

► PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORKSHOP ON 24 OCTOBER 2007

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# Fighting Climate Change: What Role for Development and Relief NGOs?

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**GRET**

Research and Technological Exchange Group

## > Acronyms and Abbreviations

AFD	Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)
AVSF	Agronomes et Veterinaires Sans Frontieres (Agronomists and Veterinarians without Borders)
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
D&R NGO	development and relief non-governmental organisation
EAST	Eau, Agriculture, Santé en milieu Tropical (Water, Agriculture, Health in Tropical Areas)
FONDEM	Fondation Energies pour le Monde (Energies for the World Foundation)
GERES	Groupe énergies renouvelables, environnement et solidarités (Renewable Energies, Environment and Solidarities Group)
GRET	Research and Technological Exchange Group
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
LDC	Least Developed Country
NGO	non-governmental organisation
ODA	official development assistance
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

**C**limate change: What role for development and relief non-governmental organisations? This was the subject of the discussions during the workshop titled “Mainstreaming Climate Change into Development and Relief Organisations’ Projects”, organised by GRET on 24 October 2007 in Paris (France), with the support of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. This workshop aimed to:

- raise development and relief non-governmental organisations’ awareness of climate change and inform them of donors’ and international development NGOs’ initiatives in the fight against climate change;
- present the results of GRET’s survey of development and relief organisations’ mainstreaming of climate change into their projects; and
- discuss recommendations to mobilise development and relief organisations to fight climate change.

The workshop was attended by more than seventy people from development and relief non-governmental organisations (D&R NGOs), environmental NGOs, French cooperation agencies and bodies, research, and international organisations.

This publication summarises the high points of the workshop, including the questions discussed, and presents potential actions identified during the presentations and discussions. These potential actions lay the foundations for mobilising D&R NGOs to fight climate change.

## Promote Climate Justice in International Negotiations

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### ●● 2012 and Beyond: What Winning Scenario for Developing Countries?

#### — From Observation to Action

The climate crisis is indeed upon us. Our current greenhouse gas concentrations (380 ppm of carbon dioxide equivalent) could very soon exceed the danger threshold of 450 ppm, which would mean a 2°C temperature increase. A temperature increase of more than 5°C would correspond to the temperature change experienced since the last ice age. Exceeding this threshold could have irreversible effects on ecosystems, water resources, food, coastlines, and health.

Developing countries, and the least developed countries (LDCs) in particular, are the most vulnerable to climate change. They are already suffering from climate shocks—droughts, flooding and storms—even if they cannot be attributed with certainty to climate change. These climate shocks will exacerbate existing economic, social, political and environmental vulnerabilities.

That it is urgent to act to stabilise the climate over the long term has already been proven. Action must move towards greater climate

justice. Ambitious efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change (lowering greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration) are necessary.

### — Meet the Expectations of Developing Countries

During the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (3-14 December 2007, Bali), a new period of negotiations should open on the post-2012 second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol.

Greater participation by emerging countries and LDCs in the multilateral regime to fight climate change is indispensable. For this, their expectations must first be met: for emerging countries, a proportional reduction commitment from industrialised countries and greater transfer of technologies; and for LDCs, adequate means to adapt to climate change.

For these countries, the definition of a winning scenario would be one that meets their development needs (social priorities, reduction of direct health impacts, preparation of tomorrow's large infrastructures, lessening of vulnerability, access to energy, etc.).

A performance-based incentive system should be conceived to encourage emerging countries and LDCs to lower their greenhouse gas emissions. Such an incentive system cannot be designed without including another strong demand from developing countries: the elaboration of compensation mechanisms for avoided deforestation. However, the use of these mechanisms raises questions as to their consequences on access to land. Local land governance should be strengthened to avoid the race for forest lands.

### — Towards Mainstreaming Climate Change into Public Policies?

The project mechanisms and financial instruments planned in the Kyoto Protocol to finance emission reduction, technology transfer, and adaptation projects (LDC funds, special climate

change fund, and adaptation fund, also later called "Kyoto" funds) must be improved to better respond to the concerns of LDCs. The means devoted to adaptation are still insufficient compared to the cost of the impacts of climate change.

Among other things, it is indispensable to include the issue of natural disaster prevention in the "adaptation" agenda of the negotiations with an aim at effectiveness and coherency. Preventing natural disasters requires taking action in terms of territorial planning and development. Consequently, it cannot be attached only to humanitarian aid, as is currently the case.

