VOLUNTEERING FOR
CLIMATE ACTION

PERSPECTIVES FROM A SURVEY OF VOLUNTEER INVOLVING ORGANISATIONS

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forum

On behalf of the authors, AVI and Forum are very proud to launch this important paper at IVCO 2020.

We thank all those who contributed to the research the survey. They are listed in Annex 1.

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Introduction

Climate change is arguably the most pressing threat to our planet and people. Recognizing the severity of this threat, volunteer involving organizations (VIOs) in partnership with other stakeholders are urged to "take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts".[1]

To better understand the current action, gaps, and opportunities for VIOs to tackle climate change, this study reports on the results of a survey of VIOs' activities and good practice models. A review of these survey results will enable VIOs to engage with current thinking about climate action in the volunteer sector, and to guide action to combat climate change.

In this way, the survey findings are a starting point to enable VIOs to look beyond their important work with those communities most vulnerable to the impact of climate change. This represents an opportunity for VIOs to think strategically about additional actions they can take to combat the causes and the consequences of climate change.

This survey would not have been possible without the support of three volunteer networks: the International Forum for Volunteering in Development (Forum); the International Association for Volunteering Effort (IAVE); and the Volunteer Groups Alliance (VGA). We thank them for their support and the members who participated, especially those who provided case studies.

It is hoped these findings will enable all global volunteer networks and alliances to take more informed action and leadership that promotes effective volunteering responses to climate change and the promotion of climate justice.

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1 UN Sustainable Development Goals #13: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/climate-change/

Methods
Data Collection

In mid-2020, researchers surveyed members of three global volunteer involving networks to understand their views and practices in respect to climate change: the International Forum for Volunteering in Development (Forum), the Volunteer Groups Alliance (VGA) and the International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE).

The distribution of the link to the electronic survey rested with the separate network organisations, who surveyed their own members. Some participating VIOs were members of more than one of the networks, and where possible cross-posting was avoided. Consequently, it is not possible to report on the precise number of organisations who were invited to participate. However, the sampling frame was estimated at just over 100 VIOs. In total, 27 VIOs responded to the survey. Of these, 5 responses contained too much missing data to be validly used for analysis. As a result, this analysis is based on the responses from 22 active VIOs – an estimated response rate of 20%.

AVI colleagues gather before joining one of Australia's nation-wide Global Climate Strikes on 20 September 2020, marching alongside approximately 100,000 protesters in Melbourne's CBD. Picture supplied by AVI

Survey Instrument

The survey sought respondents' views on past, current and future practices in respect of organisational and programmatic approaches to the challenges of climate change. Questions asked by the survey covered areas such as: how VIOs engage with the causes and/or effects of climate change; their main climate action activities; organisational policies to mainstream action on climate change; their measurement and evaluation of climate change activities; examples of good practice; and current and future changes in organisational foci on climate change. To obtain a broad understanding of organisational responses, these questions included a combination of closed and open-ended questions. This mixed format offered VIOs the opportunity to share programme activities, case studies of their work, and organisational policies and practices.

Survey Responses

The 22 organisations responding to the survey represented 19 countries. Of the organisations responding, 16 described themselves as not-for-profit organisations and 4 as governmental.[2] In terms of membership affiliation, 12 organisations identified as being members of FORUM, 12 as members of IAVE, and 5 as members of the VGA, which indicates significant cross-membership between those networks.[3] Two respondents stated they were not affiliated with any of these networks.[4] Some 15 organisations described themselves as facilitating volunteer co-operation while 7 described themselves as using volunteering.

Limitations

When reporting findings about the role of VIOs in climate action, it is important to note the diversity of respondents in terms of organisation type, size, role, and geography. The inclusion of a diverse set of organisations allows for a wider understanding of the scope of activities; however, it limits the overall generalisability of findings to specific types of organisations.

