2022
Conference Wrap-up

HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

ACTING WITH EVIDENCE, EQUITY AND INCLUSION FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE
ACFID would like to acknowledge and thank the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people who are the traditional custodians of the land on which the ACFID Secretariat is located. We extend this acknowledgement and gratitude to First Nations people across Australia and the world. We express special thanks to Richie Allan for delivering the Welcome to Country.

This document, including address and panel discussion summaries, is authored solely by ACFID. Please refer to the speaker video recordings for the exact words used.
A Message from the ACFID Conference Steering Group

Every year, ACFID National Conference provides an opportunity for both our membership and the wider international development community to come together, pause for a couple of days, and engage in stimulating presentations on the issues affecting our sector and the world. Following the past two years of disruptions, lockdowns and immense change for both organisations and individuals; we know that many of you would have relished the opportunity to come together physically. So, we wish to begin by thanking you for continuing to engage in the virtual environment. For a sector as diverse as ours, this allows us the opportunity to hear directly from those we seek to support and the value in that is beyond measure.

This year our focus was firmly on climate change and the state of our ecological systems as we engaged with the conference theme of “HEALTHY PLANET, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES - Acting with evidence, equity and inclusion for a resilient future”. The interconnected issues of international development and humanitarian aid will all be touched by the effects of climate change – we simply cannot address one without the other. With cross-cutting themes of Evidence, Equity and Inclusion; Conference 2022 focused our attention on acting now for a healthy planet and a just and resilient future for all.

On behalf of the Australian Council for International Development, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who made this year’s conference possible – our inspiring speakers, our engaged participants and our valued sponsors. We hope you enjoy reliving the sessions throughout this conference wrap up and return to the conference website to watch any sessions that you missed. We look forward to seeing you all at conference next year!

CONFERECE STEERING GROUP

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In this opening session, chaired by Susanne Legena, CEO of Plan International, Anika Molesworth, founding Director of Farmers for Climate Action, and Founder of Climate Wise Agriculture, and Chrissy Warren, Traditional Owner from Wuthati Cape York Country and Deputy Chair of the Cape York Protected Area Management Committee discuss their connection to the land and the need to value and respect our relationships with the planet to ensure our own survivability. Both are passionate and proudly connected to their lands – Anika, living closely with soils and biodiversity and passionate about feeding people locally and around the world, and Chrissy, a champion of grass roots action and an advocate for the need to know the truth of our land’s history, which will help us to survive and bounce back, as living on land connects us to country and all the earth’s systems. The trio spoke about women’s space in climate and agriculture, including how traditionally there have been greater risks for women, such as displacement, hunger, poverty, and a culture that can restrict women’s activities. However, now is the time for women to step up.

Chrissy and Anika discuss the abundance of solutions for climate change and food security, such as reducing emissions on farms, methane reduction through feed supplements for ruminants, reforestation, native foods suited to our climate and soils, adapting land practices to be more efficient, improving fertilizer, fire practices, pasture management, local Indigenous practices and more. Anika explains that these need to be ‘tweaked and tailored’ to local contexts. Another topic of discussion is nutrition security. Anika explains that food is available world-wide, but it’s not distributed equitably. Chrissy is keen on refocusing the diet in rural or less developed areas, as food is imported and very expensive, contributing to low nutrition, cheaper diets.

Susanne closes the session by asking Anika and Chrissy what empowers them and gives them hope. Anika says hope can come from place and people - immersion within the environment, and fighting for that land - which farmers are doing around the world. She also sees opportunities for learning how to do things better. Farmer’s passion and dreams give Anika hope! For Chrissy, hope can be found through the story line and language, grouping together and supporting each other by getting people back on country. A role model of successful projects would be a good next step as it’ll have positive flow-on effects to help communities overcome barriers. She asks people to put their hands up to help in any way.

Our song lines, our stories are what keep us moving forward. That keeps me going – knowing that my people are on country, they’re safe, and they’re contributing to making changes.”

Chrissy Warren

People who live in urban communities need to feel engaged with food and farming systems – every meal on every plate is potentially affected by climate change.”

Anika Molesworth
Dr Vandana Shiva – the world-renowned environmental thinker, activist, feminist, philosopher of science, writer and science policy advocate, of Navdanya farm – gave a powerful call to action for us to transform our food systems to achieve earth democracy. Throughout, she recognized the centrality of women, and especially First Nations peoples, as pioneers and experts from whom we must learn.

Her keynote address unpacked the relationship between farming practices, chronic disease and unethical food systems, as well as the links between colonialism, capitalism and environmental destruction. She called for us to reorient our conception of productivity, and to measure nutrition, rather than yield, per acre. She also highlighted the need to return to the original meaning of ‘development’ which is the ‘self-organization of living systems’ rather than the type of colonial and capitalist ‘development’ we’ve seen to date which has imposed things that people, communities and the earth do not need – fossil fuels, plastics and pesticides.

On the role of women, Dr Vandana highlighted that women are the first farmers, the first scientists and those who have sustained economies of care and sharing which have not been recognized by colonial commerce and capitalism. Instead of a ‘masculine knowledge’ which ‘is about domination, subjugation and turning nature into your slave’, she called for us to turn to ‘economies of kindness and love.’

Human solidarity and the recognition that we are one family is a vocation, not an industry. For those who work in the aid sector, she said we must recognize that we are not the ones giving, but we are receiving - from the earth, local Indigenous cultures, and from the people. ‘It’s a two-way communication. Money is not the only currency of life. I’ve talked about all the other currencies, it means flow.’ This reconceptualization is an ongoing process of decolonisation.

‘In Australia, you have to make the Indigenous people your teachers,’ she said. ‘They have to give aid to society on how to live gently on the biggest estate on earth.’ She emphasized that earth democracy is not a modern concept, but an ancient one: ‘it is the practice of the Aboriginal people of Australia who found, 60,000 years, peaceful life with other beings.’
Dr Azzam Alwash is Iraq’s most prominent environmentalist. Lively and fervently Dr Alwash delivered his live closing session, speaking of his restoration and conservation of the marshes of Southern Iraq through Nature Iraq, which inspired his passion for the environmental restoration of Iraq and the Middle East. Now facing the ongoing challenges of politics, climate change and conflict, Dr Alwash discussed the modern-day problems wreaking environmental havoc on Iraq. Reduction in rainfall and snowmelt, controversial dams in the region and a hydropower station on the Tigris, food shortages, the Syrian crisis, and the ongoing worry of conflict escalation due to water all contribute to the tension. The problems are plentiful. However, Dr Alwash envisions ‘a Middle East without borders, built on the idea of creating cooperation on water instead of tension.’

“We are now on the brink of water bankruptcy’ Dr Alwash proclaimed. But he urged us to change our way of thinking; to think outside the box. Instead of seeing this as a great challenge, we should change our point of view to see this as a great opportunity. This too could be said for economic and political links between Middle Eastern countries. “We must change the dynamics of the dialogue between Turkey, Iraq, Syria & Iran from “whose water is it?” to “water as the basis for economic ties.”

Dr Alwash, when asked how we can translate this into an Australian context, suggested that Australia has the opportunity to be a market leader in converting photovoltaics to hydrogen from water, and using that hydrogen to produce electricity for households.

