tanzania and Zambia. Through these workshops, ELAN sought to establish a common knowledge base on how ecosystem and rights-based approaches could contribute to adaptation policy and practice. ELAN also identified how to support country network activities to better link ecosystems with people-centered adaptation and meet country priority needs. Workshop reports are available at http://elanadapt.net/in_country_activities.

Providing a conceptual framework on an integrated approach to adaptation: ELAN partners have collaborated on a forthcoming position paper, which argues for a truly ‘integrated approach’ to adaptation that reconciles apparent differences between community-based and ecosystem-based adaptation. Towards this end, the paper provides a conceptual framework for such an approach, which seeks to promote adaptation planning and action that adheres both to human rights-based principles and principles of environmental sustainability, recognising their inter-dependent roles in building resilience of both human communities and ecosystems to climate variability and long-term change.

Developing tools and guidance: ELAN continues to support the development of Climascope and the Wallace Initiative, two tools for assessing climate change vulnerability and impacts. User manuals and related training modules will facilitate the uptake of these tools from policymakers and practitioners who seek to integrate adaptation into their policy and programme cycles. ELAN is also supporting the development of guidelines for practitioners and policymakers to integrate ecosystem and people-centered adaptation – led by CATIE, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, in collaboration with many adaptation professionals from both the development and conservation backgrounds.

In addition, ELAN has published a series of good practice case studies on integrated ecosystem and rights-based adaptation, drawn from a variety of ecosystems from diverse regions around the world. Case studies are available at http://elanadapt.net/good-practices.

Strengthening capacity: Considerable ELAN resources have been channeled towards the development of training materials and capacity strengthening initiatives for practitioners and policy makers in pilot countries. Training modules on climate change adaptation have been developed for district-level policymakers in Peru and Ecuador; suitable capacity building approaches on integrated adaptation are being identified and enhanced in the Mekong region; and the Zambia Climate Change Network will help to design and participate in a training on the ‘Fundamentals of Integrated Adaptation’ in October 2011. Lessons learned from these ongoing initiatives are being used to inform an overall capacity building strategy for ELAN.

Expanding a global network and managing knowledge on adaptation: The ELAN website (www.elanadapt.net) is up and running, and includes a membership registration feature that allows users to participate in a series of knowledge-sharing activities. ELAN plans to merge a knowledge portal for information sharing and accessing literature on adaptation with the ELAN website.

What’s next for ELAN? Over the upcoming months, ELAN will provide technical and financial resources for a series of demand-driven pilot activities in Zambia, Vietnam and Peru. These range from documenting case studies about integrated approaches to adaptation, to developing training materials on how to design, implement, learn from, monitor and evaluate integrated ecosystem and rights-based adaptation approaches, to carrying out institutional mappings of key practitioners and policymakers dealing with people-centered and ecosystems’ adaptation.

Over the longer term, ELAN aims to continue to focus on global, regional and country activities, supporting national networks in establishing and implementing their ELAN-related agenda. An initial meeting to discuss the creation of a regional ELAN network for Latin America took place early September between IUCN, WWF and CARE.

To keep up to date on ELAN activities, visit www.elanadapt.net.
CARE integrates climate-smart DRR into project cycle

Raks Thai Foundation, CARE Australia, CARE Netherlands and the PECCN Secretariat are working closely together to expand the regional capacity building program on integrating climate-smart Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into the project cycle. This process is primarily funded by the United Nations ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian Countries, with additional contributions from CARE Netherlands and CARE Australia. In the first half of 2011, the project partners worked closely with CARE Members and Country Offices to develop and test the training materials through two workshops organized in Bangkok in March and June 2011.

The training materials build on an existing DRR training curriculum developed by CARE Netherlands, and also include the development of innovative distance learning tools on integrating climate change adaptation into DRR. Participants in this process included DRR experts, climate change experts and programme quality staff from CARE Australia, CARE UK, CARE Netherlands and the PECCN Secretariat, and 12 Country Offices (COs) in Asia, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Vietnam. CARE Canada also supported two participants from CARE Ecuador and CARE Peru to stimulate cross learning at the regional level. The training materials will be rolled out in two sub-regional trainings for COs and national partners in South Asia and South East Asia in late 2011 and early 2012.

Asia project builds coastal resilience to climate change impacts

CARE Germany, Raks Thai Foundation and CARE International in Indonesia, with support from the PECCN Secretariat, are jointly implementing the project ‘Building Coastal Resilience to Reduce Climate Change Impact in Thailand and Indonesia’ (BCR-CC). The project is funded by the European Union. The BCR-CC project partners are collaborating closely with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which is working with national partners to implement a similar coastal adaptation program in Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Both projects aim to increase national and local government capacity to plan and implement adaptation programmes using a Community-based Adaptation approach. The BCR-CC project will also develop innovative, flexible and locally-responsive Climate Change Adaptation project models at the district level to provide blueprints for government consideration in allocation of adaptation financing. The BCR-CC project started in March 2011 and is proceeding well. In late 2011, all partners will be working closely with local government stakeholders and community-based organizations to organize climate vulnerability and capacity assessments to inform the detailed design of project adaptation interventions in 2012.

ACCRA network publishes Local Adaptive Capacity framework

The Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA), of which CARE is a member, has completed an adaptive capacity framework. The framework will guide the network’s research and is a key overarching conceptual tool for the programme. Download a copy at www.careclimatechange.org/files/adaptation/ACCRA_Local_Adaptive_Policy.pdf.

The Local Adaptive Capacity (LAC) framework draws on extensive consultations with academics, policy-makers and practitioners. It is an attempt to incorporate the intangible and dynamic dimensions of adaptive capacity, as well as capital and resource-based components, into an analysis of adaptive capacity at local level.

The LAC framework forms a conceptual basis for ACCRA’s country-level research, which seeks to understand how development or social protection interventions undertaken by ACCRA members (Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision and CARE) contribute to adaptive capacity in 11 communities in three African countries (Uganda, Mozambique and Ethiopia).
Indonesia Case Study

By Wouter Bokdam, DRR advisor CARE Netherlands

In Palangka Raya, Kalimantan, Indonesia, the RESILIENCE project faced challenges in its second workshop. The relationship between palm oil companies, government and communities is under tension due to issues related to illegal concessions, making it difficult to approach the palm oil sector and include them in the workshop.

A clear lesson learned was that although community-level communication with palm oil company representatives in the area is possible, it is more difficult at higher levels. Because palm oil is an important element for the development of the region, there is a compelling need for stronger understanding, communication and collaboration between NGOs, communities and national and international palm oil company representatives.