These negotiations on "post-2012" must also be an opportunity to reopen the debate on policies and measures (coordination of research efforts, facilitation of technology transfers, etc.). One must go beyond the project approach and promote programmes and public policies that include the goals of emission reduction and adaptation (agriculture, territorial planning, energy, housing, health, transport, etc.). The Sustainable Development Policies and Measures (SD-PAMs) approach that is gaining in importance within the Convention should also be reaffirmed<sup>1</sup>.

More generally, fighting climate change implies transforming our relationship to development. Development models are in crisis. Developing countries' realities are very different. While emerging countries are nearing the development—in its former form—of developed countries, LDCs are not. Mimicking the development trajectories of Northern countries cannot be a sustainable approach if developed countries do not revise their concept of development and do not act as an example: optimising the use of natural resources and rebuilding social rules in favour of the resilience of local communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. <http://www.basic-project.net>

## ●● Lowering Energy Dependency and Fighting Climate Change: A Necessary Energy Revolution

Energy (the production of electricity and heat, fossil energy combustion, transportation, etc.) is responsible for 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. Simultaneously, the sharp rise in energy prices is making electricity and transportation particularly costly for developing countries. It increases their energy vulnerability.

The objectives of energy security, access to sustainable energy, and fighting climate change mutually support each other. These objectives call for a true energy revolution based on demand-side energy management, energy efficiency, and the development of renewable energy. Various tools can be mobilised to bring about this revolution:

- The development of local agrofuels for local energy needs.
- The Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM): designed to put Southern countries on the path to carbon-friendly development, the CDM now seems disconnected from countries' economic and social realities and only benefits a few. Its effectiveness is in doubt. This instrument can, however, contribute to bringing about the energy revolution if it is reformed. The CDM's contribution to sustainable development for Southern countries would be all the greater if a programme-based approach to CDMs (housing, energy, etc.) were developed, instead of the "project" approach. The negotiations on "post-2012" cannot ignore such a reform.
- Energy Market Regulation (tariff system, taxation): price volatility is a non-negligible variable in the fight against climate change. The price of energy should more fully reflect the risks of climate change and the non-reversible nature of fossil energy.

The challenge is immense: leave the oil age before the oil runs out!

## ●● Official Development Assistance at the Service of the Fight Against Climate Change

### — The European Union's Approach to Climate Change and Development Cooperation

Desiring to help developing countries attain the Millennium Development Goals and contribute to the effective implementation of the Climate Convention, the European Union adopted, in 2003, a strategy that targets better mainstreaming of climate change into co-operation policies.

This strategy gave rise to an Action Plan (2004-2008). The goal of this action plan is to help countries implement the recommendations in the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. It takes the form of several strategic objectives: greater place granted to climate change in policy dialogue, adaptation and mitigation support, and capacity building.

The implementation of the Action Plan was assessed in 2007. Noteworthy progress was identified in regard to the consideration of climate change in policy dialogue, the building of member States' domestic capacities, and the screening of cooperation agencies' project portfolios in regard to climate risks and adaptation. Despite this, there was little progress in several areas: consideration of mitigation and adaptation in Country Strategy Papers, technology transfers for mitigation, and support for the establishment of CDM projects in least developed countries. Mainstreaming adaptation into cooperation policies and programmes still runs up against numerous methodological difficulties.

While the Action Plan appears to be a useful initiative to coordinate the Commission's external actions and those of its member States, it must be improved in order to increase the mainstreaming of the climate dimension in all areas of cooperation ("climate proofing") and be better suited to the needs of partner countries. Specific actions must be developed to adapt

the European Union's thematic budget lines (non-state actors and local authorities, food security, environment) and geographic instruments.

Innovative projects with multiple benefits (poverty alleviation, adaptation to climate change, sustainable forest management, food security, etc.) must also be fostered. The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) launched in September 2007 by the European Commission is a continuation of the Action Plan. It plans concrete actions in the fields of adaptation, the fight against deforestation, risk management and prevention, and the strengthening of the Clean Development Mechanism. Specific funds (50 million euros) have been reserved for its implementation.

