

Third Sector Leadership towards Climate Change Action: Challenges and Opportunities in India

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Climate change represents one of the greatest challenges to humanity at the beginning of the 21st century. It is expected to impact on the distribution and quality of natural resources and consequently the developmental path of nations and the quality of lives of peoples across the globe. The G8 nations at various summits have endorsed the goal of reducing global emissions by at least 50 percent by 2050 (which should be relative to 1990). Such cuts are broadly in line with path could hold greenhouse gas levels below 550ppm CO₂e and then start to reduce them. This could reduce the probability of a 5°C increase in global temperature from around 50 percent to 3 percent or less. The target 50 percent reduction means having global emissions from 40Gt CO₂e a year to 20, or little more than 2t per capita with around 9 billion people in 2050, it also means little scope for deviation of actual emissions from the man for any major country developed and developing (www.wbcsd.org).

India is the world's fourth largest economy and fifth largest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emitter, accounting for about 5 percent of global emissions. India's emissions increased 65 percent between 1990 and 2005 and are projected to grow another 70 percent by 2020. India's emissions are low compared to those of other major economies. India accounts for only 2 percent of cumulative energy-related emissions since 1850. On a per capita basis, India's emissions are 70 percent below the world average and 93 percent below those of the United States. India remains home to the world's largest number of poor people with nearly 35 percent living on less than a dollar a day. Its economy is growing rapidly, however, with GDP rising about 8 percent a year the past five years. The climate change debate so far has been primarily government focused with

some participation of the civil society. But now this has been broadened to include the legislature, people's groups and grass root movements so that adaptation and mitigation options are discussed by those who are directly affected by climate change. In India civil society organizations are developing pressure on government to undertake meaningful and radical action on issues relating to climate change under the development debate perspectives which are alternative paradigm that could take India down the path of a low carbon path way – on land and forest issues, displacement by large multipurpose projects, water shed development, on-chemical and organic farming practices, bio-diversity and decentralized options in agriculture, water management in energy production. (Nicholas Stern, 2007)

Civil Society Organizations towards Climate Change Actions

Co ordination SUD, a national platform of more than 130 French solidarity relief and development NGOs, is intend to help, define and implement international rules on the climate that are both environmentally effective and fair to the most vulnerable developing country populations. The three priorities of SUD are: Recognize and guarantee the principle of additionally effectiveness and transparency in Aid, promote social justice as vector for solidarity and to ensure coherent and solidarity – based public policies. To SUD, supporting the fight against climate change in developing countries is not a matter of charity and to them to fight against climate change a new financial architecture conceived to take into account the principles of and effectiveness, transparency and equity in the allocation of funds. Social justice and climate future go hand in hand to fight inequalities and exclusion. In this perspective

capacity building for local actors in developing countries is crucial so that they can become proactive sources of proposals and participate in the field when it comes to fighting climate. All climate related commitments by developed countries in international arenas must

be followed by domestic measures. (www.coordination sud.org)

At the global level several society organizations are involve actions towards climate change. The following table explained this

Table 1: Climate related Actions of CSOs

Sl. No	Civil society organizations	Climate related actions
1	Asia Forest Net Work	Protect Asia's Forest
2	The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)	Socially responsible conservation
3	Bio diversity Action Thailand (BIOTHAI)	Provide Information and raise Awareness
4	The Bruno – Manser Fund (Switzerland)	Protect Tropical Rain Forest
5	The centre for Advanced Research on Indigenous Knowledge systems, India. (CARIKS)	Documentation of Indigenous knowledge
6	The Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN)	Preserving the cultural knowledge
7	The research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, India (RFSTE)	Protecting people from threats of livelihoods
8	Water Ecology institute (WEI) Paupuna New Guneaia	Promote young people in conservation program
9	The centre for Biodiversity and Indigenous knowledge China (CBIK)	Maintain biological diversity through indigenous conservation
10	The centre for Environmental concerns (CEC) Philippines	Eco system management through education, training and research
11	The Centre for People's Forestry (CPE)	Livelihood security of forest dependence developing countries
12	Down to Earth (DTE) Indonesia	Provide an international voice on climate issues
13	Environmental science for social change ESSC (Philippines)	Environmental and Natural Resource Management
14	Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples (IKAP)	Capacity building and Net work development
15	The International centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)	Hindu – Kush Himalayan region – generating new mountain specific knowledge