That said, it was inspiring to see district and provincial level government officials open to pro-active communication and collaboration with local communities in fighting peat fires together. Once NGOs, communities and government realize that in spite of their different paths their goals are the same, new potential is discovered for dialogue and potential collaboration.

The challenge will be to engage more with the private sector to include them in this process, showing them that their goals are not always that different (especially in the case of fighting peat fires) and stimulate them to participate in the process that has started between community, NGOs and government.

ON FILM: Watch a short clip from the RESILIENCE Project film from Central Kalimantan, Indonesia
www.careclimatechange.org/videos/resilienceind

CARE aims to build community resilience through Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Poverty Reduction research

CARE Netherlands is working with Wageningen University and Groupe URD to explore, understand and address how communities can better adapt to a changing climate, lower disaster risk and rise and stay out of poverty in Indonesia, Bolivia and Ethiopia. With support from the European Commission, the RESILIENCE Project started in 2010 to enhance North-South collaboration in developing poverty reduction activities that improve poor people's livelihood security while strengthening their resilience to climate change and other natural hazards.

One of the project's first steps is to research and analyse the differences and similarities between the different disciplines and between different stakeholders in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Poverty Reduction (PR) projects. It is also researching and analysing the lack of scaled integration of the diverse actors and the different institutional policy framework.

Currently, desk studies, field visits and workshops in the three countries have been held with community leaders, representatives of local and International NGOs, universities and research institutes. These form the foundation for a second round of workshops that aim to include the private sector and government representatives, as well as an EU stakeholder workshop.

‘Case studies from the three countries reveal that the private sector and the government are often mentioned as solutions to a variety of problems. At the same time though, they are both regarded as a source of some of the problems community members are encountering,’ said Wouter Bokdam, DRR Advisor of CARE Netherlands. ‘So it will be interesting and challenging to bring these case studies in front of the private sector and government to see how the interaction between the stakeholders will be compared to the first round of workshops with only community members and NGOs.’

The information gathered from the project activities will guide in the development of community-driven guidelines, advocacy and training materials to enable local actors to create stronger initiatives and activities that integrate the different disciplines of DRR, CCA and PR. It will also serve to improve the understandings of European Union stakeholders on the different disciplines and their interaction. These learnings will be translated in a handbook for EU stakeholders, a dynamic tool for field practitioners, and film material that helps visualise the complex dynamics related to DRR, CCA and PR. For more information, contact Wouter Bokdam at Bokdam@carenederland.org.
CARE expertise integral to new partnership for conservation, carbon finance and adaptation in Nepal

Climate change has become a major and increasing threat to both people and life-sustaining biodiversity in Nepal. More than 1.9 million people are highly vulnerable to climate change, while at least 10 million are increasingly at risk. In response, in November, WWF, CARE, the National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC) and the Federation of Community Forestry Users in Nepal (FECOFUN) will embark on a new, mainly USAID-funded programme in Nepal—the Hariyo Ban Nepalko Dhan Programme.

This new partnership will work closely with the Nepali government to address climate change impacts, environmental degradation and poverty through an integrated approach that combines biodiversity conservation, carbon finance and Community-based Adaptation. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) will be an important resource partner for the adaptation component.

A CARE-FECOFUN partnership on community forestry will help protect forests and watersheds using REDD+ approaches, while improving the livelihoods of very poor communities. Community and landscape vulnerability will be addressed by the adaptation component, which will focus on building resilience of both people and ecosystems to better adapt to climate change.

The biodiversity conservation component will focus on using protection of habitats and species to help build ecosystem resilience and prevent degradation and deforestation. The Hariyo Ban Programme will focus on two nationally important landscapes—the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL) and the Chitwan-Annupurna Landscape (CAL), both of which are among the most biologically important regions on earth.

WWF will be in charge of the project implementation as the main party responsible for project management accountability and reporting. In addition, it will lead the biodiversity and sustainable landscape components of the programme and be responsible for monitoring programmatic progress and impacts.

CARE Nepal and CARE USA, in partnership with the PECCN Secretariat, will apply its extensive experience of adaptation planning and implementation by leading the climate change adaptation component, while contributing to other elements across the program, particularly the carbon finance component.

FECOFUN will be responsible for mobilizing its large network of community forest user groups (CFUGs) for their effective participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of the programme. FFCOFUN will also lead in the advocacy and promotion of good governance among the natural resource management groups. NTNC will undertake wildlife research and management and will support community activities related to protected areas and buffer zone management.

AfricaAdapt promotes ‘different perspectives’ at Ethiopia symposium

The AfricaAdapt network promoted knowledge sharing at its Climate Change Symposium in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in March 2011. With the theme ‘New voices, different perspectives,’ the meeting brought together more than 150 researchers, civil society actors, donors, government officials and NGOs to share research and experiences, and develop new knowledge for the wider climate and development community.

Fiona Percy and Cynthia Awuor from the Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa shared their learnings on Community-based Adaptation. They presented CARE’s CBA framework, which provides a holistic analytical approach for communities to plan adaptation actions which are informed by climate science and local observation of climate change (download the framework at www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation).

CARE was also featured in an Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) research hypotheses by Kirsty Wilson from Oxfam and Million Getnet from Haramaya University. Their paper explores the findings from Kaseja Kebele, a lowland agricultural area in West Hararghe zone of Ethiopia, where CARE is implementing the Household Asset Building and Rural Empowerment for Transformation (HIBRET) project.

Case studies analyse Climate Vulnerability Capacity Analysis tool

CARE, with technical assistance from the PECCN Secretariat, has produced two case studies analysing the results, lessons learned and recommendations emerging from the application of the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA) methodology. The CVCA methodology is a tool developed by CARE to delineate the socio-economic aspects of vulnerability to climate change, particularly those factors that make women and other marginalized groups especially vulnerable. The results of the analysis provide a solid foundation for identifying practical strategies for Community-based Adaptation (CBA).

Download the following case studies at www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation.

Global Water Initiative East Africa: Empowering Poor People to Manage Water in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands

The Global Water Initiative (GWI) in East Africa, funded by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, was established in 2006 in an effort to ensure that vulnerable populations worldwide have reliable access to clean water in such a way that their dignity, rights, culture and natural environment are not negatively impacted. The programme focuses on the reduction of vulnerability to water-related shocks within the East Africa region as well as the improvement of livelihoods, health and overall welfare through Integrated Water Resource Management.

