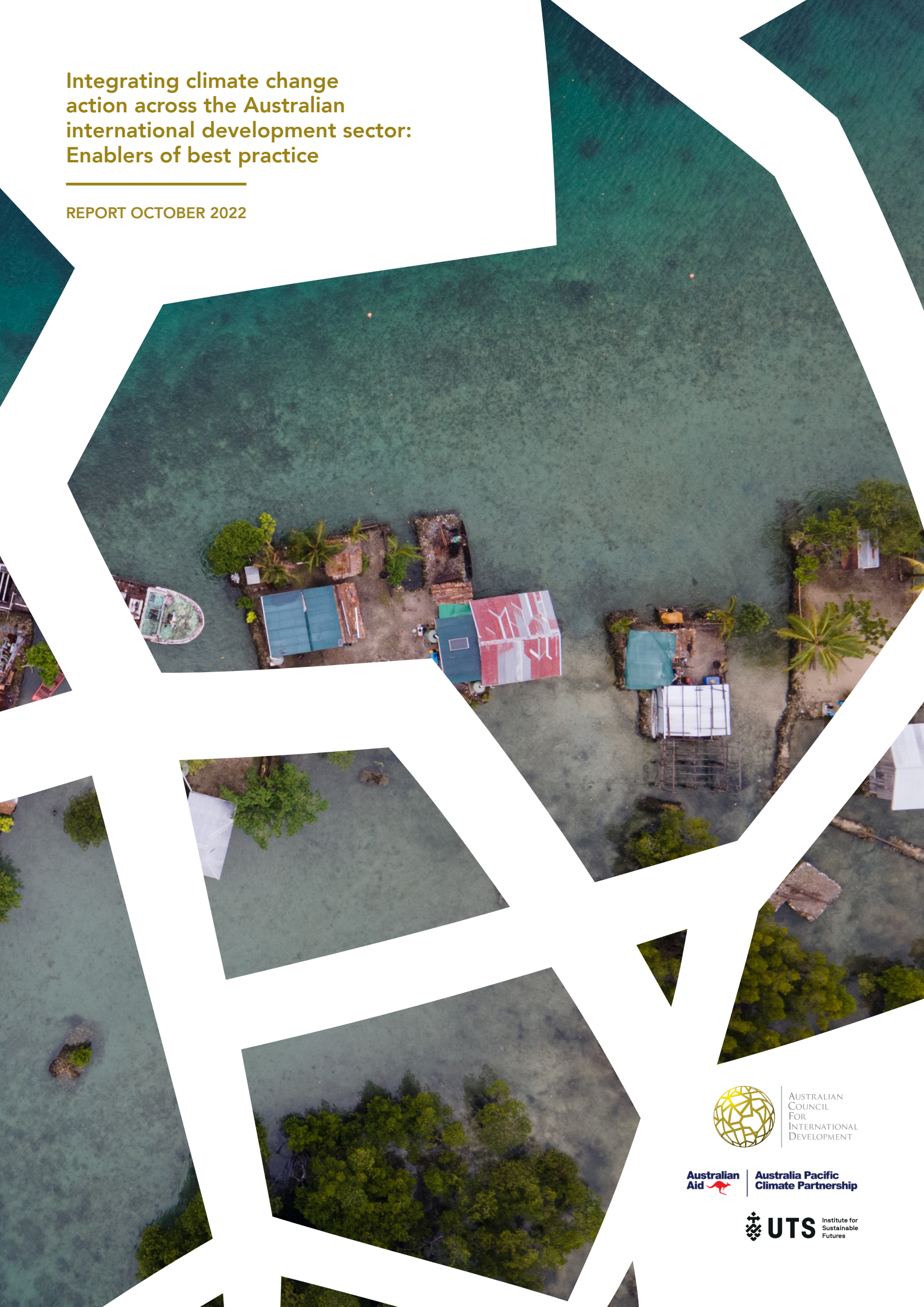


Integrating climate change action across the Australian international development sector: Enablers of best practice

REPORT OCTOBER 2022



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Australian
Aid 

Australia Pacific
Climate Partnership



UTS Institute for
Sustainable
Futures

Summary

The intended audience of this document are ACFID members, with the purpose to provide grounded and practical examples of best practice for climate change integration. Case studies are linked to different aspects of ACFID's Climate Action Framework to demonstrate the various approaches some organisations have taken to integrate climate action into policy, programs and practice.

KEY ENABLERS SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION



CASE STUDIES DEMONSTRATING ELEMENTS OF ACFID'S CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:



1. Introduction

1.1 CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

Climate change is an urgent issue, requiring a response within all sectors and all scales across the globe. Addressing climate change is a critical issue for the international development sector because of the interlinkages between climate change, poverty, injustice and inequality. Communities experiencing poverty and marginalised people are affected first and worst due to pre-existing vulnerabilities. Climate change also exacerbates fragility and conflict and amplifies food and water resource scarcity. The system in which development sector actors operate for integrating climate change considerations in their programming needs to change. System transformation of the development sector is needed to ensure climate change does not reverse development progress. All ACFID members have a role to play in this system transformation, which includes integration of climate action within aid and development programs.

