



A SURVEY OF PRIORITISED INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS WITH ACTIVE PROGRAMMES AND EXPERIENCE WORKING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA REGARDING THEIR PERCEPTIONS OF HUMAN COPING RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A short-term consultancy undertaken for the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** on behalf of the **Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG)** with support from the **US Agency for International Development (USAID)**

September 2018, Harry van der Linde



AFRICA BIODIVERSITY COLLABORATIVE GROUP

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The undertaking of this assignment was guided by consultations throughout with Darren Long (WCS) and Chris Zganjar (leader of ABCG's Managing Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity working group), and initially also with Rebecca Goodman (ABCG's Coordinator). Their guidance proved to be critical regarding the selection of organisations and institutions to be surveyed, the pitch and emphasis of the surveys undertaken and to ensure the findings would address WCS' and ABCG's expectations. The consultant – Harry van der Linde – would like to express his great appreciation for the guidance received and the open, flexible and adaptive manner applied while rolling out this assignment.

The reflections shared in this White Paper are the result of a combination of all the steps presented in the methodology (chapter 2), but particularly the interviews undertaken with the organisation and institutions selected. The consultant is very thankful and grateful to the organisations and people who were willing to be interviewed and for their time and dedication to make this possible, under at times challenging timeframes, and for their frankness. Without them it would have been impossible to compile the main findings, on which basis the conclusions and recommendations were compiled.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	i
ACRONYMS.....	iii
1 Introduction and Context	4
2 Methodology	4
3 Main Findings	6
4. Conclusions.....	10
5. Recommendations	11

ANNEXES

Annex I - **International development organisations and research organisations interviewed and their intersections with the different attributes**

ACRONYMS

ABCG	Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCRP	Climate Change and Resilience Platform (CCRP, a CARE platform)
CI	Conservation International
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSIR	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
JGI	Jane Goodall Institute
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) is a voluntary partnership hosted by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in consortium with the African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Conservation International (CI), the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Resources Institute (WRI) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF). ABCG is supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to advance understanding of critical conservation challenges and their solutions in sub-Saharan Africa.

Through its thematic working group, *Managing Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity*, ABCG is documenting coping responses of human communities to climate change and the potential impacts of these responses on biodiversity. This is undertaken in support of providing knowledge which can guide adaptation strategies towards improving conservation outcomes under future climatic conditions. The working group will produce a suite of tools that include an online database of projected human responses, a map of biodiversity impacts, and a list of recommended ecosystem-based interventions to help build the resilience of both wildlife habitat and human communities to the impacts of climate change.

Realising ABCG members' strengths on conservation and climate change, as well as their limitations regarding the human dimensions associated with it, WCS assigned a short-term consultancy to undertake a survey of a small number of prioritised international development organisations and research institutions with active programmes and experience working in sub-Saharan Africa regarding their perceptions of human coping responses to climate change. The aim of these surveys was two-fold: 1) identifying the human responses to climate change that have been observed by a sub-set of leading development organisations, and 2) how those organisations are coping or planning to respond to impacts from human responses to climate change in the future.

This White Paper presents the results of the international development organisations and research institutions consulted. In addition to the main findings identified, this White Paper is also expected to inform WCS and the ABCG working group members regarding potential next steps to be undertaken. This assignment was completed by one independent consultant, and the representation of information, views and opinions expressed in this document are his only.

2 METHODOLOGY

The undertaking of this assignment was guided by consultations throughout with WCS (Darren Long) and ABCG's Managing Global Change Impacts on Biodiversity working group (particularly its chair Chris Zganjar), and initially also with ABCG's Coordinator (Rebecca Goodman). This guidance proved to be critical regarding the selection of organisations and institutions to be surveyed, the pitch and emphasis of the surveys undertaken and to ensure the findings would address WCS' and ABCG's expectations.

