



# Volunteering for climate action

## *VIOs for climate justice?*

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# Context of our work on climate change?

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1. IVCO survey, paper and presentation 2020
2. Updated climate change evidence
3. IVCO 2022 think piece
4. Upcoming COP27: 6-18 November 2022



# Climate Change and volunteering research

## What did we do?

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### Literature review

- Academic and VIO evaluations (including the 2007 and 2010 IVCO papers)

### Survey

- VIOs via Forum, IAVE, Volunteer Groups Alliance and CCIVS

### Case studies

- CCIVS, Action Aid, IFRC, France Volontaires

### Updated IVCO paper

- IVCO 2022 think piece and UNFCCC evidence and reports

# Who is responsible for greenhouse emissions?

“The poorest half of the global population are responsible for only around 10% of global emissions yet live overwhelmingly in the countries most vulnerable to climate change – while the richest 10% of people in the world are responsible for around 50% of global emissions.”

OXFAM 2015 (GORE, 2015 P1.)

# WE NEED to TALK [injustice]



- “Facing injustices requires tuning into the **intellectual** but also **affective** engagement in the room
  - uncertainty, defensiveness, discomfort
  - methods which encourage honesty and authenticity.”
- Are we able to consider the ways in which ‘development’, ‘international volunteering’, partnership, etc serve to normalise and reproduce unsustainability and inequality?

Bryan on Rothberg (2019)

# Urgent action is required

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## Key points from the report:

- Climate change will hit the world's most vulnerable populations hardest.
- More than 40% of the world's population are "highly vulnerable to climate change".
- The effects vary by region and are driven by factors such as geography and socio-economic status.
- Historical and ongoing patterns of inequity, such as colonialism, that contribute to climate change vulnerability.

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NEWS | 28 February 2022

## **Climate change is hitting the planet faster than scientists originally thought**

**Latest IPCC climate report warns that rising greenhouse-gas emissions could soon outstrip the ability of many communities to adapt.**

# Climate justice



The Torres Strait islands are already experiencing rising sea levels and coastal erosion. Credit: Brook Mitchell/Getty

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NEWS Q&A | 10 October 2022

## Climate justice: UN rules Australia violated islander rights

Legal scholar [Bridget Lewis](#) explains the significance of a landmark climate-change ruling.

Dyani Lewis: 10 October 2022

- The UNHRC found that the Australian government violated the rights of people living on four islands in the Torres Strait.
- Ruled that the government had failed to protect islanders from the effects of climate change, making their claim the first successful one of this kind...

# What do we know about volunteering and climate change?

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**Engaging in advocacy and raising awareness**

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**Working with communities on adaptation and building resilience**

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**Capacity building of partner organisations and volunteers**

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**Influencing key stakeholders' policies and systems**



# What choices for IVCOs and VIOs?

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*“Where can agencies have the most impact?”*

- *At one level agencies could try and impact on mitigation, i.e. reducing emissions.*
- *If agencies want to impact on the countries with the highest per capita emissions, then it would need to focus on **advocacy** in the global North.”*

(Mulligan 2010 p.8)

## CLIMATE CHANGE

A discussion paper for the 2010 IVCO conference



by Philip Mulligan

This paper was written by Philip Mulligan, a former VSO Country Director (Indonesia), and CEO of Environmental Protection UK. Philip is now Director of UNA in the UK.