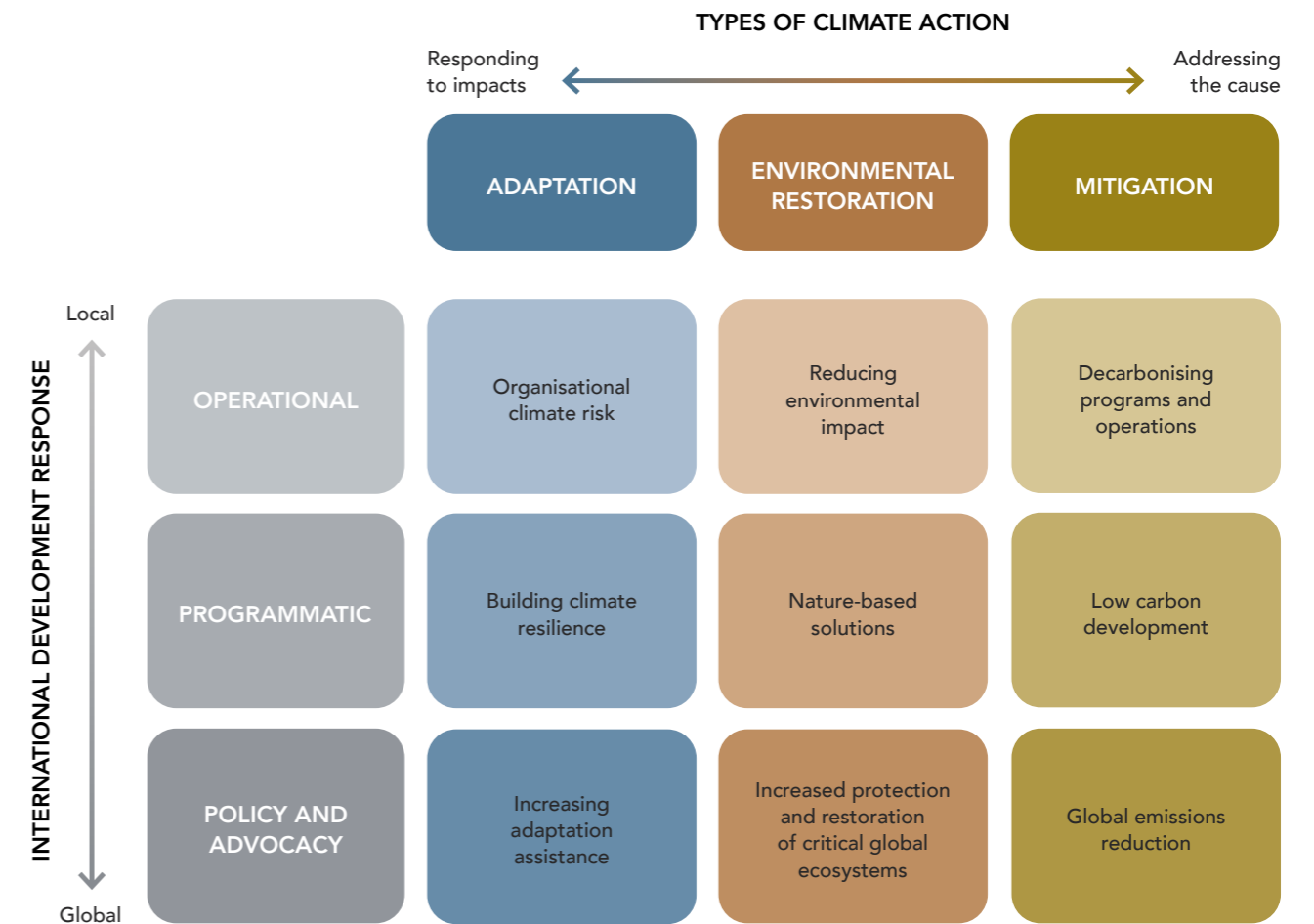
1.2 ACFID'S CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK

Given the clear need for climate action within the international development sector, ACFID set out to better understand members' needs and priorities for integrating climate risk across policy, programs and practice. ACFID identified that NGOs working in the international development sector recognise the need to integrate climate change considerations more effectively across their programs. In 2021, ACFID introduced its Climate Action Framework (Figure 1) to support Australian international development NGOs increase their engagement and action in climate change. The Framework classifies types of climate change action, highlighting a diversity of approaches and the relationship between them. This resource builds on the Framework to provide more detailed guidance for ACFID members to integrate climate change effectively.



Photo: Nasau Village, Ra Province, Fiji. Photo credit: Anna Gero

FIGURE 1: ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK



1.3 PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The intended audience of this document are ACFID members, with the purpose to provide grounded and practical examples of best practice for climate change integration. The document identifies enablers of best practice (Section 2), drawing from experiences of climate change experts and sector leaders working in the international development sector. Case study examples of best practice of climate change integration are also included in the document. Case studies are linked to the ACFID Climate Action Framework. The case studies highlight types of actions that were undertaken at different activity levels of the Framework, and provide clear entry points for organisations wanting to start working on climate change or seeking to step up their work (described in Section 3).

BOX 1: APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

This document has been prepared by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology (ISF-UTS). Evidence and findings presented in this document are drawn from two phases of research. The first phase of research involved a project undertaken over 2021-2022, funded by the Australia Pacific Climate Partnership (APCP) Support Unit titled 'Climate Change Action through Civil Society Programs'. The methodology for phase one involved ISF-UTS working closely with Australian and Pacific non-government organisations (NGOs) to explore enablers and best practices associated with climate change integration in NGO programming. The project involved a Reference Group of experts, participatory workshops, key informant interviews, online surveys, focus group discussions and collective sensemaking and validation activities. It also involved a desktop review to understand aspects of ANGO programming relevant to climate change risk and sector-based programming in the Pacific. The methodology for phase two involved ISF-UTS engaging with the Climate Change Working Group within ACFID's Development Practice Committee (DPC), drawing on the findings from the APCP-funded research. While no new data was collected, the Working Group supported ISF-UTS to present phase one findings to be fit-for-purpose for the ANGO sector and ACFID members.

2. Enablers of best practice for climate change integration

Through interviews with ANGO and civil society representatives, we identified enablers of best practice for climate change integration within NGO programs. Six enablers of best practice are provided below. Aspects of development effectiveness and 'good development practice' are present within each of the enablers. Given the scale and scope of work required to address climate change impacts, enablers are designed to support transformational change to build resilience from a NGO perspective.

While enablers 1 and 2 may be considered as foundational, supporting the practical implementation of the remaining four, all enablers have been developed to be accessible and may be used as entry points for action to support climate change integration across the breadth of NGO's work.

ENABLER 1: MULTI-YEAR, CORE FUNDING AND FLEXIBLE FUNDING OPTIONS

Donor support through multi-year and core-funding and funding with flexible outcome options provided NGOs with adequate time to build relationships, better understand context, define outcomes with local actors, witness project outcomes, and make changes to more effectively integrate climate change considerations into the program.

