



VOICES FOR JUST CLIMATE ACTION / WWF REPORT MULTISTAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE 2023

KEY TAKE AWAYS

Be one with nature



LOCAL VOICES FOR DIALOGUE

Multistakeholder event
Voices for Just Climate
Action (VCA)

During a multistakeholder event on Thursday, March 2, 2023, WWF-Netherlands aligned local input from the network of Voices for Just Climate Action with know-how from the Dutch stakeholder field. A group of 32 diverse actors involving CSO's, policymakers, youth, and researchers, proposed solutions of ways to enhance the impact of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) in the Water sector based on the presented challenges of Global South CSO's and LLA-practices. The key messages from the event will be carried forward to the UN Water Conference in New York (22-24 March, 2023) for influencing both governments and CSO's.

SUMMARY

Barbara Nakangu, the global coordinator of VCA at WWF presented two main challenges for collective reflection. At the end of the day, all the actors left with the five concrete key messages that connect with the local realities on the ground. This content will directly feed into new conversations on an international stage and will help to spread the voices of local people and communities in the Global South in an even bigger network.

CHALLENGE 1: HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE LARGE-SCALE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCALLY LED ADAPTION?

CHALLENGE 2: HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE URGENCY OF FINANCING FOR LOCALLY LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS?

KEY MESSAGES

- Achieve 360o accountability of community of actors that go beyond donor demands and provide traceability.
- Achieve flexibility in Key Performance Indicators (KPI). Set standards for assessments that focus on iterative, long-term processes.
- Invest in locally determined priorities and needs of impacted communities considering diverse vulnerabilities.
- Develop/Support structures for the development of solutions in connection with non-state community actors, governments, and knowledge institutions.
- Adopt a systems approach that forces us to look holistically at water and engage with diverse stakeholders such as in agriculture, infrastructure etc.



The illustration shows the five key messages and the process of collective reflection at the multistakeholder event.

Next steps

Each participant will take forward the discussions through their own networks at the UN Water Conference and after. In addition, WWF will follow up with the partners to collaborate on further research on LLA implementation, local financing for youth and local climate adaptation and connecting movements on climate justice from the Netherlands with the VCA countries where possible.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Local input from the network of Voices for Just Climate Action feed into conversations between a group of diverse Dutch actors involving CSO's, policymakers, youth, and researchers.

Two main challenges were presented for collective reflection.


CHALLENGE 1: HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE EFFECTIVE LARGE-SCALE IMPLEMENTATION OF LOCALLY LED ADAPTION?

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- Stop investing in harmful projects.
- Participation should not be tokenistic.
- Being inclusive in climate crisis has very little to do with time, but with integral systems and willingness.
- We must reframe what solutions look like and what a good process is, to arrive at such solutions.
- We need to find openings into systems that are already there, for setting up 10-year project cycles.
- What we are missing in the POV's is a true accountability for northern INGOs. This accountability should scrutinize northern organisations.

ISSUES TO CONSIDERED FOR LEARNING

- What is it about the local that we are bringing forward? Is this about needs and priorities and voicing these, is it about helping to organize, lobby and mobilize resources and other actors?
- Advocating for locally led solutions by local people may put a lot of weight on the shoulders of local communities.
- How to deal with voices that do not align with your vision. How to engage different views? May we be excluding voices? How do we package diversity? Are we being selective?
- The donor culture is often good at finding CSOs that work at the local levels, but only well-organized organizations will be heard."
- The key question is how to select representatives for funding, who have not yet build capacity to be seen.



PANEL 1:
MARGRIT VAN WESSEL (WUR)
JOE RAY (ROV, MOFA)
ESIN ERDOGAN (SIMANVI)

LEARNINGS

- How local solutions work and don't work also already show many patterns. Focusing on these patterns may help us with strengthening the message.
- INGOS/Donors – should be more open to working with existing networks, instead of wanting to set up new or their own.
- Isn't it also about directing funding for people to acquire enough time to take leadership and their own mobilisation and organising.
- The challenge is that we may not always have the full overview/insight of the implications of our work in the field.
- Although local communities may not have all the answers, they know what they need, they know what they are suffering from and what is causing their problems.
- Slow funding would ensure that a focus on enabling groups that most affected organise to implement programs.
- Consider that the magnitude of the suffering of local communities come out well enough. Organisations need to show that they know these diverse challenges and know what to do.
- Package stories that make sense to donors, showing a clear justice angle, narrative and argument.



CHALLENGE 2: HOW CAN WE ACHIEVE URGENCY OF FINANCING FOR LOCALLY LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS?

KEY TAKE AWAYS

- There is a need to mobilize private finance. Public finance is not enough to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement.
- There is high willingness amongst youth to start projects – but barriers to finance are too big.
- We need (informal) mentorship programs (in LLA) specifically (in finance mobilization).
- We need to look into setting up local financial structures.

