

**NGO Climate Change Working Group (CCWG)
Core and Thematic Group Meeting**

**9.00-12.00 Thursday, 2 July 2009
NGO Resource Centre**

Meeting Minutes

Chair: Fiona Percy/CARE Int'l

Minutes taker: Anjali/NGO RC

1. Updates from the thematic groups and planned meetings

- **Adaptation Group**: At the June meeting the Group agreed to develop a joint Community Based adaptation (CBA) guideline. NDMP is approaching a final stage, trying to do Mainstreaming Guidelines before closing. Deputy Minister is still planning to have an inter-agency forum on disasters, with coordination of the different stakeholders, but how is not clear yet. The plan at present is to strengthen the DMC and make it more active and linked to other non government agencies. The joint efforts under Adaptation Group could also link up with the Civil Society capacity building project. Everyone knows they need to mainstream climate change, but they do not yet know how in practice. The Climate Change adaptation group can help create a common set of steps, all the different steps that are needed and the actors that need to be involved, and set examples to get this started. Need to have this linked with SEDP plans to ensure full mainstreaming and adoption, and generate evidence through testing the guidelines and mainstreaming process of what works and what does not work
- **ABC group**: The ABC group met in June, with 9 people present. Action for the City is now leading the ABC group. The group have been working on a matrix of the organization's working on awareness and list of media contacts.

Action points:

⇒ *ABC can put these issues in July meeting agenda*

- **Mitigation group**: Hosted a presentation session at which **Pham Manh Cuong** from MARD presented an update on Vietnam's progress in developing national REDD mechanisms. (Reduced Emissions from Forest Deforestation and Degradation).
 - UN REDD is in approval process in Vietnam
 - An Ad-hoc REDD Technical Working Group will be established under FSSP in MARD soon;
 - REDD will be broadened through REDD-plus which relates to:
 - Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries
 - The role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of existing forest carbon stocks in developing countries
- Hop from SRD also presented briefly on NGO action on REDD in the Bonn UNFCCC meeting she attended on behalf of CSOs and the Accra Caucus.
- Colin added that there has been a lot of REDD talk in the near past but mostly questions of how to initiate an REDD project. Finally TUV Sud have made publicly available a Baseline and monitoring methodology for REDD project activities from the Oddar Manhay Project in

Cambodia. This will hopefully provide a primer on how other REDD projects will have to be set up if accepted. This is for a REDD project to go down a voluntary route and may not be the same for a national CDM type project. All interested stakeholders are entitled to provide comment and question the methodology through TUV Sud. Find the method on:

<http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/files/docs/1REDD_TGC_CFI_Meth.pdf>

- Colin also introduced Geres, an international NGO implementing small scale community orientated renewable energy programs. Due to a lack of incentives to get these projects up and running under the CDM and voluntary carbon market they have initiated Nexus; Carbon 4 Development. Through this NGOs will be able to share resources and increase their economies of scope as well as the scale of their projects.

The organization is developing a fund to invest in these types of projects and is also currently looking for partner organizations that would like to be part of this alliance. Geres also offers carbon work shops which the WWCC might be interested in.

The contacts of their three principle agents are found on:

<http://www.ngocentre.org.vn/files/docs/1Geres_contacts.pdf>

- Sharing from CARE: there is a carbon theme team and debate as to whether or not a developing organization like CARE should promote programming for CDM programs at all, whether it is morally right. The difficulties are: transaction costs and risks involved. Unless CDM projects can bring the benefits back to poor people, it would be better to look for alternative means.
- Maybe for the poor, adaptation style projects are needed; and mitigation projects which provide for multiple adaptation benefits, income benefits etc should be sought, rather than spending a lot of money to access a mechanism where financial benefits do not come back to the service providers. Maybe need to think about how to lobby with donors directly, perhaps DNA needs to be given more life. Needs to be more communication between the project donor and the project developer; different data among different departments within a ministry.
- A suggestion came up that we will have a half day or full day event where different NGOs will share what they are doing regarding energy and mitigation We need to think about who to invite as resource people. It would need to be organised well to ensure good participation and learn from the poor turn out at the last mitigation events. In addition to announcing in mailing list also need to prepare an agenda, advertise well and need to get confirmation from participants before holding the meeting or event.