Multi-year and core-funding can enable effective climate change integration into NGO programming. Having multi-year funding for a program provided NGOs adequate time to implement programs at the grassroots levels, experience outcomes of their program and design the next steps of climate change integration based on the learnings from the previous steps. Core funding can allow for organisations to consider short, medium and long-term risk profiles associated with climate change impacts on operational and programmatic aspects of their work.



The built-in beauty of this five-year funded program is that we can witness how our work reduced the impacts of emergency situations."

Jason Brown, Partnership Director of Australian Humanitarian Program (AHP).

Flexible funding with open-ended outcomes supports NGOs to explore effective climate change integration practice into their programming through community-identified pathways, instead of following a pre-determined implementation plan which might not be appropriate within the community ecosystem.



We went [to the community] and said whatever pathway the community identifies - we will work with them. It's hard to do with tightly restricted funds."

Nat Burke, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Head of Social Development.

ENABLER 2: PARTNERSHIPS, RELATIONSHIPS, AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FOR TRANSFORMATIVE AND INNOVATIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Climate change requires us to look beyond business as usual towards innovative approaches and transformative actions to adapt to changing environments and contexts. Implementing novel approaches and introducing creative ways of working become possible when the relationships between organisations are built on trust. Long-term partnerships, ongoing engagement and knowledge exchange between ANGOs and local partners can promote new ways of working, including innovative approaches to climate change integration.

Partnering with local NGOs, community organisations and local and national government is a key enabler. Doing so supports ANGOs to build strong cultural competency and understanding of the socio-cultural and environmental context, which contributes to effective integration of climate change. Partnering with stakeholders at multiple scales (e.g., community, sub-national and national levels) demonstrates working across the ‘system’ of climate change integration, and the need to work through multiple entry points to affect change within the system (see also Enabler 3).

Sharing insights and knowledge between ANGOs and local partners is a key enabler for successful climate change integration. Prioritising local partners and community experiences of climate change impacts and adaptation solutions through continuous engagement and deepening connections can help ANGOs progress towards effective climate change integration.



Diverse partnerships help to achieve **impact on climate change and disaster resilience by targeting multiple entry points within the system they are trying to influence.**

UTS-ISF Mapping Report.¹

EXAMPLE OF ENABLER:

During participatory workshops for the Climate Action through Civil Society Program project, the participating NGOs were keen to share information and knowledge between themselves about their experiences of climate change integration. NGOs’ interest in, and appetite for, shared learning and exchanging information demonstrated how peer-to-peer learning, in the presence of trusting relationships, can be a useful approach to support improved confidence and capability for climate change integration.

ENABLER 3: ONGOING AND HOLISTIC APPROACH RECOGNISING THE DYNAMICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Evidence from past research exploring climate change integration indicates that integrating climate change is an ongoing learning process for actors in the development sector (including NGOs and ACFID members), not a one-off activity. An ongoing approach is needed because of the dynamic and often unpredictable nature of climate change impacts, which require responses to be constantly recalibrating and reassessing levels of risk. A holistic understanding of communities’ strengths and priorities should also be reflected in the integration approach.

Ongoing learning and improvement across multiple pathways: Integrating climate change into NGO policy, programs and practice does not mean relying on a single document, nor is it a one-off activity. NGO research participants expressed the need for guidance for climate change integration to be an ongoing learning process that includes multiple entry points and activities e.g., partnering with others, the exchange of ideas amongst like-minded practitioners, or targeted training on specific topics. This finding points to the need for a range of options to engage, and different types of engagement (online, face-to-face, training, sharing, piloting, mentoring, partnership building) that enable effective climate change integration. Ongoing learning is also needed to ensure NGOs remain up to date with the latest climate change projections and anticipated impacts.

A holistic approach that incorporates ‘systems thinking’ supports a comprehensive understanding of how climate change can impact different aspects of communities and the ecosystems on which they depend. Taking a holistic approach to consider the various development priorities, challenges and opportunities supports communities and NGO partners to work together to integrate climate risk considerations into programs and activities.

EXAMPLE OF ENABLER:

A Papua New Guinea-based climate-livelihood program initiated by an environmental INGO addressed the ‘bigger picture’ in their program planning phase. The program manager recognised that environmental restoration may not sound relevant to the community, however, sustainable livelihoods – which has more of a clear and direct benefit to community members – might be more of interest. The program manager therefore focused initial conversations with the community on the sustainable livelihoods angle, as an entry point for connections to the bigger picture focus on environmental restoration.

¹ See Climate change action through civil society programming: Mapping of DFAT funded ANGO activities, 2021: <https://www.uts.edu.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/Mapping-ANGO-activities-Final-Sept21.pdf>

ENABLER 4: PRIORITISING CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION WITHIN ORGANISATIONS

Organisational prioritisation of climate change, and inclusion of climate and disaster resilience considerations at a higher strategic organisational level, were also enablers for climate change integration.

Strategic and practical prioritisation of climate change action were both important. NGOs described the need for strategic prioritisation of climate change action to be operationalised through practical planning and activities. Currently, this was noted to be a challenge for NGOs, who may have a broad understanding of why climate change integration is important and be aware of existing climate change frameworks (e.g., ACFID's Climate Action Framework). However, many NGOs were unsure how to operationalise such a framework. This was particularly the case for NGOs new to climate change integration, as illustrated in the quote below from an ANGO research participant.



Climate change is a priority in our Strategic Plan... We need to do more planning of what we will do in this space; we need to do more work on planning and processes. Climate justice is new area for [our organisation] and not core business of any partners; we need to invest more time and thinking about what climate justice means for our organisation."

ANGO research participant.

An NGO with more experience of climate change integration also noted that more guidance was needed internally to support effective climate change integration, noting that consideration of climate change remained at quite a high-level (not practically operationalised) in the organisation. Feedback from the NGO representative noted that greater specificity was needed to support integration into programming and project activities.

NGOs can help to build a supportive enabling environment by integrating consideration of climate risk at all levels - strategic, programmatic and operational.