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2 One organisation identified as an educational institution and another as a volunteer involving organisation (VIO)

3 Almost certainly understated but manual corrections to the entries have been avoided.

4 It is understood these organisations were contacted through IAVE.

Survey Findings
Responding to Climate Change

"How does your organisation engage with the causes and/or effects of climate change in its main activities and ways of working?"

This question was put to respondents at an early stage of the survey as an open question. The answers to this and the mainstreaming question in the next section overlapped in the way different organisations approached the questions.

The responses show an emphasis on programmes and activities focused on adaptation, with over half of the respondents mentioning adaptive approaches. These responses varied from simple statements, such as "building capacity in organisations that respond to climate change"[5] to more comprehensive accounts of building resilience such as the example highlighted in the box below:

> The National Volunteer Council (CNV) is a non-profit network of civil society organisations that carry out and promote volunteering in Mozambique.
>
> "CNV addresses climate change issues on its agenda, as some of its member organisations work on this component. On the other hand, the resurgence of natural disasters in recent years, with particular emphasis on tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth that have recently ravaged Mozambique, in addition to cyclical droughts among other calamities, has highlighted how harmful the impact of climate change is in all development segments.
>
> Therefore, CNV has increasingly assumed resilience to climate change as a critical and crosscutting factor to all areas of intervention. In the context of this vision, through partners such as Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) and Red Cross Mozambique, CNV has involved its member organisations in training on the inclusion of the environment and climate change component in their priorities, highlighting 2 approaches: Natural disaster risk management and Preparedness for resilience (P4R).
>
> It is CNV's objective to maintain a team of highly capable volunteers to lead climate resilience actions in their communities.

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5 AVI, Australia

Three organisations mentioned awareness raising without explicitly mentioning other programme activities such as mitigation activities. One organisation described their activities as "community action against climate change." Up to four organisations responded with what could be understood as both adaptive and mitigating approaches to climate change. Some organisations also mentioned internal organisational practices to promote environmental sustainability. A good example was provided by YSS Malaysia:

"…as a beginning our organisation started applying the zero waste programme concept by minimising the usage of plastics and papers. We started to apply the upcycling concept by reusing our old programme banners to [produce] gift bags, we encouraged participants to bring their own water bottles and bring their own notebooks."[6]

Mainstreaming Climate Action

10 of the 22 organisations replied that they had a policy to mainstream climate change at home and abroad. Some interpreted this at the level of intention (i.e. that they did not have a current policy but would intend to have one). Others stated that they mainstreamed programme approaches, though they did not have a mainstreaming policy as such. For example: "Climate considerations are a cross-cutting issue in most projects funded by Norec."[7]

Governmental organisation responses tended to frame their approaches within the policy adopted by their respective governments. As the example from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) illustrates:

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6 Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa (YSS) / Student Volunteers Foundation, Malaysia

7 NOREC, Norway

"We haven't made our volunteer programs' own policy to mainstream action on climate change. Instead, we show briefly JICA's policy to mainstream action on climate change as below. JICA further assists developing countries in climate actions in accordance with the Priority Issues as described below to ensure human security and realize our vision of "Leading the world with trust" considering the new international framework and global goals to address climate change as well as Japan's related initiatives and commitments. (1) Promoting low-carbon, climate-resilient urban development and infrastructure investment (2) Enhancing comprehensive climate risk management (3) Supporting climate policy and institutional development (4) Enhancing conservation and management of forests and other ecosystems"[8]

In some cases, climate change was understood as environmental programming. One example below is a response to the mainstreaming question:

"Our strategic plan has the environment as a focus for sustainable development. We popularize our methodologies and actions (conservation of farmers' seeds, ecological toilets, waste management, land conservation, agroforestry, medicinal plants ....) in rural communities and international meetings: Initiative l'Initiative Climat Afrique francophone (ICAF), The Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)."[9]

Some organisations connected climate change and sustainable waste disposal indicating an overlap of understanding engagement with climate change as synonymous with programmatic approaches to the environment. A programme example of tackling e-waste was provided by Norec. There is an association between addressing the causes of climate change and eliminating waste because the greenhouse gases from food waste are a recognised greenhouse gas contributor (Intergovernmental Panel on Cimate Change 2019). However, climate change and environmental issues are not the same, a confusion evident in some of the survey responses.