### — The Contribution of French Cooperation

Within the framework of the European Union's Action Plan, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) are mobilised to fight climate change. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs has made financial contributions to several donors and multilateral funds active in the field of climate change (the Global Environment Facility, Kyoto funds, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, etc.). It also finances specific projects on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, as well as capacity-building actions for African countries on the Clean Development Mechanism. For its part, the AFD set up a strategic intervention framework for climate in 2005. Three lines of intervention were identified

- promote carbon-friendly development;
- link the global issue to local concerns; and
- support the most vulnerable.

This document defines country-specific priorities of action (reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in middle-income and emerging countries; adaptation and carbon sequestration in LDCs). Particular attention must be paid to approaches that connect global problems

with local concerns (fighting pollution in cities, demand-side energy management, etc.).

The AFD also has the ambition of fostering carbon-friendly projects. With this aim, it has developed a carbon footprint (Bilan Carbone®), based on the one created by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency. In this way, it envisages tallying the greenhouse gas emissions linked to its interventions. Thanks to this decision-making tool, it estimates that 25% of its commitments contribute directly or indirectly to reducing emissions.

Among other things, the AFD has identified the energy sector as a point of entry to fight climate change. This sector accounts for 40% of its commitments. Through targeted support for public actors and energy-related markets, the AFD has the ambition of facilitating the energy revolution.

A strategic steering document, Climate-Energy-Development, defining France's cooperation strategy will be published by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs for the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

### — Beyond Official Development Assistance, what Innovative Financing?

Given the low level of official development assistance (ODA) and the multiplication of climate change agendas, the question is the deviation of this aid towards climate change to the detriment of meeting the essential needs of the poorest. In regard to this concern, it is appropriate to recall the close ties between the fight against climate change and poverty alleviation, as developing countries are the first impacted by climate change. French cooperation restated, on this subject, the need to comply with the Bonn agreements on the share of ODA that must be devoted to fighting climate change (a 41 million euro increase over the 2001 figure for France). The priority must be given more to increasing ODA in general and to the search for innovative financing. Among innovative financing methods, several possibil-

ities were discussed, notably international taxation on aviation or the carbon tax.

In regard to the carbon tax, a contra-cyclical tax system must be envisaged given the volatility of energy prices. The goal is to avoid penalising the poorest in the face of a rise in energy prices (the tax should be all the higher when prices are low, and vice versa).

## Development and Relief NGOs and Climate Change: From Awareness to Action?

### ●● What Legitimacy for Mobilisation?

Among development actors, development and relief non-governmental organisations (D&R NGOs) must also contribute to the fight against climate change through their interventions. They are recognised as fully legitimate to take positions on this subject: technical know-how, social and environmental awareness, knowledge of the field, concern for appropriation by beneficiaries, at the cutting edge of development issues, search for ripple effects, awareness-raising know-how in the North and South, etc.

Through their modes of action and know-how, D&R NGOs can increase local awareness and contribute to better climate change risk prevention. Among other things, they also have a certain degree of latitude to test pilot experiments such as those dealing with innovative financing proposals. They can participate in the elaboration of public policies that mainstream climate and energy aspects, notably by mobilising different groups of local stakeholders. Several experiences in France and abroad have confirmed their legitimacy to take a position on climate and development stakes.

### ●● The British Coalition “Up in Smoke” - An Example of Development NGO Mobilisation

Given the close ties between the fight against climate change and poverty alleviation, it seemed inevitable that development and environmental actors should move closer together. Based on this observation, a coalition of British development and environmental NGOs—“Up in Smoke”—was created in 2003 by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), with the support of another research institution, the New Economics Foundation (NEF). This coalition is made up of several large development organisations (Oxfam, CAFOD, Tearfund, ActionAid, Christian Aid, Practical Action, CARE, etc.) and environmental organisations (WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Panos, RSPB, etc.).

The coalition’s activities deal with raising the general public’s and decision-makers’ awareness of the links between climate and development. Up in Smoke’s primary awareness-raising tools are organising media events and producing dissemination reports, including field experiences. The coalition’s advocacy focuses on large federating themes such as not exceed-

#### > Consideration of Climate Change within IIED

Climate change is one of IIED’s five institutional targets. Its climate change programme nourishes a large share of the Up in Smoke coalition’s internal reflections.

In addition to specific activities to fight climate change (LDC capacity building activities, provision of assistance mainstreaming climate change to bilateral cooperation agencies, etc.), the IIED conducts internal reflection on the links between climate change and its various sectors of intervention (housing, natural resources, etc.).



ing the 2°C of global warming threshold, increasing resources for adaptation, promoting global equity and justice, and developing clean energy sources.