In the GWI project, the assessments were carried out within CARE’s CBA Framework. This programme is being implemented in four countries in the East Africa Region (Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania) by a partnership that includes CARE, Action Against Hunger, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Oxfam America.

Regional Project for Adaptation to the Impact of Rapid Glacier Retreat in the Tropical Andes – PRAA

PRAA seeks to strengthen the resilience of local ecosystems and economies in relation to the impact caused by rapid glacier retreat in the tropical Andes. This initiative is lead by the Ministries of Environment of Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia and implemented on behalf of the Governments–by the Andean Community General Secretariat, in cooperation with several partnership arrangements, in which CARE is included. The project is mainly funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which channels project funds through the World Bank in its capacity as the GEF Implementing Agency. The project began in 2008 and will conclude in 2012.

Methodology for applying CVCA tools in the GWI and PRAA Case Studies

The CVCA methodology provides a framework for analyzing vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change at the community level. At the same time, local and national policies and institutions play a critical role in shaping people’s capacity to adapt to climate change. Thus, the CVCA process focuses on the community level, but incorporates analyses of issues at regional and national levels in an effort to foster an enabling environment for community-based adaptation.

Recognizing that local actors must drive their own future, the CVCA prioritizes local knowledge on climate risks and adaptation strategies in the data gathering and analysis process. Yet, it also stresses the need to combine local knowledge with scientific data to better enhance people’s understanding about climate risks and adaptation strategies. The general vulnerability analysis process is as follows:

1) Identification of sites to be assessed
2) Training on the use of adaptation tools and analysis for field personnel
3) Community consultations using specific analytical tools as elaborated in the CVCA Handbook such as:
   a. Rain calendar
   b. Livelihood context: Information on key resources to support livelihoods
   c. Climate context – climatic hazards, impacts, coping strategies, whether these are working, possible alternative strategies
4) Data analysis using the Community-based Risk Screening Tool for Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL) tool.
   a. Enter information gathered from communities through the CVCA assessment into Excel sheets along with facilitated discussion
   b. Define proposed outcomes – or a series of adaptation activities which improve communities adaptive capacity to dealing with climate change impacts
5) Prioritise adaptation activities (i.e. cattle troughs, early warning systems)
   a. Feedback meeting with stakeholders (i.e. communities, district, Basin staff) to prioritise adaptation activities
6) Budgeting process
   a. Put together budget estimates for prioritised adaptation activities
7) Implement and monitor adaptation activities
8) Communicate results and process with decision-makers at different levels

Salo Boru, a grade 4 student, age 18, stands in front of an established rooftop rainwater harvesting system at the Cheriturura Primary School in Ethiopia. GWI has improved Salo’s and her classmates’ hygiene and sanitation, and also stopped students fetching water every day for the feeding programme at the school.
CARE promotes its approach to adaptation and food security

Excerpt from CARE Climate Change Brief -

Food insecurity is a growing concern throughout the developing world, particularly for poor women and children. Estimates suggest that in 2010, approximately 925 million individuals were undernourished. While there have been some gains in reducing hunger globally, it remains a critical challenge, and it is unlikely that the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger by 2015 will be met.  

Climate change adaptation and food security

CARE is committed to both food security and climate change adaptation as programming and policy advocacy priorities. We consider food security to be a basic human right and a critical element of household livelihood security, resilience, nutritional status and overall wellbeing. Our approach to food security focuses on empowering poor women and girls to realise food and nutrition security. It addresses all four dimensions of food security, including protecting and promoting resilient livelihoods to ensure adequate food availability and access; improving utilisation with a focus on nutritional status; and enhancing stability through vulnerability and risk reduction and management. Gender inequality, poor governance and climate change are recognized as drivers of food insecurity and malnutrition.

Therefore, our food security approach incorporates transformative activities that emphasise equity, women’s empowerment, rights and appropriate governance. Promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing adaptive capacity are key elements of the approach.

Key Messages:

• Climate change impacts affect all four dimensions of food security: availability, access, utilisation and stability. Design of food security programmes must therefore take climate change into account in order to ensure sustainability and impact.

• Food security and adaptation to climate change are mutually supportive approaches. They have shared objectives of reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience.

• Transformative activities that promote equity, women’s empowerment, rights and appropriate governance must be incorporated in approaches to supporting vulnerable people to achieve food security and climate resilience.

• Approaches to food security must recognise climate change and environmental degradation as drivers. By explicitly integrating climate change into food security programming, actions to address food security will also increase capacity to adapt to climate change.

• Adaptation approaches must incorporate actions targeted at climate-resilient livelihoods and disaster risk reduction, as well as addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability. In many contexts, strategies to reduce vulnerability to climate change will also increase food security.

• Adopt an integrated approach which addresses resilient livelihoods, risk reduction and the underlying causes of vulnerability and food insecurity in places where people are vulnerable to both climate change impacts and food insecurity.

• Strong and urgent action on mitigating climate change is needed to avoid increasing hunger in the coming decades, particularly for poor and vulnerable people in developing countries.

Read the full brief at www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation.

Learning from the certainty of uncertainty

By Fiona Percy
Regional Programme Coordinator for the Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP)

Climate change adaptation focuses on improving access to and using seasonal climate forecasts and long-term projections to plan for development actions. It is tempting to present these as accurate predictions which can substitute for local knowledge systems that may no longer work and thereby rebuild community confidence. However, uncertainty is a fundamental characteristic of weather, seasonal climate, and hydrological prediction. Although no forecast is complete without a description of its uncertainty, effective communication of likely uncertainty is rare.

And where it is recognised, uncertainty is almost always seen as a negative problem that must be overcome—ideally through more and better science and reducing risk, to arrive at greater certainty. Uncertainty is a key contributor to vulnerability to climate change, particularly where vulnerable communities lack resources, including access to information and knowledge to properly prepare for, cope with and adapt to its impacts.1

But is greater certainty what we should be aiming for or even possible? A look at how private sector entrepreneurs manage the uncertainties of the global economy point to other ways of approaching uncertainty. ‘Life will always throw us challenges. Some we will expect, most we won’t...’ Although the need for certainty brings about peace of mind, the need for uncertainty brings about the spark of life.’ So starts an article2 in the in-flight magazine on my journey to the Africa Adapt Symposium on Climate Change in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The article persuades us to accept that as much as we desire certainty in our lives, we must accept, and more importantly embrace, the reality that what happens and the outcome of our decisions and choices is never certain. Uncertainty, it says, is brought about by changes in our lives—and change is happening at an ever faster pace today. We tend to fear uncertainty and avoid change, it makes us uncomfortable and anxious about failure.