A large number of potential international development organisations and research institutions working in sub-Saharan Africa could have been consulted under this assignment across Anglophone and Francophone sub-Saharan Africa, across different sectors (agriculture, livestock, forestry, freshwater fisheries and coastal resource use), across terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and across development organisations and research institutions. However, given time constraints under this assignment, its broad scope, and considering that this assignment was an initial brief attempt to obtain an overview regarding the subject

concerned, key criteria were discussed and agreed upon with the ABCG working group members to guide the selection of a small number of international development organisations and research institutions to be consulted. These criteria helped us to select institutions with a sound and proven track record, which:

- work on-the-ground and are involved in practical implementation (i.e. not if their focus was mainly on climate change policy and advocacy work);
- work on climate change adaptation and resilience in relation to natural resource management and use, and related communal livelihoods;
- undertake land use and natural resource management (e.g. agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries for food & nutrition, energy, and water) related projects (i.e. not working for example only on public health or conflict resolution);
- work in sub-Saharan Africa and have an overlap regarding the African countries in which ABCG members operate; and,
- on-the-ground practical work is by preference embedded in, and supported by their institution and equally so, strategies are rolled out by practical implementation on the ground.

Despite having applied these criteria, this report could have easily been compiled based on consultations with a complete different set of international development organisations and research institutions resulting in potentially different findings. It was at the end agreed to approach the organisations and institutions meeting best the criteria i.e. the “low hanging fruit”. The actual final selection has been the consultant’s based on his knowledge about the subject and own network, some initial further research, consultations with some key individuals and discussion with WCS and the ABCG working group members. The international development organisations interviewed are: ActionAid International, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere’s (CARE) Climate Change and Resilience Platform (CCRP), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), OXFAM America, and Practical Action. The international research institutions consulted are: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and WorldFish.

The key aspects to be covered by the survey were also developed in consultation with WCS and ABCG, although used at times with different emphasis subject to the information already readily available on the institutions’ websites and the responses received during the interviews. Key aspects covered were:

- a general understanding about the institutions’ perceptions about climate change;
- in case it is important, for how long and why the organisation has been considering climate impacts?;
- the importance of climate change adaptation, resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation and in which way the organisation is addressing it;
- if they had observed human coping responses to climatic changes, and if how the organisation is addressing these;
- their considerations regarding longer-term sustainability and key ingredients;
- how they obtain their information concerning the topic and if they are working in partnership(s); and
- key lessons learned to be shared.

The focus of the interviews has been on the organisational level, not specific projects or approaches within a specific country. For obvious practical reasons all consultations were undertaken by Skype conference calls.

The reflections shared in this White Paper are the result of a combination of all the steps presented above, but particularly the interviews undertaken with the organisations and institutions selected. As the number of organisations consulted is low it was not possible to provide a quantitative assessment regarding the topics discussed, but nevertheless the work does provide a valuable and helpful first overview on the subject of this assignment.

3 MAIN FINDINGS

The main findings presented in this section are drawn primarily from the interviews held with the selected international development institutions and research organisations and a few additional individuals consulted, and reflect key aspects shared and discussed during these interviews.

1. The development organisations and research institutions surveyed and consulted ***all recognise climate change is an important issue and a major challenge which will need to be addressed urgently*** (more if not done so already) as (i) it is impacting, challenging or a risk to all or part of their programmatic priorities in supporting communities' natural resources dependent livelihoods¹ and therefore exacerbating poverty, (ii) it seems that traditional responses to the circumstances being experienced don't work any longer, and (iii) they were and /or were requested to contribute to the discussions in the climate change policy arena and by donors given their increasing focus on climate change. Hence it emerged as a critical issue for these international organisations from the bottom-up as well top-down. The work of *faith-based* development organisations on climate change is guided furthermore by being responsible stewards² of the creation.
2. Development and conservation organisations and international research institutions ***all recognise limitations within their own entities*** regarding environmental / ecological / climate change expertise and socio-economic development expertise respectively or regarding limitations concerning their field or community expertise and work, ***as well as anticipated benefits from engaging each other's expertise***. The development organisations and research institutions interviewed have expressed an interest in exploring this further, but at times more from an *environmental* rather than a *conservation* perspective per se³.
3. As to be expected, for the development organisations and research institutions interviewed ***humans and their needs are central to their priority strategies***, often through empowering people with the aim to reducing poverty. For all three research institutions the knowledge-science-policy interface is their strength which should help with scaling up impact as governments are the entities making changes at scale.

