Urgency in Action: Understanding human behaviour and ensuring human rights and gender equality in response to climate change

Bangkok, 10 – 11 May 2016

FINAL REPORT

Table of contents

Introduction

Climate change is one of the major threats of our time to human wellbeing and survival, and constitutes an obstacle to the full enjoyment of human rights. Climate change disproportionately affects people living in situations of poverty, marginalization, and vulnerability. These communities are also often those who have contributed the least to climate change. The consequences of climate change will have a huge impact for our planet and future generations, and we all have a responsibility to act before it is too late.

The Paris Agreement marks the recognition by the international community that climate change is a common concern of humankind and that it poses unacceptable threats to the full enjoyment of human rights. The current voluntary commitments will not limit global warming below the necessary two degrees. Failing further action, states will not be able to meet their human rights obligations and the world will experience increased rates of death, injuries, illness, displacement and hardship as the consequences of a planet that is two or three degrees warmer.

Purpose and focus of the workshop

The Embassy of Sweden held its fifth Annual Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on 10-11 May 2016, focusing on human rights, gender equality and urgent climate action. We invited participants to reflect on the following question:

Why is it so difficult for human beings to act effectively in spite of all the knowledge and mounting evidence that we have in relation to climate change?

The workshop featured a diverse set of sessions with over 30 presenters, who explored different ways of changing behaviour and integrating gender equality and human rights into solutions that tackle poverty, inequality, and climate change impacts. The workshop brought together over 150 participants from international and local NGOs, governments, private firms, media organizations, research organizations, and UN agencies to exchange perspectives and expert knowledge on gender, environment, human rights, and behaviour.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To create a deeper understanding regarding the urgency and need to act now in response to climate change.
- To provide examples on how integration of human rights and gender equality will improve interventions for sustainable development and climate change.
- To increase awareness about the nature of human behaviour as a factor that needs to be addressed in policies and interventions for sustainable development.

Key Messages

The workshop has produced a number of key messages. These include:

The challenge of climate change

- Climate change remains a huge challenge for humanity. Concerted action remains inadequate despite the pledges made by governments in the Paris Climate Agreement. Governments need to act strongly now to mitigate the disastrous impacts of climate change.

- To realize this, a framework of equitable effort sharing has been put in place by civil society, where countries have their respective 'equity ranges' with which to base their emissions reduction targets. The overarching principle governing equitable effort sharing is premised on the fundamental belief that the atmosphere is a global commons. As such, climate change responses must be fairly shared to be effective in an effort to seek solutions that are fair for all.

Gender, human rights and climate change

- Climate change impacts different people differently depending on their gender, ethnicity, wealth, and other factors. Unequal rights make women, sexual minorities, ethnic and racial groups, the youth and elderly, and the disabled more vulnerable to climate and disaster risks. Gender equality and human rights lie at the core of responses to climate change. The concerns of vulnerable groups or communities need to be a key priority in climate actions and solutions.

- Women play vital roles in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. But gaps persist, including limited women's participation and leadership in climate change projects and programmes. Evidence from the ground shows the value of empowering local women as active participants in shaping dialogue and decisions around climate change. However, climate change responses should not be treated as a sole purview of women to add to their already long list of care obligations, but a role that they equally share with men.

- Gender concerns are treated as boxes to be ticked off in existing climate finance projects. Institutions providing climate finance must demand higher standards of project design to better integrate gender and human rights in climate finance projects. Actions can include defining explicit budgets for gender, operationalizing gender concepts when setting and monitoring outcomes, and mainstreaming gender within organizations that work on climate change.

- Human rights based approaches (HRBA) can activate state mechanisms to enforce accountability policies and access policies that protect the procedural and substantive rights of the poor who have had fewer rights and are, in most cases, marginalized by development itself. HRBA guarantees the protection of groups in vulnerable situations and ensures equal rights for women and men, and other social groups marked by ethnicity, race, class, disability and sexual orientation.

- The premise for transformational change is that climate change is caused by the most powerful but experienced by the least powerful. This approach brings back the notion of power as an engine of change: we need to challenge the power behind corporations and patriarchy, and in turn realize a feminist fossil fuel-free future. Change can be brought about

by social movements that nurture a global culture of solidarity that creates hope for the least powerful.

Behaviour and human decision-making

- When we make decisions, we are not as rational as we think we are. Information is not enough to inspire action. Behavioural economics, psychology, and human cognition research have given us insights into how we translate thought into decision, and decision into action. To induce behavioural change, we should address the systematic biases that demotivate behaviour and disable action, such as social norms, and perhaps create and use aesthetic experiences that can profoundly shift our worldviews.

- Applying behaviourally informed programme and policy components can significantly increase impacts.

Legal frameworks, the media, and behavioural change

- Laws and top-down grievance mechanisms often do not guarantee justice for the least powerful in society. The "technical" nature of climate change discourse is sometimes misused by officials against communities, and laws have been used against communities fighting for their rights. Grievance mechanisms, when designed poorly, can create power imbalances favouring companies, and limit options for victims.

- Since laws alone cannot guarantee justice for communities, they need to be combined with a strong civil society and media for ensuring social justice outcomes. Digital tools, such as geojournalism and social media, provide platforms for advocacy and mobilization for change. Good communication should select the right tools, messages, and framing for different target audiences. Civil society and the media should work together to influence policy and accelerate behavioural change.

- The public needs to become critical consumers of media, both by showing awareness of the influence of large corporations on mainstream media, and by diversifying their information sources. Consumers should know they hold great economic and political power to push for fair and sustainable business practices.

Transboundary resource governance

- The failure to tackle transboundary issues that harm the environment, health, and livelihoods of many in the ASEAN and Asia-Pacific regions arises from business-driven agendas. A silo approach – a resistance to share information and cooperate for a larger good – undermines transboundary cooperation, and lack of political will to enforce regulations for equitable outcomes, in many cases due to corruption. Capacity building and multi-stakeholder partnership, especially with strong private sector involvement, are key to creating mechanisms for effective collaboration and to hold governments accountable for their actions and obligations.

Embracing complexity in responding to climate change

- Responding to climate change is a complex undertaking. It involves many stakeholders, institutions, markets, states, coalitions, and movements. Pathways and solutions can be multiple and multi-scalar: an example in the palm oil sector shows that the combined

pressures from markets, regulations, peers and campaigns, can work together to create change. The extent to which each of these pressures is applicable and useful is always context specific. There is no one-size-fits-all recipe, nor is there only one lever that will create a big ripple of change.

Workshop Introduction

H.E. Staffan Herrström, Swedish Ambassador to Thailand, Lao PDR and Myanmar, welcomed participants to the workshop. The Ambassador confirmed that the workshop themes were at the core of Swedish policy. He spoke of Sweden's aspiration to lead the world not only as the first feminist government, but also in implementing Agenda 2030 and Paris Agreement, and of his country's commitment to investing in renewable energy and providing economic incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Ambassador also emphasized the need for spaces for free debate and the inclusion of civil society, especially in Southeast Asia, in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Charlotta Bredberg, *Senior Programme Manager on Human Rights and Democracy at the Development Cooperation Section of the Embassy of Sweden (SIDA) in Bangkok*, introduced the objectives of the workshop. The workshop aimed to explore how the global momentum from Agenda 2030 and the Paris agreement could be turned into concrete action. *Charlotta Bredberg* illustrated the need for urgency with the severe effects of climate change already occurring to communities in island nations, threatening cultural identities and livelihoods. An understanding of human behaviour was highlighted as critical to encouraging urgent action.

Setting the Scene: Climate Change, Equity, and the Paris Agreement

Two keynote speakers set the scene for the workshop with global and local perspectives on the issue of equity in climate change.

Sivan Kartha (Senior Scientist at the Stockholm Environment Institute) focused on global equity in the context of the Paris Agreement. He highlighted how the negotiations in Paris supported the creation of a bottom-up regime, where national pledges of action to deal with climate change at the international stage have been driven by what countries felt they were politically able to achieve at the national stage. In addition, he stressed how the negotiations committed countries to very ambitious climate goals, with parties committing themselves to holding increases in global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. The national pledges have since been assessed by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Both assessments have come to the same conclusion: that the pledges are not sufficient for holding warming below 2°C.

Given that the bottom-up pledges emerging from the Agreement are insufficient to limit warming to below 2°C, *Sivan Kartha* proposed a review of the pledges based on equity principles. He stressed that a global response to climate change has to be fair to be effective. Climate change is a global challenge; no single country can protect its own climate simply by reducing its own emissions. International cooperation with equitable effort sharing is more likely to be agreed and to be successfully implemented. States have a common but differentiated responsibility, and pledge reviews should be based on each country's level of responsibility (in terms of historical emissions) on causing the problem and capability (financial and technological) to solving the problem. He cited the critical role of civil society and human behaviour in mobilizing action in solidarity to seek solutions that are fair for all.

Sivan Kartha ended his keynote with four concluding remarks:

1. *The pledges are not enough*. The pledges are a start but they are not on track to keeping a below 2°C rise.

2. *Equity is key*. A fair agreement is more likely to be successful. Some nations will act as leaders while others will be looking for examples to follow. For wealthier countries, providing support is a core part of fulfilling their fair share of the effort, and for poorer countries, even those that have met their fair share, much more mitigation must be done in support of international cooperation.

3. *Civil society plays a role*. The engagement of civil society is important in dealing with climate change, and technical analysis can be provided by civil society research institutes and organizations. Consensus building initiatives are extremely important in mobilizing support and informing governments.

4. *Human behaviour*. Perspectives, values and priorities needed for a low carbon transition become clear, especially as we realize this is a common problem that we need to solve together. It will require fair, equitable and ethical consideration for others. It will require solidarity; making solutions that provide just livelihoods and transitions for all. In addition, it will have to be based on an enlightened self-interest – a rational, expansive and long-term self-interest, rather than a short-term and limited self-interest that currently drives much of the actions of private actors.

Samantha Kwan (President of the Youth Climate Action Network of Samoa, and Marine Conservation Officer at the Samoan Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment) spoke on the personal experiences of her island nation. She expressed the Paris Agreement had given many people hope, but that communities needed more capacity and resources to cope with climate change effects. She also brought attention to the need for equitable action, citing social structures that exclude women and youth from participating in decision making, and the neglect of the Fa'afafine's (third-gender people) safety in vulnerable disaster situations.

In one example, *Samantha Kwan* talked about the struggles of youth in getting their voices heard in their communities. She stressed the large stake that the youth have in the future of their country, and described the initiative they have taken to make their voices heard, such as through engaging with the South-South Youth Sub-Regional Initiative on Climate Change (supported by UNDP). The initiative hosted a conference, the first event of its kind to be held in the Pacific that focused on youth and provided them with a space to discuss the specific climate change-driven challenges experienced by young people. Participation in such processes has empowered young people to take action in dealing with climate change into their own hands to drive change in their communities. *Samantha Kwan* concluded her keynote by reiterating the need for action, stressing the role and value that small-scale action can have on mobilizing big changes in society. She called for more inclusive and participatory approaches where marginalized people are given more serious thought, and a heightened awareness and capacity building to support small scale changes within communities.

Session 1: Climate Change, Human Rights, and Gender: How are they linked?

Heike Alefsen (Senior Regional Human Rights Advisor of the UN Development Group (Asia-Pacific)) moderated a panel that discussed challenges and successes in incorporating gender equity and human rights concerns into climate change programmes and policies. In international frameworks, there has been renewed attention by human rights actors to climate change and its impacts on rights and gender equality. Too often viewed as an abstract subject, climate change has a concrete impact on human rights, and affects and undercuts the rights to sustainable development in all its dimensions – the rights to food, to health, to adequate housing, and to life. International human rights actors, such as the Human Rights Council and its new Special Rapporteur on environment, draw attention to these impacts and propose strategies on how to mitigate the impacts. The panel examined this further from their perspectives.

Morten Kjaerum (Director of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law) introduced human rights principles as tools for protecting communities that face (comparatively) greater risks from climate change. States that are parties to human rights conventions are legally bound to respect and protect their obligations. *Morten Kjaerum* commented that human rights principles offer three elements. Firstly, clarity in procedures and accountability, for example, being accountable for enforcing the legal rights of disaster-prone communities. He drew on an example relating to building safety laws and regulation, and highlighted that due to bad governance, in transparency and corruption, these laws and regulations are often not implemented. This has led to disasters in many places. Secondly, human rights offer a substantive legal framework to protect religious and ethnic minorities and other high-risk groups from discrimination in disaster situations by spelling out their substantive rights to life, health, housing, food, etc. Thirdly, human rights can act as enforcement mechanisms, and can be used in, for example, assessment tools in planning and decision making.

Cecilia Aipira (Gender, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Advisor for UN Women (Asia-Pacific)) focused on the disproportionate impact of climate change on women and girls in Asia, and what is needed to address this inequality. She cited causes such as unequal rights, low levels of political participation, the greater dependence of women on natural resources and agriculture, and increased vulnerability to gender-based violence and human trafficking during disasters. While she commended the move away from gender-blind policies, she stressed that there are still large institutional gaps that leave the intersection between gender, disaster risk reduction and climate change unaddressed, and a lack of systemic data collection for informing gender-sensitive policies and programmes. There is also little clarity in what is needed to foresee change and the indicators and measures we should engage with to ensure that the vulnerabilities and gendered aspects of climate change are reduced. In addition, while there have been significant improvements in women's participation in the region, there is still a long way to go. *Cecilia Aipira* drew specific attention to the limited participation in global and regional frameworks, and commented that only 26% of members in the UNFCCC are women. She highlighted the important role that civil society organizations (CSOs) play in addressing gender equality and climate change, but a lack of space with the national governments or forums means that their work is not being transmitted to policy

level. She ended by noting that projects receiving climate change financing rarely address gender equity even when it is highly relevant, and questioned how this can be changed.