Respondents also provided examples where organisational responses explore changes in internal organisational practices as well as their external programmes.

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8 JICA, Japan.

9 Association JSA Togo

The Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) is a Canadian based IVCO, who is in the process of strengthening their focus on climate action. There is an explicit focus on gender and climate change, connection with advocacy networks in Canada and organisational commitment to carbon neutrality. These were demonstrated by the active involvement of staff and returned volunteers in the 2019 Student strike for Climate.

"CECI has a thematic orientation on climate action and women empowerment for 5 years now and planning to increase programming in that field. CECI is implementing many projects in countries on climate adaptation and women's role.

CECI's strategic plan 2020-2025 includes a strategic orientation on climate action and gender lens. CECI adopted its first Sustainable development Policy in 2015 and is in the process of updating it to be more climate action and gender oriented. A framework for programming on Climate resilience and women's inclusion is being finalised. The new CECI VCP 2020-2027 includes climate resilience in its programming with volunteers and country partners.

CECI is a member of advocacy networks on climate action in Canada. Climate for development - C4D and CanRac. We have 4 senior staff specialised on environment and climate change at head office and 4 overseas.

CECI's Target to be carbon neutral by 2025."[10]

Overall, the picture emerges of a small number of IVCOs, who define themselves in the not-for-profit sector, as engaging with an holistic approach to climate change, that links organisational practice in terms of their internal ways of working, mainstreams climate change across their programmes and engages in levels of advocacy and campaigning on the causes of climate change. Governmental agencies have the advantages but also potential limitations of working within Governmental (or departmental) policies whose survey responses tend to emphasise climate change as a programmatic issue.

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10 CECI Canada. FV (France) and ACTIONAid (Greece) also answered in both organisational and programmatic ways. A couple of organisations only discussed organisational practices.

Going deeper on future changes to combat climate change

The survey followed up by asking about eleven specific areas related to organisational practice and climate change. The opportunity to write in additional areas of intervention was also available. The results are shown in Figure 1 below.

In all but one of the eleven areas, most of the respondents stated their organisation was already engaging with issues around climate change. The one exception concerned the absence of offsetting the environmental impact of volunteer travel.[11]

The three highest scoring areas were (1) raising awareness of climate change; (2) building the capacity of partner organisations and/or communities to tackle the effects of climate change; and (3) developing community resilience. Although it is plausible that raising awareness could be a mitigation strategy (particularly if done in countries producing high greenhouse gas volumes), as the examples from the open-ended questions suggest, raising awareness crosses over into adaptation strategies as well.

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[11] While it might be thought this reflected the difference between domestic and international volunteering models, it would appear this is not necessarily material. A minority of the international volunteer organisations gave positive responses to this question.

The three lowest-scoring areas where respondents had indicated a positive response overall were (9) tackling the global causes of climate change; (10) climate action through a gender lens; and (11) the impact of climate change on the poor or other vulnerable communities. Comparatively low prioritization of the first two areas seems consistent with the responses to earlier questions where the relationship with perspectives on gender and tackling the causes of climate change feature in only a minority of responses. However, the issue of impact on the poor and vulnerable as a low scorer seems less predictable.[12]

Figure 1: Does your organisation focus its activities on any of the following areas at home or abroad relate to climate change?