¹ "The impacts of climate change are already destroying livelihoods and aggravating economic, political, social, and environmental inequality. Without urgent action, this could make it impossible for poor and marginalized people to reach a wide range of development and justice goals" (source: <https://careclimatechange.org/the-challenge/> - accessed 11 August 2018).

² A biblical world view of stewardship can be consciously defined as: "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation." Source: Charles Bugg, "Stewardship" in Holman Bible Dictionary (Holman: Tennessee, 1991), 1303-1304.

³ While development organisations understand the critical need of sustainable environmental services in supporting sound natural resource-based livelihoods ("nature is a resource to help people cope with climate change"), conserving biological diversity given

4. **A diversity of human coping responses to climate change** are being observed by the organisations interviewed which could have been **initiated at local, communal or different government levels but which could also have been initiated due to support by outside entities** such as extension services or development organisations. The **impact of human coping responses to climatic changes** to ensure their livelihoods on the natural resource base varies from no negative impacts to no negative impacts now but expected later on (i.e. no longer-term sustainability) to no negative impacts while adapting for one type of livelihood while partly negatively impacting other types of livelihoods (e.g. some will benefit more than others or sometimes benefit on the expense of others) to mal-adaptation⁴ (as it damages the natural capital).
5. As human's livelihoods are extremely dependent on natural resources it is understood that "frictions with the environment" require a balance if to achieve sustainable livelihoods with a longer-term perspective. To achieve this requires to deal with **trade-offs**⁵, both on smaller and larger scales. To support their longer-term sustainability decisions regarding such trade-offs seem to benefit from higher levels of participation by the people concerned, supported by the provision of technical and scientific information making explicit what the trade-offs are.
6. Most of the development organisations and research institutions consulted have existing **partnership(s) with conservation organisations**, have had so in the past or are exploring it. This has been more about exploring, testing and ad hoc partnerships rather than having it as a critical part to their operations and therefore not having institutionalized it (fully yet?). Some lessons learned from these partnerships are:
 - a. It will take time to get used to each other's institutional cultures, motivations and approaches but it is critical to allow for that in order to achieve mutual understanding, respect and trust.
 - b. Agree to a common goal and overall approach including setting of priorities (for implementation and research), planning, and roles and responsibilities. Be clear and consistent about it throughout i.e. from inception to project implementation to reporting.
 - c. Keep the dialogue between partners constantly open and going.
 - d. When working with communities it will have to be done in a participatory manner i.e. it will be critical to acknowledge that the communities concerned know their circumstances best. This will require them also being part of setting the priorities and for researchers to take more into account indigenous knowledge. To achieve this it will be critical to work with organisations on the ground.
 - e. Climate change discussions can quite abstract for local communities to understand, therefore simplify the issue and demystify it and put in language that could be understood easily by all involved.

for example its intrinsic value is not part of their mission as their focus is on human development (while it is, at least partly, for conservation organisations).

⁴ Some examples of mal-adaptation are: charcoal making, drilling of too many boreholes or too deep impacting the ground water level, agricultural production in sensitive lake shores, or having to walk up to 12 hours per day to fetch water, which each in their own way impact the natural resource base negatively on which their or fellow community members' livelihoods depend. These in turn have social impacts such as people migrating to cities, conflicts about natural resource use, people having to skip meals, children not being able any longer to attend school, or women becoming sex workers.

⁵ A trade-off is a situational decision that involves diminishing or losing one quality, quantity or property of a set or design in return for gains in other aspects. In simple terms, a trade-off is where one thing increases and another must decrease. The concept of a trade-off implies a tactical or strategic choice made with full comprehension of the advantages and disadvantages of each setup. (from: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade-off>).