Jonathan Gilman (UNEP) explored the extent to which gender and human rights are currently being integrated into the climate change frameworks under the UNFCCC, and the ways in which we can strengthen and support member states in integrating gender and human rights and considering the SDGs in climate change action. He noted the increase in references to gender in UNFCCC mitigation mechanisms and programmes, such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC), but that a greater commitment to engaging with gender is needed. 64 (40%) of the INDCs currently include a gender component; however, these references are often superficial, and it is found that only 33 include gender in a meaningful way in terms of making commitments to adopting gender responsive approaches to addressing climate change. In relation to climate change and human rights, there is still a long way to go; references to human rights are only found in 14 INDCs in the region, and are notably absent from the INDCs of developed countries. He commented that there is still a chance to revise and better mainstream gender and human rights in the INDCs. He also spoke of UNEP's interest in strengthening disaggregated gender and human rights data collection to monitor progress toward Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to the environment. In addition, there are possibilities to strengthen INDCs through platforms or workshops to provide spaces for exchanging best practices on how countries are addressing human rights and gender in climate change reporting and planning tools across the Asia region. He ended on highlighting the need to work with finance ministries and central banks in developing roadmaps for action for financing sustainable development.

Alaya de Leon (co-founder of Parabukas) described the power of bottom-up lobbying from human rights actors in including human rights principles in the Paris Agreement. An informal consultation group at COP21 was successful in introducing human rights principles into the preamble of the Paris Agreement, meaning that for the first time, these overarching principles apply to an entire UNFCCC Agreement document. Although there are no compliance mechanisms for the Paris Agreement, the principles are linked to existing human rights obligations which provide a strong basis for making countries accountable. She ended by highlighting that from the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in South Asian countries, 5 make reference to human rights, gender equality and participatory processes, but that it is still unclear as to how these will be implemented.

Discussion

The discussion that followed the panel raised the following questions and issues:

- *What happens if countries do not follow up on their commitments to gender equity and human rights?* The panel responded that UN treaties can be used to enforce these commitments judicially. Economic incentives can also be used, such that climate financing is not approved unless gender equity and human rights are sufficiently addressed. Working with the private sector, who will provide most of this financing in the future, can also steer investment toward gender- and human rights-sensitive projects.
- We need to reckon with the sobering reality that the most marginalized segments of society are already on the front line of climate change impacts, and that climate change actions and policies need to include measures such as social safety nets and social insurance.

- There is a need for greater inclusion of stakeholders who are marginalized and unable to have their own voices. They need to be targeted as beneficiaries but also as proactive stakeholders in engagement.

Session 2: Group Discussion – How to use a human rights-based approach for climate change actions

Helena Olsson, Programme Officer at the Raoul Wallenberg Institute led workshop participants in small group discussions on practical issues in using a human rights-based approach. The session introduced a hypothetical case of a new hydropower project in an area with indigenous communities and a history of extractive industry, poor infrastructure, high levels of poverty and unemployment, and prostitution, as a basis for discussion. The groups covered the following five themes:

Rights at stake

The group reflected on the rights that would be at stake in the construction of the hydropower plant, and the mechanisms in place that should support these rights. They proposed that the following rights should be considered: right to self-determination, adequate housing, health, sanitation, land and water, social protection, safe infrastructure, compensation, labour, and access to justice. The rights of certain groups that would be disproportionately impacted were also considered, such as the rights of women, children and indigenous people.

The group then listed the mechanisms (legal and other) that could support these rights. These included: Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly in relation to the rights of indigenous people; Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act, which promotes the rights of indigenous cultural communities; the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and related National Contact Points (NCPs); Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA); and other regulatory documents (e.g. ASEAN) and customary laws.

Gender equality and women's rights

The group discussed the particular threats toward women that the project could spur, such as: increased violence due to greater vulnerability from displacement (due to threats to e.g. livelihoods); increased burden from challenges in collecting water and producing food; exploitation from short-term project staff; reduced rights to participation, decision making and justice; trafficking risks; and increased migration leading to heightened family burdens. They identified the most vulnerable groups to be indigenous women, children (particularly girls), the elderly, and disabled, as well as those communities who are largely water dependent.

The group identified the mechanism which could support women's rights, which included: National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs); local courts; Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA); ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights; ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children; OEDC Guidelines; and human rights (and other) safeguards.

Procedural rights

The group identified the following pertinent procedural rights: right to participation, information, expression and assembly, and free and prior informed consent. They proposed mechanisms to work with parliaments, human rights and anti-corruption commissions and courts at the national level, and to work

with UN mechanisms (e.g. UN Country Teams, treaty bodies, Special Procedures, High Commissioner, and Universal Periodic Reviews), international forums for indigenous people, and UN Women at the local level.

<u>Obligations of states and corporations</u>

The group discussed the need for governments to address both existing and future development needs of the communities affected, and to ensure community participation in decision-making processes. They discussed that states should establish legal frameworks to guide investments and enforce principles and regulations with the cooperation of the private sector, and should use existing mechanisms such as Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), national and regional mechanisms for relocating and resettling displaced communities and protecting rights of vulnerable populations.

<u>Differentiated needs and rights</u>

The group identified various groups that have specific needs and rights, such as indigenous peoples, migrant workers, human trafficking victims, women, people with disabilities, the elderly, children, and the poor.

They discussed the potential of different legal mechanisms in addressing differentiated needs and rights, and the need for specific approaches for each group. Some of the mechanisms identified included: hard and soft laws (e.g. bank safeguards that ensure private sector accountability); Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (EIAS); Human Rights Impact Assessments; UN Guiding Principles to support human rights due diligence; and disaster risk reduction plans, resettlement plans, and migration plans which take onto consideration the risks of vulnerable groups (e.g. indigenous people, women, and children).

Session 3: The role of human behaviour in response to climate change

Matthew Fielding (Project Manager at the Stockholm Environment Institute) moderated a panel discussion on looking beyond assuming human rationality, to embracing and addressing the psychological and social drivers of decision-making.

Jeremy Shapiro (President of the Busara Center for Behavioural Economics) described the importance of recognizing systematic biases, such as social norms, salience, and procrastination, that prevent behavioural change by inhibiting the connections between thought, decision, and action. He proposed various ways to address these biases to motivate and enable action, based on research, and raised the need for behaviourally-informed policies and programmes for large-scale change. He concluded by asking the audience to reflect on three points. Firstly, human behaviour underlies many of the big issues that we are faced with, such climate change and gender discrimination. When confronting these big issues, he asks us to think about what behaviours really need to change in order to see change at a larger scale. Secondly, science helps us understand the sorts of biases and frictions at play which limit people from acting in the way that is desired. It is important that we reflect on what prevents people from caring about an issue or the barriers which limit people in taking action. Thirdly, minor details in the way information is presented can have a major impact in the way it is received, engaged with, and acted upon. He asks how information can be better communicated to induce the change we want to see.

Pham Khanh Nam (Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Development Economics at the University of Economics in Ho Chi Minh) spoke of his experience in using psychology and behavioural economic lenses to examine the climate change adaptation behaviour of farmers in the Mekong Delta. Theses farmers, who face a multitude of challenges (salt water intrusion, drought, flooding) have to choose between many adaptation options (migrating, buying insurance, building dykes, changing farming practices, changing crops, etc.), and are prone to making ineffective choices because of psychological factors such as risk perceptions and attitudes.

Diego Galafassi (film and theatre director at Fasad Film) brought an aesthetic angle to the discussion. He proposed that deep and long-lasting behavioural change arises from emotionally-charged self-motivation that transforms awareness to care, and then to action, as emotions shape reasoning on an intuitive level. He discussed the potential of cinema and other art forms to mobilize deep engagement with an audience, through creating momentary insights and experiences of awe that reconfigure mental models. He cited examples of scientists who are now looking to use these insights to create deep mind shifts and communicate science with impact.

Session 4: Voices from the Ground – Realizing inclusive development and social justice

Kate Lappin (Regional Coordinator of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)) led an all-female panel that shared stories of grass roots resistance, resilience and activism in response to the disproportionate impact of climate change on women. She highlighted the importance of empowering women's movements and creating a culture of solidarity for large-scale change.

Kate Lappin introduced the concept of feminist participatory action research and stressed the need to support movements at the local level through developing strategies based on the resources available. She highlighted 4 course domains to support such practice: 1) building capacity at local level; 2) providing support to local knowledge production; 3) creating advocacy spaces for women for their voices to be heard, among for example local and national governments; and 4) developing movement architecture, e.g. institutions, networks, and platforms.

Jane Siwa (Public Information and Education Officer of the Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights (CTUHR) in the Philippines) spoke from her experience supporting women workers, the urban poor, and their families who are affected by climate change related disasters and policies. She explained that women workers and the urban poor, already marginalized from job opportunities, face greater difficulties in recovering from frequent disasters because of lack of governmental support and social services. She spoke of how development programmes rarely take into consideration the specific needs of women. She gave an example of resettlement programmes relating to climate change in Manila, which move families to new areas that tend to be away from women's areas of work, and lack in services and other essential amenities. She described how CTUHR's national advocacy programme is addressing these issues with local network building, solidarity walks, and dialogues to build alliances for climate justice with religious institutes and parliament. She ended by highlighting that a just and equitable transition is needed to bring women's rights, gender equality and climate change together.

Tran Thi Thanh Toan (Programme Manager at the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) in Vietnam) spoke about creating change through empowering women in coping with disasters and climate change. She described the changes she has witnessed in including local women in training and decision making, such as higher levels of confidence, and seeing husbands being more accepting of their wives' participation in community planning. Through successful advocating within communities, women are now included in the village rapid response team (which responds to disasters in the community) which was previously formed of only men. *Tran Toan* commented that this has led to real changes for the local women, and they now feel empowered and have a right to participate in decision making processes.

Helen Hakena, Executive Director of Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency in Papua New Guinea, spoke for the community of women displaced from the Carteret Islands due to sea level rise. These women, who were initially actively excluded from participating in community meetings and consultations, joined her organization's feminist participatory action research (FPAR) project. This involved capacity building on climate change, women's networks building, and engagement with the Bougainville government on climate change-related issues. The outcomes showed increased women's participation in

decision-making committees, political spaces for women, power in advocating for policy changes and human rights protection, solidarity between women's groups and climate change organizations, and coordination between civil society organizations and government. Helen also highlighted the important role of the media in communicating with communities and governments on the issues of climate change. This has proved successful in influencing government action in Bougainville.

Daisy Arago of the Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights (CTUHR) in the Philippines spoke about some of the tools and methods which could be used in supporting climate change action. She introduced the practice of analysing 'critical pathways', that is, identifying the steps needed to achieve goals at different levels. This includes understanding the sectors, organizations, institutions and individuals who have the greatest influence or decision-making power in the development of policies and implementation of goals at both national and local levels, as well as the capacities and priorities of different actors (including vulnerable communities) in supporting action. Understanding critical pathways can help support more targeted and effective climate action. CTUHR supports women in critically analysing their own situations, helping them understand not only their own capacities, but the structural and social organizations that exist in communities, at national, and at global levels, which could influence change in their own lives. *Daisy Arago* concluded by stressing the need to strengthen links between vulnerable groups and development policies as a way of building resilient communities. One way of supporting this link is through establishing partnership or alliances of different organizations, and through linking to global movements (e.g. COP21).

Discussion

The discussion that followed addressed the risks that activists face when demanding climate change justice and gender equality. Panel members acknowledged that such work can be dangerous and that they have received threats in the past, but that risks must be taken, with precautionary measures and the support of networks and the government, to push for transformational change.

Session 5: Opportunities and externalities of development – the case of palm oil

The palm oil sector is growing rapidly, with global demand expected to double before 2050. This growth translates to more land needed for oil palm, leading to greenhouse gas emissions, haze pollution, land grabbing and human exploitation. These are particular issues for Southeast Asia, as 90% of oil palm grown in Malaysia and Indonesia. Conversely, if managed well, the palm oil sector can bring about economic development for vast numbers of people. *Johan Verburg (Pro-Poor Value Chains Advisor at Oxfam Novib*) moderated a panel discussion with actors involved in research and private sector engagement for sustainability of the palm oil sector in Southeast Asia. The session started with short introductions to each panellist's work in inducing change toward sustainable palm oil production.

Ha Nguyen (Research Associate at the Stockholm Environment Institute) introduced SEI's research on the global palm oil supply chain. She spoke of their interviews with a variety of stakeholders in Indonesia, including smallholders, companies, and government officials, to understand their perspectives on and commitment to sustainable palm oil. One story of change she observed was the Indonesian government's effort in coping with peat land fires and the resulting transboundary haze that was particularly severe in 2014. In 2015, the national government launched the "fire-free villages" campaign that criminalized those who set fires, and established community-based monitoring and emergency response teams. The campaign was so effective that it reduced the number of fires from 5,900 in 2014 to 1,300 in 2015. This shows that if governments are committed to an issue, they can act very effectively. However, there was inequality in terms of punishment, as smallholders were imprisoned for up to 19 months if they were caught lighting fires, while companies were often not charged.

Alison Eskesen (Director of Knowledge and Innovation at Grow Asia) described her experience working with the private sector for value chain solutions to help smallholder farmers. Grow Asia works in 5 ASEAN countries on 34 different value chains. They engage with a variety of stakeholders, including civil society, farmer organizations, multinational corporations, off-takers that provide market access, and input companies, with the collective goal of improving smallholder productivity and environmental sustainability. When addressing human rights issues agri-business and climate change, a carrot-and-stick approach is necessary. While regulations (the stick) set minimum requirements, voluntary actions by corporations can fundamentally transform how corporations work will smallholder farmers.

Sophia Gnych (Research and Engagement Specialist at the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)), spoke of the need for companies to work with local governments to change unsustainable practices. She gave the example of CIFOR research that revealed that using fire to clear land for oil palm production occurred more frequently as local elections approached, to increase the popularity of local officials for re-election. One proposed solution is having companies committed to zero deforestation take leadership in working with local authorities to counter these politically-driven incentives to clear land with fire, and demonstrate the benefits of a more sustainable land use approach.

Clelia Daniel (Programme Manager at CSR Asia) spoke of the need to convince companies that it makes business sense to be inclusive of smallholders. Good CSR is strategic and produces returns, otherwise it is

philanthropy. A company that wants to be around in the long term will invest in sustainability, and not grow at the expense of others. She raised the example of a company in Krabi, Thailand with an innovative business model. The company is finding new ways of cultivating oil palm in areas that are currently not suitable for production, so that they can expand opportunities for farmers to grow oil palm. Only 15% of the fruits processed by the company is produced by the company itself; the remaining 85% comes from smallholders. The company supported the first group of independent smallholders to get RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certification. This required a lot of investment from the company and other entities such as the GIZ, as smallholders are not usually active with this type of initiative.