The key takeaway from this closing session with the inspiring, engaging and endlessly cheerful Dr Alwash is that whatever challenge may present itself, when thinking outside of the box, one can create an opportunity to solve it.

Climate changes have resulted in the suppression of the natural pulse that made life sustainable in Iraq... The drumbeat that keeps the biodiversity going is no longer. Nature is dying because of the changes in climate.”

Dr Azzam Alwash
Before delving into the issue of debt, chair Roland Rajah, Lead Economist, Lowy Institute, invited the panellists to place the economic development situation in the Pacific in a broader global context. The panellists, made up of Denton Rarawa, Senior Economics Advisor, Pacific Islands Forum; Emma Veve, Deputy Director General in the Pacific Department, Asian Development Bank; and Satish Chand, Professor of Finance, School of Business, UNSW, all emphasised that the Pacific is not homogenous and that each country had its own particular set of economic circumstances. With that caveat, they agreed that the Pacific as a region faced economic growth challenges that had been compounded by global events such as the war in Ukraine (and subsequent pressures on inflation, interest rates and exchange rates), and the worsening impact of climate disasters. Panellists were concerned that these challenges placed additional pressures on the ability for Pacific countries to take on debt to finance recovery, particularly in the case of climate resilience, where there was a tradeoff between financing immediate economic development and investing in long-term climate adaptation and resilience. While the debt situation in the region is not as acute as in other parts of the world, there was a consensus that debt sustainability was a priority. To that end, the panellists each shared their insights on what Pacific countries and their development creditors and partners should do moving forward.

I think in terms of negotiating debt relief, all creditors should be around the same table - bilateral creditors, multilateral, private sector creditors. China. Whether we all agree, I mean that is the purpose of sitting around the table.”

Denton Rarawa

Countries learn from debt distress - Solomon Islands, Cook Islands - they both implemented really sensible processes to ensure their debt remained manageable.”

Emma Veve

Emma Veve spoke about the need to support regional governments implement the right policy settings and practices (including through policy-based lending rather than project-based lending), and help them navigate the lending process to enhance long-term debt sustainability. Echoing Satish and Denton’s points, she spoke on the need to use a range of different tools at different times and called for debt relief to be reserved as an option of last resort.

While Denton Rarawa viewed debt relief as beneficial, he warned that it should be coupled with mechanisms that contribute to sustainability and ensure countries don’t fall back into debt borrowing sprees. He also emphasised the importance of having everyone at the same table when it comes to debt negotiations, and the need to mitigate the cost of disaster recovery that risked perpetuating vicious cycles. Satish Chand advocated for a wholistic approach to debt sustainability that considers a range of relevant factors including GDP, interest rates, debt composition, debt maturity and sovereign risk. To distribute the risk of defaulting more evenly, he suggested that there should be incentives for creditors to undertake better due diligence.
The overarching theme from this panel is that climate change is a symptom of deeper darker problems – white supremacy, coloniality, racism, heteronormative patriarchy. There is a need to discuss the issues of power and control that lead to climate injustice, social injustice, and economic justice. Globally, 100 million people will be below the poverty line by 2030. Inequality disproportionately enhances the impact of climate change. Indigenous people don’t have an equal voice in the discussion. The voices of the rich, the hegemony, and the West are the voices that have shaped the discourse on climate justice.

In this closing panel on day one, impassioned speakers Noelene Nabulivou, Executive Director of DIVA for Equality; Amy Gordon, First Nations Justice Campaigns Director of GetUp!, and Pratima Gurung, President, of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal speak candidly and urgently about the need to reframe the narrative of climate-based discourse away from the challenge of mitigation or emissions, to the lens of human rights, and the rights of those who will be most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Pratima Gurung suggests there needs to be an approach that understands the systematic inequalities in both those impacted by climate change and the fight against climate change. This highlights some of the darker issues of power and control which are behind climate injustice. Noelene urges us to ask, ‘who is being affected?’ ‘what systems are stopping us?’ ‘how do we build a future of freedom and ecological hope?’ and ‘what do we need to do to achieve liberation in all facets of life?’ Amy suggests that this is a hard discussion to have but it is necessary. These talks have been a long time coming and have been in progress for a while. It is impossible to talk about climate without talking about species extinctions, and systems of our living planet, so how do we link these issues? There is a need to talk about human rights, inequities, and all the damage done by guns, steel, and germs - the work of coloniality, within the context of climate change, Amy states.

The three women urge us to listen to women, people with disability, and First Nation peoples - their needs and priorities are different and can bring different perspectives. Marginalised voices need to be heard! It is time to hold those in power accountable for listening to the marginalised, and for respecting their rights, knowledge and skills. “We are custodians and know how to be resilient at the community level.” They ask us not to lump everyone into the basket of marginalised people. All voices need to be heard to share issues and vulnerabilities and share expertise. When asked what is bringing the women joy, they answered ‘seeing and feeling and hearing the knowledge, the skill sharing, the women builders who are helping to build houses for LGBTQI and single female households, working on food forests and community projects. No matter what the state of economics, there are always, and always will be, communities that are living in a different way.’

When we say, listen to our voices, we also demand that we want our rights to be respected, to be promoted as Indigenous peoples... We have been saying that we are custodians, we know how climate change mitigation can be done.”

Pratima Gurung

Noelene Nabulivou

5% of the world’s population is Indigenous Peoples and we are the ones who are protecting 85% of the biodiversity on our planet. So how is it that we are left out of so many of the conversations?”
Chaired by Peter Stephen, Asia Pacific Lead at ecosurveys, this panel featured Ariadne Gorring, Co-CEO of the Pollination Foundation; Glarinda Andre, Team Leader at Live and Learn Vanuatu; and Richie Merzian, Director of Climate and Energy Program at The Australia Institute, to discuss key successes and challenges to nature-based solutions, its role in stopping the climate crisis, and the role of climate financing.

Peter sets the context with some sobering facts – ‘Nature is degrading at an unbelievable and unprecedented rate. We as humans continue to march on and degrade the life systems that we so desperately depend on. The impacts on humans, the impact on our development work is hugely significant. 40% of the global population is adversely affected by land degradation; 100 to 300 million people are at risk of increased floods and hurricanes through coastal habitat loss.’

So, how do nature-based solutions help? What are nature-based solutions?

Nature-based solutions are actions and/or programs that protect, sustainably manage, and/or restore natural and modified ecosystems. As Peter notes, ‘paradoxically, people need nature for a whole range of socio-economic and cultural benefits, yet we are highly dependent on these natural systems for the economic systems that we have currently established.’

The health of country and nature is a reflection of the health of humanity and they are inseparable.”

Ariadne Gorring

This is where innovative nature-based solution funding brings hope. Base funding for nature-based solutions has changed radically over the last 24 months, particularly in establishing the current carbon markets. However, our panelists ask, ‘Will carbon and other environmental markets now provide the magic bullet that will resolve all of this [environmental crisis] for us? How are we going to achieve equity and inclusion through the current interest in carbon offsets that have been created through nature-based solutions as well?’

According to the panelists, the challenge is looking beyond net zero targets, reducing emissions, and seeing ‘offsetting’ as the last port of call in the toolbox. Moving forward, we need to question who is purchasing these credits, how are they actually being regulated, and what are the accountability measures that sit behind it, so we have all confidence that they do represent real emissions reductions. The challenge is how to set up financing systems that actively restore, protect, and conserve nature. We need to be setting up systems, and creating thoughtful, equitable, fair systems that benefit local communities, and the nature within those local communities.