Awareness-raising activities within D&R NGOs are being developed to foster the mainstreaming of climate change into their projects. All of these activities (except publishing reports) are financed by the members.

## ●● French Development and Relief NGOs' Views on Climate Change

### — Development Projects Consistent with Climate Change

In France, awareness of climate change has been growing progressively within D&R NGOs since the 2004 publication of the booklet "Changements climatiques : équité et solidarité internationale", the result of a collaboration between fourteen D&R NGOs and environmental protection associations<sup>2</sup>. This observation comes from a survey conducted by GRET<sup>3</sup>.

Until now, this awareness has not yet resulted in explicit and systematic consideration of climate change in initial strategies.

In practice, however, NGOs' technical decisions contribute indirectly to climate change mitigation (lowering greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration in the biomass) and adaptation. The projects examined in Madagascar as part of GRET's survey bear witness to this, as do the projects run and presented by GERES and AVSF.

Even though fighting climate change is not an explicit entry point for these projects, direct

and indirect links can be seen between these projects' activities and mitigation and/or adaptation (see table below).

When it comes to projects' contributions to climate change mitigation, one must distinguish between development NGOs and relief NGOs.

Faced with the urgency of the situation, the latter legitimately give priority to vital needs (food and water supplies, provision of shelter and basic necessities, provision of hygiene and health services, etc.). However, they tend to neglect their impact on the environment and on climate change in particular: large off-take of resources (water, wood, oil, etc.), inadequate management of waste from their operations, massive clearing of forests to set up camps for displaced persons or refugees, etc. They do not generally have the necessary knowledge to take into account latent environmental risks. Yet, numerous practical solutions have already been developed in other sectors and make it possible to work with the same efficiency while minimising the environmental footprint: biodegradable packaging, self-production of energy, waste recycling and reuse, dry composting toilets.

In the field, NGOs intervene in zones that are of particular climate sensitivity where they observe noteworthy climate events (droughts, flooding, etc.). These events have an impact both on the beneficiary populations and on the progression of their projects.

Faced with the multiplication of natural disasters, some relief NGOs fear the trivialisation of these phenomena, to the detriment of the establishment of disaster prevention strategies. In response to these climate phenomena, NGOs take various actions: structural measures suited to the local context that aim to improve populations' and/or ecosystems' resilience, ex post situation-response measures in the event of crises, and ex ante current and future climate risk prevention and reduction measures. This last type of measure is, however, still rare. Few organisations have systematic approaches to climate risk management that allow them to anticipate and reduce their effects on beneficiary populations and on their projects' performances.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Réseau-Action-Climat - France, "Changements climatiques : équité et solidarité internationale", 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Chetaille A., "Lutte contre le changement climatique : quel rôle pour les organisations de solidarité internationale ?", *Etudes et travaux en ligne* No. 16, GRET, November 2007.



> Projects' Contributions to Mitigation and/or Adaptation

PROJECTS	EMISSION REDUCTION	CARBON SEQUESTRATION	ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE RISKS
Ile-de-France Regional Council & EAST NGO - Sanitation (Madagascar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; waste collection and management</li> <li>&gt; waste management awareness raising</li> </ul>		
FONDEM - Access to Electricity (Madagascar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; use of renewable energy</li> <li>&gt; awareness raising on demand-side energy management (electricity consumption)</li> <li>&gt; electricity consumption control</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; reforestation upstream from the micro-hydro power plant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; reforestation upstream from the micro-hydro power plant (soil resilience in the event of torrential rains or drought)</li> </ul>
WWF - Forest Cover Restoration (Madagascar)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; reforestation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; agroforestry development (soil resilience)</li> <li>&gt; reforestation (resilience of forest ecosystems)</li> </ul>
GRET - Agricultural Commodity Chain Support (Madagascar)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; soil fertility and humidity conservation measures (direct sowing under plant cover, windbreak hedges)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; windbreak hedge planting and sowing under plant cover (soil resilience)</li> <li>&gt; selection of varieties suited to hydric stress</li> <li>&gt; crop diversification</li> </ul>
GRET - Information and Economic Diversification Support (Madagascar)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; use of energy efficient technologies to extract castor oil (cold press extraction)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; development of non-agricultural income-generating activities</li> </ul>
GRET - Microfinance (Madagascar)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; short-term rescheduling of payments in the event of crisis (a drought generating food insecurity and pauperisation)</li> </ul>

(cont.)

