

Southern civil society perspectives on the World Bank energy strategy review



Final report

December 2010

This was a complex project with many partners and involving considerable logistical arrangements in a number of countries (participating partners are listed in Annex 1). However, with the dedicated focus of influencing European governments on issues associated with the World Bank Energy Strategy Review, it was much easier to motivate everyone involved and ensure clear and targeted messaging.

The project was in two phases:

- National civil society consultation in South Africa, India, Bolivia and Peru undertaken by the southern partners.
- Advocacy tour of European Capitols: UK, Sweden, Germany, Norway and Brussels. This took place between the 20th and 28th October 2010. Details of the meetings in each country are below.

In addition, this project resulted in two of the southern partners – from India and Peru – as well as Christian Aid being invited to join the civil society meetings of the World Bank Annual meeting in early October in Washington.

This report summarise the activities undertaken during the project and list some of the outcomes and impacts of the project.

Civil society position papers

Between May and September the four southern partners in the project carried out various activities to consult with their national civil society networks on the World Bank energy strategy review. The outcome of these meetings was a civil society position paper from each country. The outputs of these consultations were edited and published by Christian Aid as a series of papers entitled 'Energy for our common future'.

Papers available at: http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change.aspx

In addition, the project partners delivered a number of case study stories of good and bad energy developments in their countries. Videos from Bolivia and Peru have highlighted national issues. Some of these stories are included in the position papers. These stories will also be used by Christian Aid to deliver campaign and media outputs early in 2011.

Summary of the messaging from the partners

The biggest worry of the contributing countries is a common experience of the Bank's bias toward the elite at the expense of the poor, the marginalised and the environment. All papers agreed that, at a minimum, the World Bank Group role in energy provision must be redefined. Without significant change, many say it should no longer have a role in energy or climate change investment at all. Specific recommendations include:

- World Bank Group investment should shift away from investment in fossil fuels (some say completely) toward catalysing development of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Energy must be understood not only as grid electrification but also as delivery of energy requirements of individuals and communities. Energy provision should focus more strongly on decentralised micro-generation – small-scale renewable energy technologies that deliver energy needs locally.
- Local energy needs should be understood through comprehensive consultations with all stakeholders, especially the poor.
- Environmental and social factors, at both national and local community levels, must be part of comprehensive cost-benefit analyses of energy options. Environmental and social safeguards at World Bank Group supported projects must be greatly improved.
- Subsidies should not be ruled out in bringing energy to the poor, based on evidence of previous success.
- International property rights must not be a barrier to technology transfer to developing countries.
- The Bank is not an appropriate body to handle climate finance funds and instead the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) should be the main body overseeing climate change funding.

Message from South African Civil society

During 2010 over 200 South African civil society organisations campaigned strongly against a proposed \$3.2 billion loan from the World Bank to the state-owned utility company Eskom to build the Medupi coal fired power station. The majority of the power from the 4800MW plant will deliver low-cost power to the foreign-owned smelting industry. The burden of paying back to the World Bank loan is to be delivered through tariff increases for domestic users, many of whom are on a low income. Despite civil society concerns, the World Bank approved the loan on the Medupi plant in May 2010.

Message from Peruvian Civil society

Peruvian civil society has particular concern over International Finance Corporation investments which encourage extensive exploration into the Amazon region for oil and gas. This exploration is directly for export from Peru, despite there being a significant demand for energy access in that country. There is a call from Peruvian civil society for greater focus on renewable energy to diversify energy delivery in the country.

Message from Indian civil society

The Indian groups are concerned that recent investment in coal and national grid in India have done little to increase the access to electricity for poor people in rural areas; that is the majority of people in India. The inefficient grid in India is not an effective means of rural electrification. Therefore much more effort should go into delivering energy through decentralised renewable energy.

Message from Bolivian civil society

Bolivian concerns are over unsustainable bio-fuels and large scale hydro power as 'false solutions' to low-carbon energy delivery. There are substantial concerns over the social and environmental costs of both these options.