This is where Live and Learn Vanuatu shines. Glarinda has been working across Vanuatu in developing nature-based solutions for almost ten years. In Vanuatu, forest matters. ‘We started with a very successful carbon program. It has been running for almost eight years now, and then over the last four years, a tourism program. Our forest provides the ecosystem for goods and services. Nature-based solutions have improved the livelihood of our people, encouraged local leadership and resilience, and developed a community-led eco-tourism program.

‘Our people are empowered to make key decisions in forest management activities. Men are empowered to lead decisions in terms of replanting and restoration activities; women participate in planting crops and trees. Women also make the decisions on benefit-sharing – whether it be investing in better access to water, electricity, or education.

‘The benefits go back to the people, where their children get access to better schooling and the small rainwater tanks provided so that women don’t have to go and walk long distances for water or pay for a truck to bring back water into the community or walk to various locations to do laundry. Our people now have water tanks within their households.

We do not just plant trees. We also plant food crops, which gives us food security.’

It is a “constant point of tension in Australia because we are one of the largest exporters of fossil fuels in the world... we need to not just offset the emissions of big polluters, but really add to their decarbonisation.”

Richie Merzian
The past decade has seen the number of displaced people double across the globe – the mass movement of people driven not only by conflict and persecution, but by climate change-induced disasters, and environmental pressures making whole swaths of land uninhabitable. In this panel, Professor Jane McAdam AO, Scientia Professor of Law and Director at the Andrew & Renata Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW guided the discussion of climate change as a trigger and aggravator of displacement.

Andrew Harper, Special Advisor to the High Commissioner for Climate Action at UNHCR spoke about how it is common to try to pigeonhole causes of displacement into either disasters or conflict. This dichotomy has been turned on its head in cases such as Somalia and Afghanistan. He spoke of the need for a more holistic perspective. Climate change will continue to interact with other megatrends such as urbanisation and environmental destruction to create displacement. Most refugees are fleeing from countries with a low capacity to adapt to climate change. On the role of refugee law, he spoke of the need to look more to regional instruments to ensure the definition of refugees reflects movements caused by climate change.

Zakia Naznin, National Gender and Socio-Economic Analyst at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations spoke from Bangladesh, which she stated was rated the 7th most vulnerable country to climate change, both to sudden onset events and slow onset processes with many people living in fragile areas. Floods and cyclones are changing, and more communities are impacted than ever before. In terms of solutions, she stated that internal migration is not an ideal option given how densely populated the country is, and that cross-border migration may be a better option. Resilience tools have been developed to help communities identify options and action plans.

How can we tell countries like Kenya, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, that they should keep their borders open to people moving due to conflict or environmental reasons, when there is no support?“

Andrew Harper

Betty Barkha, Technical Advisor, Environment & Climate Change at the Monash Gender, Peace and Security Centre spoke about the responsibilities of women in Fiji to support community adaptation and recovery in addition to their existing workloads. Shifting inland did increase access to healthcare, accessibility to urban centres etc. but set them further from the ocean on which they rely for food and livelihoods. Despite this, young women continue to be excluded from consultation processes. Betty spoke to the need for systemic power sharing, better coordination and the co-creation of solutions to work in particular contexts.

Climate change affects people based on a variety of intersecting factors such as social, cultural, economic and political circumstances. In addition to a person’s age, ethnicity, where they are located, socio-economic class, gender... Yes, climate change impacts everybody. But it does not affect everybody the same way.”

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Betty Barkha
Following the release of the October Supplementary Federal Budget two days earlier, (read ACFID’s analysis of the Budget here) the Minister for International Development and the Pacific, the Honorable Pat Conroy MP joined ACFID Conference to discuss Labor’s plans for their new International Development Policy, and answer questions from the development sector.

Mr Conroy began his address by emphasising that the Labor Government supports Australian aid ‘because it is the right thing to do’. He spoke to the budget before committing an extra $36 million to the Water for Women Fund, bringing the total to almost $155 million.

On the new international development policy, Mr Conroy outlined that in order to achieve a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific, the policy will focus on: effective accountable states; civil society as they are essential for social cohesion, accountability and delivery of services in times of crisis; increased resilience to shocks; collective action on global challenges; and multilateral partners for sustainable finance, expertise and ability to work in sensitive places.

Responding to questions, Mr Conroy spoke to his initial reflections in office – ‘my initial reaction, my gut reaction, in fact, is that the moral case for aid is even stronger getting out into the region’. Regarding whether the budget was underdeveloped, he responded: ‘I certainly don’t think we are undercooked. On climate change... we have committed to $2 billion worth of climate finance until 2025 and $700 million of that going to the Pacific. I have the budget papers in front of me and it is important to note there is more information provided on our aid program now than there has been for many years.’

When asked about the AIFFP commitment in the budget, Mr Conroy stated that ‘unsustainable debt is something we are focused on in our region... the extra $500 million for AIFFP was for grants, additional grants rather than loans. Obviously, grants don’t have to be paid back and the ability of those grants to either go directly to funding infrastructure or equally important, turn loans from being concessional to a small degree to being concessional to a high degree, really ensures that we don’t add unsustainable debt to our Pacific partners.’

Mr Conroy stated that ‘the youth bulge is something we are grappling with right now... young people are disproportionately impacted by natural disasters. And there is a gendered element of that, four times as many girls never return to school after a natural disaster compared to boys. Investing in governance and civil society also matters, to make sure young people’s voices are heard in our development partner countries. We listen to the priorities of our partners, so we need to support the growth of young people in those regions.’

On climate relocation, he asserted that ‘we are going to lose some islands to climate change, we are losing them right now. They lose the exclusive economic zone around the island, it’s a double whammy. Losing the island and losing the economic resources. I’ve spoken at many international fora on the need to change UN laws so that when a country loses an island, they maintain the economic zone’.

Wrapping up his discussion, Mr Conroy warned about securitising aid, and noted that we need to put international development at the heart of our foreign policy – the very theme that ACFID’s 2022 policy platform was based upon.
Senator Mehreen Faruqi, Deputy Leader of the Greens and Spokesperson for International Development and Global Justice.

Senator Mehreen Faruqi started her political address by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land, and stated that ‘as we strive for progress, equity and human rights in Australia and around the world, First Nations people and their voices must be front and centre of our struggle.’

Speaking on the recently released budget, Senator Faruqi stated that the $1.4 billion towards aid and development over the next four years ‘sounds big, but experts have been quick to point out that the bigger picture really hasn’t changed much.’ She went on to say that ‘Australia has an obligation to increase our aid budget and contribute to an equitable world by working with communities in the global south to promote the rights of women and girls to eradicate poverty and enhance human rights, education, and climate justice’.

Senator Faruqi emphasised that this must not be motivated by self-interest, soft power, or strategic aims. ‘Aid should be used to right historic wrongs and build communities in parts of the world that have been left destitute by the ravages of colonialism, exploitation and climate change.’ Aid is a matter of global justice. It should not come with strings attached or obligations to repay.