## &gt; Projects' Contributions to Mitigation and/or Adaptation

PROJECTS	EMISSION REDUCTION	CARBON SEQUESTRATION	ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE RISKS
<b>GRET - Malnutrition Reduction (Madagascar)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; use of more energy efficient technologies such as improved ovens</li> <li>&gt; energy efficiency of infant foods (high number of calories per food serving obtained with a small volume of boiled water)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; set up of a rainwater recovery system</li> </ul>
<b>AVSF - Support for the Agroecological Transition of Family Farming (Brazil)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; low use of nitrogenous fertilisers</li> <li>&gt; little-motorised mode of production</li> <li>&gt; marketing mode favouring local markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; agroforestry and preservation of tree cover</li> <li>&gt; improvement of soil quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; optimisation of traditional varieties suited to the milieu</li> <li>&gt; set up of seed banks</li> <li>&gt; mixed farming</li> <li>&gt; water resource optimisation</li> </ul>
<b>GERES - Distribution of Improved Ovens (Cambodia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 100,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided in 2006 thanks to improved energy performance of charcoal combustion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 900 hectares of forest saved each year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 900 hectares of forest saved each year (forest ecosystem resilience)</li> </ul>

### — Mainstreaming Climate Change into Projects: Constraints and Opportunities

From the strategic standpoint, NGOs acknowledge the need to take a position on climate change. Nevertheless, several constraints must first be lifted: lack of information on the impact of climate change or on the concrete measures that can be taken, lack of financing for the potential “additional expenses” generated, complexity in elaborating and monitoring a “carbon” finance project (CDM), unsuitability or non-applicability of the Kyoto Protocol's funds and project mechanisms for certain types of projects (such as energy biomass projects), and even the difficulty of integrating a long-term issue in shorter-term interventions.

Among other things, the budgetary constraints imposed by donors, the local context in the country of intervention (lack of a clear institutional framework and policy on climate change, dysfunctions in basic infrastructures, etc.), and the state of research on climate change and its impacts are as many factors that can slow the emergence of climate change initiatives within D&R NGOs.

Beyond these constraints, there are financing opportunities provided by the climate issue (CDM projects, voluntary compensation projects, Kyoto funds, etc.) that can be seized. For instance, GERES sees the fight against climate change as a means to enhance “near-orphan” themes (e.g. wood energy) and develop proximity clean energy commodity chains that can foster local economic development (small-scale

hydro-electricity, agrofuels, etc.), above all in the context of high energy prices. It also makes it possible to obtain additional funding to develop new activities. For AVSF, its desire to become more fully involved in fighting climate change is a response to a concern for coherency with its responsibility as citizens and aims to provide new visibility in relation to donors.

However, like French cooperation agencies and the European Commission, NGOs believe that development projects must not be “sacrificed” on the altar of climate change: the first stake is still successful development.

Several NGOs also emphasise the undesirable effects of certain measures taken in the North to fight climate change. This is the case with agrofuels promoted as a new solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. At the centre of European policies, the development of agrofuels accentuates land competition problems (reduction of available land) and pushes some countries towards deforestation, a source of greenhouse gas emissions. In LDCs, the “mitigation” dimension can be mainstreamed into development projects as long as doing so does not compromise the economic and social needs of beneficiary populations. One can cite projects such as household waste composting, bioclimatic housing, etc.

## Mobilisation of Development and Relief NGOs: Potential Courses of Action

### ●● Guiding Principals

The mobilisation of D&R NGOs in the fight against climate change must be built around several guiding principals:

- **Fight poverty and inequalities:** The goals of fighting climate change and reducing poverty

and inequalities can mutually support each other. Development actions that aim to mainstream mitigation are justified on the condition that they have strong social and economic benefits (multiple-benefit projects). The reduction of poverty and inequalities justifies more systematic consideration of future climate risks so as to limit the impacts of these risks on poor populations.