But successful leaders in business are those who embrace change and turn it in their favour. They are quick to adapt, they anticipate change in advance and aim to stay ahead of the game—and of change. To develop the mind of a winner, we need to practice doing things differently, learn to live with fear and expect failure. Then uncertainty can present amazing opportunities and ensures that life is interesting. Life will always be filled with unexpected ups and downs, says the entrepreneur author. Like a roller coaster ride, if we turn change into opportunity we learn not only to expect the twists and turns, but to enjoy the ride and be confident that at the end of the day, we will reach our goals.

Adaptation to ongoing climate change requires adaptive capacity, that is, the ability to continue to benefit from positive and sustainable development no matter the external circumstances. Adaptive capacity thus depends on the same winning attributes for entrepreneurs—anticipating change, accessing information, understanding and managing risk and probability, innovation and flexible planning are all essential to success.3 Effective adaptive capacity means being able to plan and act in response to experience, information and anticipation of changing and uncertain circumstances. This may mean changing practices in any area—livelihood activities, risk management, institutions, service delivery systems, policies or whichever area is most affected. One place to start is to find ‘no regrets’ risk reduction actions which not only mitigate against potential risks but also have positive development or protection benefits even if the risk does not happen.

Thinking about the entrepreneurs approach to winning through uncertainty raises a number of ideas for our work in adaptation. It highlights the value and opportunity of uncertainty if it is embraced as part of everyday life, and not seen as a problem to avoid. Uncertainty is the one certainty we have regarding climate change! It helps to describe what we mean by adaptive capacity through a pro-active approach: ‘We might not be able to choose what happens to us, but we certainly can choose how we deal with it.’ It demonstrates that there are methods and practices available and in use by private sector entrepreneurs for making uncertainty work to their advantage and to manage the risks involved.

But it also raises questions—are poor people poor because they do not have the basic means to innovate and take risks related to their future and changing contexts? Or is it because they are afraid to change due to for example cultural norms and traditions? Or because they do not have choices, or do not know that they have choices? Or is it a combination of all these? We need to know why vulnerable people make the choices and decisions they make, why they made new choices, and what prevents them from choosing differently. In other words, what are the factors that most inform and affect their decisions? The answers to these questions may bring us closer to understanding the underlying causes of vulnerability to climate change and how to effectively build adaptive capacity.

In our participatory analysis, planning and particularly monitoring and story-telling we need to ask men and women these questions. Strengthening adaptive capacity may be more successful with an opportunity based attitude to uncertainty rather than focusing on the need to reduce uncertainty. This means increasing access to information as well as its uncertainty, but also fostering creativity, flexibility and innovation around the information, and supporting social structures such as networking, personal empowerment and participation, facilitating self-organisation, access to diverse resources and learning, among others, which ultimately contribute to better adaptation preparedness, risk management and response, including the possibility of transformation in the face of the unknown.

1Adapted from: ICTs and the Climate Change ‘Unknowns’: Tackling Uncertainty Angelica Valeria Ospina | January 4, 2011 URL: http://wp.me/pCUns-83
2Kevin Abdulrahman, The Certainty of Uncertainty, Ethiopian Airlines Inflight magazine, March 2011
3As recognised in the ACCRA Local Adaptive Capacity framework
Maria Elvira Azipuela Zimbaña, 45, has nine children and comes from a family of farmers. She moved to the ‘El Valle del Tambo’ valley in Papallacta, Ecuador, with her husband 13 years ago to make a new life. When they arrived, they planted crops on their new land that had grown abundantly for their parents, using skills passed down to them. They planted potatoes, beans, mellocos, jicama, peas, wheat, barley and lentils, but little came to harvest. Worms and insects called ‘lancha’ ate their crops, and they had a hard time determining the best planting times due to changing weather patterns and climate. They were frustrated as their traditional knowledge failed due to unpredictable and more intense wind, frost and cold.

In a village where most families make approximately $240/USD a year, the large family struggled, especially during winters when the sun rarely shines in the valley. ‘We had to buy everything: potatoes, chicken, vegetables, food, everything, and we spent up to $30 a week,’ Maria said. ‘We spent a lot because we’re a big family and still it wasn’t enough.’

In the village, each farmer had always worked individually on their own properties. ‘We used to weed and fumigate, with no one to help us,’ Maria said. ‘We had only our own knowledge and wisdom.’ This changed in 2010 when the community president invited farmers to a meeting with CARE engineers, who offered training on agroforestry techniques through the ‘Adaptation to the Impact of Rapid Glacier Retreat in the Tropical Andes’ (Proyecto de Adaptación al Impacto del Retroceso Acelerado de Glaciares en los Andes Tropical, PRAA) project. PRAA is an initiative—led by the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador—in which CARE is a strategic partner.

Working with CARE was initially a challenge for Maria, whose husband encouraged her to learn as much as possible. ‘Here almost no one knows how to read or write. That’s why some people said no to CARE’s offer; but the ones that accepted, we had to keep in our minds everything we were taught at the workshops,’ Maria said. ‘I only took notes of what I could because I only know how to write very little.’

Eventually 40 farmers in Papallacta signed up for the trainings; 32 women and eight men. One of the first problems they worked on was how to protect the plants from the lancha and frost. Frost is caused by interactions of low temperatures and precipitation, both of which are susceptible to changes in the climate. In Papallacta, the community is experiencing more intense and unpredictable frost. As a result, water inside the plants freeze so they die from the inside out.

One of the first lessons Maria learned was to go back to the agricultural practices they applied before they sprayed their food. Instead of using chemicals, they learned to make a natural fungicide called ‘BIOL’—a mixture of natural leaves, shell beans, corn husks, whey, molasses, yeast, matico, rabbit manure, chili and urine. The natural BIOL is rich in microorganisms and nutrients, which help seeds become more resistant to low temperatures, frost and lancha. Farmers in the village also learned to plant trees around their gardens to defend them from the stronger wind and cold. Maria is now planting potatoes, lettuce, carrots, celery, parsley, cilantro, radish and onion.