Following this thread, Senator Faruqi gave the example that ‘if we approached international aid from a global justice perspective and if we recognised our position as a wealthy, high-emitting nation, we would have given our fair share to Pakistan straight away (following the floods) and that fair share [would have been] far more than $5 million.’

The delivery of aid should be a decolonising process

On climate finance, Senator Faruqi warned that we must not plunge the countries least responsible for the climate crisis into further debt. ‘Our neighbours in the Pacific islands are on the front line. They are literally watching their ancestral homes and homelands sink, as their very existence is threatened by sea level rise, flooding and coastal erosion.’ Climate reparations call for a deeper understanding, Australia should be a strong and principled advocate for cancelling debt in developing nations, believes Senator Faruqi.

For a world leader like Australia, it would be irresponsible if we didn’t progress our investment in aid and our commitment to fighting poverty and inequality. It is vital to have good benchmarks because we don’t want to go backwards.”

The Honourable Michael McCormack MP

The Honourable Michael McCormack MP, the Shadow Minister for International Development and the Pacific, has engaged positively with the sector since taking on the portfolio in 2022. Mr McCormack used his address to ACFID’s Conference to reiterate his concerns for those affected. He also articulated his ongoing support and thanks to NGOs working on the ground to help deliver much-needed aid to those people who are in need.

He spoke in depth about the hunger situation in Africa, with reference to Somalia, where he is travelling as part of a Save The Children delegation in December. He described how his advisor came up with the comparison of a classroom of Australian children dying every day. ‘When a famine is declared, it means that society’s most vulnerable people are already gone.’

But, he pointed out, it’s barely getting a mention in the Australian media. ‘People need to know there are famines about to be declared and people in trouble in Africa. I’m pleased the government has committed to $15 million of support. We as a wealthy nation need to do much more.’

‘NGO connections bring trusted connections, local networks and knowledge,’ he told delegates. ‘You provide a valuable base for DFAT to mobilise a quick response to issues. Your work supports grassroots relationships.’

He described funding from the government to NGO volunteers and community partnerships as an investment. ‘Aid should be used to right historic wrongs and build communities in parts of the world that have been left destitute by the ravages of colonialism, exploitation and climate change.’ Aid is a matter of global justice. It should not come with strings attached or obligations to repay.

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POLITICIAN’S ADDRESS:
Senator Mehreen Faruqi

POLITICIAN’S ADDRESS:
The Honourable Michael McCormack MP
Networking and Entertainment

MC DAY ONE | NATHANIEL DIONG
CEO of Future Minds Network

Nathaniel Diong is a visionary educator, speaker, and CEO of Future Minds Network, an entrepreneurship program which has helped 10,000's of youth world-wide build their own businesses, gain confidence, and explore the emerging industry of startups. Since founding the company at aged 16, Nathaniel and his team of 20 volunteers have educated, inspired and equipped youth across three continents, tackling youth unemployment, and heeding the demands of modern employers for new entrepreneurial and 21st century skills.

MC DAY TWO | TASNEEM ROC
Campaign Manager, Myanmar Campaign Network

Tasneem Roc is a celebrated actor who, after the February 2021 Myanmar coup, found herself drawn to help the restoration of democracy and human rights in Myanmar. Tasneem now works as the Myanmar lead at ACFID Member APHEDA-Union Aid Abroad and is a Campaign Manager at the Myanmar Campaign Network.

DR JAMAICA HEOLIMELEIKALANI OSORIO

Celebrated artist, activist and scholar Dr Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio delivered an incredibly emotive poetry piece on the jet fuel leakages in the water in Hawaii.

INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

This year’s Prayer Breakfast was hosted by the Church Agency and spoke about vulnerability, and coming together with those that are suffering on the front lines of climate change. Guest speakers included Ms Minnie Anne Calub, Deputy General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and Catholic Archbishop Peter Loy Chong, President of the Fiji Council of Churches.

AUSTRALIA AWARDS PAPUA NEW GUINEA SCHOLAR NETWORKING

Climate change integration through a sectoral approach is crucial as climate change becomes more pronounced and exacerbates natural disasters. For PNG, risks vary also by regions determined by the local climate. Hence, it is critical that sector-specific institutional capacity must be built so that they are more effective in meeting climate change goals and objectives in different regions. Australia Awards Papua New Guinea scholars studying in various sectors at Universities across Australia joined us over lunch to network and discuss priority climate change actions across sectors in Papua New Guinea.
BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH FOOD SECURITY
This session framed and contextualised the food security challenge in the context of ‘the three C’s’: COVID, Climate Change and Conflict and look at the new challenges and learnings about food insecurity in this context.

SPEAKERS
Lucy Aflandi Esipila - Policy and Advocacy Officer - Caritas Africa
Puspasari Indra - Regional Humanitarian Livelihoods and Economic Programming Advisor - Save the Children Asia Regional Office
Charles Oloka - Sector Portfolio Manager for DRR and Livelihoods - World Vision Solomon Islands

PSEAH IN A CLIMATE CRISIS
PSEAH continues to be a defining issue for development and humanitarian response, challenging our organisations to stand-up rapid, effective relief efforts, yet demanding the simultaneous centrality of the protection of those most vulnerable to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. This session revisited the progress the sector has made to date on advancing work in PSEAH and explored opportunities to realise and amplify local response mechanisms, engage meaningfully with accessible complaints handling, and embed risk safeguards into activities on the ground.

SPEAKERS
Jody Kelly - Safeguarding Manager - Oxfam Australia
Jocelyn Condon - Chief Operating Officer - ACFID
Beth Delaney - First Assistant Secretary, Humanitarian Division - DFAT Filipo Masaurua, Oxfam in the Pacific
Tagan Paul - PSEAH and Safeguarding Adviser, International - Australian Red Cross

There’s only so much resilience we can support communities to build before these communities cross over into needing life-saving interventions. Some of the changes in policies that have to occur are in those corporate environments that hold the power.”
Josh Hallwright, Deputy Director at the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership

This work is critical. Build the capacity of our local leaders to be the transformational change we need in this space. It’s essential to our success that we mobilise and own the process of PSEAH.”
Filipo Masaurua

LEARN MORE
ACFID Food Security Brief
ACFID Food Security Our Focus Page
ACFID ‘Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH)’ Our Focus Page
Oxfam Policy on Protection from Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment
Australian Red Cross Board Policy Statement – Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment
DFAT - Preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment
ENABLING RESILIENT FUTURES: SUPPORTING NGOS IN CLIMATE CHANGE INTEGRATION

This session brought together leading NGOs working in climate action and international development space to share insights on best practice and enablers of best practice towards climate change integration.

SPEAKERS
- Angelo Ximenes - WASH and Climate Change Technical Lead - WaterAid Timor Leste
- Ruth Konia - Mangoro Market Meri Program Manager - The Nature Conservancy Melanesia Program
- Alice Muller - Climate Action Senior Advisor - World Vision Australia
- Willy Missack - Secretariat Adviser - Vanuatu Climate Action Network

KIOA TO CAIRO: THE PACIFIC CSO PATHWAYS TO COP27

Ahead of COP27, Pacific civil society leader discussed the priorities raised in the Kioa Declaration and provided unique insights into Pacific community perspectives on the Loss and Damage debate.