Joint advocacy efforts and participation in networks and partnerships can also support ACFID members demonstrate the prioritisation of climate change within their organisations. Joining advocacy efforts can amplify voices for transformational change, with the aim to influence governments, private sector and other actors. Participation in networks and partnerships can connect with other organisations for knowledge sharing, which can provide ideas for new ways to integrate climate change considerations within organisations.

ENABLER 5: STRENGTH-BASED APPROACHES THAT RECOGNISE AND CHAMPION TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, LOCAL PRIORITIES AND DIVERSE CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

Integrating climate change into policies, programs and practice is supported by the prioritisation of traditional and local knowledge, voices and leadership, through activities that are locally led. Climate leadership should be sought from youth, women and girls, people with disabilities and gender non-binary people, given their voices are often absent in decision making processes. Strength-based approaches that recognise and champion local priorities and capacities has been identified in past research as being driving factors for effective climate change integration in the civil sector.

Valuing and prioritising traditional and local knowledge alongside Western science-based information (e.g., climate change projections) facilitates effective mutual learning between communities, local partners and ANGOs. Sharing of local and traditional knowledge of weather and climate prediction, ecosystem and biodiversity indicators of change, and valuing this knowledge within projects and with ANGO partners is an important enabler of climate change integration. Effective dissemination of climate science, in local language where possible, increases communities' knowledge of climate change impacts.



Bringing traditional and [Western] science-based [early] warning systems together enabled communication with communities through the language they know and understand... a good example of integration."

Jason Brown, AHP.

Locally-led activities with diverse climate leadership, drawing on local leaders and knowledge brokers within communities and local government has greater potential to meaningfully engage the community and enable successful climate change integration. Participants of past research also noted the need to consider and promote leadership roles for diverse members of the community, e.g., women, gender non-binary people, youth (including young women) and young people's contributions to climate change integration, which were noted by local NGOs as being absent in guidance materials for climate change integration.

The effectiveness of community-led approaches resonated amongst participants of the past research as well. The NGO participants agreed that communities learn more from workshops or activities when conducted by local facilitators.



A training for the trainers at the local level will help the widespread (within a community) of the capacity building at the grassroots level."

Pacific NGO research participant.

ANGOs may also reflect on the roles they play in partnership with local actors. Rather than providing technical advice, ANGOs might be better placed playing convening, connecting and facilitating roles between actors (e.g., between donors such as DFAT and local NGOs).



It's a shift away from that technical role. I think that's something I want to amplify is – we're [ANGOs] no longer necessarily [needed for] that technical knowledge. We can shift away from that because that exists – the Pacific women I've worked with, they're all over it."

Melissa Bungcaras, Oxfam Australia (formerly ActionAid Australia).

Strength-based approaches that shift decision-making power to local leadership were an important enabler for climate change integration. Research findings showed that partnerships between ANGOs and local actors that valued local priorities for the future, local knowledge, expertise and inherent adaptive capacities of the communities also enabled successful climate change integration.

Past research participants described how support for climate change integration with a strength and asset-based approach resonated with their organisational perspectives. Four out of five research participants appreciated the guidance documents for climate change integration that recognised:

- local leadership;
- local knowledge and strengths; and
- need to work with existing organisations and governance structures.

Strengths-based approaches have the potential to value local leadership and complement organisational goals of NGOs. One of the NGOs described having the strength-based aspect in the guidance as the best feature of the climate change integration guidance document:



The strong strength/asset-based community development lens and the reminder to work with existing organisations and indigenous populations if they are already tackling this issue."

Pacific NGO research participant.

ENABLER 6: RECOGNISING THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTH 'WHAT' AND 'HOW' OF CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION

Phase one of the research highlighted that successful integration practice requires effort on both what integration practice is and how NGOs carry out integration and activities.

The 'what' of climate change integration refers to the content focus of integration, for example, the latest climate science, impacts and projections, risk assessments and integration of climate change into sectors. Our research shows that guidance documents supporting climate change integration focus mostly on the 'what'.

The 'how' of climate change and disaster risk integration refers to the process of integration. The 'how' is about the importance of recognising power dynamics between external and local actors. Ensuring external 'climate science' complements local and traditional knowledge is a key factor of 'how' climate change integration takes place.

Both the content and process of integration matter. Consideration of both the 'what' and 'how' of climate change and disaster resilience integration is critical. The need for both 'what' and 'how' were expressed by NGOs as ways to further progress climate change and disaster resilience into their Pacific programming.

Phase one revealed a strong focus within existing civil society climate change programming on 'what' is climate change – focusing on sectors, climate change science and impacts. 'How' integration takes place, within organisations and through partnerships, knowledge brokering and relationships, is less of a focus of existing guidance documents for climate change integration. However, the need for both 'what' and 'how' were expressed by NGOs as ways to further progress climate change and disaster resilience into their development programming.



I think an enabler is definitely an INGO and ANGO that's thinking differently about how power and information works in the Pacific."

Melissa Bungcaras, Oxfam Australia (formerly ActionAid Australia).

3. Case studies

SUMMARY OF ENABLERS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION

The enablers presented in Section 2 are drawn from empirical research that involved climate change experts from a range of sectors, who are experienced in implementing programs with local partners at community level.

The enablers are complementary to each other, and act to reinforce each other in practice. As with most frameworks, the enablers are overlapping at times. However, each enabler describes specific aspects that NGOs can focus on or work towards to support more effective integration of climate change in practice.

KEY ENABLERS SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION



This section illustrates five case studies of climate change integration into programming and demonstrates the ways ANGOs can consider climate change in aspects of their work. Case studies were selected by civil society sector leaders as 'high points' or best practice examples of where climate change has successfully been integrated into a program.

The case studies are linked with ACFID's Climate Action Framework to provide examples of how ANGOs might start integration into their programming through multiple entry points for climate change integration. Multiple enablers of best practice are also present within each case study, and these are highlighted to illustrate how these enablers support the success of the project.

Photo: Women's Focus Group Discussion, Wala Island, Malampa Province, Vanuatu. Photo credit: Anna Gero.