Number of Organisations Responding 'Yes'
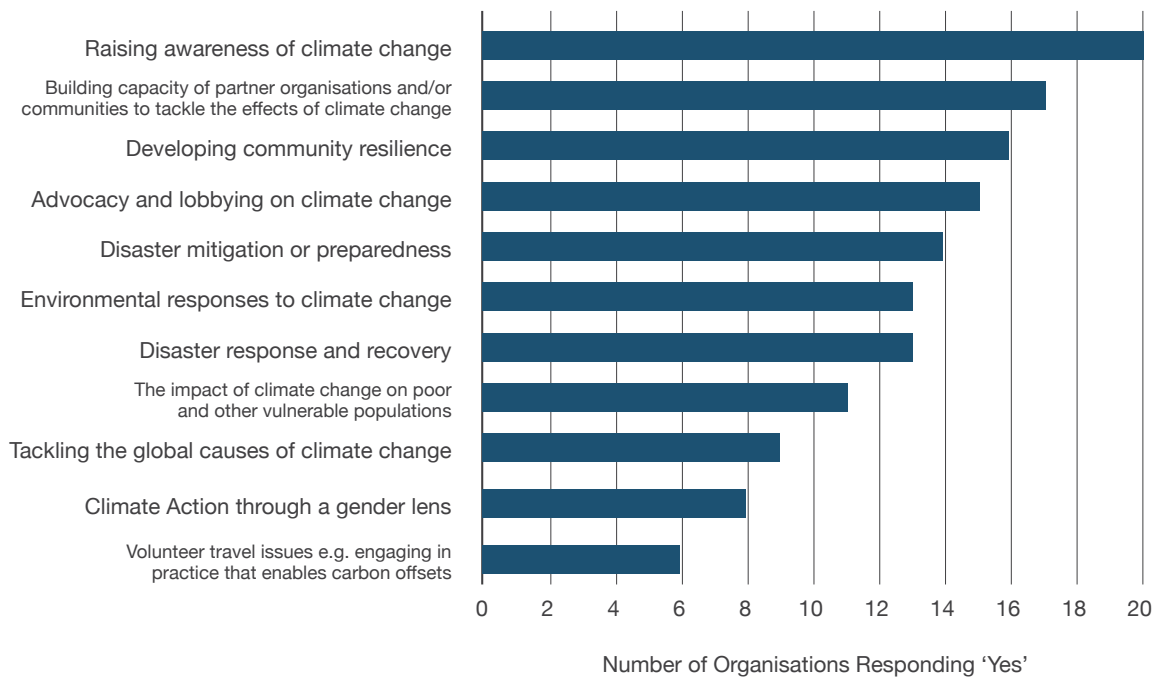
In summary, these findings give a picture of a predominant focus on adaptive programme approaches to climate change. The focus on community resilience, awareness of the consequences of climate change and preparing communities to offset the potential impact of climatic disasters and address their aftermath come across most strongly. At the same time, despite the lower score on tacking the causes of climate change, fifteen respondents said they engaged in advocacy or lobbying on climate change.

Turning attention to whether organisations expect changes to happen in how they address climate change, all respondents were asked against the same areas set out in Figure 1 whether they expected their organisation to **change** its focus on climate change

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[12] This may reflect the generality of the area compared with others in the survey, but the level of "no" responses is higher than any other area which had an overall positive response. The level of "don't knows" is highest on whether the organisation was" tackling the global causes of climate change".

activities or related areas. An average score was calculated from the individual responses from each organisation. This average shows that overall, the respondents expect an increased focus in all areas of climate action.

As Figure 2 shows, there is some similarity in the level of response, ranging from an average score of 6.8 for three areas (tackling the global causes of climate change; climate action through a gender lens; and volunteer travel issues) to 8.4 for developing community resilience and 8.3 for building the capacity of partner organisations and/or communities.

In effect, the outcomes with the highest likelihood of change reflected areas that were also the highest rated by respondents as their current organisational focus; while those areas where there were the least likelihood of change mirrored the areas of least focus in organisations currently. In other words, the expectation is that organisations would do more across all areas of climate change; however, the **emphasis would be on expanding their current focus.**[13]

Figure 2: Do you expect your organisation to change its focus on climate change activities?