ISSUES TO CONSIDERED FOR LEARNING

- There is still lack of information about finances, such as available finance mechanisms, public private interactions.
- There is language/understanding gap between finance/private sector vs climate/development sector.
- There is a lack of mentorship programs for Youth to harness the financial opportunities that may exist.

Not all communities/CSO's are ready for private finance.
- It can be a risk for already vulnerable communities to access private finance. On the other many will miss out because they cannot meet requirements often set.

LEARNINGS

- A whole capacity process is needed before grassroots orgs can access private finance.
- We need to consider other instruments such as debt for nature/climate swaps.
- Financing can also be achieved from cross sectoral engagement such as communication between ministry of agriculture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**PANEL 2:
SARAH OEY (UN YOUTH)
KIERON BRAND (WWF)
BAS LOUMAN (TROPENBOS)**

VCA FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

PRESENTED BY:
MAIMUNA KABATESI, THE
GLOBAL VCA COORDINATOR
OF HIVOS

VCA ensures that communities are centred in decisions to adapt to climatic change. Expertise of VCA can help in different ways:

FOCAL POINTS

1. **Continuous policy checks and strong advocacy**
2. **Matching finance**
3. **Paying attention to Justice in large scale projects**

BEST PRACTICES

Unsafe water in Paraguay and Bolivia

The Pantanal is the largest wetland in the world. Communities have been living of its resources for centuries. Yet, the Indigenous Yshir communities now no longer have access to safe drinking water. They rely on small amounts of water supplied to them in barrels. The wetland is drying out and the river is polluted. **VCA is working to strengthen capacities from communities to exercise their rights to access resources.** Water reserves are a key solution to combat the negative effects of climate change.

The "Water Code" in Tunisia

In the Medjerda basin, wetlands have been constructed and local people are facing serious challenges to meet their livelihoods. **VCA is promoting microfinance initiatives to support alternative livelihoods.** The challenge is that matching microfinance institutions with most marginalised communities is very low because of their conditions and because Micro finance institutions are few thus limiting access to adequate finance to majority population.

Indonesia's Giant Sea wall

The construction of the giant sea wall forcefully evicted informal settlements and fisherfolk lost access to the sea. In principle, VCA partners understand the need for this intervention. However, local people were not effectively included in the decisions nor consulted. Their livelihoods were not considered. In other areas, rain is also becoming more and more scarce. **BAIK Food coalition is network connected with VCA is coordinating bamboo planting to help the ecosystem restoration.**



"WWF ARGUES THAT LOCAL SOLUTIONS THAT ARE NATURE-BASED SHOULD BE PRIORITISED BECAUSE THEY OFTEN ADDRESS INEQUALITY IN SUBSTANTIAL WAYS."

BART GEENEN, LEAD WWF THEMATIC TEAM

IMPORTANCE VCA FOR WWF

Lukanga Swamps in Zambia

The Lukanga Swamps are drying and restoring swamps to enhance the buffering and sponge function of the wetlands was crucial to achieve flood protection and sustainable flow of water in the river for water security and for development. However, the wetlands also had Islands formed due to industrial change in hydrological cycle that were being inhabited by fisherfolk settlements now.

Moreover, and climate change effects in the area, there are mining effects, sediments, cholera, vulnerable livelihoods, lack of water quality, etc. Whatever needed to be done needs to be systemic, and they need to determine how to consider the diverse social issues. The dominant perspective was of government and companies, but the story is now also told from a different perspective: that of the diverse local people, whose voices needed to be raised regarding their experiences of floods and respective consequences. **VCA is enabling WWF to start from whatever is possible and a priority from the ground.**

**"THE COMMUNITIES
INHABITING THE SWAMPS
INCREASE PRESSURE ON
THE ECOLOGY. REMOVING
THE ISLANDS WILL
RESTORE WATER CYCLE —
BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO
THE INHABITANTS?"**

PRESENTED BY:
ZSOKA HALASZOVA



SUPPORT NETHERLANDS

Voices for Just Climate Action

In 2021 VCA was pitched at climate adaptation summit. At the same time, Locally Led Adaption principles were presented. Both are about returning decision making to the local levels, getting climate finance to local levels. Other programs within this framework supported by the Netherlands are:

1. Reverse the flow: Directly supporting local organisations. Pilot in Kenya.
2. Financing Locally Led Climate Action Program (FLLoCA). Coordinated by the world bank and other organisation (Tropenbos, CDKN run by SSN).
3. The aim is to use the diverse lessons on Locally Led Adaption to shape the revision of existing adaptation programs and see how we can make these more responsive to local issues.

"WE WANT TO LINK LOCALLY LED ADAPTION WITH CLIMATE DIPLOMACY. IT WILL APPLY TO THE WHOLE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. DIVERSE VOICES ARE NEEDED TO SHAPE THIS TRANSITION!"

**OMER RENTERGHEM
SENIOR POLICY OFFICER OF
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**





Why we are here.

To stop the degradation of the world's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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