- f. Ensure integration across sectors⁶ or ensure at least that decisions taken in one sector fully take into account consequences in other sectors, and address the interfaces between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems⁷.
 - g. To achieve real impact at scale it will be necessary to move beyond interventions addressing a single “product” (e.g. agricultural support for food security) or “project” (e.g. supporting a particular community) by involving, engaging and linking this to governance and policies at appropriate levels, ensuring it is mainstreamed into planning processes, policy and extension services.
 - h. Bring in different skills and technical expertise and experiences as needed, either from within the partner organisations or outside.
 - i. Moving appropriate and sustainable coping mechanisms which address the impact of climatic changes on natural resource-based livelihoods forward in Africa will be about trade-offs and it will be essential to be prepared for this by being able to make explicit what the trade-offs will be, on which basis subsequently decisions can be made.
7. Most of the organisations interviewed do undertake work on climate change adaptation and resilience, although these words may at times be interpreted differently, which is also the case regarding ecosystem-based adaptation⁸. Traditionally, development organisations used to focus on one type of support or intervention per project site. However, now some of the organisations interviewed apply **a more holistic, integrated and cross-sector landscape scale approach** (allowing understanding the wider context and influences including the institutional setting). This is often linked to an **ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) approach**⁹. In general, this does require a bigger approach requiring more input and hence funding. Luckily it seems though that donors have become more interested in integrated approaches. It is recognised that in order to obtain systemic changes it will also be essential to engage governments at different levels and the private sector, which requires looking beyond the direct needs of a project or the donor funding it.
8. The development organisations’ **institutional responses to the climate change challenges** identified differ from having a clear strategy and (cross-cutting) programme as a means to addressing these

⁶ Often governments (and even at the times the organisations covered under this assignment) work in silos. For example, climate change falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment while fisheries falls under the Ministry of Agriculture for which reason the impact of climate change on fisheries is not necessarily well represented in a government’s position on climate change. Equally so, an “agricultural project” being implemented may address food security concerns but often does not take into account other natural resource-based livelihood needs such as for example the use of water across the whole community, use of forest and fishery resources, and animal husbandry, nor the impact of the “project” on such other needs. Therefore, instead of supporting only agricultural work in a community climate change related work would most likely benefit from Sustainable Landscape Management which will take into account all natural resource-based uses, from the project level up to the governance and related policies. See also Report of the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future (1987), paragraph 74.

⁷ For example: in Kafue NP in Zambia the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are contiguous and both are impacting each other. Another example is that due to climate change impacts certain fishing communities around African lakes are transitioning seasonally to farming, a trend which seems to be increasing. Due to less rainfall they move into the lake shores taking out shore grass, which are important breeding grounds for the fish, to grow rice.

⁸ While it is necessary to be clear about what is meant with these terms (for example does EbA reflect adaptation of nature for nature or natural resource adaptation that serves primarily the needs of people, rather than wildlife?) several people interviewed indicated that it would not justify spending time on semantics as that would not help the people concerned, rather agree to use widely accepted definitions as formulated by the IPCC, CBD or UNFCCC.

⁹ While EbA is promising to address climate change impacts, and at scale, it would be critical to be clear if it works based on evidence, and identify where the opportunities are.

challenges to being in the process of developing it to not having addressed this through a programmatic strategy thus far. This has consequences for how well embedded and implemented organisational climate change strategies, programmes and approaches are within and across the respective organisations. This may possibly need building staff's capacity. Different types of interventions may be applied by an organisation to address climate change (such as through on-the-ground projects, direct community engagement, influencing policy at different levels, applied research, providing small-scale funding, working through partnerships, facilitating market access or scaling up impact) which may be part of project or programme design process discussions. These may, however, not end up being implemented within each project or programme as priorities are often set at country levels or by regional management units addressing their most urgent needs. This is partly being addressed by providing technical support, guides and tools to support design processes (either already available or being prepared).