Discussion

The discussion that followed explored the following topics:

The invisibility of women and migrant families

Sophia Gnych discussed efforts to include gender considerations in the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) principles and auditing guidelines. Land rights are key determinants of women's roles in oil palm production, both the strength and distribution of statutory land rights that influence women's negotiation power within farms, and customary rights to common property. Women are often "shadow workers" whose contributions are much less visible than men's. This leads to lower wages, fewer opportunities for mobility and permanent status, disproportionate exposure to risk, increased workload and less time for attending meetings for certification, and less access to information and extension services. The RSPO has the potential to be gender inclusive, but the guidelines are not specific enough to be effective. Gender discrimination is lumped together with other forms of discrimination, or is associated with community/religious/social "conventions," which the RSPO is reluctant to engage with. The RSPO needs to have more explicit principles to safeguard and empower women. For example, it should pay attention to the use of terminology such "employees" (who receive income) and "workers" (who may not). Auditors also need to engage with women in their work.

One participant commented on the state of the palm oil industry in the Philippines, where it is considered the "sunshine industry". The government is pushing for rapid expansion by encouraging smallholders to convert to oil palm under the pretext of poverty alleviation, and Malaysian companies have a significant presence in Mindanao. NGOs are very alarmed with the rapid expansion of oil palm. There are cases of child labour use and serious marginalization of women, who can only get jobs in nurseries and pesticide application. She asked how certification can address these human rights issues, such as by looking at food security and access to potable water.

Alison Eskesen has also observed that the most prestigious job in the oil palm sector, harvesting, goes to men. With the feminization of agriculture in the region, she posed the question of what this means for the oil palm industry as men continue to migrate to urban areas.

One participant commented that women are rendered invisible, especially in migrant families. Men are assigned a specific area of land for their families, and wages are based on the extent of that land. Women therefore lose out on wages. *Ha Nguyen* responded that to address this invisibility, companies need to change their contractual arrangement to account for a whole family, not only men. NGOs can play a role

in raising the visibility of the issue, and government can play a role in ensuring women and migrant workers' rights.

Another participant addressed the need to monitor traders and brokers exploit smallholders with low prices, forcing them to work more to earn enough for their families.

Government engagement

The panellists agreed that government buy-in is needed to change regulations and laws. In some cases, governments have been the ones to approach companies in promoting sustainable palm oil.

Alison Eskesen spoke from the experience of Grow Asia, which does not enter a country without government invitation. They examine the country's agriculture sector priorities, and bring in private sector actors that match those priorities. The aim is to engage governments in the long term, through gradual change. Despite an often imperfect enabling environment, they initiate projects and incrementally develop their scale. The private sector plays a role in changing the environment and incentives for the government to act. Most participating companies engage using their commercial funds, and not CSR money, because they see government engagement as a core part of their business model.

Clelia Daniel commented that there are cases where governments approach companies for solutions. For example, the Thai government wants to promote conversion of rubber to oil palm, and has asked companies to support smallholders in changing their cropping systems.

Community engagement and empowerment

Alison Eskesen highlighted the need to think about both protection and production, because forests cannot be protected without giving people livelihoods. Grow Asia is currently examining how they can help smallholders without land titles increase their productivity, such as by replacing ageing trees, and therefore reduce the pressure to deforest for more land.

Ha Nguyen said that there is a window of opportunity for smallholders entering into contracts with companies through farmer associations that can negotiate for fair prices, in principle. However, in practice, there are power dynamics between smallholders and companies that can inhibit this.

Sophia Gnych described cases where local government officials ensure that large companies establish structures and practices that are fair to communities, and other cases in which companies are careful in the way they engage with communities.

Clelia Daniel said that one positive side of oil palm is that it is highly productive and increases the income of farmers. This is one form of empowering farmers and their communities.

Certification and consumer engagement

Sophia Gnych said that palm oil is not a premium good like coffee or chocolate, both of which are more commonly certified. Palm oil is found in small quantities in basic products; it is therefore difficult to generate higher prices through certification that will be passed on to producers. The term "premium" in certification is also misleading, because sustainable palm oil should be the norm, not a luxury good. Also, smallholders are usually price takers, and are therefore less likely to benefit from any value addition produced further up in the value chain.

Ha Nguyen commented that since many are losing faith in the RSPO, the Indonesian government is introducing its own certification (ISPO), which involves substantial investment both policy-wise and financially. NGOs are pushing for the government to include human rights protection in this certification.

The role of the media

Sophia Gnych said that researchers are responsible for translating their research for the public, but that the media has the role of creating pressure on companies and normalizing the language and concepts around sustainable palm oil, especially at the subnational level.

Clelia Daniel also said that the media has a large role to play in creating systemic change, by pointing fingers not at any one company, but the entire industry. But she also warned of the potential harm that can be done. It is easy to sell negative and derogatory news, which does not encourage companies who are struggling to improve huge supply chains. There is a need to engage journalists, in the long term, to understand and communicate about the industry.

Pathways toward positive change

Ha Nguyen said that we need to engage with actors that indirectly influence the supply chain – such as communities, NGOs, and governments – who are often forgotten in these conversations. *Clelia Daniel* emphasized the need for dialogue, engagement, and knowledge sharing between the many stakeholders involved. *Alison Eskesen* commented on the value of initiating work, even at a smaller scale, and learning along the way. One positive observation is that stakeholders are also convening on the issue of sustainable palm oil. The real challenge is engaging invisible small and medium-sized companies that do not want to be seen. Financial institutions are starting to become part of the solution. *Sophia Gnych* acknowledged that "coming into the light" can be a scary process for companies, and asked what can be done to alleviate these fears. She said we should start to embrace the complexity of the issues surrounding palm oil production. It is important to upgrade and formalize the sector by strengthening it from the foundation up. Financial investment for achieving this, but also time and creativity.

Session 6: Governing transboundary challenges – human rights, gender equality, and accountability

Carl Middleton (Deputy Director for International Research in the Centre for Social Development Studies in the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University) moderated a panel discussion on identifying and addressing the causes of transboundary challenges in the region, with particular attention to implications for human rights and gender equality. The roles and initiatives of regional organizations were also discussed.

Thomas Thomas (CEO of the ASEAN CSR Network) identified haze, domestic and migrant worker rights violations, climate change, and land acquisitions as the key transboundary challenges in ASEAN. He cited corruption, weak law enforcement, and a profit-at-all-costs mind set as obstacles to tackling transboundary challenges in ASEAN. He highlighted the role of good governance as a solution, saying that regulations are ineffective without enforcement, which requires tackling corruption. He also spoke of the importance to incentivise social responsibility among corporations by showing that it is not philanthropy, but a sustainable way of making money. His organization aims to change behavioural norms in business through capacity building, and campaigns on international standards and human rights issues. He said that there is cause for optimism, as the new ASEAN economic community blueprint addresses issues such as human rights, transboundary crimes, and gender equality. The challenge now is the implementation of these plans. Other positive trends are the improvements in responsible reporting from stock exchanges; and an increasing discourse on responsible business, including topics such as labour exploitation, human trafficking, and women's rights, among business chambers and federations in ASEAN.

Isabelle Louis (Regional Director of UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific) identified air pollution as a major transboundary issue in the region, where 70% of premature deaths from air pollution occur. Indoor air pollution affects women in particular. Women, therefore, need equal access to training, and should be included in national efforts to increase energy efficiency. Women entrepreneurship should be recognized as an agent of change for clean energy adoption and energy transitions. She also spoke of the importance of regional cooperation platforms that bring together governments and the private sector, and bridge science and policy to support decision making, citing UNEP's collaboration with the Asia Pacific Clean Air Partnership (APCAP) and the ASEAN Standards Harmonization Initiative for Energy Efficiency (ASEAN-SHINE).

Ly Thim (Socio-economic Specialist at the Mekong River Commission) commented on the challenges of climate change adaptation in the Lower Mekong Basin, where climate change affects the livelihoods of over half the population. These people rely on activities such as farming, fishing, and forest product harvesting. A vulnerability assessment conducted by the MRC identified high poverty rates and low literacy rates, especially among women, in parts of the basin as challenges for designing climate change adaptation strategies. While all MRC member countries have developed adaptation strategies, none of them look at transboundary adaptation. The MRC's mandate is to focus on transboundary adaptation, by 1) reviewing national policies; 2) conducting basin-wide assessments of climate change impacts on hydrology, hydropower, ecosystems, food security, and socioeconomic characteristics; 3) assessing transboundary adaptation needs; and 4) designing a regional adaptation strategy that aligns with national

policies. This strategy, which will be the first region-wide adaptation strategy in Asia, is under development. Inter-country negotiations on adaptation needs have been challenging.

Elaine Tan (Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation) challenged the silo approach to development in the region, in addressing problems that are cross-sectoral and/or transboundary. For example, food security might be overseen by the ministry of agriculture, without the involvement of the ministries of rural development and women's affairs. Breaking away from silos requires bringing together governments, civil society, and the private sector. She gave the example of a regional exchange programme with smallholder farmers and policy makers to learn about cooperative development in ASEAN. It was the first time these groups met. The programme focused on capacity building and communal learning, as the participants exchanged experiences and recognized the level of diversity among smallholder groups and how they organize. ASEAN is, to some extent, open to engagement with civil society, and this is area that needs to be further addressed.

Charles Santiago (Member of Parliament of Malaysia) pointed to the non-interference principle between ASEAN states as a major obstacle to addressing transboundary challenges, such as the annual haze crisis from forest fires in Indonesia, and the Don Sahong dam in Laos. He explained how ASEAN's business-driven agenda de-prioritizes environment and livelihood issues, despite environmental commitments made by states. He highlighted the lack of political will to translate these commitments into action, and to create mechanisms to deliver justice to those most affected by transboundary issues. For example, there have been complaints launched against the Don Sahong dam, financed by China and developed by a Malaysian company, but the Malaysian government claimed the case was not under its jurisdiction. He proposed responsible investments as a solution, requiring the use of environmental impact assessments (EIA) and livelihood impact assessments, as well as the investment of profits in local communities.

Discussion

The discussion that followed covered the following topics.

Upstream-downstream links

A participant commented on the strong links between the upstream Hindu Kush Himalayan Mountains and the downstream Mekong river basin, saying that South Asia and Southeast Asia need to engage in more information sharing to address issues of disasters and human rights. *Ly Thim* commented that some level of information sharing exists, and gave the example of an early warning system based on information sharing between countries. However, he said there are still challenges in engaging countries like Myanmar and China to share more openly, and that this is a political issue.

Dumping of hazardous waste in ASEAN waters

A participant asked how we can better engage the private sector to address this transboundary issue. *Thomas Thomas* responded that we need to target business norms and behaviour in the long term. The use of sustainability reporting has shown that companies tend to do better in areas that governments identify as priorities. Therefore, we need to make sure governments are interested in the right areas. Consumers also play a role in setting norms for companies.

<u>Trans-national migration induced by climate change</u>

A participant commented that climate change-induced migration across borders is expected to increase. These migrants are not acknowledged by international law as refugees. Are there international forums that address this?

Elaine Tan raised the example of the ASEAN forum on migrant workers, which encourages multi-stakeholder engagement, and could incorporate climate change in their discussions. *Isabelle Louis* cited the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) that engages the private sector, addresses resilience, and discussed financing mechanisms for adaptation. APAN could address migration because it brings in stakeholders that may be outside "traditional" areas of climate change adaptation.

<u>International trade agreements involving ASEAN</u>

A participant asked the panel to comment on the effectiveness of trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), and whether there are alternative forms of trade that address the inadequacies of these trade agreements in term of human rights and the environment. *Charles Santiago* responded that these large trade agreements are the first to address environment issues, but that the standards are low. They also address transboundary dispute settlement.

<u>Holding governments accountable</u>

One participant asked about the role of the MRC in protecting the rights of indigenous people affected by projects such as the dams along the Mekong river, and in ensuring compliance to human rights obligations. *Ly Thim* said that the ASEAN economic community blueprint has sections on accountability, good governance, and CSR, which is a positive sign. However, this is also an opportunity for NGOs to step in and hold ASEAN nation states accountable.

Session 7: Human rights, gender and accountability in climate finance

In light of the climate funds emerging to fund developing country pledges under the Paris Agreement, this session focused on assessing ways to make climate finance gender responsive and respectful of human rights. *Albert Salamanca (Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute)* moderated a panel discussion with gender and human rights experts to examine lessons from the experiences of civil society organizations with social and environmental safeguards and grievance mechanisms. The discussion revolved around two key questions:

1) What works and/or does not work in how gender is addressed in existing climate finance sources?
2) What actions can we take to change human and organizational behaviour and ensure meaningful and productive integration of gender and human rights into climate finance?

Brianna Hunt Ficcadenti (Senior Technical Specialist for Climate Change Adaptation and Gender at USAID Adapt Asia-Pacific) explained how USAID works with climate funds to develop policies and mechanisms that encourage effective gender mainstreaming during the project preparation phase, as opposed to integrating gender as an afterthought. She challenged implementers to design project that go beyond gender mainstreaming, to finding solutions that address both climate change and gender issues. She also stressed the importance of having an explicit budget for gender work in projects, and of soliciting the views of gender specialists to design good arguments for gender integration.

Kalpana Giri (Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute) identified the lack of gender outcomes monitoring requirements from climate funds as a disincentive to effectively addressing gender in projects. She also commented on the misportrayal of gender and women in climate funds, such as the equation gender to sex, and the definition of women as victims, not active agents of change. In terms of actions, she emphasized having clear and proportional allocation of project budgets for gender work. She cautioned against the tendency to expect gender specialists to single-handedly deliver the entirely of a project's gender outcomes. She suggested being practical when operationalizing gender equality in projects, by addressing both women and men and the power dynamics between them, and not only addressing women's issues. She also said that organizations should also walk the talk on gender equity outside of projects and programmes.

Daniel King (Mekong-Myanmar Regional Programme Director at Earth Rights International) raised the example of the insufficient grievance mechanisms for gender and human rights violations in World Bank projects. He criticized the precedence of financial over social and environmental accountability, the lack of compliance standards, and investments done through third parties, and spoke of the need for safeguards that protect gender and indigenous people's rights. He advocated for equitable, transparent and accessible grievance mechanisms for addressing gender and indigenous peoples' rights in projects.