SPEAKERS
- Maina Talia - Co-Coordinator - Kioa Island Community Organisation

Climate change and environmental stress are increasingly being described as a ‘threat-multiplier’ resulting in increased violent conflict, migration, under-development and inequality. Emerging within this conversation are concerns regarding the nexus between climate change and conflict. This session discussed lessons from emerging work about the need for conflict prevention and to ensure responses to climate change carried out by community, governmental, and international organisations are conflict-sensitive.

SPEAKERS
- Dr Kate Higgins - Conciliation Resources Officer - Conciliation Resources
- Adi Lita Nalaitikau - Pacific Program Officer - Conciliation Resources
- Dr Siad Darwish - Anthropologist and peacemaker specialising in gender, inclusion, and environmental peace and conflict - CDA Collaborative
- Dr Volker Boege - Senior Research Fellow for Climate Change and Conflict - Toda Peace Institute

It’s about weaving the mat – weaving together Pacific, traditional, indigenous local knowledge and ways of thinking and Western Scientific knowledge."

Dr Volker Boege

Feminist foreign policy provides a framework for grappling with power. Once we are able to grapple with how these power systems are operating, we can get to the root causes for how injustices happen."

Joanna Pradela

Feminist foreign policy provides a lens through which we can see climate action as a shared priority, a human security issue, and one which is central to Australia’s relationships with the region.

SPEAKERS
- Professor Susan Harris Rimmer - Professor and Director of the Policy Innovation Hub - Griffith University
- Esther Onyango - Research Fellow - Griffith University
- Sasha Purcell - Torres Strait Islander human rights lawyer, Fulbright Scholar and NYU Human Rights Scholar
- Dr Bridget Lewis - Associate Professor - School of Law, QUT
- Joanna Pradela - Director, Knowledge Translation & Equality Insights - IWDA
- Associate Professor Rowena Maquire - Associate Professor - Law School, Queensland University of Technology

We continue to fight for our sovereign rights, and the right to remain on our island. Being sidelined and undervalued on the global climate negotiation table does not mean we are weak or that we have nothing to offer. Pacific peoples continue to lead by example by advocating for a just, moral and equitable response to the threat posed, and the message that we all have - we all have the right to survive."

Maina Talia

Increasing community awareness of climate change needs to be done using local considerations – in Timor Leste, that is tarabandu!"

Angelo Ximenes

LEARN MORE
- Slides: Enabling resilient futures: supporting NGOs in climate change integration
- Development Practice Committee
- Climate Action Framework
- Integrating climate change action across the Australian international development sector: Enablers of best practice
- Integrating climate change action across the Australian international development sector: Setting the scene for ANGOs

Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration 2022

350.org Kioa Climate Emergency

LEARN MORE
- Kioa Climate Emergency Declaration 2022

ACFID 2022 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

ACFID 2022 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP
FINANCE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE, RESPONSE AND INCLUSION: LESSONS FROM SRI LANKA AND INDONESIA

There is growing consensus that climate change is impacting the number, frequency and duration of natural hazards, such as floods, droughts and cyclones. Rural households, living close to the poverty line, are particularly vulnerable to climate-related shocks. This session sought to explore how access to finance can promote climate resilience amongst people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups.

SPEAKERS
- Meiseany Hortensia - National Project Manager - Wahana Visi Indonesia
- Clay O’Brien - Financial Inclusion Advisor - World Vision Australia
- Rohas Pakkiyanathan - Regional Manager - World Vision Sri Lanka

WATERSHED INTERVENTIONS FOR SYSTEM HEALTH FIJI (WISH FIJI) – ACHIEVING POSITIVE HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THROUGH A PLANETARY HEALTH APPROACH

This session shared evidence of community-led implementation work over the last four years across five watersheds on three islands of Fiji.

SPEAKERS
- Dr Aaron Jenkins - Ecologist and infectious diseases researcher - Edith Cowan University and The University of Sydney
- Timoci Naivalulevu - Conservation scientist and the WISH Fiji Project Manager - Fiji National University
- Andrew Tukana - Project Manager - Wildlife Conservation Society, Fiji
- Dr Jacqueline Thomas - Lecturer - The University of Sydney

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS – LESSONS FROM NEPAL

While it is recognized that market systems are a source of resilience for households and communities, there remains a gap in how to interpret the interaction between market systems approaches (including emerging thinking around market systems resilience) and household resilience.

SPEAKERS
- Andy Hunter - Market Systems Development Specialist - Vikāra Institute
- Michael Field - Senior Systems Thinking Specialist - Vikāra Institute

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES’ LEADING CLIMATE ACTION IN THE PACIFIC

This session brought the voices and ideas of Pacific women with disabilities into the conversation on climate action, with a focus on the importance of building inclusive climate action and diverse local leadership to develop and implement indigenous ideas to combat the impacts of climate change and implement inclusive disaster risk reduction strategies.

SPEAKERS
- Kerryn Clarke - Executive Officer - Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC)
- Sainimili Tawake - Regional Coordinator on Climate Change - Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)
- Melvina Vua - Climate officer - PNGDSI (Solomon Islands Organisation of People with Disabilities)

LEARN MORE
- PNG Voices PowerPoint: Perspectives on Australia and the World: Leonie Baptiste, Lodari Yamarak, Andrea Connor
- Whitlam Institute, Western Sydney University
- Fiji Institute for Pacific Health Research, Fiji National University
- Wildlife Conservation Society, Fiji

LEARN MORE
- Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific: Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu
- Australian Disability and Development Consortium Pacific Disability Forum

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS – LESSONS FROM NEPAL

There are 3 questions we want to look at today. How can access to finance promote climate resilience amongst people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups? What is the role of finance before/during/after disasters particularly savings, loans, and financial literacy? And how can access to finance contribute to climate, resilience, and inclusion outcomes while also promoting equity, gender inclusion, and women’s economic empowerment?"
EMPOWERING LOCAL ACTORS TO INCREASE THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF WASH SERVICES: A PRESENTATION OF CASE STUDIES ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) access is essential to climate adaptation and creating healthy and equitable communities. It is important to prioritise rights to WASH in broader water resource management (WRM) to increase the climate resilience of communities, especially those that are marginalised and often excluded from decision making.

SPEAKERS
Angelo Ximenes - WASH and Climate Change Technical Lead - WaterAid Timor Leste
Tanvi Oza - Regional Climate Change Advisor - WaterAid Australia
Tith Nhim - Senior Water Resource Management Specialist - WaterAid Cambodia
Joyce Maragas - Community Engagement Officer - WaterAid PNG

PNG VOICES – LISTENING TO AUSTRALIA’S CLOSEST NEIGHBOUR – CAPACITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT THE PAPUA NEW GUINEAN WAY

This session presented the findings of an empirical survey co-designed and conducted by Papua New Guinean researchers in 2021. The PNG Voices research project asked 536 ordinary Papua New Guineans, originating in 21 of PNG’s provinces, how they view their own society, their hopes for the future and their views of Australia and Australians in PNG.

SPEAKERS
Leonie Baptiste - Lecturer - Divine Word University
Dr Andrea Connor - Manager Policy and Research - Whitlam Institute, Western Sydney University
Dr Londari Yamarak - Lecturer, Economics - PNG University of Technology

MINIMISING FINANCIAL WASTAGE: UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN COSTS OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

For charities working internationally, transferring funds overseas can often be a significant source of financial wastage, fraught with fees and opaque costs not obvious at times. But it can also be an opportunity to become more effective in their use of resources and minimize their financial wastage. In this session, Michael Stachowiak, Head of AU&NZ StoneX Global Payments, uncovered the hidden costs of transferring funds overseas to help charities minimise their financial wastage and maximise the impact of their donor funds.