Source: Indigenous Peoples Restoration Network.htm

Round table meetings in India were going on measurable, reportable and verifiable actions of climate change. Civil society groups are coming under the banner of civil society coalition for climate justice and equitable development, Indian network on ethics and climate change and forum for collective form of co-operation. During 2008 in India series of meetings were organized by Indian network on ethics and climate change, Green peace India, Laya centre for Education and documentation, South Central India Network for Development alternatives (Scandia) Forum of collective forms of co operation (FCFC), North east social and research centre and Orissa Development Action forum to discuss on India's stance at the International negotiations, Green house Development rights, Coastal and Forest Based Community issues and co operation on climate change issues. (www.centad.org)

International Organizations' Support to CSO's Climatic Change Action:

§ United Nations (UN): the past few years have witnessed a sweeping change in the attitudes and approaches and policies of UN system with regard to relations with CSO's and their participation in the work of the UN. Guidelines for working with CSO s are being developed or updated and more enabling and proactive approaches to co operating with local and regional NGOs are being developed. Many UN agencies and bodies now hold periodic consultations with NGOs on climate change issues. The Two main offices of the Un secretariat dealing with NGOs: the NGO unit of the Dept of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the NGO section of the dept of public information. (<http://go.worldbank.org>)

➤ Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Ecosoc is a structure of co-ordination with 54 member states with focus on the economic and social work of the United Nations system. Ecosoc may consult with NGOs in general and special status. An NGO with special competence in a particular field undertake

studies or investigations or prepare papers for commission.

➤ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The strategy paper entitled UNDP and organizations of civil society: Buildings sustainable partnerships approved in 1993, provided the framework for UNDP's co-operation with CSOS. Procedures for NGO execution have been prepared which would guide UNDP country offices and other concerned parties in how to select and apply the NGO execution modality to UNDP supported climate project.

➤ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): UNEP has endeavored to enhance partnerships with NGOs by means of institutionalizing NGOs participation in climate change project implementation and evaluation, reviewing mechanisms for co-operation with NGOs, bringing proposals for broader participation and co funding with individual NGOs. (www.kiva.org)

Carbon Offsetting Commitment of CSOs:

Developing countries should ultimately want go low-carbon. Not only is it the future, but it brings huge benefits beyond climate change. The transition to low carbon future can bring major gains such as energy efficiency can help boost incomes, low carbon technologies can open up new sources of growth and jobs. They can avoid some of the cost of large grids in the way cell phones helped out the need for telephone lines. International carbon emission offsets are based on the UN's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). CDM watch is project initiated by a number of international NGOs to provide an independent perspective on CDM projects. The main purpose is to create a platform for civil society from CDM host countries to co-ordinate responses to CDM projects, collects information about concerns about specific projects and to focus on a policy process in general. Regarding CDM, the problems observed by NGOs are the poor environmental integrity, problems with impossible additionally testing, the lack of contribution to sustainable development, problems with transparency about Certified Emission Reduction (CER)

buyers, the insufficient stakeholder consultation process and the barriers for local communities to raise concerns about registered projects and the performance of designated operational entities which do not take into account comments posted to CDM projects. The role of executive board, its poor code of conduct and the lack of transparency in the decision making process are added problems. To them, the current market mechanism only gives monetary value to emission reductions. This has resulted in a trade-off between the two objectives which cheap emission reductions being preferred over projects with high sustainable development. There are plenty of harmful projects in the pipeline. Negative impacts include environmental pollution, for example from large hydro projects that often wipe out large areas of natural resources – especially water. Other impacts relate to social concerns, such as RDF (Refuse-Derived Fuel) waste management projects that use waste for the CDM projects and deprive thousands of waste pickers of their livelihoods because they fail to offer an alternative income (www.EurActiv.com).