Prabindra Shakya (Human Rights Campaign and Policy Advocacy Programme Coordinator at the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact) highlighted the violation of indigenous communities' land rights as a product of project financing with defective accountability mechanisms, arising from disagreements over jurisdiction and a lack of community awareness of safeguards. He cited procedural difficulties in engaging with financial institutions as a major obstacle to addressing these violations. He suggested ways to address the

lack of trust that communities have had in projects funded by climate finance. First, these projects should involve meaningful community participation throughout the project cycle, from design to monitoring stages. Second, projects should target needs identified by local communities, and not through top-down processes. He also suggested institutional approaches to changing understanding and behaviour, such as through gender equity and human rights discussions in schools.

Discussion

The discussion that followed covered the following points:

- One participant recommended that we "unbundle" climate finance instruments into different types. Besides climate funds, more general development finance, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and humanitarian sector finance, can also be used to fund climate change projects. The corporate sector is an emerging vehicle of climate finance, especially in the form of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and microfinancing. Emerging middle income countries are also increasingly investing in climate change projects. Good practices are already emerging from the region; for example, the Bangladesh Ministry of Women's Affairs is mainstreaming gender-sensitive climate financing into other ministries.

- Another participant commented that climate finance will increasingly come from government resources, channelled through national processes, and will require a very different approach for gender and climate change mainstreaming. Governments will need a better understanding and awareness of climate change science, better capacity for project planning and design, and better capacity in ministries of finance to allocate and manage the climate funds.

- One participant commented that we should beware the current cross-cutting nature of gender budgets in some governments that reduces the amount of financing devoted to gender integration in climate change projects.

- One participant noted, from their experience as an implementer, that there is often an underappreciation of the requirements and costs that climate finance puts on implementers, and that encourage "check boxing". Policies, on the other hand, are ineffective because they do not require accountability. What other methods for mainstreaming gender in climate change, besides policy, have been explored?

  Prabindra Shakya responded that the most constructive approach would have implementers partner effectively with stakeholders. Given that policies are ineffective, national plans should offer grievance mechanisms as one form of solution.

- What are the key ways of influencing climate finance structures?

  Kalpana Giri commented that many countries hope to tap into climate finance resources. If climate finance projects require recipients to address gender effectively and put safeguards in place to receive funding. Gender can be operationalized by using gender indicators (and monitoring and reporting them), and by having gender expertise who understand both gender

and climate change issues in the project team. *Brianna Hunt* raised the point that NGOs can play a role in project design, and not have to wait for policies and accountability mechanisms to effectively integrate gender and human rights in their projects. *Daniel King* responded that there is a need to consider how to design mechanisms to deliver funding to governments that do not respect human rights.

Session 8: Influencing behaviour through law and communications – experiences, examples, and insights

Marte Hellema (Programme Manager for Information, Communication and Publication at the Asia Forum for Human Rights and Development) moderated a panel discussion on the potential and limitations of law, the media, and creative communication in affecting large-scale behavioural change for equitable outcomes.

Bencharat Saechua (Lecturer at the Institute of Human Rights and Peace, Mahidol University) reflected on the right to natural resource access under climate change programmes. Although mitigation programmes under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), such as REDD+, might have good objectives, they operate under an outdated development paradigm that excludes human rights principles and leads to rights violations. This has been seen in cases where forest dwellers are forcefully evicted to promote REDD+ programmes. Another case is when states misuse the climate change discourse in large-scale development and climate change projects. In Thailand, more than 20 forest dwellers were arrested in 2010 and fined up to US$50,000 for "causing climate change" when they harvested trees for subsistence use. Because climate change is seen as an issue requiring "technical" knowledge, the poor are disempowered and wrongly blamed. When it comes to changing behaviour, she commented that targeting individual behaviour is not enough. In fact, focusing only on individual change may relieve states from their obligations to issue policies and measures to reduce emissions, protect human rights, and improve people's capacity to cope with climate change.

Daniel King (Mekong-Myanmar Regional Programme Director at Earth Rights International) spoke about changing company behaviour through community-led grievance mechanisms. He defined operational grievance mechanisms as procedures a company institutes to deal with problems such as labour disputes and community resettlement for agri-business projects; the company sets up a social and environmental "risk management system" to manage complaints and respond through dialogue. Grievance mechanisms help companies learn about the negative impacts of their operations so they can avoid them in the future. They also prevent conflicts from escalating, and provide internal means of redress. They can be more advantageous then formal judicial processes because they can be more accessible to victims, provide forums for empowerment, improve company-community relationships, and enable a swift distribution of remedies that courts cannot provide.

However, he also highlighted the challenges with the current operational grievance mechanism model. Many companies that are setting up these mechanisms often rely on internal staff, who may not be experts in gender and land rights, or third parties who are often not from or engaged with the affected communities. If the systems are not set up correctly, they risk reinforcing power imbalances, limiting procedural choices for victims, preventing victims from having influence in crafting solutions, and excluding these stakeholders from involvement altogether. Top-down mechanisms therefore tend not to address the community's problems. For example, women who were raped by a security company's staff in Papua New Guinea received training in exchange for giving up their legal rights to sue the corporation.

The solution *Daniel King* proposed is to have communities design the mechanism, asking them: what is the vision of justice you would like to see from the business that is affecting you? Communities should be enabled to understand their legal rights and leverage points, and come to the negotiation table with companies and governments with equivalent levels of power. If power is unequal, communities are set up for failure in multi-stakeholder engagement.

Regan Suzuki Pairojmahakij (Senior Programme Officer at the Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC)), described positive experiences with empowering women in Community Forest User Groups (CFUGs) in Nepal. Over 1,000 of the more than 1,800 CFUGs in Nepal are led by women, partly a result of government guidelines requiring CFUG decision-making committees to consist of at least 50% women. While this is seen as box checking for gender inclusion, she argued that using tokenism and affirmative action initially to provide the mantle of leadership to women, over time, can give women opportunities to grow into leadership roles. The results can already be seen; now, some of these women are in political parties or are lobbying for change in Kathmandu, while new women-led CFUGs are rapidly emerging. *Regan Suzuki Pairojmahakij* said it is important that these groups are recognized and validated by third-party stakeholders, such as the international communities and NGOs, so that they are recognized in their own communities. Citing a World Bank Global Development Report, in which test results from low-income groups reflected people's expectations of their performance, she asked the workshop participants: if we flip this around and see women as leaders, would they rise up to the challenge accordingly?

Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi (Advocacy and Campaign Coordinator of Oxfam in Thailand) described Oxfam's experiences in changing the behaviour of Thai urban consumers of seafood, with the aim of improving the welfare of fishing communities. He said that urban consumers are a key constituency that civil society has avoided engaging with, but who have the political and economic power to increase the demand for environmentally responsible and fairly compensated seafood. With this comes the power to influence policy that supports small-scale fishers, especially when traditional methods of policy influence, such as lobbying, have not yielded results. *Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi* explained Oxfam's strategy to establish producer-to-consumer communication, setting up a community-based social enterprise that produces "clean, green, and fair" seafood – chemical-free, environmental sustainable, and fairly priced – and labelling these products to raise consumer awareness. In its first year, seven tons of seafood (valued at one million Thai baht) carried these messages to consumers in Bangkok and Chiang Mai; in the second year, four million baht of labelled seafood was delivered. The over 10,000 Facebook followers of the project reflect consumer acknowledgement of these products. Urban consumers supported a public hearing on establishing a "Blue Brand" standard for seafood, and retailers such as Tops Supermarket have expressed interest in adopting it. Consumers have also pressured for change to recent legislation that prevents small boats from going beyond three kilometres from the shore, and affects the small fisher livelihoods. The government has responded by setting up a committee to revise this legislation.

Brian Hanley (Regional Director for Asia Programmes at Internews Asia) spoke about the Internews Earth Journalism Network (EJN; http://earthjournalism.net) that trains local journalists and media organizations around the world and supports them in bringing underreported environmental issues to light. This is particularly relevant in Southeast Asia, where economic development occurs at "breakneck speed" and governments neglect environmental concerns. The goal is to cover the environment more effectively by

providing journalists with training, grants and fellowships, and digital media tools for their work. One digital innovation is geojournalism, which uses environmental data mapping and data digitization to inform the public and policy makers. It maps locally generated stories, and makes visible regional trends, so that users can amplify the scale and impact of the stories. In the Mekong region, The Mekong Eye geojournalism project (https://www.mekongeye.com) has tracked stories such as the mass fish deaths in the Mekong River and its implications. Digital tools such as these contribute to the open data movement, and build communities of journalists and media organizations working toward the similar causes. *Brian Hanley* sees the key as getting civil society and the media to drive change together. He has observed three positive trends in Southeast Asia: 1) people are becoming more aware about, and are acting more on, environmental issues; 2) networks between media and civil society are growing; and 3) social media and technology becoming game changers in breaking stories, raising awareness, and inducing collective action.

Discussion

The discussion session that followed covered the following themes and questions:

Effectiveness of law in changing behaviour of corporations

Question: Corporations use national and international laws for their own benefit (e.g. to protect investments and intellectual property rights), but dismiss their applicability when it comes to environmental and human rights issues. At the ASEAN level, there is no discussion of cross-border liability, even in the context of ongoing economic integration. What is your assessment of the use of law in this region, nationally, and globally? Are there examples of failures and success in using law to ensure corporations uphold their responsibilities under international environmental and human rights agreements?

Participant comment: A representative from a community resource centre gave examples of difficulties in working with transboundary cases involving corporations. She first raised the example of the Xayaburi dam case. One obstacle to gaining justice for the communities involved was that Thai tort law does not have the power to prevent construction before the violations occur. The case was first dropped because the dam is not located within Thai boundaries, but was subsequently accepted by the Supreme Court because of Thai involvement in the Xayaburi dam project agreements, and because there may be consequences for the Thai people. However, the case was dropped again, and is now being appealed. A second example involved a Thai sugar company opening a factory in Cambodia, grabbing land and creating pollution in the process. The Cambodian courts did not deal with this effectively, and by the time the case was concluded in Cambodia, too much time had passed to address these issues under Thai tort law.

Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi suggested targeting company mind sets through campaigns, giving the example of the "Clean Sugar Campaign" that raised awareness on land rights violations by Thai sugar companies in Cambodia and drastically reduced sugar exports from Cambodia to the EU.

Accountability to communities

Regan Suzuki Pairojmahakij commented on the unexpected impact of multi-stakeholder processes in creating space for accountability between rights holders and duty bearers. NGOs have the convening

power to bring together local officials and local communities. In these spaces, local governments are put in the position to make commitments, and communities can hold them accountable. We should be more aware of this as a tool to address community rights.

Effectiveness of media in changing public and corporate behaviour

Question: To what extent can we trust the media to be objective conveyers of information, especially when contrasting views are presented?

Brian Henley responded that the public should not trust the media. It is up to consumers of media to discern their way through the "perilous information ecosystem" dominated by large corporations with certain invested interests regarding climate change and environmental issues, especially given the few resources that journalists have. Social media aids the democratization of information, but also gives rise to new threats such as hate speech and misinformation. One response is to increase media literacy among the public, especially in authoritarian contexts. He also spoke of Internews' work on professionalizing the media, especially regarding journalism ethics.

Question: How did timing play a role in the success of the Blue Brand project?

Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi commented that as countries in the region develop, consumers are becoming increasingly concerned with food safety and environmental sustainability. However, ethical consumption is not yet an emerging trend. Oxfam is looking into the key factors that influence ethical consumption, and whether consumers are ready to take on a social aspect, in addition to environment and health, when considering products to buy.

Question: How should behavioural change be tacked differently in Asia, given the different cultures and contexts? In the west, individual responsibility is a key concept – is this applicable in Asia?

Bencharat Saechua commented that human rights concepts are absent from Thai culture, in which people are more concerned about individual benefit. For example, some from the middle class have opposed campaigns protecting forest dwellers because they perceive forest dwellers as forest destroyers, and overlook the rights of communities living in forest areas. Without a true belief in equality when it comes to rights and welfare, there is little optimism for change.

Question: What communications products exist for translating complex climate change terminology into meaningful colloquial terms for practitioners and local people?

Brian Henley spoke of the need to "rebrand" climate change so that it is grounded in local examples, such as drought, flooding, and crop failures. How does it concretely touch on people lives? He commented on the role that media can play in concert with civil society organizations to reach people who may not grasp climate change concepts easily, and encourage action from them. He also spoke of the need to connect journalists with experts on climate change, environment, human rights, and gender, so that they can leverage information that they can then distil and provide to the public.

Combining the power of law and the media

Daniel King commented that while laws have, in some cases, been used against communities and restricted their political space, the use of law by civil society can provide better access to justice for communities. Public lawyers and media organizations, working together, can use legal advocacy to shift power from corporations to communities. *Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi* said that laws are not enough to change behaviour and protect communities. Strategies that address urban consumer perceptions are needed to make sure that community welfare is not sacrificed for the benefit of others.

Marte Hellema summarized the panel discussion as follows:

We must beware of tokenism in climate change projects, but we can still use these as opportunities for women and other disempowered groups to grow into positions of power. When aiming to change behaviour, we must design measures to suit the target group, whether this be urban consumers or companies. We might need to step outside our comfort zones to engage with previously overlooked target groups, and rethink the language we use, how we approach these groups, and what their motivations and incentives are. The media, law practitioners, activists, and governments need to recognize that each cannot address climate change and the resulting injustice on their own. Instead, they should build mutual trust and work in concert with each other.

Session 9: Participants' Reflection and Brainstorming

In this last session, *Charlotta Bredberg* asked participants to reflect, in small groups, on the insights gained from the workshop, gaps in the discussion, and steps for moving forward. The following themes emerged from the reflections.

Facing reality

One group of participants expressed frustration at the inequity and injustice arising from climate change impacts. They pressed for urgent action on behalf of the most vulnerable, especially those living in small island states.

The complexity of changing human behaviour

Many participants recognized the power of bottom-up movements in changing fundamental societal norms that lie at the root of inequity. They saw the need to create spaces for civil society organizations to engage with others and push for change, and to prioritize work on community leadership and women empowerment.

However, they also recognized that fundamental changes in behaviour take a substantial amount of time. They saw the value of using top-down measures, such as policy and law enforcement, to induce behavioural change more quickly and on a larger scale. *Charlotta Bredberg gave the example of* the ban on corporal punishment of children in Sweden, accompanied by campaigns targeting parents, that drastically changed public opinion and reduced corporal punishment over time. Some participants thought that law and accountability should have been highlighted more prominently in the workshop given the challenges of fair and effective enforcement in Asia.