1 = less focus   10 = more focus

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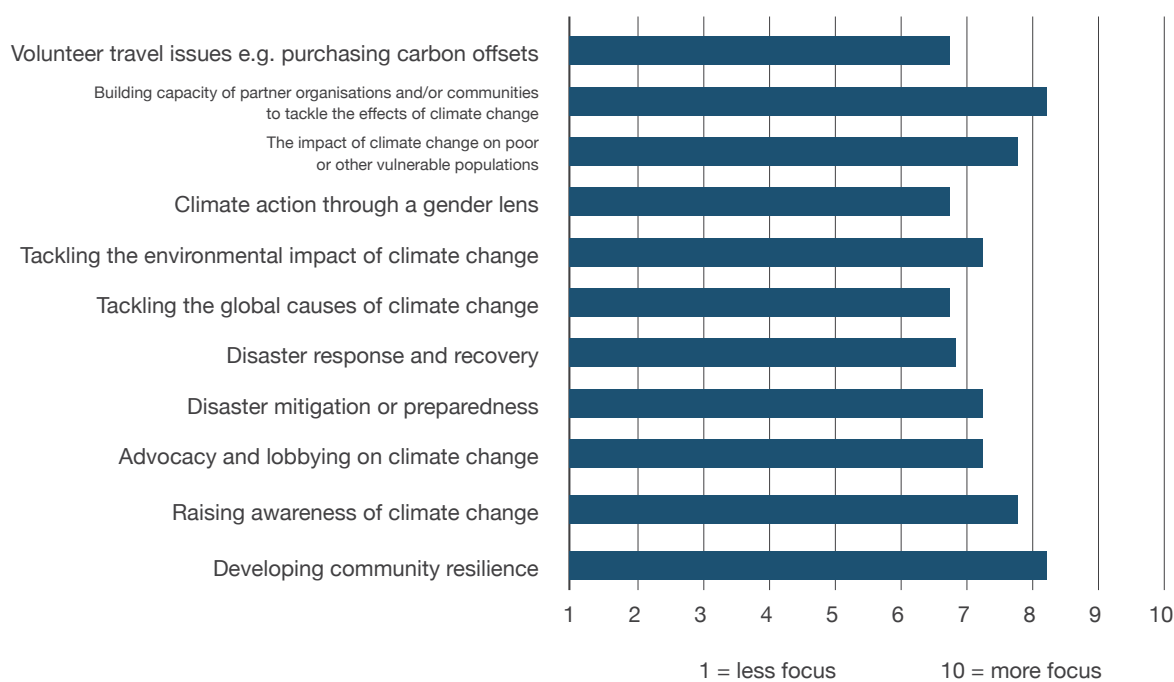
13 Raising awareness, which scored at the top of the current focus, ranked third in the expected future focus with an average score of 7.9. See Figure 2.

Changes in Organisational Practice

Respondents were also asked to consider whether organisational practices had changed. Response options included a binary yes/no answer against seven different dimensions. The findings are displayed in Figure 3 as a summary of all responses against each dimension.

Two areas of past practice had been identified as ones where change had already taken place. These were policies on purchasing, which included recycling practice, and reduced movement of staff to include practices such as working from home and virtual meetings. The latter, has become more significant in the COVID-19 era in any case.