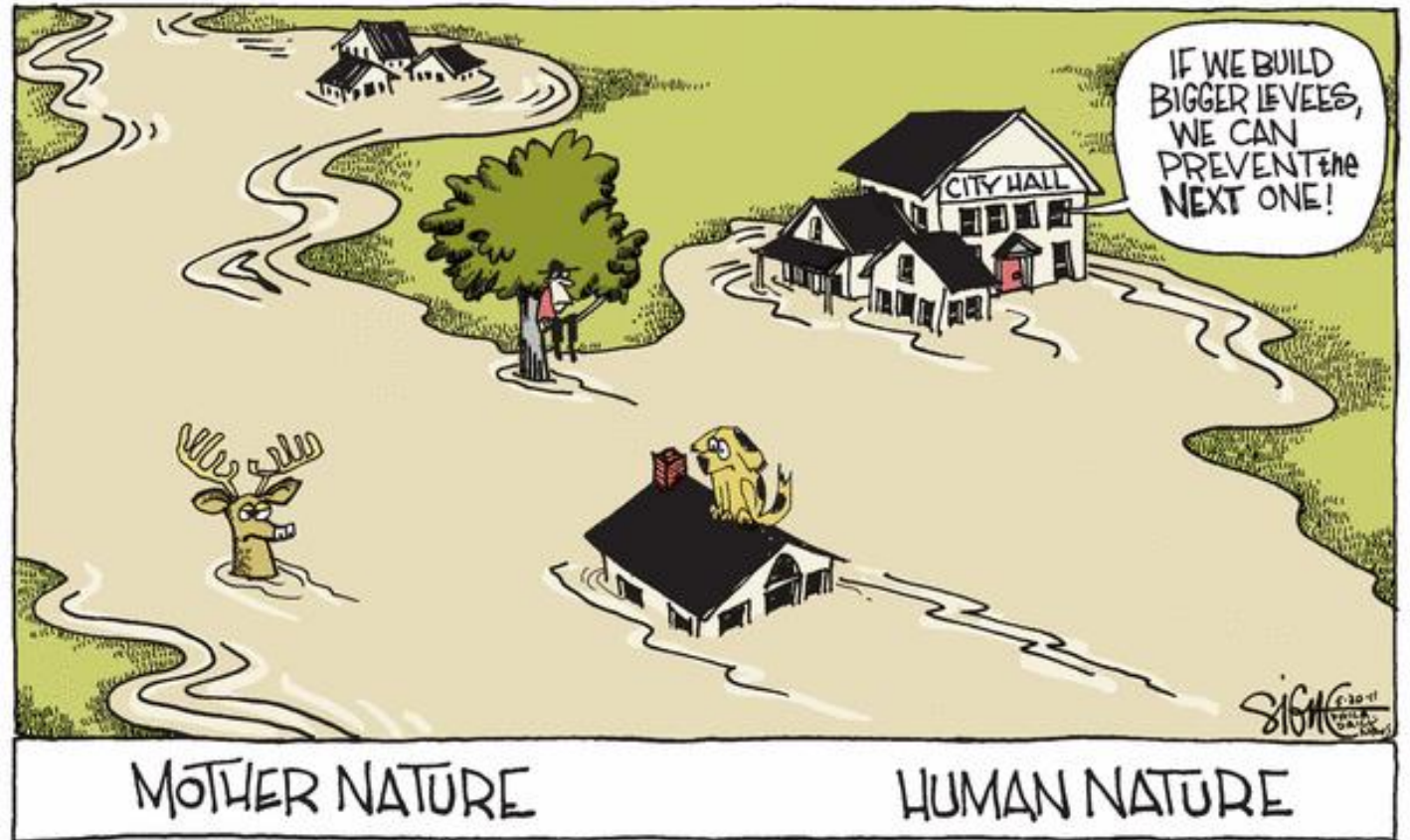
Brian Rockliffe and Christina Jenkins have edited the paper for FORUM.



International FORUM on Development Service  
FORUM International du Volontariat pour le Développement  
[www.forum-ids.org](http://www.forum-ids.org)

# What choices for IVCOs and VIOs?

- **Mitigation**
  - Reducing greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere
- **Adaptation**
  - Adapting to life in a changing climate