One group of participants suggested that future discussions focus more on group and institutional-level behaviour change. They pointed out that institutional-level approaches, such as education programmes, can have far-reaching consequences. Do we need a different way of thinking when addressing group behaviour, from when addressing individual behaviour? In addition to studying behaviour, participants also noted the need to address structural issues, giving the example of corporations contributing to around 70% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. The participants felt a particular lack of private sector and government representation at the workshop that could address these issues.

One group raised the need for a global framework for gender equality and human rights to unite various frameworks existing at different levels, and to create solidarity for behaviour change at a global level.

Multi-stakeholder action

Participants thought that the workshop successfully provided a space for open inter-sectoral, transdisciplinary discussion. They concluded that different actors – governments, donors, the private sector, civil society organizations – have different responsibilities, capacities, and opportunities to influence and to act, and that we should consider "who can act in relation to whom" when working together to creating change. They emphasized the importance of creating these types of open spaces, and urged each other to create action plans to build on the joint momentum emerging from the workshop, stating that this was only the start of effective collaboration for large-scale change.

Several participants challenged themselves and others to begin by changing their own behaviour, by naming actions they would commit themselves to. These included a pledge to make Sweden's climate financing report more gender sensitive, a pledge from a gender expert to make her work more sensitive to climate change, and an open invitation for collaboration on climate finance research.

Workshop Synthesis

Bernadette Resurrección (Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute) invited three participants to present take-away messages, before presenting a synthesis of her own reflections.

Helen Hakena (Executive Director of Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency in Papua New Guinea) urged participants to be accountable to the organizations and communities for whom they work and whom they represent, citing her commitment to share what she learns from every workshop she attends with the women in her networks. This sharing strengthens movements and builds solidarity and trust. She felt that the workshop addressed the sense of disconnect between grassroots and international networks, by bridging actors working at different levels on climate change. She expressed that this was "very empowering".

"My people would rather have their land on the islands than profit. Urgent action is needed now to save our islands and our people from sinking and disappearing." To mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities such as hers, *Helen Hakena* said that there must the mentality that climate change is everyone's business. She said that movements are crucial to creating change, and commended the human rights NGOs risking their lives to protect communities, stating that we must also defend these defenders. She emphasized the need to complement the advocacy work carried out by NGOs with capacity building for the affected communities.

Kevork Baboyan (UNDP Regional Office) commented on the interlinkages between climate change, poverty, and gender. He said that the workshop showed that these linkages need to be brought to the attention of decision makers. In his experience, it has been difficult to persuade governments to consider climate change in policy making, and such interlinkages even more so. He spoke of the role of local movements in pushing for policy change both at the local government and national government levels. He also commended the actions of people like *Helen Hakena*, who refuse to be paralyzed by daunting challenges, and instead transform paralysis into will and action.

Kalayaan Pulido-Constantino (Oxfam) spoke of climate change as a development issue, with communities on the ground already looking to adapt, and to deal with loss and damage. She emphasized the need for mitigation based on equity principles, especially to rally the private sector and government to deliver on their fair shares. She agreed that civil society movements were key to "changing the world" and creating urgent action, and urged for support for those on the front line, who are representing the values of many at the workshop. She asked how donors and international organizations can push to expand civil society spaces, especially given that the already little space for civil society action in Asia is shrinking. She agreed on the need to tackle both structural issues and societal norms. Campaigners focus on the latter because the laws in place are often insufficient to address the roots of behaviour change.

Bernadette Resurrección provided the following reflections to summarize and synthesize the key messages from the workshop.

The workshop's focus on action and change responded to the question: Why is it so difficult for human beings to respond to climate change effectively, in spite of all the evidence we have?

In response, different approaches were explored in the workshop, and are as follows.

Equitable effort sharing in emissions reduction

Pledges at COP21 are currently not sufficient to bring down levels of greenhouse gas emissions largely due to the absence of a fair agreement on reductions rates among Parties. To realize this, a framework of equitable effort-sharing has been put in place by civil society, where countries have their respective 'equity range' with which to base their emissions reduction targets. The overarching principle governing equitable effort-sharing is premised on the fundamental belief that the atmosphere is a global commons. As such, climate change responses must be fairly shared to be effective in an effort to seek solutions that are fair for all.

Rights-based approach

This approach allows us to invoke the rights of specific groups of people for protection from discrimination in institutional climate-related responses. A rights-based approach offers 3 mechanisms: (i) accountability of groups and individuals to ensure that rights are observed and not violated; (ii) recognition of substantive rights to health, life, livelihoods, food, safety, which are crucial in disaster and climate change contexts; (iii) standards setting and enforcement of standards. Unequal rights make women, sexual minorities, ethnic and racial groups, the youth and elderly, the disabled more vulnerable to climate and disaster risks. Women and girls are also recognized as those whose rights are most violated. For instance, in climate change and disaster contexts, the incidence of both human trafficking of women and girls, as well as gender-based violence, increases. A rights-based approach also allows us to address women and other social groups' unequal rights to decision making and resources. From the group discussions on the rights-based approach, it was concluded that there are serious shortcomings on the enforcement of human rights, and that enforcement mechanisms should be strengthened in view of the growing insecurity and uncertainties of climate change and disasters.

Behaviour change

We need to revisit the model that posits that information is the main driver to behaviour and action. Decisions can be influenced by other factors beyond information, such as subtle cues, deep-seated social norms, and even biases. The challenge of decision-making science is to find ways to motivate effective and positive behaviour, such as through nudges and incentives (e.g. cash transfer programmes to reduce gender-based violence). The workshop also explored the notion of embodiment in a film, demonstrating that the intuitive space of our minds and emotions can evoke salience and shape reasoning, and possibly, decision making towards more sustainable production and consumption patterns that respond to the challenges of climate change. Momentary insights, epiphany, and "awe" can create profound shifts in thinking and action, leading to the will to deeply care about a cause.

More teeth for gender in climate finance and development projects

We need to ensure that social accountability is at the centre of the design of climate finance schemes and development projects. Grievance mechanisms, standard setting, and compliance measures are severely lacking, rendering gender-responsiveness in these schemes and projects as tokenistic. We should have explicit budgets for gender, to give gender its own teeth. In addition, gender mainstreaming should not be confined to projects, but should be core to any organization responding to climate change issues.

The power of social movements and multi-stakeholder and transboundary engagements

"We cannot bring about change unless we support movements." This is the premise for transformative change, around which social movements assert that climate change is not natural but is caused by the politically and economically powerful. "Climate change is caused by the most powerful, but it is experienced by the least powerful." This approach brings our attention to the notion of power as an engine of change: social movements challenge the power behind corporations and patriarchy, and in turn, envision to build a feminist fossil fuel-free future. Change can be brought about by social movements that nurture a global culture of solidarity that creates hope for the least powerful.

We can no longer cast a blind eye to transboundary issues on environmental change and the use of transboundary resources. How is the 'environment' understood in transboundary terms? Is it something to be exploited for huge profitable returns, or should it provide a broader foundation of livelihoods for the resource-poor? ASEAN will have to free itself from its business-oriented agenda to ensure that investments respond responsibly to well-being and fairness needs of people across boundaries.

There are many alternatives to change

In conclusion, There Are Many Alternatives (T.A.M.A) and pathways to create change. We have to embrace the complexity of climate change, which involves many stakeholders, human behaviour, institutions, markets, states, coalitions, and movements.

Pathways and solutions can be multiple and multi-scalar. One example is bringing the international debate on palm oil to plantation communities. Within the palm oil sector, market pressure, regulatory pressure, peer pressure, and campaign pressure work together to create change. The extent to which each of these pathways is applicable and useful is always context specific. There is no one-size-fits-all recipe, nor is there only one lever that will create that big ripple of change.

However, there are a few caveats and considerations that we might further think about. Firstly, we might need to question the "scientisation" of climate change, which feminists view as an entrenchment of masculine techno-science culture, and which builds on simplistic "information leads to action" model of change. Secondly, we need to keep in mind that the purpose of evoking human rights and accountability principles is to ensure that all people, regardless of gender, ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation, can live well and have secure livelihoods. This comes with the recognition that we are all interdependent, and are embedded in the interdependency between people, nature and our global commons. Finally, while changing human behaviour is key, we must continue to question and transform the unequal power relations that persistently push the world to rely on fossil fuels as the blueprint for development and accumulation.

Closing remarks

Charlotta Bredberg (Embassy of Sweden) emphasized the observation that climate change impacts are discriminatory toward people who are already marginalized and vulnerable, and that we clearly cannot separate human rights from climate change issues. She commented that gender equality in climate change has been overlooked. To address this, we should not only empower women, but also work with men. The workshop noted the risks that activists are taking to deliver the truth about climate change impacts that may be uncomfortable to hear, and the role of the global community in recognizing their bravery and reconsidering what we can do to support and protect them. She concluded that real change will only arise when we "connect research and knowledge to our hearts," and that we must maintain momentum and inspiration in the face of challenges.

Anne-Charlotte Malm (Head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy of Sweden in Bangkok) said that the annual regional workshop is the highlight of the year for Sida. The themes from this workshop are in line with the Swedish Embassy's new strategy and their proposal to the Swedish government. The results from the workshop will be very helpful for operationalizing the strategy. She also expressed appreciation for the partnership between the Swedish Embassy and the workshop participants, and a hope that it would only become stronger.

Annexes

Annex 1. Workshop Agenda

Tuesday, 10th May 2016

08:00 – 08:30	**Registration**
08:30 – 08:45	**Introduction** Welcome Remarks ∗ H. E. Staffan Herrström, Swedish Ambassador to Thailand, Lao PDR and Myanmar Objectives of the workshop ∗ Charlotta Bredberg, Embassy of Sweden
08:45 – 09:20	**Setting the scene: climate change, equity and the Paris Agreement** Climate change poses an immediate and extensive threat to people around the world, and hinders the full enjoyment of human rights - the rights to health, food, water, housing, development, choice, and life. The impacts of climate change will be felt disproportionately by those who suffer from inequalities and injustice, and are consequently more vulnerable. The climate negotiations in Paris last December yielded an agreement that has been characterized as everything from a 'breakthrough' and a 'game changer' to a 'disappointment' and 'another round of a ritual of inaction'. We will only know which of these is true when we see what steps nations take, to achieve the ambitious goals agreed in Paris. Sivan Kartha's keynote will reflect on the role that social equity plays in enabling nations to realize the Agreement's goals. He will highlight what civil society and other actors can do to ensure national pledges are followed up and how pressure is maintained to achieve their desired outcomes. Samantha Kwan will share her story working with women, youth and *fa'afine* (Samoan for 'third gender') in Samoa to act on the impacts of climate change. Sam has been nominated recently as the first female President of the newly established NGO called Youth Climate Action Network (YCAN) of Samoa. YCAN Samoa brings together young people who are based in communities from 12 villages in the country to initiate youth-led climate actions. Moderator: Matthew Fielding (Stockholm Environment Institute) Keynote Speakers: ∗ Sivan Kartha (Stockholm Environment Institute) (via videolink) ∗ Samantha Kwan (Youth Climate Action Network of Samoa)

09:20 – 10:30	**Climate change, human rights and gender: how are they linked?**

Climate change directly impacts people's human rights, including women's rights and gender equality. The basic rights are based on internationally agreed universal values of social and environmental justice. Policy development, advocacy and programming to address climate change needs to be guided by these principles, respecting and protecting the rights of affected groups, including indigenous peoples and other marginalized groups.

The session will explore the linkages between climate change, human rights and gender equality in international law, as well as how the 2030 Agenda, its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Paris Agreement, will provide a platform for policy makers and practitioners to strengthen these linkages in policy and practice.

Moderator: Heike Alefsen (United Nations Development Group)

Panel members:

* Morten Kjaerum (Raoul Wallenberg Institute)
* Cecilia Aipira (UN Women)
* Alaya de Leon (Parabukas)
* Jonathan Gilman (United Nation Environment Programme)

10:30 – 11:00	**Networking break**
11.00 – 12:00	**Group discussion - How to use a human rights-based approach for climate change actions**

The session will allow participants from different sectors and with different expertise to jointly discuss and analyse the implications of human rights for climate change action. With reference to the instruments and perspectives presented in the panel on 'human rights and gender equality in the response to climate change', the session aims to increase understanding and make practical sense of the theoretical framework of human rights for the work of Embassy of Sweden partners. Group discussions will be organised based on a set of climate change scenarios, and will focus on the identification of: which human rights are at stake; gender equality and the protection of the human rights of women; process rights (such as participation, access to information and freedom of expression); and obligations and procedures of States and corporations with regards to climate change prevention and remedy.

The exercise will start with small group discussions. There should be a diverse representation in each group. Rapporteurs from each group will share a summary of their discussions in a plenary, where there will be further sharing and discussion. The exercise encourages each partner to analyse the implications of applying a human rights based approach for their own actions and perspectives. It also offers opportunities for partners to listen to each other and find common ground.

Moderators: Helena Olsson (Raoul Wallenberg Institute)

12:00 - 13:30	**Lunch**
13:30 - 15:15	**The role of human behaviour in responses to climate change**

There is often an assumption that human behaviour is driven by "rational" choices: that is, individuals carefully consider all available information, weigh their choices, and make independent decisions in context free-situations. However, research and experience show that this is often not the case. Psychological and social components influence decision-making. We need to understand the drivers of decision-making, how and whether social norms change behaviour, and whether social rewards or incentives effectively elicit positive behavioural change.

The 2015 World Development Report on "Mind, Society and Behaviour" has examined how people make decisions, in order to further understand effective human responses to climate change, among other development concerns. The Report highlights the need for a deeper understanding of human behaviour and the social context of decision-making, to improve the design and implementation of policies and interventions for sustainable development, and thus help governments and civil society achieve development goals more effectively.

This session will examine the role of human behaviour in creating more effective interventions for sustainable development and climate change, guided by principles from the social and behavioural sciences. Through a film presentation, the session will highlight some ways that human behaviour can be influenced. Case studies will also demonstrate how social norms influence decision-making. These studies will look at "norm entrepreneurs" and the ways with which they may enable societal change. The risk attitudes that guide farmers' climate change adaptation behaviour will also be highlighted, as well as understanding the potential helpful effects of risk communication strategies and interventions.