SPEAKERS
Michael Stachowiak - Head of Business Development AU&NZ (Global Payments) - StoneX

CREATABLE: ADOLESCENTS HARNESSING CREATIVITY TO SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES IN BURUNDI

Creatable is the first project of its kind in Burundi to apply the innovative approach of teaching STEM and creativity as a means of solving real-world problems that Burundian adolescents face here and into the future, which include, with increasing urgency, climate change issues.

SPEAKERS
Vivien Harvey-Wong - International Programs Manager - UNICEF Australia
Rydr Tracy - Head of Educational Transformation - Creatable

MINIMISING FINANCIAL WASTAGE: UNCOVERING THE HIDDEN COSTS OF INTERNATIONAL PAYMENTS

Sending US dollars can create captive recipients, tying the conversion to a single bank. Using a local currency can reduce the chain and increase control over the conversion rate.

Michael Stachowiak

LEARN MORE
Minimising Financial Wastage: Article by StoneX Global Payments
Stone X Global Payments
Stone X Corporate Partnership with ACFID

LEARN MORE
PNG Voices Paper: Whitlam Institute
PNG Voices Powerpoint: Perspectives on Australia and the World: Leonie Baptiste, Londari Yamarak, Andrea Connor

LEARN MORE
PNG Voices Paper: Whitlam Institute
PNG Voices Powerpoint: Perspectives on Australia and the World: Leonie Baptiste, Londari Yamarak, Andrea Connor

LEARN MORE
Creatable: The Rocket Stove

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WaterAid Timor Leste
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WaterAid Timor Leste
WaterAid Cambodia
WaterAid PNG

LEARN MORE
Creatable: The Rocket Stove

ACFID 2022 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP
CASCADE OF CRISSES: CIVIL-MILITARY AND POLICE RELATIONS TODAY AND TOMORROW

Real-world challenges like climate change, Covid-19 and conflict are mounting pressures and increasing global humanitarian needs. The humanitarian system and diverse entities that engage with the system and endeavour to deliver assistance and protection are facing new challenges and opportunities. This session convened a panel of experts on current and emerging issues impacting civil-military-police relations, such as localisation, the increase in non-state armed groups (NSAGs), and consequences of increased frequency of natural hazards and likelihood of cascading or concurrent disasters.

SPEAKERS
Beth Eggleston - Director - Humanitarian Advisory Group
David Tuck - International Committee of the Red Cross
Jules Frost - Civil Society Engagement/Humanitarian Advisor - Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC)
Natasha Chabbra - Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Advisor - ACFID

RECONCEPTUALISING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE SDGS

In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, addressing poverty and other disadvantages go hand in hand with strategies to improve health, education and livelihoods, all while tackling climate change and preserving our planet. Sustainable Development is also conducive to achieving other green-related agreements such as the Paris Agreement on climate change. To build a better world and achieve these goals, we need to work together.

SPEAKERS
Courtney Anderson - PhD Candidate / Nutrition Systems Scientist - University of the Sunshine Coast
Dr Libby Swanepoel - Senior Lecturer | Program Leader Bachelor Nutrition - University of the Sunshine Coast

LEARNING MORE
Indigenous Foreign Policy: A New Way Forward?
The Future Of Foreign Policy Is First Nations. Where Then Are Our Voices?
Amani for First Nations People
Media Release from Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong

LEARNING MORE
Humanitarian Advisory Group

HOW SEA-GRAPES SAVED A FOREST: A NATURE-BASED SOLUTION IN SAERAGHI VILLAGE, SOLOMON ISLANDS

Sea-grapes are a nutritious, high-value species of edible seaweed popular across the Pacific. Natural assets are invaluable for communities in PICs; development organisations can use nature-based solutions to empower communities to protect, value and tangibly benefit from sustainable management of their natural resources.

SPEAKERS
Dr Gregory Bennett - Conservation Programme Manager - WWF-Solomon Islands
Minnie Rafe Ifuto'o - Programme coordinator - WWF-Solomon Islands
Henry Kaniki - Sustainable Fisheries Specialist - WWF-Solomon Islands
Rachel James - Blue Pacific Programs Manager - WWF, Australia
Salome Topo - Sustainable Livelihood Officer - WWF-Solomon Islands

LEARNING MORE
WWF-Solomon Islands

Resilience today, growth tomorrow—Saeragi Community facilitators Ghizo, Solomon Islands
Sustainable sea-grapes in Saeragi

Defining Triangular Co-operation

- At least three partners (usually three from local national and/or global)
- Shared decision; “we or even partners (Swain/White) = “we will support cooperation that is guided by our own developing needs” (Swain/White 2017)
- At least three partners: one (South-South Cooperation) (SSC) (South-South, Southern South, South-South) (Ibid)
- One (Swain/White) repeatedly supporting “South-South Cooperation” (SSC) arrangement
- Better understanding while generating innovation, assurance of solutions, natural learning and benefits for all projects engaged
- Approach to delivery

As local as possible, as international as necessary...as civilian as possible, as military as necessary.

LEARNING MORE
Australian Civil-Military Centre
Humanitarian Advisory Group
STOCKING GLOBAL EVIDENCE AND GOOD PRACTICES: MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT INTO AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS

Agriculture is key to inclusive economic growth and a future where a healthy planet and healthy people not only survive but thrive. An estimated 80% of the global poor rely on agriculture for their incomes. How can we achieve economic growth inclusive of poor and vulnerable groups in the agriculture sector, while also promoting climate resilient outcomes?

SPEAKERS
Diana Johannis - Inclusive Economic Empowerment Advisor - World Vision Australia
Clara Garcia Parra - Senior Consultant - The Canopy Lab

THE EXPERIENCES AND RESPONSES OF NI-VANUATU WOMEN WITH DISABILITY TO THE CLIMATE AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Women with disabilities are disproportionately impacted by climate and related crises and are often not meaningfully included in policy and practice in relation to climate resilience. Women I TokTok Tugeta Forum (WITTT) Sunshine platform and Vanuatu Disabled Peoples Advocacy Organization (VDPAA), along with Action Aid Australia and ActionAid Vanuatu shared real experiences on the importance of women’s leadership, localisation, climate change and humanitarian action.

SPEAKERS
Ellen Tamata - Women I TokTok Tugeta Network
Nelly Caleb - Vanuatu Disability Promotion and Advocacy Association
Michelle Higelin - Executive Director - ActionAid Australia
Ginette Morrison - National Coordinator of Disability Desk - Ministry of Justice and Community Services

FRENEMIES? GENDER EQUALITY AND DISABILITY: WHAT IS LOST AND WHAT IS FOUND

Gender Equality, Disability & Social Inclusion (GEDSI) has become the acronym of choice to refer to marginalised and vulnerable groups. Previous iterations have included gender without equality, social inclusion without disability, while other versions lose social inclusion all together. This session questioned the assumptions, pressures and complexities involved in bringing gender equality, disability and social inclusion together and considered how we can avoid compromising an in-depth approach to gender, disability and social inclusion when we bring these different areas together.