Washington

ECF consultant Benedict Southworth linked this project to the work of the Bank Information Centre (BIC) in Washington. BIC supported arrangements for Christian Aid plus the partners from India and Peru to attend the NGO meetings ahead of the World Bank annual meeting in October 2010.

Partners who attended the Washington meetings were:

Srinivas Krishnaswamy, India

Designation and Organization: CEO, Vasudha Foundation

Alberto Barandiaran, Peru

MOCICC and DAR

Alison Doig, UK

Christian Aid

A crucial event during this visit was a meeting between the NGOs and European Executive Directors at the World Bank. This allowed the project partners to present their case directly to key European decision makers at the Bank.

In addition the partners were able to engage and present their case at the following meetings:

- Meeting with the India delegation to the Bank annual meeting
- Meetings with Executive Directors from Latin America
- Private meeting with Professor Dan Kammen, newly appointed renewable energy advisor to the Bank.

Partners also had opportunities to make presentations and a number of civil society workshops.

European advocacy tour

This section gives details of meetings and events which the partners attended as part of the European advocacy tour.

The partners who attended the tour were:

Undarico Pinto, Bolivia

Confederación Sindical Única de Trabajadores Campesinos de Bolivia (the Bolivian union for peasant workers).

Srinivas Krishnaswamy, India

Designation and Organization: CEO, Vasudha Foundation

Alberto Barandiaran, Peru

MOCICC and DAR

Rev Siyabulela Gidi, South Africa

Director-South African Council of Churches - Western Cape

Two partners went to each European country, and all four attending the meetings in Brussels.

UK

India and Bolivian partners

20th to 22nd October

- Christian Aid supporters event; **20-10-2010**.

This event involved over 2000 Christian Aid supporters in a rally at Westminster followed by a mass lobby of Members of Parliament. The partners presented to a large climate change workshop of about 250 supporters and meet with supporters as they lobby their own MPs.

Meetings with politicians and civil servants:

- Meeting with two members of parliament.
Anas Sarwar MP, a member of the international Development Committee which is conducting an inquiry into the World Bank;
- Mark Lazarowicz MP, Labour shadow development minister.
- Meeting with the low-carbon energy team at the Department for International Development.

- NGO workshop (about 25 people): UK based NGOs heard and responded to the partner's presentations. There was some discussion of the most effective ways of lobbying the UK government on the World Bank energy strategy review and on low-carbon energy access in general.

The country position papers have also been presented to three UK Ministers by Christian Aid directors. They are: the Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development; Rt Hon. Chris Huhne, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate change; and Anal Duncan MP, Development Minister.

Sweden

South African and Peruvian partners

20-22 October

Meetings with two different groups of MPs

- Green party, Left party and Social democrats.
- Liberal party, Center party and Conservatives

Meeting with the Swedish governmental agency for development cooperation

- Energy policy expert (wrote the Swedish response to the WB approach paper of the energy strategy)
- Head of Sustainable Services Team

Meeting with civil servants at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Finance

- Senior servant at the Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation, Division for Multilateral Development Banks
- Servant at Division for Structural Policy at the ministry of finance
- Servant at the Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation at the ministry of foreign affairs (responsible for environment/climate)

Meeting with the Swedish Energy Agency

- Servant working at the climate unit (member of the Swedish delegation to the UNFCCC negotiations)

Public seminar

- Lunch seminar in central Stockholm. 55 attending, among other: journalists, NGO people, students, one MP, one representative of the South African embassy.

Media

- Debate article co-signed by Siyabulela Gidi, Church of Sweden and Diakonia on the Eskom loan and the energy strategy. The state secretary of the development minister responded with an article and we published a response to that.
- Rev Gidi was in a national radio program commenting on the Swedish support to the Eskom case. The Swedish WB ED Mrs Brandt was also in the program.
- Rev Gidi was quoted in an article on the WB fossil fuel lending in the biggest Christian daily
- Editorial about the Swedish support to Eskom in the biggest Christian daily
- The issue of the World Bank fossil fuel lending and the Eskom case was brought up and discussed at various blogs in Sweden