9. It is recognized that **longer-term sustainability** does require addressing social, economic and ecological / environmental aspects equally. This is not always done but is becoming more the case. It has also been observed that interventions will be better and more sustainable in the long term when (i) appropriate participation by the people whose livelihoods it concerns is ensured through the use of participatory methods, (ii) an inter-sectoral, inter-disciplinary and integrated landscape scale approach is applied, and (iii) governance is addressed and institutions are engaged at appropriate levels (as longer-term sustainability is in most cases not mainstreamed in government policies or guidelines (keeping in mind that for policy-makers *seeing is believing* and that it will have to be approached within a country-specific institutional context). Therefore, international development organisations see the goal of long-term sustainability **to be achieved through a combination of** in-house expertise, partnerships with organisations (e.g. other development, environment, and conservation), research institutions, universities, experts, and by working with and for communities and governments at different levels, drawing from decades of development approaches, community-based natural resource management and dry-land management approaches (while recognising the climate change angle is relatively new but avoiding to *re-invent the wheel*).
10. One economic aspect regarding longer-term sustainability that has been noted is that as the income of a fair amount of **people having moved to cities increases, their buying power is too** allowing for example to be able to fulfil their preferences by buying charcoal or fish resulting in major pressures on the natural resource base back home. This means that people having left a certain rural area may not necessarily result in decreased pressures on its natural resource base, actually the opposite and this should be considered when and where appropriate.
11. Looking from a general perspective at the climate change discussions it is being seen that mitigation approaches and later Ecosystem-based Adaptation have been helpful to / pushed for by conservation organisations, adaptation approaches have only caught up later in support of / pushed for by development organisations, while fisheries and coastal areas¹⁰ only became an issue in UNFCCC discussions from 2011 onwards.

¹⁰ The impact of climate change on aquatic systems is a major issue and expresses itself in different ways (e.g. increasing temperature is slowing down winds important in lakes concerning the upwelling of nutrients on which the fish feed, increased water temperatures which only certain fish species can tolerate, less rainfall resulting in fewer areas to fish).

12. All these organisations interviewed work globally and use **lessons learned** from across their own organisation (as well as from other organisations, research institutions, universities and reviews) with the understanding that application will require adjustments to local circumstances.

An overview of a number of the key aspects by organisation or institution consulted is provided in Annex 1.

4. CONCLUSIONS

To put the concept of sustainable development in perspective, at a global level this concept has been around for at least 46 years¹¹. In 1972 *The Limits to Growth* was published by the Club of Rome and the 1st UN Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) was held allowing for the first time to discuss linkages between the global environment and development needs. In 1987 the mission of the Brundtland Commission was to unite countries to pursue sustainable development together: “*Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: (i) the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and (ii) the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.*”¹² Since that time the United Nations organised three international conferences addressing sustainable development.¹³ Building on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs; the eight international development goals for the year 2015 that had been established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000) all of the above resulted in the adoption in 2015 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are currently guiding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which emphasizes “*They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.*”

Within this broader sustainable development context climate change, its impact on people’s livelihoods and different approaches addressing it has become a major issue as illustrated by a random sample of only a few recent publications and speeches:

- FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018*. New evidence confirms that the number of people who suffer from hunger has been growing over the past three years, returning to levels from almost a decade ago. The reports says that climate variability and extremes are key drivers behind this rise, together with conflict and economic downturns, and are threatening to erode and reverse gains made in ending hunger and malnutrition.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered a key speech and major policy statement on climate change in September 2018 stating “we face a direct existential threat” as “climate change is

¹¹ 40 Years of Sustainable Development: Key Dates (from:

https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/40Years_sustainable_Development_sept13_Access.pdf - accessed 15 September 2018).

¹² Definition of sustainable development as it was spelt out in *Our common future*, the final report of the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development, chaired by Gro Harlem Brundtland, published in 1987.

