Southern voices on climate policy choices

Analysis of and lessons learned from civil society advocacy on climate change

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The report provides an analysis of the tools and tactics advocacy groups use to influence policy responses to climate change at international, regional, national and sub-national levels. More than 20 climate networks and their member organisations have contributed to the report with their experiences of advocacy on climate change, including over 70 case studies from a wide range of countries - including many of the poorest - in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Pacific. These advocacy activities primarily target national governments, but also international and regional processes, donors and the private sector.

As the international climate negotiations are moving at a slow pace, developing countries are creating new policies to deal with climate change. The report demonstrates that civil society is critical to policy processes that aim to tackle climate change and protect the poorest and most vulnerable communities from its impacts.

Analyses and case studies show how civil society plays key roles in pushing for new laws, programmes, policies or strategies on climate change, in holding governments to account on their commitments; in identifying the lack of joined-up government responses to climate change; and in ensuring that national policy making does not forget the poor and vulnerable.

This report is the first joint product of the Southern Voices Capacity Building Programme, or for short: Southern Voices on Climate Change. The programme was launched in January 2011 - with a focus on strengthening some of the many civil society climate networks in the South, many of which emerged during the mobilisation towards COP15 in Copenhagen 2009. Increased awareness about climate change is now motivating networks to engage in advocacy activities that increasingly target national policy makers, regional institutions and other actors.

Download the report:
From IIED: www.iied.org or from the website of the Southern Voices Programme: www.climatecapacity.org or www.southernvoices.net

The Southern Voices Programme is implemented by the Climate Capacity Consortium, which includes four Danish and two international organisations: DanChurchAid, Ibis, Sustainable Energy, CARE Denmark (lead agency), the Danish 92-Group, Climate Action Network International and the International Institute for Environment and Development. The programme is funded by DANIDA as part of Denmark’s Fast Start Finance.

“...the energy, creativity and passion shown by networks in the South to date are clear from this report. Southern civil society networks need our support and commendation for achievements to date.”

From the Foreword by Saleemul Huq, Senior Fellow, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)