Germany

Peruvian and Bolivian partners

25-26 October

- Meeting with Mr. Steven Jouy, External Affairs, World Bank Office Berlin, Reichpietschufer 20
- Interview Undarico Pinto with Newspaper "Lateinamerika Nachrichten"
- Meeting with Mr. Holger Haibach, Member of Parliament, Conservative Party
- Mrs. Melanie Mohr, Scientific Assistant to Mr. Haibach
- Meetings with staff of Members of Parliament of "The Green Party"
- Participants: Mrs Carole Romero, Mrs. Sina Lippmann
- Meeting with Mrs. Anke Schlimm, Counsellor
- Division 301 World Bank Group, IMF, Debt Issues
- German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Public Event / Panel discussion: 'How to achieve a new global climate and energy policy?'

Civil society views for a poverty-related and sustainable energy policy of the World Bank and the European Investment Bank (EIB)

Presentations by Alberto Barandiaran, Undarico Pinto, Richard Brand and Regine Richter (NGO: urgewald). The event was organised by EED and urgewald.

Norway

South African and Indian Partners

23-26 October

Sirinivas Krishnaswamy took part in two seminars over the weekend, where he made a presentation for a group of supporters and also met with and discussed climate politics with MPs.

Both partners attended three separate meetings with:

- Head of the Division for Multilateral Development Banks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).
- Advisor to the chairman of the Energy and Environment Committee in the Parliament.
- Junior Minister / State Secretary Ingrid Fiskaa at the MFA

Brussels

Indian, South African, Peruvian and Bolivian partners

27-28 October

- Lunchtime event in European Parliament 'Investing in Energy for our common future'. MEP Satu Hassi (the Greens) and MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP) hosted this well attended event at which the partners presented. Responses were given by senior representatives from DG Development, DG Climate Change; the World Bank representative in Brussels; the European Investment Bank.
- Meeting with Sandor Sipos, Head of office at the World Bank, Brussels
- Dinner at the European Parliament hosted by Linda McAvan MEP, with participation from DG development; the World Bank and the European Investment Bank.
- Meeting with the Belgian Ministry of Finance. Organised by the Belgian NGO network 11-11-11.

Impact and follow-up activities

While it is difficult at this stage to say what impact the project has had on decision making at the World Bank, since the advocacy visits to Washington and Europe there have been a number of direct follow-up activities.

Impacts in the participating developing countries

In the four developing countries there have been direct outcomes from the project:

- Increased interest within civil society in the four developing countries to engage with the energy as a climate change and development issue at a national level
- Greater interest to influence World Bank investment on energy both nationally and globally
- The participating partners have told us that the project has significantly raised their capacity to advocate in their own countries and internationally on these issues.

Follow-up with the World Banks and other advocacy targets

Since the advocacy visits to Washington and Europe, there have been a number of follow-up discussions with some of the advocacy targets. For example:

- Professor Dan Kammen has been in touch with a number of the partner agencies to request further information to build his case for sustainable energy investment by the Bank – including further information on India coal, the Eskom loans and the Peruvian pipelines.
- DG Development has circulated the project material within the Commission and had follow-up discussions

- Linda McAvan MP has brought to our attention concerns over cuts in the EU Development budget on energy access.

UK Campaign

Christian Aid will run a public campaign in January 2011 to ask their supporters to write to the Secretary of State for International Development asking him to take a strong stance at the World Bank board to demand that the Bank stop investing in fossil fuels and increase spending on decentralised energy access projects.

Annex 1: Participating partner organisations

- Christian Aid (UK) www.christianaid.org.uk
- Norwegian Church Aid (Norway) www.kirkensnodhjelp.no
- Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED – Germany) www.eed.de
- Aprodev Secretariat (Brussels) www.aprodev.net
- Church of Sweden www.svenskakyrkan.se and Diakonia (Sweden) www.diakonia.se
- Vasudha Foundation (India)
- ANC/MOCICC www.mocicc.org and Centre for Agricultural Development (CEDAP – Peru)
- Fundación Solón (Bolivia) www.funsolon.org
- Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA – Africa) www.pacja.org
- Economic Justice Network (South Africa) www.ejn.org.za