Figure 3: Has your organisation's work changed in any of the areas below as a result of concerns on climate change
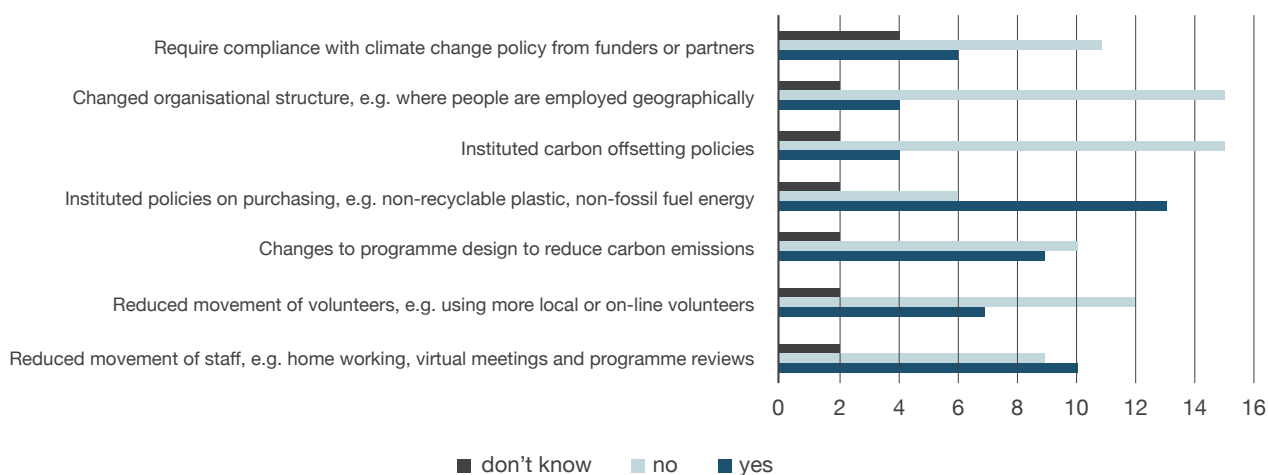
Among the dimensions where respondents identified no change, the most frequently cited areas were (1) no changes to organisational structure, including staff location, and (2) the institution of carbon offsetting policies. But is interesting to note that reduced movement of volunteers and compliance with climate change policies of others were also not seen as a focus of past organisational change. The respondents were also asked about future changes in organisational practice against the same seven dimensions on a scale of 1 to 10. The average scores of their expected future practices are shown in Figure 4.

In every case, respondents perceived that change was more, rather than less, likely. However, the range of scores from 5.68 to 7.35 is lower than the range for their answers about organisational changes to their focus on climate change. This suggests that there might be a greater expectation that programme activities will more influenced than organisational systems and practices.

Figure 4: How much do you anticipate your organisation will change within the next five years as a result of concerns on climate change?

1 = unlikely   10 = likely
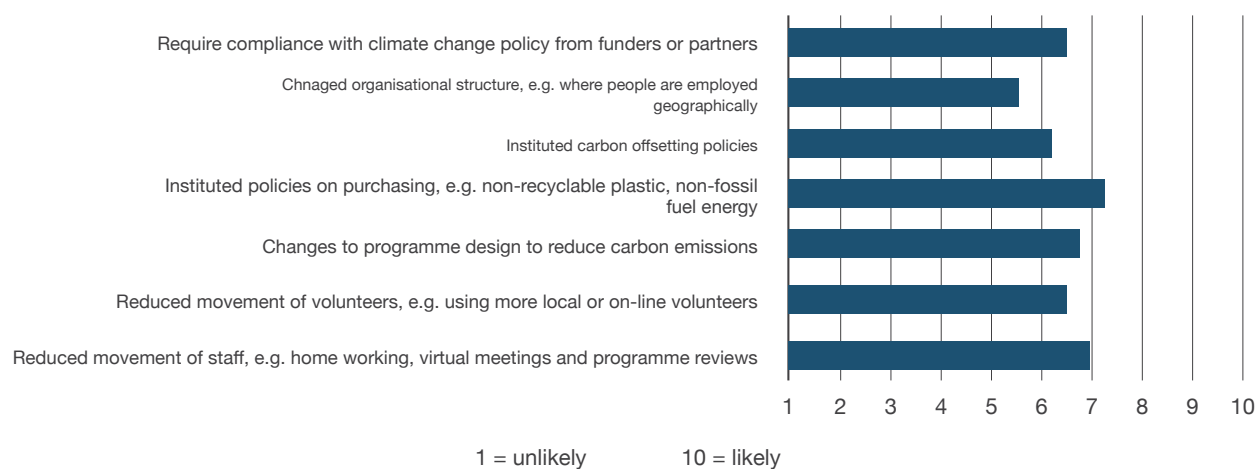
Yet there are also similarities when comparing current organisational practices with future expectations. The areas where change had been previously identified were also the areas where further change was expected (i.e. purchasing policies and reduced movement of staff). While the areas that had been identified as having changed the least were also the areas expected to change least in the future (i.e. organisational structure and location of staff and offsetting carbon emissions).