- **Re-examine north-south solidarity:** With their interventions, development stakeholders and NGOs in particular can make a substantial contribution to:
  - sustainably reducing emissions in the North so as to limit climate risks for the most vulnerable countries;
  - convincing and then helping Southern countries to adopt more carbon-friendly development trajectories; and
  - helping the most vulnerable communities adapt to new climate conditions, which aggravate existing vulnerabilities (poverty, precarious housing, insitutional deficits, conflicts, etc.).
- **Define climate-energy-development actions taking into account economic stakes and climate change in countries and territories of intervention:** The action priorities of developing countries are not the same in function of their levels of greenhouse gas emissions and their levels of vulnerability to climate change. In some cases, actions will also have to be adapted to territories.
- **Strengthen the ties between development and relief organisations:** The probable multiplication of climate hazards in the coming decades illustrates the strong ties between development, reconstruction and rehabilitation. One must build (development NGOs) or re-build (relief NGOs) taking into account future climate risks and mitigation stakes, notably in regard to energy.
- **Foster synergy between multilateral environmental agreements,** and in particular between the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Convention to Combat Desertification.

The aim of these principles is to return to the unity that had prevailed at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

## ●● Develop and Improve Expertise

### — Understand the Interactions between Climate and Development

Understanding of “climate-development” interactions, and more specifically the dynamics at work between human activities, climate change, populations’ vulnerability, and their capacity to adapt, is crucial to generating reflection among NGOs, or even changing their views of their practices. Then, based on their own views of climate and development stakes, NGOs can move beyond these reflections and revise their strategies and practices accordingly. The mobilisation of D&R NGOs could take the form of various actions:

- designing projects that mainstream the climate dimension (adjusting objectives and technical decisions in function of climate and development stakes); and/or
- setting up more crosscutting actions (awareness raising, advocacy).

### — Improve D&R NGOs Internal Capacities

All of the actions that aim to mainstream climate change into projects—from awareness raising to advocacy (see *below*)—require the acquisition of collective expertise on “climate and development” stakes. Capacity building for members of D&R NGOs should be envisaged for various points, notably:

- the impact of climate change, in particular in developing countries;
- the methods to use (assessment of climate vulnerability and adaptation capacities, accounting for greenhouse gas emissions avoided, etc.);

- technical measures to implement in regard to mitigation or adaptation; and
- the financing and mechanisms specific to the fight against climate change accessible to NGOs.

More generally, it is crucial to foster connections between research on climate change, applied sectoral research, decision-makers, development practitioners, meteorological organisations, bodies such as early warning systems, and populations.

Establishing links between research programmes and NGO interventions is important so that the research results can nourish NGOs’ reflections and allow them to adjust their interventions accordingly.

### — Analyse and Document Experiences

Analysing and documenting projects that explicitly mainstream mitigation of and adaptation to climate change or that indirectly contribute to this should be encouraged. This capitalisation would make it possible to define strategies and actions that are relevant from the standpoint of climate and development, in function of experience acquired previously, elsewhere, and in similar or different contexts. Among other things, capitalisation would make it possible to increase the credibility of these actions. This capitalisation process should include the experiences of Southern organisations and organisations in other Northern countries.

## ●● Act with Developing Countries

### — Anticipate Future Climate Risks in Today’s Projects

NGOs should adopt a more systematic approach to climate risk management so as to anticipate and reduce their effects on beneficiary populations and on their projects’ performances. Managing these risks should be included in the

project cycle, notably during the preparatory phase. The assessment of climate vulnerability as early as this phase (identification, feasibility) is a first step in fostering the mainstreaming of adaptation into projects. It must make it possible to define activities and their locations or even the scale of infrastructures in function of the identified level of risk. Progress in scientific research is decisive for impact assessment and for the elaboration of technical solutions that take into account the potential effects of climate change. Research, in particular on climate risks, and the contributions from research in the social sciences, could be made more accessible to development practitioners, including NGOs.

#### — Foster Carbon-Friendly Projects

Faced with the rising price of energy and given the heavy energy dependency of developing countries, controlling the demand for energy, energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy are winning strategies on both fronts. These strategies can be implemented within development projects.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions can provide new financing opportunities for projects in the fields of waste management, agriculture, electricity access and forest resource management. The CDM, the financing instruments in the Convention on Climate Change and in the Kyoto Protocol, and the dedicated funding of French cooperation can be envisaged in certain conditions to foster projects that contribute to climate change mitigation. However, access to the CDM and to the Convention's and the Protocol's funds is still often difficult given their eligibility criteria, which in some cases are not suited to small-scale projects. Financing opportunities can also exist within the context of voluntary greenhouse gas emission offsetting systems.