CASE STUDY 1:

AUSTRALIAN HUMANITARIAN PARTNERSHIP (AHP) DISASTER READY PROGRAM (PHASE 1)

AHP Disaster READY demonstrates multiple enablers of best practice for climate change integration, particularly those focused on partnerships and local leadership. This case study links to the 'Programmatic' level of ACFID's Climate Action Framework.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

LOCATION:

Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste

TIMEFRAME:

2018 - 2022

PARTNER NGOS:

CARE Australia	Caritas Australia (CAN DO)	Oxfam Australia
Plan International Australia	Save the Children Australia	World Vision Australia
Local NGO partners in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG and Timor Leste		

THE LOCAL NGOS IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM IN COUNTRIES:

Plan International Fiji	Caritas Timor Leste	Action Aid Vanuatu
ADRA Fiji	Cruz Vermelha de Timor Leste	World Vision Vanuatu
Fiji Disabled People's Federation	Plan International Timor Leste	Save the Children Vanuatu
Tailevu South disabled people's organisation Fiji	Mercy Corps Timor Leste	CARE International PNG
Naitasiri Disability Association Fiji	Child Fund Timor Leste	Caritas PNG
Pacific Disability Forum Fiji	Oxfam Timor Leste	World Vision Solomon Islands
Habitat for Humanity Fiji	CARE International Timor Leste	Oxfam Solomon Islands
Empower Pacific Fiji	Oxfam Timor Leste	
Fiji Council of Social Services Fiji	Ra'es Hadomi Timor Oan Timor Leste	
Fiji Red Cross		
Rainbow Pride Foundation Fiji		

Photo: Australian Humanitarian Partnership. Teacher in Charge of Br. Felix Koniana Elementary School, Mrs Rehab Taiaka (in green), with Save the Children PNG WASH Officers beside the new VIP latrine. Ronald Naki/Save the Children PNG.

OBJECTIVE:

Phase 1 of the AHP Disaster READY program includes disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation activities focusing on the community level and linking communities to local government. It focusses on engaging key vulnerable groups, such as disabled people's organisations, and building local capabilities to meet humanitarian needs.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:

PROGRAMMATIC Building climate resilience

DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

- 1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options
- 2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange
- 3: Ongoing and holistic approach
- 4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations
- 5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge
- 6: Recognising the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

Phase 1 of the program is a multi-year (2018 – 2022) (Enabler 1) multi-country, multi-partner approach to support disaster risk reduction and preparedness. While climate change adaptation was not explicitly included in the design of Phase 1, in practice, adaptation has increasingly become key to Disaster READY's activities.

The partner NGOs of the program worked to make and sustain connections (Enabler 2) between the government agencies and communities and link traditional knowledge (Enabler 5) with Western scientific information. For example, there was a combined effort of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and World Vision Solomon Islands to link the traditional early warning signs with the scientific warning system. This made a demonstrable contribution towards increasing the capacity of Pacific communities and governments to prepare for and respond to disasters.

The ANGOs worked closely with local partners, (Enabler 2) with strong leadership from local government for implementation. Introducing climate change considerations was made easier given these long term and pre-existing strong relationships (Enabler 3) and working through local governance structures.



The program was a government-led approach where civil society is providing those links into communities."

Jason Brown, AHP.

The program prioritised communities' needs and designed the implementation phase considering communities' contexts. This approach successfully provided people with the knowledge, systems and structures to support themselves and others within community to respond to disasters. For example, CAN DO developed guidance on climate change adaptation and disaster resilience awareness messaging from a theological perspective. The messages were supported by biblical texts and made available for priests and pastors to use, which brought about positive behavioural change in faith-engaged communities. This example illustrates consideration of the 'what' (climate change adaptation messaging for communities) and 'how' (delivering the message through culturally appropriate channels of Church leadership) – and links to Enabler 6.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 1:

- For multi-partner and multi-year programs, internal coordination between partners (e.g., ANGOs) supports the sharing of lessons and refining of practice along the way (Enabler 1)
- Working with local partner NGOs and government agencies can support sustainable, ongoing activities (Enablers 2 and 3)
- Community-led and systems thinking approaches helps to embed traditional and local knowledge (Enabler 4)
- Consideration of what the message being disseminated is, and how it is being disseminated (e.g. through Church leadership channels) can result in successful uptake of messages

CASE STUDY 2:

WOMEN'S WEATHER WATCH (WOMEN WETEM WETA, WWW) VANUATU

Women's Weather Watch is an example of local women's leadership for effective community resilience building. This case study links to the 'Operational' level of ACFID's Climate Action Framework.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

The Australian Aid Program under the ANCP Gender Action Platform

LOCATION:

Vanuatu

TIMEFRAME:

2015 - ongoing

PARTNER NGOS:

- ActionAid Australia
- ActionAid Vanuatu
- Women I Tok Tok Tugeta (WITTT)

OBJECTIVE:

The WWW Vanuatu Program aims to support the development of communications mechanisms to amplify women's voices to call for greater action by the government and the humanitarian sector to support women's leadership in disasters.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:

OPERATIONAL

Organisational climate risk

DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

- 1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options
- 2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange
- 3: Ongoing and holistic approach
- 4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations
- 5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge
- 6: Recognising the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

To implement the program, ActionAid Australia and ActionAid Vanuatu leveraged their existing strong engagement (Enablers 2 and 3) with women's networks in Vanuatu and worked through these networks instead of developing a new committee. The existence of sustained relationships with local networks helped ActionAid to understand the local disaster preparedness perception from a gender lens. This facilitated ActionAid to implement the program in partnership with WITTT to reach thousands of women and their communities in Vanuatu and connect them with national meteorological office.



It is a nice model because it is very grassroots-led and it allows weather information from Met office to get through to the community."

Jason Brown, AHP.

The model of the program allowed the WITTT members to study weather patterns, receive weather updates from the Meteorological department and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and disseminate the information within their communities in local language. Working with government stakeholders at national level (Enabler 3) illustrates how the project worked at multiple scales to affect sustainable change. Through the program, women of the networks became the local knowledge brokers and developed leadership capabilities (Enabler 5).