The pattern of earlier findings is repeated: **areas that respondents thought had changed most in the past were also expected to be areas more likely to change in the future; and the dimensions that had changed least in the past were also less likely to change in the future.**

Views of the Sector as a Whole

Respondents were also asked their views on what volunteers could do in respect of climate change, and also what VIOs might do. In relation to what volunteers could do, this ranged from specific inputs, such as tree planting, to different programmatic models, including awareness raising, to areas of advocacy. Broader vision for the role of volunteers is described below:

> There could be a bigger number of volunteers all over the world involved in identifying good practices, having these practices circulating all around the world, creating synergies between stakeholders and advocating
>
> If more (of our) supported projects focused directly on climate change more volunteers would also be involved in climate action.

In contrast, some organisations understood this response as primarily an issue of strengthening their program activities in the locations where volunteers are currently operating, e.g. "developing community resilience, raising awareness of climate change, disaster mitigation and preparedness," and "more support for land travel, support climate change awareness in projects/volunteering/programme design, more online and national volunteering."

Others took a wider view of organisational practice even if still programme focused where volunteers were assigned. One respondent mentioned mainstreaming in their reply stating: "Mainstream climate change assessment of all partner organisations and support mitigation, adaptation and resilience measures arising."

Some respondents – national as well as international, small as well as large, referred to issues such as documenting data about climate change, and adopting a lobbying, influencing and advocacy-based approach. One view in this area was described through an advocacy lens as:

> Advocacy in their Head office country and in programming countries by engaging with environment and climate change national organizations and networks. Supporting advocacy on CC by partners. Engage in influencing climate financing.

Respondents were also asked for their views as to whether VIOs were doing too little, too much or about right on climate change action. They were asked to give a numerical value on a sliding scale from 0-100, where 0 was too little and 100 was too much. The outcome shows the variations in the views of respondents, as shown in Figure 5.[14]

The average score was 31.5 (located in the bottom third of the scale). This average indicates that respondents thought VIOs were doing too little on climate change on average. 6 respondents gave scores in the lower decile (less than 10), which suggests

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14 Note the survey ran from 0-100, but presentation in Figure 5 have been reduced by a factor of 10.

serious concern about VIOs and climate change.[15] Only 3 of the responding organisations (14%) thought VIOs were doing too much.[16] At the same time 7 of the respondents gave mid-range scores between 40 and 52, which indicates that they believe VIOs are responding 'about right' in their actions to combat climate change.