‘Before, we had no appetite to eat because the food you buy, once it is cooked, becomes sour. Now, it is not like that anymore. The food is tasty; it has another smell. It’s different to uncover the pot with organic food. With chemicals the real flavors of food cannot be smelled; the steam has a different aroma. When I ate potatoes with fungicides, I didn’t

continued on page 16
feel I was eating potatoes,’ Maria said. ‘Now my children are happy because we don’t buy food anymore and we save $30 that we used to spend each week. Now, with that money I buy small seeds and increase my garden.’

Maria said that her garden has grown due to the natural fungicide and herbs that fertilize and improve soil fertility. Through her increased knowledge from CARE, she has even been able to sell some of her garden crops to better support her family. ‘I planted 1.5 quintals (150 pounds) of potatoes seeds and I harvested a total of 36 quintals of potatoes (3,600 pounds). Now I sell the production at $15 per quintal,’ she said.

The lessons learned by Maria and the other 40 farmers show how effective community-based adaptation to climate change can improve food security. ‘The Maria from before was sad. I sacrificed myself working in the field but had nothing. I bought guinea pigs and then they would die; the rabbits would die; the chickens would die. I spent a lot and had nothing,’ she said. ‘Now that I’m going to the workshops and tours, things are different. CARE engineers have taken us to several places. We have in our minds all the knowledge and now we are applying it.’

Today Maria has rabbits, guinea pigs and chickens – everything under a plastic roof, a wood wall and a ceiling of three folded panels. She sells the animals and potatoes. She said she also sees a big change in how she manages her money.

She invests part of her earnings, and shares the rest with her family and elders in the community. She has money to invest in her children’s education on books, dictionaries, and for transportation for school. She even has time to meet with other people for community clean-up projects called mingas, where they share food and work, laugh, and have fun.

‘I am happy because now I have my own food and know how my hands work, and what kind of food I put in my house. I don’t get lazy because I see the garden flourish when previously it had nothing. When I cook, I am happy to go into my garden and take what I want to cook. I choose the crops I’m going to eat... and I no longer depend on others,’ Maria said.

‘I feel like I am flying...’

Strengthen Your Adaptation Skills
www.careclimatechange.org/toolkits
CARE reduces poverty through REDD+, agriculture and energy

PECCN Carbon Finance Theme update

**REDD+:** CARE’s strategy for engagement on REDD+ has three main elements—the design and implementation of demonstration projects that explicitly adopt a ‘pro-poor approach,’ the development of methodologies for assessing the social impacts of REDD+ and the development and use of social safeguards that apply to national REDD+ programmes.

CARE’s first REDD+ project was the Hifadhi ya Msimu ya Amani (HIMA) project in Zanzibar which started in May 2010 (page 19). PECCN support to HIMA is focusing on two key issues—gender and aggregation. The second project is the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership (KFCP) in Indonesia where CARE is responsible for the whole interface with local communities.

Over the last six months, a particular emphasis for PECCN has been social safeguards. In particular, we are supporting work to align community engagement with the latest guidance on the principle and process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent. The other main pillar of our work on social safeguards is the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) Initiative (page 18).

**Agriculture:** As with REDD+, CARE aims to establish a portfolio of three to four demonstration projects working with carbon finance in an agricultural context, the impact of which will be through informing policy and wider practice as well as impact at the specific sites. The first such project is the ‘Sustainable Agriculture in a Changing Climate’ project in Kenya (page 20).

In May this was joined by the Hillside Conservation Agriculture Project (HICAP) in Tanzania which is adding a component to assess the carbon sequestration of conservation agriculture in partnership with the Mitigation of Climate Change in Agriculture (MICCA) Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). At this time, a third initiative is under development in northern Mozambique.

In all three countries it is becoming increasing clear that carbon finance in small-holder agriculture in Africa needs to be addressed within a broader framework of ‘climate-smart agriculture’ that is better aligned with farmers’ interests, and exploits the potentially major synergies between sustainable agriculture, and climate change adaptation and mitigation. As with REDD+, CARE’s approach to carbon finance and climate smart-agriculture has a strong emphasis on inclusion of poorer, more vulnerable groups and gender equality.

**Energy:** CARE and PECCN now have a part-time advisor specializing on carbon-financed household energy initiatives. Sebastian Randig joins as the Project Manager for the Fuel Efficient Stoves in East Africa project. One-fourth of Sebastian’s time can be accessed for advice on cross-cutting issues and advice on specific projects. The stoves project aims to set up an ‘open source’ Programme of Activities for producers and distributors of improved stoves in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

CARE Denmark is also negotiating a donor agreement for a pilot project to introduce and test pyrolytic stoves in Vietnam. The stoves produce biochar as a byproduct, which can be used to increase and restore soil fertility for agriculture and gardening. The project will include a feasibility study of carbon finance opportunities for future work.
The first countries to apply the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) are making significant progress with the development of country-specific indicators. This helps them prepare assessment reports to show progress against those indicators.

Ecuador has created a National Standards Committee to oversee the interpretation and use of the standards in the country. The committee includes 13 members—three from Government, five from civil society and five from Indigenous Peoples and local communities. After a series of meetings, the committee approved the national interpretation of REDD+ SES (www.redd-standards.org/files/pdf/ecuador/NationalInterpretationMatrix.pdf) in July 2011. As well, the committee is developing a monitoring plan to collect information on indicators for the Socio Bosque Programme (a national programme of incentives for forest conservation).

Nepal is developing an integrated process for strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) following the guidelines of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). It is also working on country-specific indicators and a performance assessment report using REDD+ SES. As part of the FCPF SESA process, it will combine stakeholder consultations that identify and prioritise social and environmental impacts of REDD+ strategy options with consultations on draft country-specific indicators for REDD+ SES. Nepal has also created a social and environmental technical group to support the REDD cell of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation and the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal (FECOFUN) in their facilitation of the REDD+ SES process. This group, which includes NGOs and Indigenous Peoples organisations, recently met in mid-September to develop the first draft of Nepal-specific indicators.

The State of Acre in Brazil has created an Institute of Climate Change and Ecosystem Service Regulation to oversee the implementation of the System for Incentives for Ecosystem Services (SISA) that includes REDD+ activities. The Institute is working with CARE Brazil to facilitate the use of REDD+ SES in Acre. They are currently collaborating to develop Acre-specific indicators for REDD+ SES, incorporating comments received from the public and through workshops with targeted groups.

In Central Kalimantan, a stakeholder working group produced locally-specific indicators at a July workshop in Palangkaraya. This version of the indicators is now being widely disseminated within the Province, inviting public comment through 21 Nov, 2011.