This project also demonstrates valuing both the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration (Enabler 6). Women's existing local knowledge of weather and climate was complemented with new external knowledge from the Meteorological services. Climate change science and projections were also integrated into women's scientific knowledge toolkit and shared with their local communities, which demonstrates an effective process of knowledge exchange.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 2:

- Leveraging existing relationships, networks and governance structures can help reach out wider community (Enabler 2)
- Working with multiple stakeholders (e.g. national government) can support the uptake of new policy and practice for ongoing, sustainable change (Enabler 3)
- Efforts to promote the localisation agenda can include building capacity and skills of local knowledge brokers (Enabler 5)
- Processes that value multiple sources of knowledge (e.g. women's existing knowledge of weather and climate, external scientific climate science) encourages local ownership of project activities and more sustainable outcomes (Enabler 6)

CASE STUDY 3:

COMMUNITY-LED ADAPTATION PATHWAYS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS PROJECT

Community-led Adaptation Pathways in Solomon Islands Project is an example of a community-led adaptation project, which recognised diverse community perspectives and strengths. This case study links to the 'Programmatic' level of ACFID's Climate Action Framework.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

The Australian Aid Program under Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP)

LOCATION:

Solomon Islands

TIMEFRAME:

2018 - 2020

PARTNER NGOS:

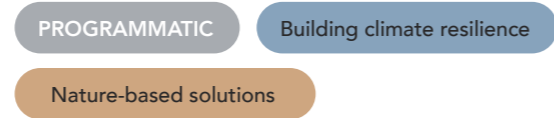
Plan International Australia	Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT)
World Wide Fund for Nature (Australia)	Australian National University (ANU)
World Wide Fund for Nature (Solomon Islands)	CSIRO

Photo: Forests provide a range of products that support livelihoods in many rural communities in Solomon Islands. Photo: Rob Maccoll for AusAID/DFAT.

OBJECTIVE:

The program intends to support multi-stakeholder livelihood co-production planning and adaptation in Solomon Island communities through developing guidelines for community facilitators and local adaptation practitioners.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:



DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

- 1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options
- 2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange
- 3: Ongoing and holistic approach
- 4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations
- 5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge
- 6: Recognising the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

The project was funded by Australian Aid through ANCP with flexible and open-ended outcome requirements (Enabler 1). The flexible funding supported the project partners to design the project from the community's perspective – taking a holistic approach (Enabler 3), instead of labelling the project as a climate change program. This supported designing the project focused on local governance (Enabler 5) and social development, with climate change considered as one of the key external risks against which communities were designing their adaptation pathways.



There was a really big focus on a discovery process and providing a really diverse range of people from across the community with a framework to help them identify their desired pathways [for the future]."

Nat Burke, WWF.

Consideration of climate change as one of a number of risks a community is facing demonstrates the holistic approach the project took, bringing in a systems thinking lens (Enabler 3). Project partners used a variety of tools and methods to support diverse community members to think about 'system linkages' – connections between natural and human systems, and also linkages across scales, from community to sub-national, national and beyond.

The ANGOs worked with local partners (SIDT and WWF Solomon Islands) (Enabler 2) to explore locally relevant and appropriate adaptation pathways with communities. The project developed around a recognition that the communities already had a good sense of climate change risks and consequences.

Therefore, instead of a knowledge transfer approach, the project adopted a strength-based approach (Enabler 5) and prioritised discovering the knowledge within the communities to understand their desired pathways for adaptation. WWF described the intentional use of a strengths-based approach in the quote below.



If you just went in there thinking purely what are the vulnerabilities, what are the threats, where are we going to build a seawall? You miss out on the strengths, and that not only has a really detrimental effect on how communities see themselves, I think it misses out on a huge amount of really valuable local knowledge."

Nat Burke, WWF.

The ANGOs recognised their roles in the project as facilitators with a high-level strategic role to support community leadership (Enabler 5). WWF noted how they aimed to foster links between different stakeholders, including across multiple governance structures (e.g., local traditional governance, sub-national and national government). In the end, a reflection from WWF was that connections, relationships and bringing people together was most important (Enabler 6).



I expected the data for decision-making to be more important than it was ... It was actually more about the process of bringing people together and understand that connectivity."

Nat Burke, WWF.

The ANGO, WWF Solomon Islands and SIDT partners worked closely with academics from Australian National University (ANU) and researchers from CSIRO, to develop an overarching framework of activities, which supported the community-led process.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 3:

- This Case Study demonstrates the complementary nature of the enablers, for example flexible funding (Enabler 1) allowed for communities to define their own adaptation pathways; and taking a strength-based approach enables the valuing and prioritisation of local knowledge (Enabler 5), which in turn supports local leadership for transformative climate actions (Enabler 2)
- Recognise climate change as one of a number of risks facing communities to enable a more holistic and bigger picture consideration of community priorities and opportunities (Enabler 3 and 5)
- A strength-based approach that values local knowledge and recognises that some adaptation tools are already available within communities can help project partners reveal communities' desired pathways for adaptation and identify new and effective ways to support communities (Enabler 5)
- Relationships and partnerships are a critical component of transformational change, and adequate time and effort needs to support building connections between project partners (Enabler 6)

CASE STUDY 4:

SHIFTING THE POWER COALITION

Shifting the Power Coalition is an example of a regional coalition of feminist civil society organisations coming together to champion women's leadership and presenting an amplified voice on humanitarian response and climate resilience. This case study links to the 'Programmatic' level of ACFID's Climate Action Framework.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

DFAT's Pacific Women program

LOCATION:

Pacific region

TIMEFRAME:

2016 - ongoing

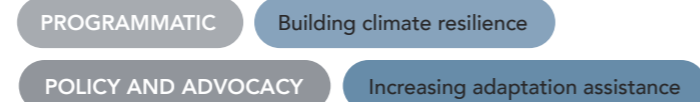
PARTNER NGOS:

ActionAid Australia	Talitha Project – Tonga	femLINK Pacific
ActionAid Vanuatu	Transcend Oceania – Fiji	Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) - Samoa
Pacific Disability Forum	Vanuatu Young Women for Change	YWCA - Papua New Guinea
Fiji Disabled People's Federation	Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association	YWCA - Solomon Islands
Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation – Bougainville	Vois Blong Mere Solomon	

OBJECTIVE:

The Shifting the Power Coalition aims to ensure diverse Pacific women's voices, agency and decision-making in disaster preparedness, response and recovery as well as humanitarian responses at all levels.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:



DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

- 1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options
- 2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange
- 3: Ongoing and holistic approach
- 4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations
- 5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge
- 6: Recognising the 'what' and 'how' of climate change integration

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

Under the Shifting the Power Coalition program, ActionAid Australia partnered with a diverse set of women-led Pacific civil society organisations (Enabler 2) already working across the Pacific on disaster resilience and humanitarian response. ActionAid Australia recognised the strong advocacy work of coalition

members all working on similar humanitarian issues, and all working to support vulnerable and marginalised communities with less of a voice in times of disaster response and recovery. ActionAid Australia sought to bring coalition members together for an amplified voice to donors and development partners in the region.



It was certainly about shifting power from those in that privileged position, whether they're men or the elites within countries or able-bodied people, all of those things that tend to drive humanitarian response, those people who get prioritised."

Melissa Bungcaras, Oxfam Australia (formerly ActionAid Australia).

Shifting the Power Coalition had a strong focus on championing women's leadership (Enabler 3 and Enabler 5). ActionAid played a facilitating role to support women's leadership capacity for community-led activities (Enabler 5) for climate change adaptation and preparedness awareness among Pacific women. Shifting the Power Coalition was very focused on building leadership so that people (often women) were appropriately recognised for the knowledge that they held on climate and disaster resilience.

The program itself had a strong appreciation of the importance of the 'what' and the 'how' (Enabler 6), placing particular focus on issues of power, leadership, coordination and networking amongst coalition members. This focus on 'how' then supports the sharing of knowledge and best

practice of how climate change considerations could be integrated across the member's activities.

ActionAid Australia also saw its role as a facilitator and connector between coalition members and donors and took a holistic perspective (Enablers 3 and 5) on how to best play this role. For example, ActionAid Australia invited DFAT to Coalition Partnership meetings. During these meetings, Coalition members shared the program's change outcomes to encourage DFAT to engage at a donor policy level, and to inform them about possible ways to strengthen policies and strategies on engaging women and diverse gender identities.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 4:

- Ongoing partnerships and coalitions (Enablers 2 and 3) helps to amplify voices of marginalised groups working on similar issues
- ANGOs might consider their role as facilitator in promoting, connecting and amplifying the voices of local partners (Enabler 5)
- Championing local leadership, particularly of women (including young women) and others whose voices are not regularly heard, can support diverse experiences of climate change to be included in policies and programs (Enabler 5)
- Taking intentional steps to address power imbalances; shifting control and voice away from traditional sources of power to local levels has supported transformational change for women participating in the program (Enabler 6)

Photo: Women from Efate, Vanuatu on their chicken farm. Credit: Roselyn Tari, ActionAid Vanuatu.

CASE STUDY 5:

PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) LIVELIHOODS PROJECT – ‘MANGORO MARKET MERI’

The Mangoro Market Meri livelihoods project in PNG provides an example of how an INGO, The Nature Conservancy, can work with a local NGO to act as knowledge brokers between communities and scientists. This case study links to the ‘Programmatic’ level of ACFID’s Climate Action Framework within the environmental restoration stream.



DONOR/FUNDING PARTNER:

DFAT

LOCATION:

Papua New Guinea

TIMEFRAME:

2018 - ongoing

PARTNER NGOS:

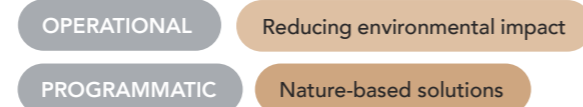
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Women’s group in PNG
Local NGOs	CSIRO
CARE International	

OBJECTIVE:

The project aimed to bring together women from PNG to support sustainable mangrove management for the benefit of improved livelihoods, including tourism, women’s empowerment, food security, storage of ‘blue carbon’, and the protection of coastal communities from sea level rise and storm surge.

Photo: Mangoro Market Meri Program in PNG. Mangoro Market Meri Mangrove Scientist, Mazzella Maniwavie (pregnant) leading the local women in the training on Mangrove Ecology in Milne Bay Province. Credit: Ruth Konia.

LINKS TO ACFID CLIMATE ACTION FRAMEWORK:



DEMONSTRATION OF ENABLERS:

- 1: Multi-year, core funding and flexible funding options
- 2: Partnerships, relationships, and knowledge exchange
- 3: Ongoing and holistic approach
- 4: Prioritising climate change action within organisations
- 5: Strength-based approaches, recognising traditional and local knowledge
- 6: Recognising the ‘what’ and ‘how’ of climate change integration

CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION APPROACH:

The project worked in two provinces of PNG, with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) partnering with CSIRO, CARE International and local communities on activities that sought to enhance sustainable livelihood through a focus on conservation and restoration of mangrove environments. TNC took a bottom-up approach to understand the community’s priorities and opportunities, and support communities to bring about change themselves (Enabler 5).



Right from the start we were inclusive, consultative, communities were aware of our purpose in the village.”

Ruth Konia, TNC Project Manager.

The project aimed to work with women and youth of the communities. TNC recognised the socio-cultural context of the community and identified effective ways to communicate and establish relationships with the women of the communities. The project sought support from a gender expert from CARE International to design a gender-responsive approach that would align with the community context. Advised by the gender expert, the project undertook a holistic approach to engage both men and women of the families and successfully included women in the project.

The project was supported by existing strong relationships between TNC, community-based groups and national NGOs (Enabler 2). These relationships with organisations with stakeholders at different scales within the ‘system’ have been built over time, enabling trust to be built between partners. The relationships have supported a collaborative approach to project implementation and facilitated new ways of working.