Recourse to CDM projects or to carbon offsetting requires the ability to estimate the quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions avoided by projects. Emission recording methods such as those set up by the AFD (carbon footprint) exist for large projects. Based on the AFD's work, simple accounting methods suited to the activities of

development and relief NGOs could be developed, first as informative tools and eventually as operational tools. Links with NGOs and consultancy firms that specialise in energy could be strengthened.

#### — Improve Advocacy Capabilities

D&R NGOs can contribute to improving the information and advocacy capacities of local actors and to the emergence of a Southern agenda in international negotiations on climate change. They can support the creation of shared platforms for consultation among environmental and development NGOs so as to advance the consideration of both aspects of climate change—adaptation and mitigation—in policies and projects.

#### — Foster Closeness with Local Stakeholders

Mobilising D&R NGOs implies moving closer to local stakeholders (farmers, the private sector, research, etc.). Their knowledge of local needs and constraints and their understanding of decision-making processes are advantages to optimise in order to improve the consideration of climate change in projects and enrich the advocacy actions of Northern NGOs.

Inversely, Northern stakeholders' knowledge of climate change can contribute to the construction of advocacy by local stakeholders on international negotiations or their countries' public policies. Concretely, exchanging information and experience by organising joint events should be encouraged to foster this mutual learning.

### ●● Act in Developed Countries

#### — Raise Awareness and Strengthen Advocacy

D&R NGOs have a role to play in terms of advocacy and political dialogue on the responsibility of developed countries for lowering green-

house gas emissions, within international climate negotiations and on development policies. The principles of equity and climate justice must be reaffirmed. The Convention's and the Protocol's financial instruments as well as the CDM must be revised in light of these principles. Among other things, D&R NGOs must call on their decision-makers in regard to the need for greater coherency among sectoral public policies, so that practices that contribute to climate change and the pauperisation of populations (such as agrofuel policies) are not fostered in developing countries.

— **Create a “Climate and Development” NGO Commission**

Closer ties with environmental NGOs are needed to build and nourish the mobilisation of D&R NGOs on climate change. This moving closer could be accomplished through the creation of a Climate and Development Commission. The objectives of this commission would be to raise awareness among its members, conduct advocacy in connection with the international,

European or French policy agenda, and exchange practices and experiences to mainstream climate change into development projects.

When it created the “Climate and Development” ad hoc group (July 2007), Coordination SUD, the development and relief NGO platform, laid the foundations for this Commission. Today, this group consists of approximately twenty development, relief and environmental NGOs.

Faced with current politics, making Coordination SUD's ad hoc group permanent, or even its transformation into a commission is a priority. Greater means should be granted to this commission so that it can facilitate advocacy, awareness raising, exchange of practices, etc.

The climate and development policy agenda is particularly full for the next two years, because of the negotiations on the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period (post-2012). There is a lot of work to be done in terms of public debate and negotiating arenas. Attempts should be made to build shared positions on the “post-2012” negotiations with civil society platforms in developing countries.

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## Additional Information

The workshop on 24 October 2007 was organised in the framework of GRET's project "Mainstreaming Climate Change into Development and Relief Organisations' Projects", with the support of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. The objectives of this project are to raise D&R NGOs awareness of the fight against climate change and initiate these organisations' mobilisation on this subject. In the framework of this project, two documents were written:

- Margot S., Chetaille A., "Le développement à l'épreuve du changement climatique", GRET, April 2007: This paper discusses the principle development-related stakes behind climate change, describes and briefly analyses the international instruments in the Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and presents a panorama of various initiatives launched by development stakeholders in the field of climate change.
- Chetaille A., "Lutte contre le changement climatique : quel rôle pour les organisations de solidarité internationale ?", Etudes et Travaux en ligne No. 16, GRET, November 2007: This document summarises a survey of French development and relief NGOs. The goals of this survey were to assess NGO's approaches and project portfolios in regard to climate change and identify potential actions to improve mainstreaming in development projects. This document also contains the Proceedings of the workshop "Mainstreaming Climate Change into Development and Relief Organisations' Projects" that was organised on 24 October 2007 by GRET.

These two publications can be downloaded from GRET's website:  
[http://www.gret.org/news/20071024\\_seminaire\\_climat.htm](http://www.gret.org/news/20071024_seminaire_climat.htm)

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●● For more information  
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