SPEAKERS
Cashelle Dunn - Disability Advisor - World Vision Australia
Ipul Powaseu - Disability Advocate and Specialist - PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons
Jasmine Kaur - Human rights, gender, and social inclusion activist
Isabelle Gurney - Gender Equality Adviser - World Vision

EMERGING YOUTH RESPONSES TO A CHANGING WORLD: OUR PART TO PLAY IN EFFECTING CHANGE

As the current state of the world continues to trend towards instability, the vital importance of effecting change in the way in which we understand our environment and thereby our responsibility as a community requires a reimagining of possibilities. Communal responses are required to global challenges, such as the pandemic, and for this to take effect, there needs to be a local response; one in which emerging leaders can have a say for the betterment of society.

SPEAKERS
Joseph Kolapudi - Creative Director – SolveSquad
Parika Verma - Strategic Foresight Officer - Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Vanessa Brettell - Co-founder and CEO - Stepping Stone
Jahin Tanvir - CEO - Australian School of Entrepreneurship

Amongst the four of us, three of us identify as having a disability, two of us have diverse SOGIESC. We cover an age range between 20-38 years. All of us are women, and we have many, many experiences, challenges, and strengths between us. Can we attempt to account for all of these experiences under one acronym GEDSI?"  

Isabelle Gurney

By bringing agency back into people’s daily lives, you can bring back hope."

Parika Verma

“"
BUILDING ON POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE IN THE TONGA VOLCANO RESPONSE

Humanitarian actors are increasingly considering environmental impact as central to effective, principled aid and the accountability to affected populations – a ‘green’ way of responding. The eruption of the Hunga Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano and Pacific-wide tsunami on 15th January 2022 brought environmental considerations in humanitarian response to the fore.

**SPEAKERS**
- Peter McArdle - Climate & Environment Leader - Humanitarian Advisory Group
- Sesimani Lokotui - National Coordinator - GEF SGP, Civil Society Forum of Tonga
- Ofa Mafi
- Crystal Áke - M&E and Safeguard Coordinator - MORDI Tonga

FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Despite being the world's largest minority, people with disabilities are often left behind. Very often they are seen as beneficiaries not actors in their own development. They are not given opportunities to contribute and participate socially and economically. Their needs are often overlooked by governments and by international organizations. Efforts to reduce poverty can only be effective if we include people with disabilities.

**SPEAKERS**
- Fifi Rashando - Impact Investment Manager and Disability Focal Point - Good Return
- Phaikdey Uk - CAFE Cambodia - Financial Literacy Program Coordinator and Disability Inclusion Focal Point - Good Return
- Kerryn Clarke - Executive Officer - Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC)
- Alison Thomburn - Social Impact Field Support Officer - Good Return

TWIN CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON: AVOIDING A COMBINED CLIMATE AND DEBT CRISIS IN THE PACIFIC

Following the April 2022 Pacific Regional Debt Conference and in the lead up to COP27, a range of questions arose for Pacific communities around climate finance and the effects of climate change disasters on increasing debt levels. More broadly, how climate finance is delivered (through proposed mechanisms such as the Pacific Resilience Facility) and localisation and community control over climate finance projects are major issues. The new Twin Clouds report by Jubilee Australia and Caritas Oceania analyses the risk of a crisis caused by high debt levels and climate change, and what can be done to address it.

**SPEAKERS**
- Dr Damian Spruce - Associate Director Advocacy and Government Relations - Caritas Australia
- Kositatin Tokimaibolatagane - Ecological Justice Coordinator - Caritas Fiji
- Fyfe Strachan - Policy Director - Jubilee Australia Research Centre
- Kanamon Reilly - Advocacy & Research Coordinator - Caritas

LEARNING POWER, SUSTAINING COLLABORATION: AUSTRALIAN NGOs IN A CHANGING WORLD

While the pandemic has posed many challenges to the sector, it has also presented opportunities to re-envision how development work is done. What has changed since the 2018 ACFID State of the Sector Report, in terms of actors, priorities, activities and resources?

**SPEAKERS**
- Dr Eleanor Gordon - Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Development - Monash University
- Dr Samantha J Gunawardana - Senior Lecturer in Gender and Development - Monash University
THE INTERSECTION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and climate change are intrinsically linked, and yet the impacts of climate change on SRHR are often hidden and overlooked. Analysis across 26 climate-affected countries found that an estimated 14 million women are at risk of losing access to contraception due to climate-related displacement over the next decade.

LEARN MORE
Video: Reproductive choice and climate change
The climate crisis and sexual and reproductive health and rights paper: IPPF

SPEAKERS
Phoebe Ryan - Chief, Australia & New Zealand Office - International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
Eva Hall - Regional Operations Manager - MSI Asia Pacific
Andrea Boudville - Senior Technical Advisor - Nossal Institute for Global Health, The University of Melbourne
Erin Ryan - Pacific Policy and Advocacy Advisor - Save the Children Australia

TAKING BACK THE POWER: STORIES OF CLIMATE DISASTERS, SURVIVAL AND LOCAL RESILIENCE IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Through the lens of local people and actors, we need to hear stories of community, survival, and power to help us explore how we currently look at and communicate the climate crises, particularly during disasters, and what this can look like when we actively shift the power and prioritise local storytelling.

LEARN MORE
Tsunami survivor climate plans help Solomon Islands fight COVID | Pandemic Warriors | ABC Australia
Jah Boy - Be Prepared feat. Haylinta, Nozomi, Rosanne and Shirline (Official Music Video)
JUVENILE (Solomon Islands Film)

SPEAKERS
Ernest Ta’asi - Communications Officer - Oxfam in the Pacific
Ricky Pana - AHP Disaster READY Project Officer - Oxfam in the Pacific
Mannar Levo - Solomon Islands, Film consultant

DECOLONIALITY: UNLEARNING THE DRIVERS OF PLANETARY AND COMMUNITY ILL-HEALTH

The project of international development was founded on, and continues to be practiced through, the structures and premises of whiteness and modernity. These structures and premises are also at the heart of what drives the climate crisis. Decolonising practice often begins from a need to unlearn before we can re-learn.

LEARN MORE
Creating Equitable South-North Partnerships: Nurturing the Vā and Voyaging the Audacious Ocean Together: Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki
Unsettling truths: modernity, (de-)coloniality and Indigenous futures: Yin Paradies

SPEAKERS
Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki - Director - Women & Children Crisis Center
Joanna Pradela - Director, Knowledge Translation & Equality Insights - IWDA
Saranel Benjamin - Oxfam UK
Yin Paradies - Chair in Race Relations - Deakin University

AUSTRALIA’S ROLE IN FOSTERING AMBITION ON CLIMATE FINANCE AND LOSS AND DAMAGE FINANCING

This session addressed Australia’s role in fostering ambitious international action on climate finance and loss and damage financing, in the context of the COP27 negotiations that took place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2022.

LEARN MORE
Creating Equitable South-North Partnerships: Nurturing the Vā and Voyaging the Audacious Ocean Together: Ofa-Ki-Levuka Guttenbeil-Likiliki
Unsettling truths: modernity, (de-)coloniality and Indigenous futures: Yin Paradies

SPEAKERS
Farah Kabir - Country Director - ActionAid Bangladesh
George Koran - PACCU (NCA) / VCAN Coordinator - Oxfam in Vanuatu
Melissa Bungcaras - Climate Justice Strategic Lead - Oxfam Australia
Sophie Hardefeldt - Policy and Research Manager - ActionAid Australia

Racism is essentially a coin with two sides. One is privileged, one is oppressed.”