The government and civil society teams that are facilitating the use of REDD+ SES in these countries will meet for the 3rd Exchange and Learning Workshop organised by the REDD+ SES initiative. The meeting—held in Rio Branco, Acre, 4-7 Oct—will also include representatives from other countries interested in using the standards, including Mexico, the State of Amazonas in Brazil, Guatemala and San Martin Department in Peru.

Brazil workshop feeds into REDD+ SES success indicators

In northern region of Brazil, distant from the major cities and incrusted in Amazon forest, is the estate of Acre. In this area, as part of its REDD+ SES partnership, CARE Brazil and the government of Acre facilitated a workshop with 27 small and family farmers and extractive producers.

The three-day workshop, developed with local authorities, focused on such topics as revitalising traditional production practices by farmers and extractive producers, the forest and climate change, environmental services, Acre’s environmental policies, and REDD+ and its underlying concepts. The workshop also led to recommendations for the development of Acre’s indicators regarding REDD+ SES.

The workshop received good feedback with requests for a second one. And while the workshop was just a small milestone on the road of REDD+, it is one that sets it in the right direction.
The Hifadhi ya Misitu ya Asili (Conservation of Natural Forests) or HIMA project in Zanzibar is drawing towards the end of its one-year inception phase. Key achievements have been the mapping of 40 community forest management areas on the islands of Unguja and Pemba; implementation of new guidelines on how to develop community forest management agreements; the completion of the carbon feasibility study that establishes the orders of magnitude of REDD in the project; the expansion of tree nurseries to allow for increased planting of woodlots, and piloting a scheme to reduce charcoal consumption by encouraging the adoption of LPG (bottled gas).

In Zanzibar, the process of negotiating community forest agreements with local communities has been working towards establishing a legal basis for communities to participate in REDD. In the coming year, communities will receive full information and training on what REDD entails so they are able to give, or withhold, their informed consent for participating in the scheme. At the same time, both biomass and social data are being collected and analysed to enable the carbon project document to be developed by HIMA’s collaborating agency, Terra Global Capital.

A great deal of effort has been expended in the first year on data collection for both carbon measurement as well as social impact. Some activities will continue into year two, particularly the detailed measurement of biomass in sample plots across the islands. The biggest lesson learned so far is that data collection for carbon monitoring for REDD is extremely labour-intensive compared to the monitoring and evaluation demands of normal projects.

HIMA has also launched a small grants scheme to encourage complementary activities by local community-based organisations and non-government organisations on Unguja and Pemba that will support and scale up the implementation of REDD.

Approximately 10 organisations will receive short-term grants for projects in community education, income generation and gender mainstreaming.

A number of consultancy studies will help Zanzibar address some critical issues relating to REDD in the coming months. Firstly an institutional analysis of the governance and policy context in Zanzibar will make recommendations on how Zanzibar can develop its own regulatory framework for REDD and engage more effectively with national Tanzania processes.

Secondly a report on the possible design of an aggregation entity to represent the collective interest of managers of community forests will help define the way finance from REDD carbon will be shared by communities. And thirdly an internal report on gender mainstreaming—following the recommendations of the Gender & REDD Workshop hosted in Zanzibar last April—will help HIMA maximise the positive impact of its activities on the livelihoods and rights of women.

An important task for the year ahead is to identify and build the capacity of an institution that will act as an aggregator of the carbon credits from the different communities, as well as establish mechanisms at the community level that help ensure that REDD has a positive social impact, and that benefits are equitably shared between men and women as well as with poorer households.
Farming has changed over the past 20 years in Ochoria, Nyanza province in the southwest of Kenya. Only two decades ago, farmers saw high crop yields with little soil erosion. The rain was always very reliable, and cultural practices revolved around harvest seasons.

Now, people are struggling to feed their families as they mainly rely on unsustainable agricultural practices, which have been impacted by soil cover reduction due to trees being cut down for timber and charcoal. This—combined with the harsh impacts of climate change impacts such as poor rainfall distribution—has led to soil erosion, run-off and harsh weather conditions that are unfavorable to good crop yields, especially for traditional crops like millet, amaranth and maize.

Pamela Atieno Osieko, 31, tells the story that when she moved to her farm in early 2006 many questioned what she and her husband were thinking as they had settled in an area that was considered a wasteland, where soil of the poorest quality could be found; soil that would never support plant life. ‘We believed that this land was not capable of producing for us,’ she said. ‘And that the soil was only good for building houses.’

In 2008, Pamela and the rest of the community learned that this situation could be changed—and that even in the face of changing climate and lack of rain, there was an opportunity to green her environment, benefit financially and improve her family’s lifestyle. Through the CARE Agroforestry for Enhanced Livelihoods (Aglive) project (funded by Acorn Media in 2009-2010), residents were trained in conservation agriculture techniques that included planting Gravillea and Casuarina tree seedlings.

They also learned how to grow food crops from seeds more appropriate for the changing conditions such as butternut, watermelon, onion and green gram seeds. ‘These seeds are chosen as they are fast maturing and require little moisture to grow, thus making them very adaptable to the changing climate,’ said Njoroge Maina, former Programme Manager for the Aglive Project.

Apart from providing her income through the sale of the crop harvests and providing food for her husband and four children, Pamela says she is an empowered woman. ‘Before, my husband would spend a long time away from home with relatives as our compound was bare and I could not offer him such a good variety of food. Today, he refuses to leave the compound even to go visit friends. He loves the green shade that the trees provide, and the produce from our compound. Also, I never have to ask him for money to buy household items as I make my own income from the crop sales. This means we also save that money for other things,’ Pamela says with a laugh.

She says she is most proud that the trees CARE helped her plant—only two years later—have provided her family with the wood they needed to build their new home. ‘With the crop income, we were able to buy iron sheet roofing, but we saved money because the wooden posts came from our very own compound. I can go to my husband today proudly and say that I too have contributed to building our home. For a woman in my tradition, this is a great honour!’

In Nyanza province, CARE is now working with community members on a Sustainable Agriculture in a Changing Climate Project (SACC) with the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) programme of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), with funding support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

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Dorris Auma, 10, is the daughter of Pamela Atieno Osieko. The family has benefited from the CARE Aglive project.

Pamela Atieno Osieko, 31, shows how tall the trees on her farm have grown through CARE’s Aglive project.
The long-term project applies a Climate-Smart Agriculture that brings together a ‘triple-win’ scenario; the three wins being improved sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, and mitigation that opens up carbon-finance opportunities for small-holder agriculture. It aims to demonstrate how carbon finance can be used to sustainably 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.