CSOs in Disaster Management

Countries like India are already suffering from climate shocks-droughts, flooding and storms – even if they can not be attributed with certainty to climate change. At present, community based disaster preparedness for all sorts of hazards are the key to CSOs preparedness plan. Capacity Building of all three tiers of panchayats and local community's task forces and volunteers of organized institutions like Red Cross, NSS, and NCC Scout are very important. In May 2007, the government of India approved a National Policy on the Voluntary sector which was prepared by the Planning commission of India. A National NGO Task Force on Disaster Management was set up by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Government of India has also set up a core group on the role of N.G.Os in Disaster Management. (Sajani, M.P. 2006)

Financing of Climate Related CSO Projects

The major obstacles in overcoming these climate change threats are funding. As the Government of India

and International partners and Donors begin to step up their investment and activities responding to the threats posed by climate change, Civil society in India must also organize itself to be an effective and complementary partner.

The United Nations Framework convention on the climate has a central role to play in co coordinating and monitoring the various financial efforts. It is estimated that public support for the fight against climate change in developing countries (210 billion dollars per year 2020) must be provided independently of official development assistance). World Bank created two climate change investment funds in July 2008. The funds are climate investment (CIFs) and Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) the CIFs comprises the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and Strategic Climate Fund (SCF). The CIFs have become controversial with CSOs as many CSOs oppose the location of funds mandated by the United Nations Framework convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the World Bank and funds should be allocated through a transparent and democratic processes. FCPE has been designed to assist developing countries to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and land Degradation (REDD). In addition to the CIFs and FCPE the bank manages 11 carbon funds through its carbon finance Unit (CFU). The aim of their funds is to buy project induced green house gas emission reduction in developing and transition countries. These funds worth of \$ 12 billion are financed primarily by OECD governments and private companies. But CSOs feel that the Bank supports funds in the own self interest as it collects a generous overhead fee for financing projects under the carbon trading plan. (www.carbonfinance.org)

Opportunities for NGOs

- Tremendous opportunity for NGOs to reach out to the 44 percent of the households with out power through community based decentralized energy options.
- Integrating National Action Plan on climate change to the interests of local communities.
- Exploring the Avenues of CDM that should be

benefiting local communities rather than the corporate sector alone.

➤ Sustainable development of all sectors where in life and livelihood of communities rooted in sustainable use of eco-system.

Conclusion

➤ Adapting to climate change will depend on adjustments and changes of every level from community based to national and international. However, the capacity to adapt will vary significantly from country to country community to community and in particular to the level development. In general the preferred adaptation strategies are actions with multiple economic and environmental benefits, including the current and future conditions and needs to be based on sound scientific assessment. The range of practices that can be used to adapt to climate change is diverse and includes changes in behavior structural change, policy based responses, technology responses. Establishment of civil society organizations and climate change net work that will harmonise the contributions of civil society for greater benefit of India.

The primary areas of focus are:

➤ **Communication and education:** This component will focus on initiatives to work with scientists and policy makers and media to co-ordinate a series of campaigns that raises awareness of the public and the whole society about climate change.

➤ **Co-ordination mechanism** can be developed in decision making and promote the participation of the community and stakeholders including enterprises in implementation of activities to respond to climate change.

➤ **Conduct of series of training,** the trainers' workshops, community and stakeholders dialogue at the grass roots and high levels.

➤ **Practical response model development:** Development of practical models of climate change response for learning and replication. It should be a place of documentation sharing of experiences and workable models in India.

➤ **CSOs net work** would be a clearing house for

information regarding technologies useful for the mitigation and adaptation to climate change as well as information about community and their needs for new technologies and promote their adaptation.

➤ **Policy Advocacy:** the net work world initiate a programme to co-ordinate civil society's contributions to the formulation of policies as they relate to climate change. It would also promote the experiences form pilot initiatives to be incorporated in to climate related policy making.

➤ Regarding **Disaster preparedness,** the climate calendar and written community contingency plan would enhance the local community's coping capacity. The good practices needs to be documented and disseminated well so that replication and up scaling becomes possible.

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