TNC saw its role as a knowledge broker between the community and the CSIRO scientists (Enabler 5). Importantly, the knowledge exchange was a two-way process. TNC collected data from the local community via surveys, to understand community priorities and resources. This data was provided to CSIRO, who then designed training materials and climate science resources based on community needs. Tools, methods and activities developed by CSIRO were then provided to TNC, who undertook the contextualisation of these materials. Through training, local NGOs developed capacity to translate the outputs for community-level and helped to disseminate the climate science information in a relatable way to the communities. The local NGOs were a critical link to community members, acting as local knowledge brokers between communities and the INGO (Enabler 5).



We are sharing community information with CSIRO and they [CSIRO] then help us identify the future risks [based on community data]... So as knowledge brokers we try to find ways that we can help translate what we learn with CSIRO to actually find that knowledge that can bring down to the community.”

Ruth Konia, TNC Project Manager.

The process of two-way knowledge exchange described above demonstrates the importance of both ‘what’ and ‘how’ of climate change integration (Enabler 6). TNC carefully navigated the incorporation of the latest climate science (the ‘what’) in a careful way that engaged the local NGO to deliver the information in local language and in a locally contextualised approach.

TNC had strategically prioritised climate change (Enabler 4) as a risk needing to be addressed across its programs in all countries in which it operated. Program staff were aware of this organisational policy on climate change integration and used it to guide their work in practice.



We [TNC] have very strong policies in place that, that guide how we work with, with the communities, with our government and with all the stakeholders that are with us.”

Ruth Konia, TNC Project Manager.

LESSONS FOR NGOS FROM SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES OF CASE STUDY 5:

- Projects that engage with diverse members of communities from the outset are more likely to align with community priorities (Enablers 2 and 5)
- An intentional gender responsive approach that aligns with local cultural practices supports genuine engagement of women and men (Enabler 5)
- ANGOs and INGOs can work with local NGOs to act effectively as knowledge brokers between climate scientists and communities (Enabler 5)
- Strong organisational policy on climate change integration supports and directs staff to consider climate risks in program activities (Enabler 4)
- Acknowledging two-way knowledge exchange which values local knowledge and draws on local knowledge brokers can support trust and relationship building that underpin transformational change (Enabler 6)



4. Conclusion

This document provides ACFID members with enablers and evidence-based case study examples of best practice for integrating climate change into NGO development programming. The enablers and case studies draw from empirical research undertaken over 2021-2022 drawing on insights and perspectives from experts and leaders in NGO climate change programming. Links to ACFID's Climate Action Framework are provided to demonstrate ways the Framework can be operationalised.

Enablers of best practice are provided as accessible entry points for ACFID members to begin, continue or progress their actions to integrate climate change. NGOs can use this guidance at any stage of their climate change integration journey. While all enablers contain aspects of 'good development practice', implementing the enablers will support ACFID members to progress and grow their engagement in action on climate change.

Photo: Forests provide a range of products that support livelihoods in many rural communities in Solomon Islands. Photo: Rob Maccoll for AusAID/DFAT.



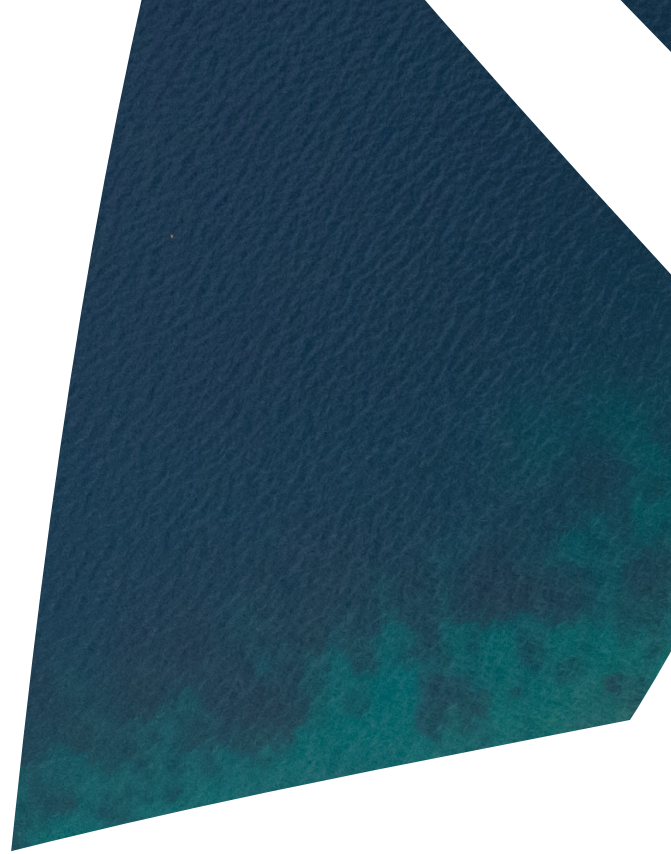
AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



Australia Pacific
Climate Partnership



UTS Institute for
Sustainable
Futures



Cover photo: Loreto Island, Malaita Province, Solomon Islands: An aerial view from a drone of Loreto Island, off the coast of Malaita, which is under threat from rising sea levels. Photo: Collin Leafasia/Oxfam.

Acknowledgements: This document has been prepared by Anna Gero, Tazrina Chowdhury and Keren Winterford at the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney. Members of ACFID's Development Practice Committee are acknowledged for their contributions: Geraldine Li, Elsa Carnaby, Colin Scott, Ben Thurley and Jocelyn Condon.

Willy Missack, Sarah McKenzie, Christine Lemau, Zoe Carrigan, Solomon Lahies, Melissa Bungcaras, Nat Burke, Ruth Konia and Jason Brown are also acknowledged as sector experts who provided key insights and perspectives that informed this research.

Citation: Gero, A., Chowdhury, T. and Winterford, K. (2022) Integrating climate change action across the international development sector: Enablers of best practice. Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, prepared for the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

Published: October 2022