2. Policy issues and actions:

- Feedback from CC interventions at Mid Year CG meeting Dak Lak which focused mainly on the economic environment and development. On CC, donors asked government to share their plans and budgets for implementing the NTP, suggested linking NTP implementation to the SEDP, using SEAs with CC built in and requested the climate scenarios to be shared with donors and others. NGOs also added some particular issues on translating the scientific scenarios into user friendly information which can inform recommendations for sector based adaptation. NGOs also asked about REDD and expressed a concern that REDD should include strong social and environmental standards to avoid any displacement of forest-dependent people.
- Feedback from Vietnam input to Global Forum for DRR: the Forum made a strong link between climate change adaptation and disaster management. CCWG and DMWG submitted a joint statement to MARD for Dr. Hoc – Vice Minister of MARD to include in his speech at the forum, on the specific topic making that link. . No significant response from government to NGOs yet. National forum in October on mainstreaming socio-economic development, will be a follow-up event
- CSO representation in Bonn and COP15: One civil society representative of Vietnam, Mrs Hop joined the Bonn meeting and was able to link with the INGOs there and the two MONRE

delegates. Globally it 's not a very good response from the Bonn meeting. Lack of progress, still so much pollution, predictions worse, commitments less.

• INGO inputs to COP15 delegates training:

- INGO global level resource persons were selected through CCWG to present a 2 hour session on 'observer' perspectives to UNFCCC process. EDF and Oxfam gave inputs on examples of successful negotiation processes (EDF) and INGO positions on how COP15 could reach a fair deal for developing countries (Oxfam). 30 participants from 12 ministries attended, but official delegates are yet to be decided.
- Mrs.Hop of SRD attended as an observer which provides an opportunity for the CSO rep from Vietnam to COP15 to acquaint with the delegates and have better chance of working together on issues. Also have the opportunity that UNDP will provide funding for training of delegates
- Oxfam and CARE will present at the follow up workshops

Other updates/discussion

- Update of Planning Workshop: Around 30 Participants attended and based on the logframe of the project document all participants split into 3 groups and discussed detail activities of each component of the project, many new ideas related to the website, database and civil society came out.
- Oxfam has a working collaboration with the Ministry of Training, campaigning for addressing climatic change. Oxfam is organizing one competition including writing essays, photos, and stories which will raise awareness on national level about climatic change, and to advocate about climate change in schools.
- Global predictions combined with local level experience is enough to make the scenarios official and legally informed; should not wait any longer because people's lives are being affected
- World Bank is doing some work on Adaptation Agriculture; different measures for adaptation, global circulation models, trying to link climate change and food security, will be ready in November
- A Report was launched by CARE on climate change causing migration and displacement; [web link](#)
- Update from Live and Learn who are developing a green channel to promote sustainable business Developing a website "Green Business" as well as something related to climate change integration, business as related to university students; As they talk to the business community, what they suggest is to spread the concept of "green business", and the link between sustainability and business especially with agricultural projects; Three main targets: corporate sector, young entrepreneurs, and students; Retailers ask "is there any way I can measure my impact"; now developing a carbon footprint calculator; this tool will incentivize carbon reduction
- Green business for September will be taken lead by ABC. NGO Resource Center is discussing with the ABC group about this. It would be better if they bring this to the Climate Change core group, so we can work on this collectively.

Action point

- ⇒ *Green Business website link can be put on the links and resources page of the climate change website to reach out to all members. Green Business to join CCWG mailing list and send info to Ha*

Other meetings attended by members in the last month

- Feed back on the Launching Ceremony of CC Action Framework of OCCA: Oxfam has recently done cooperation with OCCA on launching the Action Framework at national level and at some selected provinces. Update on OCCA and their status is needed. Until OCCA has an overarching plan, an official coordination, then action will not be very effective

- WWF Workshop on Green Office: Participants did not find the Workshop useful for helping other organisations to set up their own green offices in a practical way. The presentation was from WWF Finland, translation without adaptation to the Vietnam context.

Action points: *Needs to be some sharing and learning among different organizations regarding Green Office (different choices of procedure).*

Upcoming events

- Next CCWG Meeting on 6th of August at NGO RC
- Sharing on Green Office Initiatives by ABC group on 21 July .900-12.00 at NGO RC
- Development of Mainstreaming Guidelines of DRR and CC by Adaptation group 30 July-1 August in Nha Trang.
- Youth and Environment Conference on 19-25th October with original idea from a similar successful Conference in Singapore. It is expected to get more than 200 young participants from all over Vietnam with the purpose to raise awareness of Vietnam youth on environmental issues and CC issues and the need for action.
 - ⇒ Details will be posted on NGORC Climate Change website.

Participants List of CCWG meeting on 2 July 2009

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