Moderator: Matthew Fielding

Panel members:

* Jeremy Shapiro (Busara Centre for Behavioural Economics)
* Pham Khanh Nam (Economy and Environment Programme for Southeast Asia)
* Diego Galafassi (Fasad)

15:15 - 15:45   **Networking break**

15:45 – 17:15   **Voices from the ground: realising inclusive development and social justice**

It is broadly recognized that climate change affects social groups of women and men in different and sometimes, in unequal ways, with women often carrying a disproportionate share of care, provisioning and emotional management to sustain households and communities in crisis or at risk. Yet, while climate change exacerbates gender inequalities, climate change policies can potentially re-shape economic, political and social orders in ways that are more manifestly just, sustainable and gender equitable. Democratic participation of women and other marginalised groups in climate policy decision-making is key to building a sustainable, liveable future for our planet and delivering gender and development justice.

Individuals working with climate change-affected grassroots communities will share stories of resistance, resilience and activism. The session will introduce the method of 'Feminist Participatory Action Research' and invite participants to consider the key elements required in programmes designed to deliver 'multiple, intersecting benefits' for all social groups.

Moderator: Kate Lappin (Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development)

Panel members:

* Helen Hakena (Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency)
* Toan Tran (Centre for Sustainable Rural Development)
* Daisy Arago (Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights)
* Jane Siwa (Centre for Trade Unions and Human Rights)

17:15 – 17:30	**Conclusion of Day 1** **Announcements**
17.30. – 20:00	**Cocktail reception**

Hosted by the Ambassador of Sweden, H.E. Staffan Herrström

Rewilding Bangkok - new citizenship and emerging paradigm

A B-talk by Sal Forest on voluntary monitoring of pollution in Bangkok.

Speaker:

* Saranarat Oy Kanjanavanit (Green World Foundation)

08:15 - 08:45	**Registration**
08:45 – 09:00	**Recap of Day 1. Introduction to Day 2**

09:00 – 10:30   **Opportunities and externalities of development: the case of palm oil**

The palm oil sector is growing rapidly, and the global and regional demand for this multi-purpose oil is expected to double before 2050. Palm oil production leads to greenhouse gas emissions, haze pollution, land grabs and human and gender-specific forms of exploitation. The period of 2015-2016 was the worst forest fire season since 1997, when countries in Southeast Asia experienced the detrimental economic and social impacts of this human-induced disaster.

Oxfam is working with stakeholders throughout the palm oil supply chain to develop and implement global standards for sustainable production to minimize the negative impacts of palm oil cultivation on the environment and communities in palm oil producing regions. In this session, Oxfam will, through interactive discussions, facilitate a social and psychological analysis of what is being done within the sector, and challenge assumptions of stakeholders on how change happens.

Moderator: Johan Verburg (Oxfam)

Panel members:

* Alison Eskesen (Grow Asia)
* Ha Nguyen (Stockholm Environment Institute)
* Sophia Gnych (Centre for International Forestry Research)

10:30 – 11:00   **Networking break**

11:00 – 12:15   **Governing transboundary challenges: human rights, gender equality and accountability**

This session will address the economic, social and environmental dimensions of transboundary natural resources, environment and climate change challenges in ASEAN. Particular attention will be paid to the implications for respect for human rights and gender equality. The role and initiatives of regional organizations in meeting these challenges will be discussed. The session has three objectives:

* Identify the most important transboundary environment and natural resource challenges in ASEAN, including climate change
* Evaluate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of these challenges, with particular attention to the implications for human rights and gender equality
* Outline the initiatives of regional organizations in addressing the identified regional challenges, including how these initiatives seek to protect and promote human rights and gender equality

Moderator: Carl Middleton (Chulalongkorn University)

Panel members:

* Thomas Thomas (ASEAN CSR Network)
* Isabelle Louis (United Nation Environment Programme)

	∗ Ly Thim (Mekong River Commission)
	∗ Laura Altinger Zahar (UNESCAP)
	∗ Elaine Tan (ASEAN Foundation)
	∗ Charles Santiago (ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights)

12:15 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 – 14:30 **Human rights, gender and accountability in climate finance**

In 22 April 2016, 175 parties signed the Paris Agreement. Although this was a milestone, planners recognised that USD 4 trillion is needed to fund the pledges made by developing countries to reduce GHG emissions. Some funding is already available and several climate funds are now in the process of accepting proposals and implementing projects. In light of this, we need to ascertain whether these funding efforts are gender-responsive, and whether accountability mechanisms that ensure gender-responsiveness are firmly in place. What can we learn from the experiences of some civil society organizations with the social and environmental safeguards and grievance mechanisms of international financial institutions? What does this tell us about the importance and future of gender-responsive climate finance instruments?

Panel members will:

∗ Review the current global financial architecture for climate change and describe how gender is integrated into different funding modalities;
∗ Discuss ongoing initiatives to understand how social and environmental safeguards of multilateral investments are implemented in the region and their insights for gender and climate finance; and,
∗ Discuss the actions needed for a gender responsive climate finance.

Moderator: Albert Salamanca (Stockholm Environment Institute)

Panel members:

∗ Brianna Hunt Ficcadenti (USAID Adapt Asia Pacific)
∗ Kalpana Giri (Stockholm Environment Institute)
∗ Daniel King (Earth Rights International)
∗ Prabindra Shakya (Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact)

14:30 – 15:00 **Networking break**

15:00 – 16:15 **Influencing behaviour through law and communications: experiences, examples and insights**

Many individual and societal barriers limit engagement with climate change. To retain a resilient and liveable planet, we need creativity and incentives to overcome these barriers and to do things differently. It is necessary to build new bridges between traditional sectors and use all available knowledge and expertise in new ways to develop incentives for a change of human behaviour.

This session will reflect on the experiences of various partners in using law, media and creative communications and campaigns to influence human behaviour. Lessons, insights and challenges will be highlighted.

Moderator: Marte Hellema (Forum Asia)

Panel members:

* Daniel King (Earth Rights International)
* Brian Hanley (Internews Asia)
* Jacques-Chai Chomthongdi (Oxfam)
* Bencharat Saechua (Institute of Human Rights and Peace Studies, Mahidol University)
* Regan Suzuki Pairojmahakij (RECOFTC)

16:15 – 16:45	**Participants' Reflection and Brainstorming**

The aim of this session is to capture participants' reflections on their learnings from the workshop and identify gaps and opportunities for future collaboration. Participants will discuss, in roundtables, the following questions:

Integrating the understanding of human behaviour

* Can attention to human behaviour be relevant for us as individuals and institutions/ organisations/actors in addressing the cause and impacts of climate change and pursuing sustainable development?
* How do we integrate an understanding of human behaviour into our work?
* How can we work with human behaviour in practice?

Gender equality, human rights and the rights-based approach (HRBA)

* Can attention to gender equality, human rights and HRBA improve our interventions on climate change and sustainable development?
* What is needed to do this in practice? What are the gaps and constraints?
* Where are the good examples of principles and practices that we can learn from?

Moderator: Embassy of Sweden

16:45 – 17:15	**Synthesis:** Babette Resurrección (Stockholm Environment Institute)

Reflections from selected partners

Evaluation

17:15 – 17:30	**Closing remarks**: Charlotta Bredberg, Embassy of Sweden

Annex 2. Evaluation Report

Background of respondents

In total, 99 out of 160 participants (62%) had provided feedback on the Urgency in Action Workshop[1]. Almost half (43%) of them were from non-governmental organisations (Figure 1). This is followed by bilateral/multilateral agency representatives (21%). Embassy staff account for 13%, followed by research institutes (7%), academic institutions (4%), the private sector (3%), national governments (2%), and development companies (1%). The rest (6%) was composed of individual experts and representatives from international organisations, the media, and regional networks. One participant is a member of parliament.
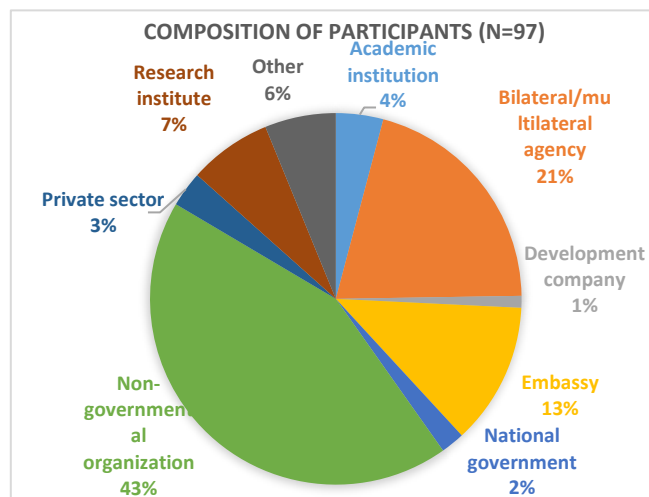

FIGURE 1. COMPOSITION OF PARTICIPANTS

When asked in which countries they are currently working, 27% of respondents said Thailand. 17% said they work in Cambodia while similar proportions work in Myanmar and Vietnam. Only 14% work in Lao PDR. Some 8% work in other countries, including the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Sweden, Timor Leste, Nepal, and Kenya (Figure 2).
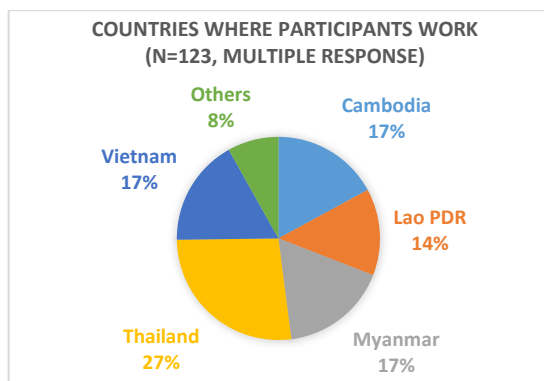
FIGURE 2. REGIONS WHERE PARTICIPANTS WORK
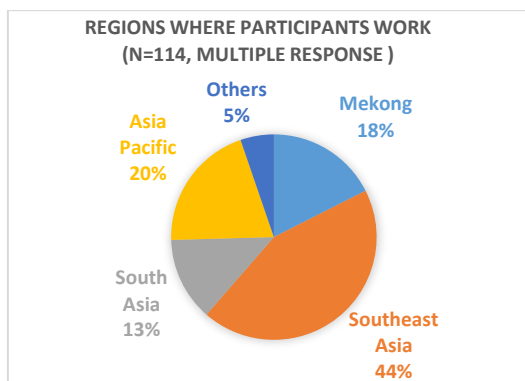
FIGURE 3. COUNTRIES WHERE PARTICIPANTS WORK

Regionally, most respondents (44%) work in Southeast Asia, 18% in the Mekong region, and 13% in South Asia. Others (20%) work across the Asia-Pacific region. A small number (5%) work in Northeast Asia, Africa, the EU, or even globally (Figure 3).

Overall evaluation

Most respondents (88%) were satisfied with the workshop. 57% of them were highly satisfied (Figure 4).

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[1] In view of this, we use the term "respondents," and not participants, to refer to those who submitted evaluation forms so as not to mislead the interpretation of the results.
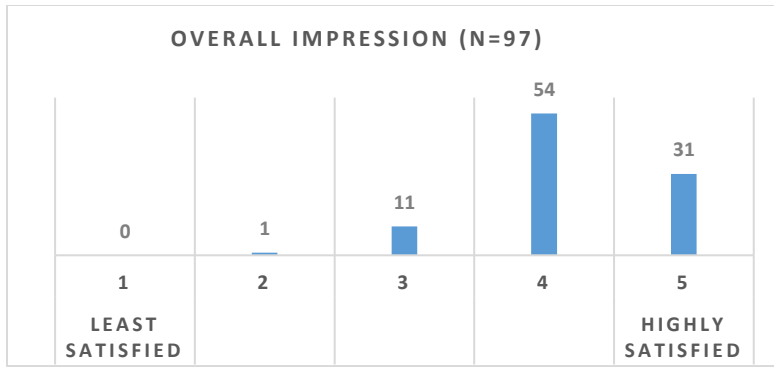
FIGURE 4. OVERALL IMPRESSION ON THE WORKSHOP

Content

We received very positive feedback on the content of the workshop (Figure 5). 88% of respondents, based on ratings of 4 to 5, thought the content was clearly presented. 78% considered the content engaging. Although only about half of them learned something new, 77% acknowledged the content's high relevance to their work.

FIGURE 5. CONTENT EVALUATION

Presenters/Facilitators

The responses from the evaluation showed that the workshop presenters and facilitator were generally engaging and inspiring (70% of respondents, Figure 6).
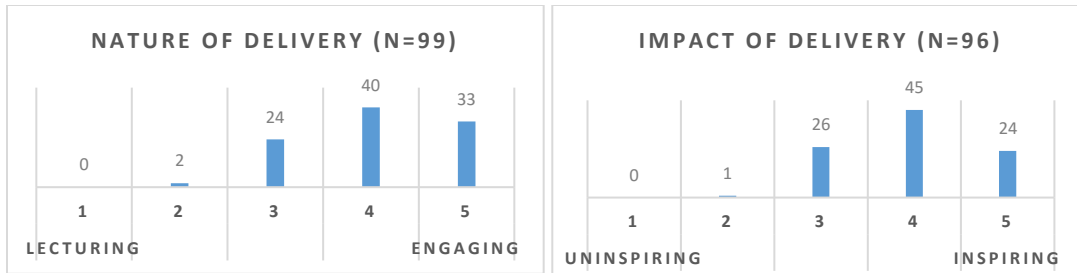
FIGURE 6. PRESENTERS/FACILITATORS EVALUATION

Participants' understanding

The respondents were asked to rate their understanding of the key content of the workshop. The results are generally positive (Figure 7).