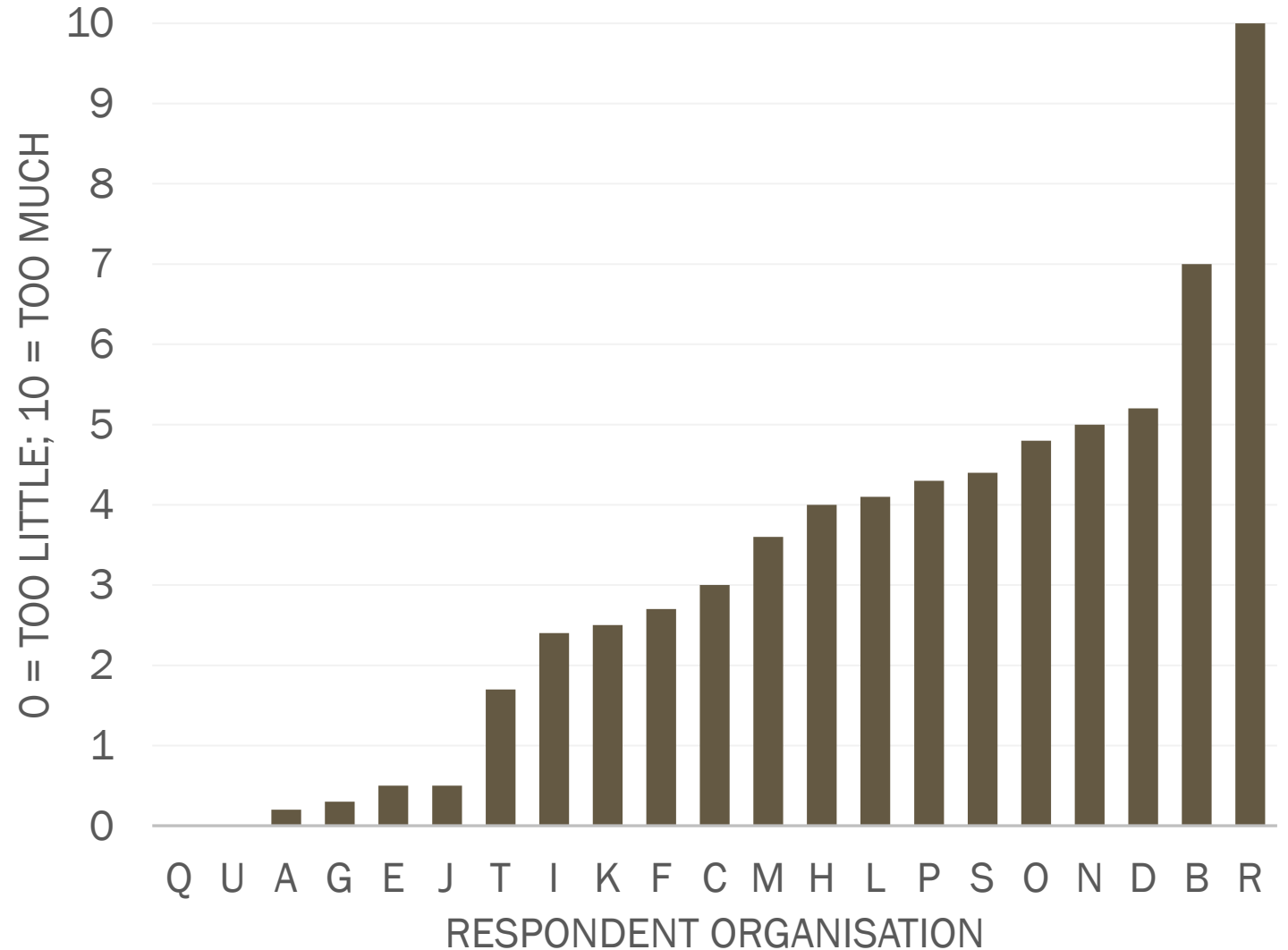


## Case study insights...

- **CCIVS**
  - IVS for Climate Justice
- **Action Aid**
  - ‘Advocate for system change and scale up local solutions’
- **CECI**
  - Gender and climate change
- **France Volontaires**
  - Involving youth and calling for international mobilisation
- **IFRC**
  - Integrated response

# Are VIOs doing enough about climate change?

Figure 5: Do you think VIOs are doing too much, too little or about right on climate change action?



# Future paths for IVCOs on climate change and climate justice

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*“There is an objection to be found in the **hypocrisy of a wealthy nation**, itself already highly industrialized and the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, sending out volunteers to help with climate adaptation strategies” (Joy 2020).*