¹³ (i) United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 resulting in Agenda 21, a non-binding action plan of the United Nations with regard to sustainable development and a number of related international conventions. (ii) The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), or the Earth Summit 2002 or Rio +10, which took place in Johannesburg, South Africa resulting in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation including recommendations to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 21. (iii) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20) resulted in a focused political outcome document which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

moving faster than we are,” and the world risks crossing “the point of no return” on climate change, with disastrous consequences for people across the planet and the natural systems that sustain them and calling for urgent climate action.¹⁴

- Sean Nicklin. September 2018. *A Better World. Volume 4. Actions and commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals*. This book highlights how communities and countries are practically putting life back into two 2 billion hectares of land and showcases the essential role of land and food systems in addressing climate change. It showcases the essential role of land and food systems in addressing climate change and how a coalition of different entities by working together can deliver up to 30 per cent of the climate solutions needed by 2030.
- Leal Filho, Walter, Barbir, Jelena, Preziosi, Richard (Eds.). 2018. *Handbook of Climate Change and Biodiversity*. This book describes research and projects on climate change and biodiversity from around the globe and includes contributions on how to promote the climate agenda and biodiversity conservation at the local level. The respective papers explore matters related to the use of an ecosystem-based approach to increase local adaptation capacity.
- Nick Brooks, Neha Rai, Simon Anderson (IIED). August 2018. *How integrated monitoring and evaluation systems can help countries address climate impacts*. Climate change impacts are already being felt around the world and they seriously threaten the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. With climate impacts playing out in endlessly varying combinations, policymakers need effective systems for learning what sort of adaptation works. This briefing shows how governments will need to think differently about how they monitor and evaluate their adaptation initiatives if they want to keep sustainable development on track.

The above reflects very challenging and ever more complex settings, with glimpses of hope. As a consequence there seems to be strong momentum, justification and ever increasing urgent need for truly integrated and longer-term sustainable landscape scale approaches addressing the serious challenges humanity is facing regarding its natural resource-based livelihoods caused by climatic changes. These require multiple entities working together towards a commonly agreed upon goal reflecting everybody's interest while truly respecting and balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development i.e. social, economic and environmental / ecological. The findings of this assignment have encouraged me to observe strong interest and recognition among key role players across international development and conservation organisations and international research institutions to collectively be in a position to offer (potentially) solutions. I sincerely hope this White Paper will further stimulate much needed genuine and strategic collaboration and partnerships among these entities, building on each other's strengths and expertise. The most vulnerable impacted by climatic changes and the World needs this urgently.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the main findings two recommendations have been formulated for further consideration by WCS and the ABCG working group in support of improving human coping responses to climatic changes. They address particularly possible next steps. These recommendations could, however, be of equal relevance to international development organisations and research institutions.

Recommendation 1 – Explore, identify and develop potential partnerships. As known for a long time now, longer-term sustainability (of natural-resource based livelihoods but equally so of nature) depends on a

¹⁴ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sgsm19205.doc.htm>, accessed 15 September 2018.

truly integrated approach balancing social, economic and ecological requirements, within an enabling environment of governance and policies and institutions supporting this. Real longer-term sustainability will *only* be achieved when all three requirements are recognised and taken into account. While working on this driven by different missions, at the end conservation and development organisations are actually aiming for the same, at least in (geographical) areas where these missions impact and potentially could support each other. Within the wider context of sustainable development all entities interviewed recognise climate change is an important issue and a major challenge which will need to be addressed urgently, all recognise having certain strengths and limitations within their own entities as well as anticipated benefits from engaging each other's expertise.

This offers potentially great opportunities to the people most affected by climatic changes and their natural resource-based livelihoods. Before running possibly out of time to develop sustainable solutions with them, it is therefore ***strongly recommended to explore, identify and develop potential partnerships between international conservation and development organisations and research institutions*** and local and national stakeholders as a matter of urgency. Two possible approaches are proposed (or a combination of both):

- a. Explore, identify and develop partnerships through one or more ***pilot projects***. This could be set up by multiple organisations in one or more landscapes in one country or with multiple pilot projects in different countries by a different set of entities.
- b. Explore, identify and develop a large partnership resulting in a strategic, programmatic collaboration implementing approaches supporting sustainable human coping mechanisms to climatic changes while assessing their validity.

Either way, most importantly this should (i) by preference be demand driven by communities and governments concerned, (ii) not be developed top-down but together with the communities and governments concerned i.e. strong on participation and linked to the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), (iii) be developed building on the different partner experiences thus far, (iv) be developed with longer-term commitments, and (v) by considering, reflecting on and applying other key aspects of the main findings listed in chapter 3 above.