Based on a rating of 4 to 5, 74% of respondents said that their awareness on "the nature of human behaviour as a factor that needs to be addressed in policies and interventions aimed to target the effects of climate change" had been improved. 62% of respondents stated their "understanding on the urgency and need to act now in response to climate change" has been improved. 54% of respondents had improved their "understanding on how regional cooperation can contribute to improving accountability for poverty reduction, human rights and gender equality in relation to climate change".
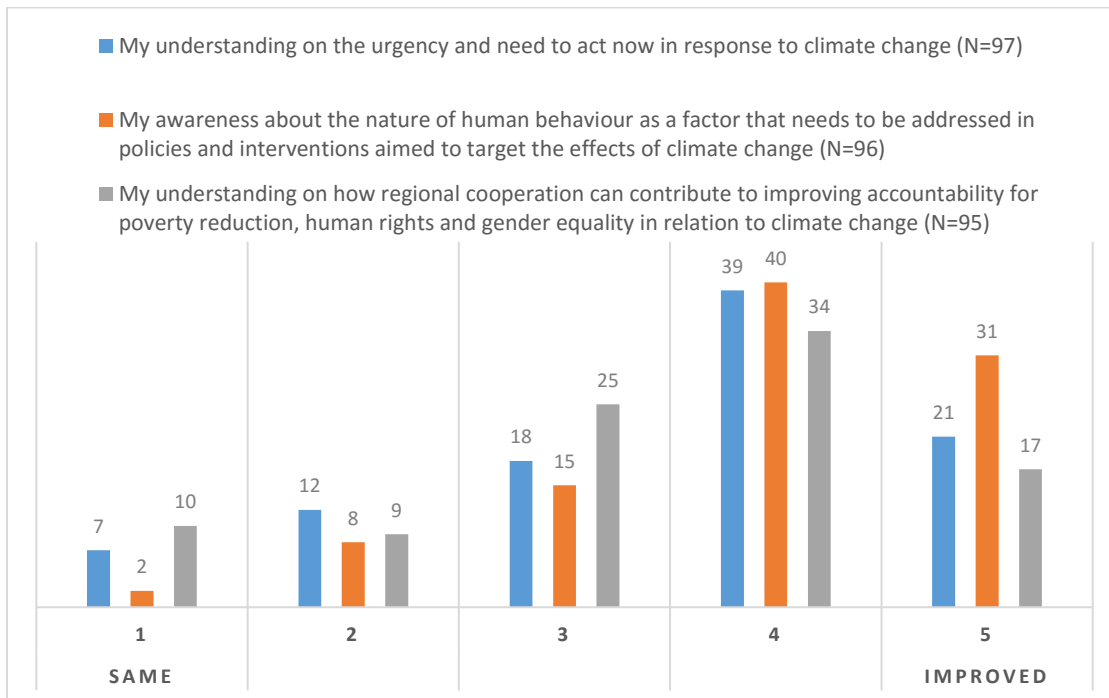
FIGURE 7. EVALUATION ON PARTICIPANTS' UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONTENT

Top 3 favourite sessions

From Figure 8, the five sessions that were highly and favourably received are, ranked from the highest:

1) Session 4 on Day 1 – The role of human behaviour in response to climate change
2) Session 2 on Day 2 – Governing transboundary challenges: human rights, gender equality and accountability
3) Session 1 on Day 1 – Setting the scene: climate change, equity and the Paris Agreement
4) Session 5 on Day 1 – Voices from the ground: realising inclusive development and social justice
5) Session 3 on Day 2 - Human rights, gender and accountability in climate finance

Sessions Participants Like the Most

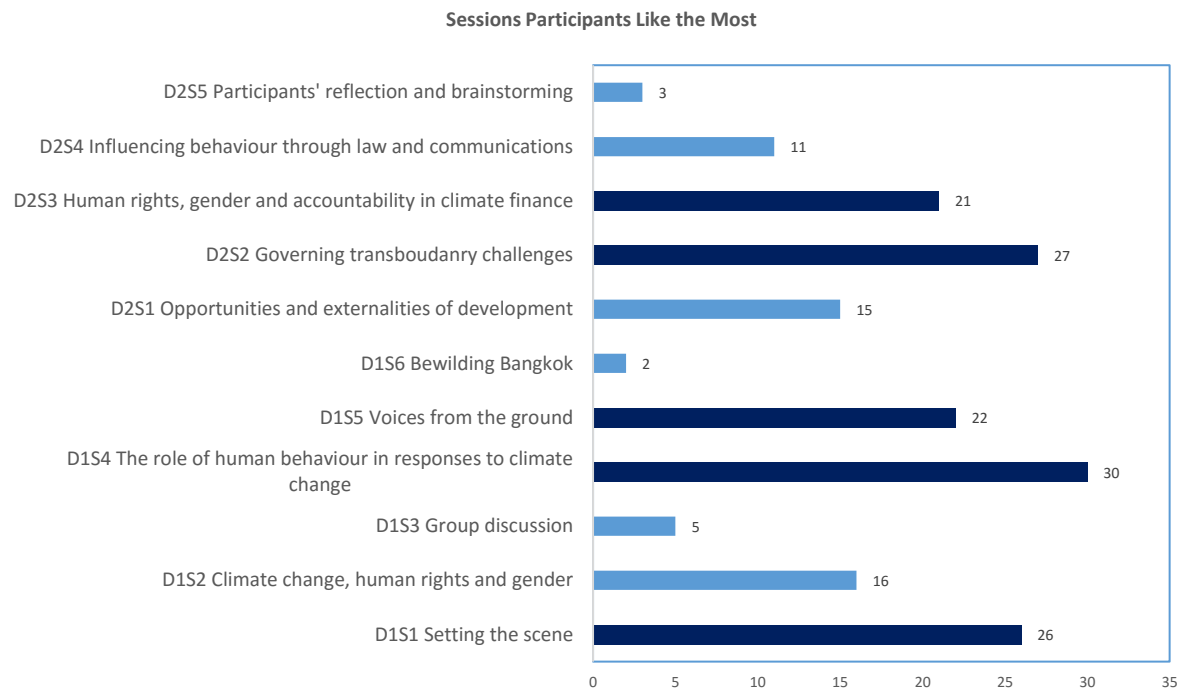| Session	Value
D2S5 Participants' reflection and brainstorming	3
D2S4 Influencing behaviour through law and communications	11
D2S3 Human rights, gender and accountability in climate finance	21
D2S2 Governing transboudanry challenges	27
D2S1 Opportunities and externalities of development	15
D1S6 Bewilding Bangkok	2
D1S5 Voices from the ground	22
D1S4 The role of human behaviour in responses to climate change	30
D1S3 Group discussion	5
D1S2 Climate change, human rights and gender	16
D1S1 Setting the scene	26

FIGURE 8. SESSIONS PARTICIPANTS LIKE THE MOST (MULTIPLE RESPONSE)

Some of the reasons cited for each of these sessions include:

- Session 4 on Day 1 – The role of human behaviour in response to climate change
    - The key reason is that this session was new, innovative and very different from the typical workshop session, both in terms of content and presentation.
    - The session was considered interesting, refreshing, engaging, thought-provoking, inspiring, provocative, fundamental, and insightful.
    - It discussed behavioural economics, the media, and practical examples, which increased awareness of behaviour change and its application in policy.
    - It is applicable to all work, and serves as a new concept and/or an excellent way to present human rights and/or gender issues. In particular, NGOs are suggested to include this new perspective into their strategies.
    - The presenters were highly praised.
- Session 2 on Day 2 – Governing transboundary challenges: human rights, gender equality and accountability
    - It provided a regional perspective, and more specifically, an ASEAN perspective. Trans-boundary issues were well discussed, with concrete actions and cases. It explored how we can change behaviour and political will within ASEAN, and the challenges that we face in a

50

regional context. It presented thoughts on how we as a regional community should address these challenges.
- The session was new, interesting, pertinent, inspiring, informative, proactive and very relevant to participants' work.
- The moderator was great and panellists were very knowledgeable and engaging.
- Opposing views were shared and possible collaboration ideas emerged.
- Session 1 on Day 1 – Setting the scene: climate change, equity and the Paris Agreement
    - The overwhelming majority of respondents liked this session the most because the presenter Sivan Kartha had made a brilliant and very informative presentation. He gave an eloquent overview of climate science and its recent policy progress through the years; how economic, climate, statistics and behaviour can be connected; and why it is urgent to take action on climate change.
    - Overall, this session clearly provided rich information with supporting data to set up up the context well, and give an engaging overview of the relevant issues.
    - The session was new, innovative, conceptual, relevant and inspirational.
    - Samantha Kwan did a great presentation with real insights.
    - It brought back memories of past conferences.
- Session 5 on Day 1 – Voices from the ground: realising inclusive development and social justice
    - The examples from the field provided a concrete picture on how policies are impacting on the ground, and on the value of movements, which greatly inspired the participants. They were especially interested in learning about feminist participatory action research (FPAR).
- Session 3 on Day 2 - Human rights, gender and accountability in climate finance
    - The experienced speakers provided new and critical insights with inspiring examples of human rights/gender issues on the ground, which increased their knowledge on gender and climate change. The session encouraged the participants to think outside the box, and reflect on and re-examine their perceptions of gender equality.
    - The session was conceptually important, well-managed, and organised; it was informative, timely, inspiring, interesting, and relevant to their work or lacking but necessary in their work.

Inspiring ideas from the workshop

Many ideas inspired the respondents. Table 1 below shows that the ideas that most inspired the respondents were related to behaviour (31%), ground work (13%), and regional cooperation (8%).

TABLE 1. IDEAS THAT INSPIRED THE RESPONDENTS MOST

Topics	No.
Behaviour	45
Ground work	19
Regional Cooperation	10
Gender	10
Human rights	9

Movement for transformation	8
Climate change	7
Private sector	6
Multi-stakeholders engagement	5
Urgency in Action	5
Climate finance	4
Communication	4
Networking	3
Workshop design	3
Cross-cutting	2
Data	2
Ambassador's speech	1
Total	143

One third of the respondents were highly inspired by the ideas related to behaviour and the presentation of the ideas, such as through the film by Diego Galafassi. The particular topics of interest were behavioural change theories (information -> awareness -> will -> action), behavioural economics, the irrational decision-making concept, barriers to behaviour change; the role of human behaviour in climate change, in sustainable production and consumption, and in advocacy work; and how to enable or motivate behaviour change using risk communication strategies and interventions, peer pressure and/or through collective behaviour and proactive engagement. Specific ideas included: "Actions need to be based on emotions (create action)", "Emotions shape responses!", "Human nature causes both benefit and catastrophe to the world", and "Dialogue gives results, but patience is needed."

Next to behaviour, ideas on ground work also sufficiently inspired the respondents: the blue brand fishing campaign, the RECOFTC women leadership support in Nepal, the feminist participatory action research (FPAR) in Papua New Guinea, and the Sustainable Rural Development in Vietnam. Through capacity building to empower women, the changes on the ground eventually drove policy changes, which became evidence of the effectiveness of a bottom-up process.

Respondents were inspired by ideas of regional cooperation beyond economic cooperation in ASEAN. Such cooperation needs to leverage the potential of ASEAN parliaments, and transboundary governance requires transboundary mechanisms, including financial mechanisms. In addition, multi-stakeholder

cross-sectoral dialogue and engagement also inspired respondents to open space for dialogue and understand other viewpoints. The case of youth engagement in Samoan was inspiring.

Respondents were mainly inspired by the following ideas related to gender: the multiple layers of vulnerability that women face, a feminist fossil fuel-free future, gender in the human rights agenda, gender equality, geo feminism for monitoring environmental problems, how to mainstream gender and go beyond gender mainstreaming**.** The most important finding is that the respondents were inspired by the increasing number of people engaging in gender dialogues.

The inspiring human rights related ideas were human rights movement for climate justice, human rights safeguarding and development, the quality of life of labour, the accountability of companies, corporations, and implementing agencies, as well as the universal human right standards to evaluate climate change capacity/policy.

Movements enabling transformation inspired respondents because "movement building creates change", movements shift power and drive political change for sustainability, and also because of the women's movement.

The link between climate change and gender and Paris agreement also inspired the respondents. So did climate finance, its accountability and its support in mainstreaming human rights and gender equity.

Respondents were inspired by private sector partnership, CSR approaches, responsible investment and sustainable business and development as ideas related to private sector.

Regarding data, respondents were inspired by citizen science and "access to data creates the framework for action". "Communicate differently", "communicate with policy makers", and "journalism" were inspiring ideas on communication. Networking among human rights practitioners, and information sharing, were the key inspiring ideas regarding networking.

The workshop design such as the live status session, the brief 5-minute presentations and 2-day workshop with few PowerPoints also inspired respondents. The Ambassador's speech was also considered inspiring.

The theme of this workshop – interlinkages between human rights, climate change and gender – inspired respondents. "Urgency in Action", "Change!", and "Rhetoric to action" were what inspired the respondents to take urgent action now.

Other comments and suggestions

12% of the 81 comments were compliments. Other comments and suggestions were given with regard to services and facilities, the design of the workshop, content of the workshop, resource persons/ facilitators, the diversity of participants, follow up, and appeals for continuation (Figure 9).

Compliments

10 respondents spoke highly of the organisation of the workshop and expressed their appreciation. *"The presentations overall are good and many times excellent"*, according to one participant. Another described the workshop as *"inspirational and a true learning curve."* Some participants expressed that despite the challenge of pulling together such an interdisciplinary programme, the Swedish Embassy made an effort to continue bringing different actors to discuss similar topics two years in a row, which helped improve mutual understanding and potential for collaboration. This workshop is considered as a great success that should be continued in the future.

FIGURE 9. OTHER COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

Services and facilities

The main issue with the venue was the air conditioner, which was too cold and could not be controlled. It was also suggested to provide healthier snacks for coffee break (e.g. fruits).

Design of the workshop

The respondents found the session style interesting, and thought the instant feedback (word cloud) was a good idea. According to a significant number of respondents, the workshop was slightly heavy on panels and lectures, which resulted in weak interaction with the floor. They proposed to have more concrete and interactive sessions, including 1) more technical and practical group discussions on certain topics, such as climate financing or accountability, and how to bring climate change, gender and the SDGs into their projects; 2) more good case stories or grass roots experiences; 3) more exercises; 4) reflections from participants, etc.