# A call to climate action

1

Integrate climate action in North and South policy

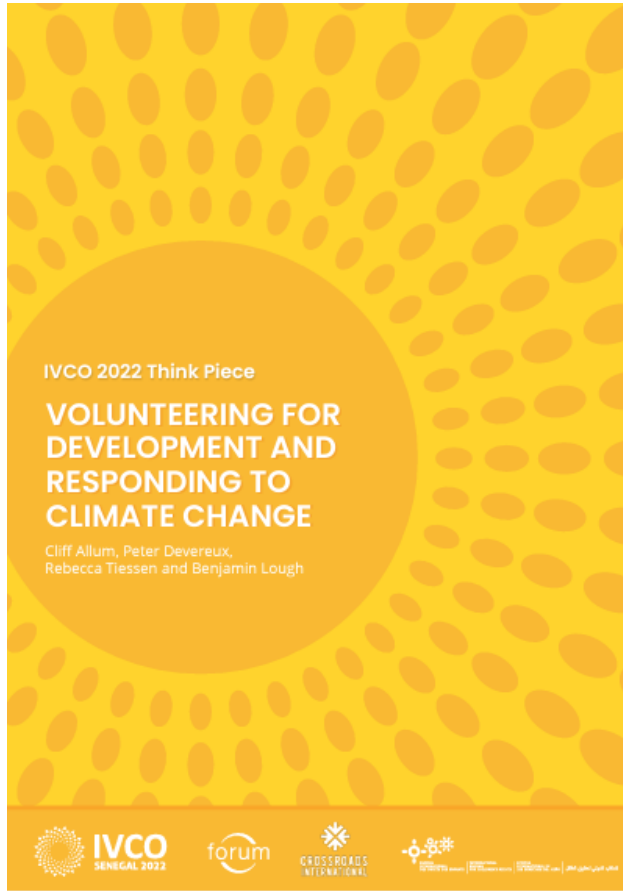
2

Engage with volunteers on strategies to mobilise action and share insights and connections

3

Engage funders for supporting climate action at home and abroad; building alliances and partnerships

# Volunteering for climate justice?

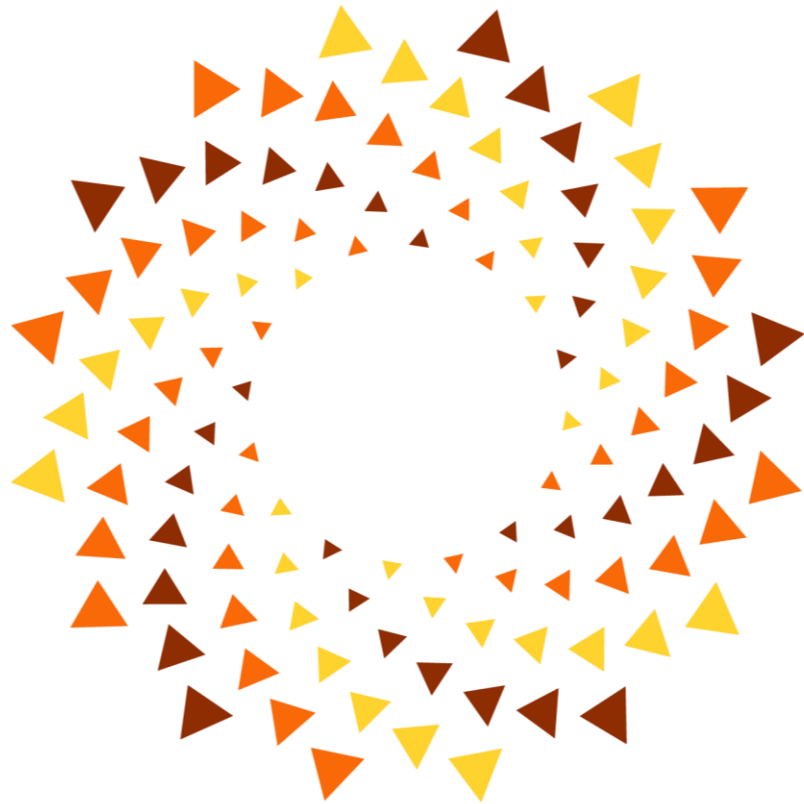


- A focus on an **advocacy** to influence those with power, especially in the Global North.
- Practising **global learning and solidarity** with volunteer groups in the global South for climate justice.
  - VIO's work with volunteers in the North and South.
  - Volunteers and VIOs can strengthen connections that give voice to Global South partners' experience and wisdom.
- Integral to the ongoing discussions about decolonising aid.

Questions?!







# IVCO

## SENEGAL 2022



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