The project also takes an explicitly ‘pro-poor’ approach in that it aims to ensure effective participation of poorer, marginalised groups—and women in particular—in the project, and in sharing of benefits derived from the project. This will be achieved through applying a ‘fair trade approach’ alongside other innovative approaches to counter barriers to the participation of poorer, marginalised groups.

The project is in its pilot phase where it will learn from training 1,000 farmers. The second phase over four years will aim to expand to more than 10,000 households. The third phase is not time-bound and aims to scale up to 100,000 households largely supported by funds-based and/or market-based carbon finance.

For example, CARE trained Ann Agoth Ogola, 38, on the benefits of tree growing: They act as windbreakers and improve the soil and—when they are finally mature—the trees will bring income through harvest for products such as timber. CARE recommends growing *Gravillea* trees because they grow quickly and are adaptable to many climate conditions.

‘I started planting trees in February,’ said Ann Agoth Ogola. The trees are still small today, but they are growing fast and this makes me very happy. My farm will look very different in a few years. The trees will protect the soil, give us shade, and protect crops from the wind. Eventually when they are big enough, we can sell the wood. Even 25 years later, the investment am making today will ensure my family’s prosperity. My sons will be able to use the wood from the trees to build homes for their families for generations to come.’

‘Nobody ever knew that growing trees could be profitable to us and would improve our lifestyles,’ says Perez Anditi Aringo, 60, who is part of the SACC project. ‘I have lived here a long time, and in the past, we used to cut down trees without seeing their value. It’s time we woke up to the possibilities.’

Aringo has been trained and given butternut, green gram and onion seeds, along with some *Gravillia robusta* (Silk oak) seedlings to grow around the perimeters of her compound. The crops will provide food and income from the butternut, onion and green gram harvest; while the trees will provide shade to her home and the possibility to generate income through selling them for wood in the future.

‘This region will change because of planting trees,’ she says. ‘Trees will line the compounds, and we will live in shade, away from this terrible heat. I can see by neighbours who have been helped by CARE that their farms are now very green and the soil strong and fertile. So I’m very hopeful for the future.’
Making & selling cook stoves help Rwandan women rise out of poverty

Rose gains income and confidence
Marie Rose, 54, from Matyazo, Shanga cell, Huye, suffered greatly during the genocide in Rwanda after the death of her husband. She struggled to stay out of poverty as she took care of her own and orphaned children. Though she received support from NGOs and the government, she had no other source of income. She said she was embarrassed to attend meetings due to having low confidence and that she felt she lacked proper clothes in which to attend.

In 2008, she joined CARE Rwanda’s Community-Assisted Access to Sustainable Energy project (CASE) that aimed to help 24,000 vulnerable households gain access to modern and affordable energy sources, and provide income-generating activities related to energy services. In her case, she learned how to make and sell ‘rocket’ cook stoves, and participates in a Village Savings and Loan Association.

‘In the beginning, I was pessimistic about the outcome of this initiative. I felt that I would not be able to save money or manage an income-generating activity,’ she said. ‘But I managed to learn quickly and now have made more than 300 cook stoves for my clients. With the profits, I have rebuilt my house; I have sent my kids to school; and I have been elected to represent women in decision-making body.’

Rose has not only improved the life of her and her family, but is helping her community by employing her neighbours to work on her land and to help her make stoves. She is not just a role model, but a bearer of hope. One of her neighbors said: ‘I am proud of my colleague and I am learning from her. I believe I can also come out of poverty if I get a chance to be trained and start doing business as Rose has done.’

Annonciata is a proud entrepreneur
“I value my hands” is an expression that Mukandagano Annonciata uses all the time to describe her journey as an entrepreneur. Annonciata, 42, from Karama Villabe, Muyogoro cell, Huye, was one of the first women to join in learning how to make Darfour stoves, which are popular as they require less fuel and are safer than traditional stoves. With the profit from her stove, which can be as high as $30 USD per stove, she has sent her children to school and rebuilt her house.

She was thrilled to represent women entrepreneurs at a national symposium in Kigali with high officials and people from other countries. Annonciata proclaims: ‘Imagine me, in the capital with other business people! I felt really very proud and my kids and husband were so happy. I believe I am a good example for my daughters to show them that they need to work hard and they should never feel ashamed to use their hands because my hands have given me power!'

How cook stoves help women
While the cook stoves in the CASE project helped Rose and Annonciata in business, there are additional benefits over traditional three-stone fireplaces. As cooking stoves use less firewood, there is less need for women to walk for collecting firewood. This means additional time to spend on income-generating activities. Cooking stoves also produce less smoke, which reduces the level of respiratory diseases—especially among women and children. The environment also benefits as cookstoves reduce firewood use, and thus also reduce CO2 emissions.

Sustainable energy project begins
The CASE project is similar to a broader CARE initiative: The Fuel Efficient Stoves in East Africa Reducing Emissions and Improving Livelihoods, which aims to provide households with sustainable access to affordable and efficient cook stoves in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The project will facilitate and support establishing activities that help overcome the barriers of usability, affordability and accessibility of cook stoves by giving suppliers access to carbon finance through the Clean Development Mechanism. At full scale, 576,000 households could get an improved living by using more efficient cook stoves. The two-year project is supported by the Nordic Climate Facility with co-funding from the Uganda Carbon Bureau and CARE Denmark.
Rainfall research begins in Western Guatemala

CARE France, CARE USA and the United Nations University’s Institute for Environment and Human Security have completed the first case study in Guatemala as part of the ‘Where the Rain Falls: Climate change, hunger and human mobility’ research project. The Rainfall project—supported by AXA Re Research Fund and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation—aims to improve the understanding about how rainfall variability affects food and livelihood security, and how these factors interact with household decisions about mobility/migration among groups of people particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. The PECCN Secretariat is leading CARE’s technical inputs into the overall eight-country project.

The research in El Cerro, Buena Vista, Quiquibaj and El Durazno (four communities of Cabricán, a municipality in Western Guatemala) included local, regional and national expert interviews, a survey of 130 households and the application of participatory rural appraisal (PRA) research methodologies with more than 160 people in four villages over two weeks. All PRA methodologies were conducted with separate groups of men and women in order to understand local gender roles. In addition to Guatemala, research will take place over the next six months in Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Tanzania, Peru, Thailand and Vietnam, resulting in a report in 2012.