In addition, some identified a disconnect between Day 1 on macro international context and Day 2 on ground actions. Others also highlighted that this workshop needs to continue engaging and collaborating with a diversity of stakeholders, but at a smaller scale. It was also requested that a specific session on networking and discussion of possible collaborations (cross-sector collaboration) be incorporated in the design of the sessions. Although the instant feedback (word cloud) was a good idea, questions can be designed to tackle the issues not discussed on the floor. It was also mentioned that the workshop could better link to the previous year's workshop and continue to engage with the private sector.
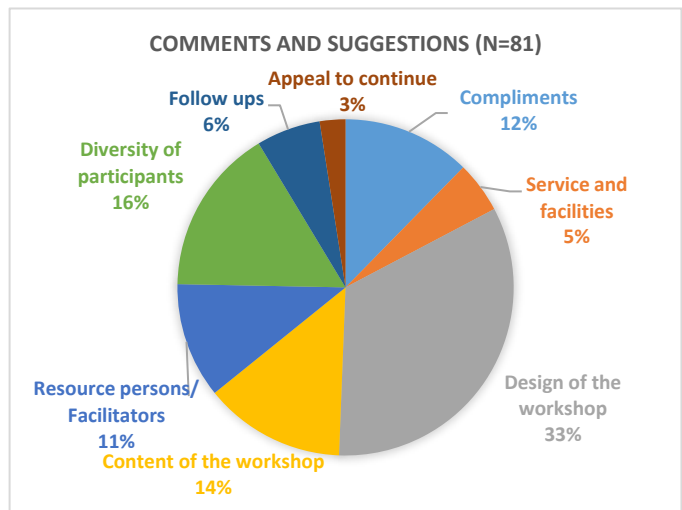
Content of the workshop

The respondents said that the workshop brought together many different aspects of human rights and climate change in a very impressive manner. It was inspirational and a true learning curve. The integrated method that considered different aspects of an issue was insightful. The human rights-based approach was necessary. The human behaviour angle was interesting. The linking of human rights and climate change in the palm oil sector was clear. But there should also be more networking between partners in South Asia and South East Asia in the future.

However, some respondents thought that a lot of presentations on gender and human rights were generic, and tended to repeat the same things. Besides, some sessions went into too much sectoral detail, losing sight of the workshop theme. As a result, participants who were not in that sector were lost. It also lacked pointers on how to make the information practical and useful.

Some respondents expected more information and discussion on climate finance, business and human rights, behavioural change in relation to climate change, methods for building more effective peers groups, networks, and other topics.

Resource persons/ facilitators

Although the panellists and facilitators were highly praised, the following issues are worth noting:

- Too many panellists in each session, leading to superficial discussions.
  - *Proposed solution: limit the number of panellists, for example, maximum three, to allow for Q&A, discussion and deeper reflection*
- Too similar resource persons and/or moderators in spite of the mix of climate change, human right, and gender
  - *Proposed solution: 1) invite more diversified groups of members on the panel, such as policy makers, business representatives, and the Embassy; 2) invite moderators with different backgrounds, like journalists*
- The different moderating styles sometimes made it very hard to follow the key messages

Diversity of participants

It was suggested to invite representatives from

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Government agencies at both local and national levels, particularly policy makers
- Private sector
- Grass root communities, especially from the most vulnerable countries
- Women organizations
- Youth
- Other geographical areas of Asia, such as Myanmar

Follow up

Below were follow up activities suggested and requested by the respondents:

1) Make PowerPoint presentations and list of resources (such as reports mentioned in the workshop) available for download
2) Follow up with practical recommendations and specific steps

Appeal to continue
It was requested by some respondents to continue this platform for information sharing, engagement and collaboration.

Potential topics in the next regional workshop
The respondents put forward 134 topics for the next regional workshop. These topics were further categorized into the following 13 themes:

TABLE 2. POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR THE NEXT REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Topics	No.
Human rights	33
Climate change	15
Climate change, human rights and gender	10
Gender	9
Accountability and impact evaluation	8
Economics	7
Climate change and gender	7
Private sector	7
Climate change and human rights	4
Partnership	4
Communication	4
Disaster	4
Governance	4
Sustainable development	3
Action-based	3
Environment	3
Gender and human rights	2
Agriculture	2

Poverty reduction	2
Migration	2
Youth	1
Total	134

These categories are broken down into the following:

Climate change
1. Climate change induced migration across bounders
2. Climate finance
3. Climate change and food security
4. Evidences of climate change effect
5. Effective and efficient climate change intervention/policies
6. Climate change and water
7. Diversity and vulnerable groups in climate change
8. Climate change-induced migration
9. Climate change impact on children and the elderly
10. Climate resilience
11. Climate change from slow onset events and sudden disasters
12. Extra territorial obligation - > how apply to this region.
13. Some more discussions on the relationship of economic development and climate change -> trade, investment +climate change
14. Mind-set change and awareness-raising in climate change
15. Innovative approaches in achieving sustainable change, including use of ICT, cultural expressions

Gender
1. Gender and disaster risk reduction
2. How gender can be integrated into projects
3. Gender sensitive in global value chain
4. Gender and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) processes
5. Gender design/budget in project implementation
6. Gender and agriculture
7. Gender equity
8. Gender and natural resource management (fisheries, forestry)
9. Gender and social inclusion for environmental sustainability

Human rights
1. Freedom of expression and protection mechanism for human rights activists
2. Land and water rights
3. Development finance, human rights, international and national treaties
4. Environmental rights and social justice in practice
5. Accountability in the SDGs - the human right-based approach
6. Legislation/ Legal environment used to restrict freedom/rights; now to turn this trend around

7. Online freedom/surveillance
8. Democracy and civil society
9. Human rights to a development issue/challenge that is typical in this region
10. Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
11. Indigenous people and implication of human rights instruments
12. Trans-boundary water governance and private sector engagement on human right
13. Development finance and human rights law
14. Environmental justice
15. Trade/economy and human rights
16. Freedom of expression
17. People participation
18. Ecosystem management and people's active participation.
19. Humanitarian action
20. Voice from the ground: human and movement rights, case stories and project context
21. "Asian values" and "western values": is there a conflict and how do we bridge universality in human rights?
22. Land rights
23. How will these migrants' rights be protected?
24. Environmental human rights defenders and advocacy (women HRD)
25. How to bring business and human right together with environment issue to protect human right with environment
26. What is the good standard to be applied to this region on business and human right and environment?
27. Human rights, trade and investment (in the content of environmental change)
28. The shrinking space of civil society in Asia: the need for freedom of expression and open dialogue for addressing all development challenges.
29. Nexus between labour rights/condition and environmental degradation
30. Social security aspects: financing models (insurance for farmers, micro-loans)
31. Shrinking political space for CSOs in Asia
32. Conflict: refugee, asylum seekers
33. Shrinking space of civil society in Asia

Climate change and gender
1. Gender and climate financing
2. Climate change, gender in national planning
3. Gender equity, migration and climate change
4. Climate change and gender
5. Climate finance and gender justice
6. Gender budgeting - how to promote equity within development/ climate change programme
7. Gender equality and climate finance

Climate change and human rights
1. Intersection between environmental degradation/climate change and labour
2. Tension between economic development, environment, human development
3. Business and human rights and impact on climate change
4. Regional case stories from human right based approach for climate change action

Gender and human rights

1. Gender equality and indigenous groups
2. Project level innovations that address gender and human rights

Climate change, human rights and gender

3. Communication role in influencing policy/practice to ensure human rights and gender equality in the response to the climate change and development challenges
4. Resilience: environment, gender and human rights
5. Fisheries/coastal resource management and governance on human rights, climate change and gender
6. Climate change & rights of freedom of marginalized groups
7. Human rights/gender and climate finance
8. Migration/Trafficking on human rights, climate change and gender
9. Innovative mechanisms to work with environment and gender/human rights
10. Focus on haze as a phenomena and discuss it from HR, health, environmental etc. perspectives

Partnership

1. Development challenges and opportunities in the context of ASEAN and community building
2. Regional actions taken since this region workshop was out of project context
3. The role of partnerships - how to bridge disciplines and lexicons to practical collaboration toward development outcomes
4. Breaking the silos: partnership and collaborations, private sector, government, CSOs and practitioners

Private sector

1. Small and medium-sized enterprises
2. Role of private sector in implementing SDGs
3. Private sector investments
4. Private sector views
5. Role of private sectors in sustainable development
6. Private sector's role in climate change adaptation and social changes
7. Good practices by corporations and how to replicate and sustain

Communication

1. How do you reach out with your results?
2. Media session/Communicating climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
3. How to engage people? Efficient ways to change people's behaviour
4. Use of different kind of media

Disaster

1. Disaster management
2. Water induced disasters
3. Resilience
4. Sustainable livelihood practice of fisheries and increase resilience of smallholder farmers/fisheries

Governance

1. Governance trans-boundary challenges

2. Governance to address other sectors, like environment on "environmental governance"
3. Good government policies and practice
4. Connections of policy changes and social movement

Economics
1. Budgeting systems
2. Green economy
3. Sustainable production and consumption
4. Investment
5. Inclusive value chains
6. Engaging finance actors as change agents, banks, and impact investors for a trans-boundary economy
7. Exploitation in supply chain

Accountability and impact evaluation
1. Measurements of impact (certification etc.)
2. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) & Health Impact Assessment (HIA) tools
3. Develop policy/programmes impact and evaluation
4. Accountability mechanisms
5. Accountability
6. Legal frameworks for the SDGs
7. Environmental surveillance tools & data
8. Impact measurement

Agriculture
1. Agro-ecology
2. Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in Agriculture

Sustainable development
1. Follow up and review of SDGs - what can all stakeholders contribute and their respective roles
2. Inter-disciplinary approach to environmental and development issues
3. Sustainable development, poverty reduction

Poverty reduction
1. Different solutions for financial services for the poor
2. Poverty

Youth
1. Role of children & youth as change makers

Migration
1. Immigration
2. Migration - refugees

Action-based
1. Practical action (more about enabling, less about motivating)
2. Best practices from different natural resource sectors
3. What actions to address issues discussed today and how to upscale them?
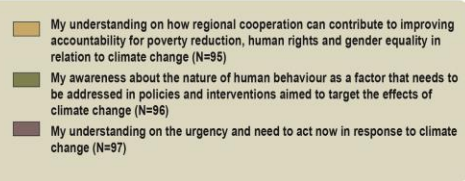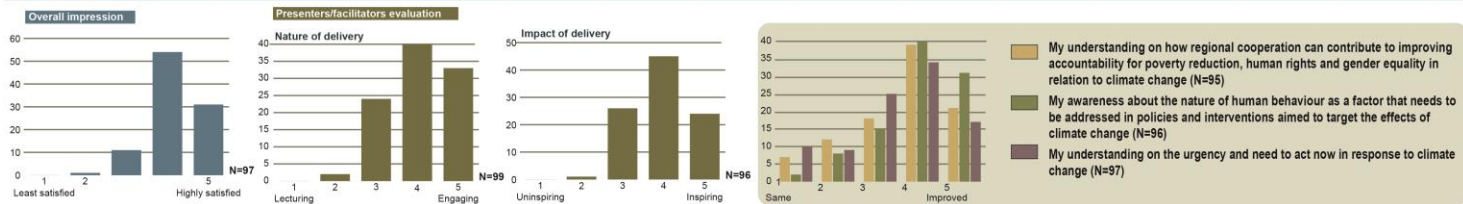
Environment
1. Waste management
2. Renewable energy
3. City's environment and health problems

2016 Sida Annual Workshop Evaluation - Urgency in Action

EMBASSY OF SWEDEN
Bangkok

10-11 May 2016 | Bangkok

Overall impression
Least satisfied 1 — Highly satisfied 5 — N=97

Presenters/facilitators evaluation

Nature of delivery — Lecturing 1 ... Engaging 5 — N=99

Impact of delivery — Uninspiring 1 ... Inspiring 5 — N=96

My understanding on how regional cooperation can contribute to improving accountability for poverty reduction, human rights and gender equality in relation to climate change (N=95)

My awareness about the nature of human behaviour as a factor that needs to be addressed in policies and interventions aimed to target the effects of climate change (N=96)

My understanding on the urgency and need to act now in response to climate change (N=97)

Same 1 ... Improved 5

Content evaluation

Clarity — Rather confusing 1 ... Clearly presented 5 — N=96

Delivery — Boring 1 ... Engaging 5 — N=96

Novelty — Not new 1 ... Completely new 5 — N=96
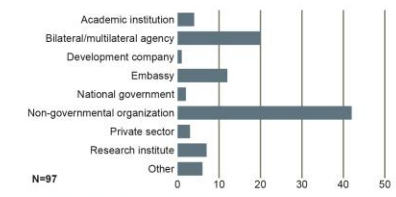
Relevance — Irrelevant 1 ... Applicable 5 — N=99

Five favourite sessions
1) The role of human behaviour in response to climate change
2) Governing transboundary challenges: human rights, gender equality and accountability
3) Setting the scene: climate change, equity and the Paris Agreement
4) Voices from the ground: realising inclusive development and social justice
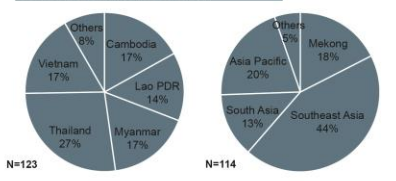5) Human rights, gender and accountability in climate finance

Inspiring ideas

"Rhetoric to action"

"Actions need to be based on emotions."

Human rights
Movement for transformation   Urgency in Action   Private sector
Ground work   Climate finance
Networking   Cross-cutting   Gender   Climate change
Regional Cooperation   Behaviour
Communication
Workshop design
Multistakeholder engagement

"Dialogue gives results, but patience is needed."

"Movement-building creates change."

Sectors respondents are representing
- Academic institution
- Bilateral/multilateral agency
- Development company
- Embassy
- National government
- Non-governmental organization
- Private sector
- Research institute
- Other

N=97

Countries & regions of work

Others 8% / Cambodia 17% / Vietnam 17% / Lao PDR 14% / Thailand 27% / Myanmar 17%
N=123

Others 5% / Mekong 18% / Asia Pacific 20% / Southeast Asia 44% / South Asia 13%
N=114

Positive reactions

"The presentations overall are good and many times excellent"

"Inspirational and a true learning curve"

Outputs
- Materials available for download
  - PPT presentation
  - Other resources, e.g. reports
- Practical recommendatio and specific steps

Session design
- Interesting session style
- Instant feedback: good idea
- Slightly heavy on panel
- Weak interaction with the floor
- Disconnection between Day 1 and 2
- A specific session on networking and collaboration

Content
- Impressive combination of human rights and climate change
- Inspirational and insightful
- Generic and repetitive presentation on gender and human rights
- Too much sectoral details
- More on climate finance, etc.

Resource persons
- Too many panelists in each session
  - Maximum 3 panelists
- Too similar resource persons and/or moderators
  - Invite panelists like policy makers, business, the Embassy.
  - Invite moderators like journalists.

Diversity of participants
- UN agencies for human rights
- Government agencies at both local and national level, particularly policy makers
- Private sector
- Grassroot communities
- Women organizations
- Youth
- Other geographical areas of Asia such as Myanmar

Designed by Maejie Sun, 23 June 2016