Recommendation 2 – Address increasing pressures on land- and seascapes. Pressures on land- and seascapes and related natural resources are ever increasing. This is in turn putting major strain on people's natural resources' dependent livelihoods. Despite the fact that multiple causes have been identified for this and are being addressed by many organisations, the elephant in the room concerning this subject is the ever-increasing number of people. The United Nations estimates that Africa's population is set to double by 2050 as it is increasing at a rate that is 1.5 times the global average (whereby it is important to note though that about 200 Africans equal the climate change foot print of one European / American). **Ignoring this as one of the key issues to longer-term sustainability of biodiversity and natural resource dependent livelihoods, as many organisations have done and are continuing to do¹⁵, could make potentially over time all other efforts and investments redundant.** It is ***not*** proposed, however, to address this in any top-down manner but that it should be recognized first of all being an issue and secondly that it will require

¹⁵ The Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) is one of the few conservation organisations I am aware of which has started to address this issue as exemplified by their Statement entitled *Perspective on Human Population and the Environment*. See: https://www.ewt.org.za/media/2018/EWT_Position%20Statement_Human%20population%20and%20development_final.pdf , 2 August 2018.

addressing it by linking it strongly to a rights-based approach¹⁶ and possibilities for actual development and improvements of people's livelihoods. Nor should this be viewed simply as an issue of "numbers" rather a matter of the *geographical footprint* (i.e. the spatial use of, and impact on land- and seascapes) in combination with the *ecological footprint* (i.e. the actual use of natural resources, within their own area or to address demands beyond) of the people concerned. It is therefore proposed for ABCG members to engage the soonest in a debate about this issue and explore possibilities for partnering with (a) organisation(s) which have the appropriate expertise (as it is not proposed for ABCG members to develop this expertise in-house). This could start with a pilot project to be scaled up over time.

¹⁶ The Proclamation of Teheran, adopted by consensus on 13 May 1968 during the International Conference on Human Rights, affirmed, for the first time in a global agreement, the basic right of parents "to determine freely and responsibly the number and the spacing of their children" (para. 16). (source: <https://www.unfpa.org/events/international-conference-human-rights> – 11 August 2018).

Annex I - International development organisations and research organisations interviewed and their intersections with the different attributes

Organisation	Working on						Working through						Working in (which ABCG Member Countries)/ Number of ABCG countries / other sub-Saharan African countries												#												
	Clim. Change		NR Uses			Needs	Organisational strategies	On-the-ground projects	Direct community engagement	Influencing policy(ies) (level) (1)	Applied Research	Providing small-scale funding	Partnerships (with whom) (2)	Facilitating Market Access	Scaling up (means) (3)	West		Central			Eastern					Southern											
	Adaptation	Resilience	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	Agriculture	Livestock	Forestry										Freshwater Fisheries	Coastal	Food & Nutrition	Water	Energy	West	Liberia	Nigeria	Senegal		Cameroon	CAR	Republic of the Congo	Democratic Republic Congo	Eq. Guinea	Gabon	Ethiopia	Kenya	Rwanda	Sechelles	South Sudan	Tanzania
International Development Organisations																																					
ActionAid	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	13/21	
CARE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	13/14	
CRS	(X)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	(X)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	20/40	
Oxfam America	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	A		X	X							X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	16/27	
Practical Action	X	X		X							X	X	X	A	X	X	A	X	X																X	X	5/9
International Research Institutions																																					
CSIR	X	X		As required						X	X	X	X	X	A	X		Able to work subject to experience, needs or funding												X	ibid.	n/a					
IIED	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X		Subject to focus of research												n/a				
WorldFish	X	X	X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X		X								X			X	X					X		5/7

- (1) = Local (L), District / Provincial (D), National (N), International (I), All (A)
- (2) = Government (G), NGOs (N), Research Institutions (R),Corporate (C), All (A)
- (3) = Communications (C), Field Work (W), Funding (F), Partnerships (P), All (A)