The research specifically focuses on perceived as well as measured changes in rainfall (e.g. extended dry or wet periods, droughts or floods, erratic rainfall) and shifting seasons, and how these changes influence crop yields, food production and livestock. It also aims to understand how and why different groups of people react differently to stress caused by changing weather patterns and food insecurity and when this leads to decisions to either temporarily or permanently migrate.

The research also attempts to understand how gender roles influence these migration decisions. In short, this research project seeks to explore to what extent changing rainfall patterns influence people’s decisions about staying put or migrating. The findings will also inform the development of climate change adaptation strategies in four of the eight studied countries while enabling a range of stakeholders, including southern civil society organizations, to influence relevant policies and plans at local, national and international levels.

For more information about the project, contact Kevin Henry, Project Coordinator, at henry@carefrance.org.

'Our study shows how crucial changes in rain fall are for the livelihoods of these farmers who do not have access to artificial irrigation. Bad rains mean less food for the communities here.'

– Andrea Milan, International Researcher for the Rainfall project case study in Guatemala

'I used to sow maize in March. My land was humid and I knew when the rain was coming. As a consequence, I could sow before the rain started. Now I have to wait for the rain to come... sometimes until May!'

– Local farmer
New publications

Brief: Adaptation and Food Security
www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation (EN, FR, SP)
CARE understands that achieving food security for all will require a coordinated effort that incorporates preventive, promotional, protective and transformative measures. This brief outlines CARE’s understanding of the challenge and our response.

Application of Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA)
www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation (EN, SP)
Regional Project for Adaptation to the Impact of Rapid Glacier Retreat in the Tropical Andes Project – (PRAA) in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

Application of Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (CVCA)
www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation (EN)

Kenya Community-Led Videos
www.careclimatechange.org/videos/africaalp
Digital photo stories to be used for community awareness-raising about climate change impacts; to understand and monitor change through the Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa (ALP) over time; and for advocacy.

Livelihood security in a changing climate
www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation (EN)
This report draws on the findings of a recent CARE Australia evaluation focusing on the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of CARE programming in Timor Leste in relation to climate hazards.

CARE Australia's Climate Sensitivity Screening of our Project Portfolio
www.careclimatechange.org/publications (EN)
CARE Australia shares its experience applying a Climate Sensitivity Check across a database of projects, with the aim of determining priorities and attempting to analyse patterns of sensitivity based on the exercise.

Gender in Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP) for Africa
www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation (EN)
Brief on ALP’s effort to promote learning on gender equality and women’s empowerment in community-based adaptation.

Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCR) Local Adaptive Capacity framework
www.careclimatechange.org/publications/adaptation (EN)
Framework to guide the network’s research as a key overarching conceptual tool for the programme.

Adaptation Learning Programme for Africa Community Stories
www.careclimatechange.org/personal-stories (EN, FR)
Ghana - Empowered women lead on community-based adaptation to climate change
Ghana - Savings and enterprise for adaptation to climate change
Kenya - Community institutions weakening in the wake of climate change
Kenya - In the Margins of Society: A snapshot of the climate change impact on the Munyo Yaya community
Niger (FR) - Semences améliorées: Espoir d’une production précoce en zone semi aride

Timor Leste study provides insight into livelihood security & climate
CARE Australia released a study on ‘Livelihood security in a changing climate: Insights from a programme evaluation in Timor Leste.’ This report draws on the findings of a recent evaluation focusing on the effectiveness, impact and sustainability of CARE programming in Timor Leste in relation to climate hazards.

It sought to evaluate the effectiveness and sustainability of selected projects in relation to household adaptive capacity and reduced vulnerability to climate hazards. Drawing on the work of the evaluation, this report looks to distil key conclusions and recommendations which will be of particular relevance for livelihoods programming, in Timor Leste and beyond.

Kit Vaughan, Global Climate Change Advocacy Coordinator
Location: United Kingdom

Kit specialises in international development and environment issues, focusing on policy and practice for mainstreaming climate change, poverty reduction and environment, climate and development financing, community-based approaches and natural resources management. He has a Masters in Environment and Development from the University of East Anglia, UK. He was born and brought up in Tanzania and has spent the majority of his life living in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. Kit has more than 14 years of global policy, programmatic, academic and management experience working with such organisations as WWF UK, WWF International, the UK Department for International Development, the CGIAR and the UN International Fund for Agriculture Development.

Pascal Girot, Senior Climate Change Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean
Location: Costa Rica

Pascal specialises in climate change adaptation and risk management, protected areas and environmental policy, and land use planning and regional development. He has a Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies (DEA) from the University of Paris III, France, and a Master of Science from the University of Wisconsin, United States. Pascal has more than 20 years experience in coordination, research and policy advice working with such organizations IUCN, UNDP, the Government of Costa Rica, GEF and the IPCC.

Bruce Ravesloot: Senior Climate Change Adaptation Advisor for Asia
Location: Thailand

Bruce specialises in programme design and strategic management, monitoring and evaluation capacity and systems development, and community-based development approaches. He holds an MA in European Studies and DRS in Public Administration and Public Policy. He has held staff and advisory positions with national NGOs in Thailand, and international NGOs and regional UN bodies in Asia and the Pacific. Bruce has work experience in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Ghana, Haiti, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam. He works part-time for PECCN (focusing on all Asian Countries except Nepal, India and Bangladesh) and also for TANGO International in Asia.

Agnes Otzelberger, Africa Climate Change Adaptation and Global Gender Advisor
Location: Austria (currently) & United Kingdom (Nov 2011)

Agnes specialises in programme quality, capacity development, research, strategy development and advocacy on climate change, gender and food security. She has an MA from the Institute of Development Studies and has worked in programming and research across organizations such as CARE Austria, the UK Department for International Development, IDS, Action Against Hunger and the Namibia Institute of Democracy.
In 2006 with the launch of PECCN, CARE formally committed to develop its understanding and response to climate change impacts on poverty through its Climate Change Strategic Plan.

Five years later, CARE is a leader in the field. We now have more than 35 different climate change initiatives and activities active in 37 developing countries. And we belong to more than 20 climate change focused networks, consortiums and alliances around the world.

www.careclimatechange.org/the-big-picture (orb)
www.careclimatechange.org/hands (video)
www.careclimatechange.org/the-big-picture/networks -a-alliances (networks / alliances)
Submit your Powerful Hands photos to tplush@careclimatechange.org