Yin Paradies

Control over storytelling means letting us tell the stories. We have the capacity. Support us to tell the stories but let us tell the stories we want to.”

Mannar Levo

Women living on the front lines of the climate crisis...are taking action as agents of change through reproductive choice they can adapt to climate change.”

Yin Paradies

ACFID 2022 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

ACFID 2022 CONFERENCE WRAP-UP
COMMUNITY-LED WATER SOURCE RESTORATION AND CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT; PRACTICAL ACTION AND LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE FIELD IN TIMOR-LESTE

What is the role that communities can and should play in water source restoration and catchment management in rural and low-resource settings? Permatil, in collaboration with Engineers Without Borders Australia and RMIT University, presented details of Permatil’s programmatic approach that empowers communities to build climate resilience through environmental restoration, using nature-based solutions.

SPEAKERS
Lamberto Pinto - Senior Technical Manager Timor-Leste Program - Engineers Without Borders Australia
Ego Lemos - Executive Director - Permatil Timor-Leste and Global
Nick Brown - Senior Lecturer of Humanitarian Engineering - RMIT

GLOBAL PROBLEMS; LOCAL SOLUTIONS. WINS, LEARNINGS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM VANUATU AND SOLOMON ISLANDS IN THE FIGHT FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Shared stories and lived experiences from Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, two key countries facing increasing risk as the climate crisis worsens, navigating loss and damage and the role of climate financing.

SPEAKERS
Rodick Rollands - Founder - Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change (PISFCC)
Romabeth Siri - Secretariat member - VCAN
Kesaia Vasutoga - Project Manager and Capacity Building Adviser – PACCCIL

YOUNG AND DIVERSE PACIFIC WOMEN LEADING AMBITIOUS, INNOVATIVE & CLIMATE JUST SOLUTIONS

This session showcased the work of young and diverse woman leaders from the Shifting the Power Coalition, the only regional feminist coalition promoting diverse Pacific women’s leadership across the vast climate change agenda.

SPEAKERS
Jay Nasilasila - AHP Disaster READY DRR Officer - Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation and House of Colours
Katherine Tu - Ms Ramona Tugaga
Carolyn Kitione
Ramona Tugaga

BLENDED FINANCE APPROACH IN TRIPLE-IMPACT WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN WEST JAVA, INDONESIA: TOWARDS ZERO WASTE, GREEN ENERGY, AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Gender Equality Mainstreaming requires a variety of approaches, one of them is blended finance approach. This session discussed a case study of women’s economic empowerment with market and climate lenses using a blended finance approach to promote sustainable and inclusive economic development in rural areas in Indonesia.

SPEAKERS
Shane Nichols - CEO - Good Return
Fifi Rashando - Impact Investment Manager and Disability Focal Point - Good Return
Fika Rahimah - Lead of Impact and Sustainability - CROWDE

HOW CAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS BETTER SCALE-UP CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE? LESSONS FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Climate change is threatening the world's progress out of poverty. Agriculture-food systems are the main source of food and income for most of the world’s poor and food-insecure people. In 2021, Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) was identified as key priority at the United Nations Food Systems Summit and World Economic Forum. In practice, however, there are not consistent ways that CSA is being designed, conceptualised, and embedded within programs working on agri-food systems.

SPEAKERS
Ellie Wong - Manager, Economic Empowerment - World Vision Australia
Thano Im - Grant Operates Manager - World Vision Cambodia
Dr Federico Davila - Research Associate - University of Technology Sydney
Gibson Susumu - Extension Specialist - The Pacific Community

YOUNG AND DIVERSE PACIFIC WOMEN LEADING AMBITIOUS, INNOVATIVE & CLIMATE JUST SOLUTIONS

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Katherine Tu - Ms Ramona Tugaga
Carolyn Kitione
Ramona Tugaga

LEARN MORE
Permatil
Permatil Water Conservation Program: Short Explanation Video

LEARN MORE
Shifting the Power Coalition
Shifting the Power Coalition Facebook Page

LEARN MORE
Pacific Climate Action Stories of Impact
National Court of Justice Advisory Opinion Campaign

LEARN MORE
World Vision Fact Sheet
Climate-Smart Agriculture - Building Resilience to Climate Change

LEARN MORE
Pacific Climate Action Stories of Impact
International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion Campaign

LEARN MORE
Women’s Economic Empowerment: World Vision Fact Sheet
Climate-Smart Agriculture - Building Resilience to Climate Change
Delegate Feedback

“Fantastic and thought-provoking day. Excellent presentations. So much to unpack. Thank you!”

“Brilliant panel with rich conversation.”

“It’s an essential forum for the Australian Development NGO community.”

“A powerful presentation and inspirational leadership.”

“I attend to keep up to date with cutting edge & good practice thinking in the sector.”

“The chance to hear views from across the sector and be reinvigorated by what we do.”

“Congratulations ACFID team on a fantastic conference!”

“I like to keep up to date with the sector priority issues and participate in the discussion about how we can deliver aid better.”

“ACFID conference is a great place to connect with the aid and development sector.”

“Great effort everyone - thanks to everyone bringing sessions from around the globe!”

“Fa’aafetia lava ACFID for this amazing conference.”

“I attend to keep up to date with current sector thought leadership, practice and learnings from the field; network and engage in robust conversations on international development and humanitarian issues.”
The Global Payments division of StoneX provides clients with payment services, specialising in transferring funds to the developing world. It provides customised foreign exchange and treasury services to a number of customers, including international aid and development organisations, UN agencies, government agencies, NGO’s, religious entities, multinational corporations and financial institutions.

"Minimising Financial Wastage: uncovering the hidden costs of international payments" on page 32.

OSKY is a web systems specialist in fostering and producing the development of complex and custom web applications. Their goal is to create innovative digital applications that enable organisations to provide more value to their customers and members with lower administrative costs by leveraging modern open-source technologies.

Osky generously shared over $3,000 of prizes to delegates over the Conference, through a fun online Spin “n” Win competition! This year, over 30 organisations and individuals entered the competition. Osky are currently in the process of contacting the winners, who are in the draw to win prizes such as a security audit for your organisation’s website valued at $1,520, gift cards for work with OSKY valued up to $1,000, and the major prize of a UX Design Review Services for your website valued at $7,600.

ACFID and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) have a partnership agreement that recognises the ongoing, long-standing cooperation between the two organisations to promote a robust and effective Australian international development sector.

The partnership supports NGO effectiveness and innovation through the application of the ACFID Code of Conduct and other learning and development initiatives. The partnership also supports policy dialogue, consultation and knowledge-sharing between DFAT and Australian NGOs in Canberra and at overseas posts.

ACFID acknowledges the important support of DFAT. Government funding supplements the core funding provided by ACFID member fees.

The ACMC engages with, and supports, government departments and agencies, non-government organisations and international partners, including the United Nations, on civil-military-police issues to achieve focused outcomes for the region and globally.

"Cascade of Crises: Civil-Military and Police Relations Today and Tomorrow" on page 35.