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

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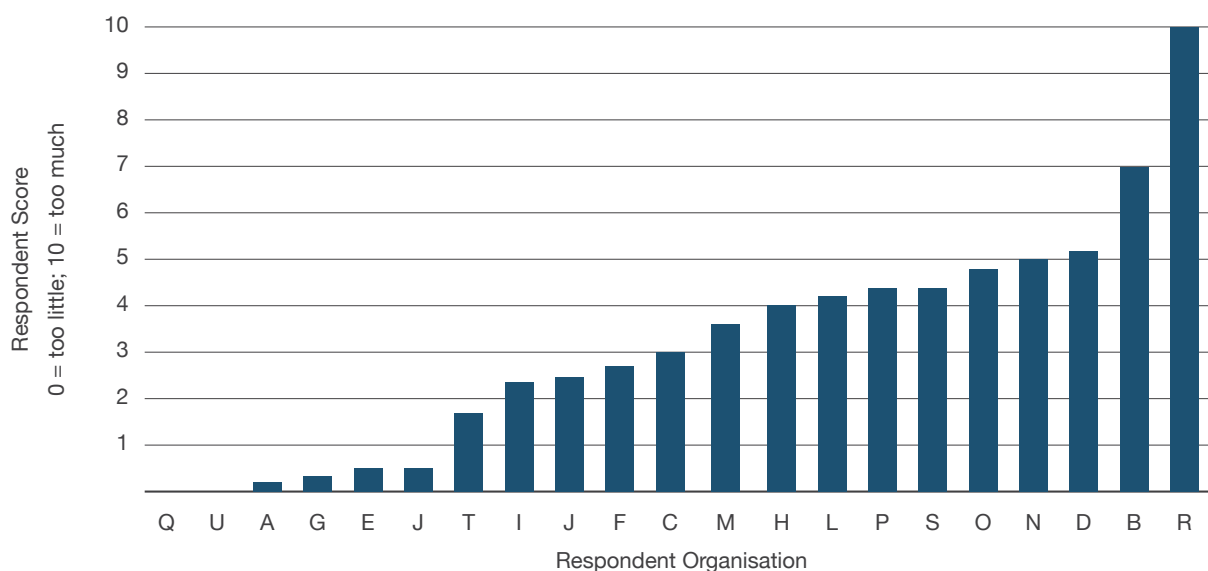
15 4 of the 6 respondents represented International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations

16 The additional comments from one of the two high scorers suggest some inconsistency between the comments and the score, since they answered the question based on their response being "too little."

Looking at the geopolitical location of respondents, there are some interesting differences in the responses. The average score for organisations in the Global North – essentially international IVCOs – was 17, whereas the average score for organisations in the Global South was 40, more than twice the score. The scores of the IVCOs based in the Global North were between 0-40, whereas those in the Global South ranged from 0-100. This leaves some intriguing questions: why were both of the organisations who thought VIOs were doing too much on climate change based in the Global South? And why were all seven of the organisations that scored more than 40 based in the Global South?

Respondents who rated "too little" were invited to add comments about the barriers faced by VIOs. This brought up several repeated features such as low resources, lack of expertise, and the traditional ways of working of VIOs. However, the comments from respondents were quite varied and reflected concerns about what might be possible for VIOs to do. A selection of open-ended comments are shown below. These highlight some important issues including a concern about immediate needs over what is seen as a long-term problem and the lack of VIO funding opportunities in the climate action area.

September 2019 March for the Planet! On September 27, more than 7 million people around the world marched in the global climate strike. In Montreal, over 500,000 people took to the streets to march with young Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and demand that significant, effective measures be taken in response to the climate crisis, at both individual and societal levels, and with support from the various levels of government. CECI's staff, members, volunteers and pledging members joined this historic event, both in Canada and in Africa

"The focus has been so much immediate and seen needs like, education, diseases, nutrition, conflicts/peace efforts and other related like capacity building, policy formulations. Climate Change is seemingly holding the thought of a 'huge' task to be addressed at a later date - what is important now is food on the table and good health."

"Basic policies and processes to start us off would be helpful in getting more to do more."

"There are still barriers to effectively participating in VIOs in the appropriate forums for the formulation of climate policy and guiding instruments. This is due, on the one hand, to a lack of political will, on the other hand, because there is no genuine recognition of the impact of volunteering in the climate area, both by the Government and by organisations working specifically in the climate area; The criteria for access to resources/funding are somewhat prohibitive for VIOs."

"It is only a matter of vision. And in some ways accessing climate action funding at a significant level."

Conclusions

Responses to this survey represented a wide range of organisations across diverse global geographies. Given the limited scale of the survey, it is not possible to claim high representation or generalization of the thousands of VIO operating in different countries and contexts; however, these responses provide an indication of the direction of VIO perspectives on climate change.

The overall picture that emerges is one where VIOs are focused on adaptation, i.e. reactively responding to the impact of climate change, rather than on proactively challenging or tackling its causes. The collective emphasis is also on incremental programmatic changes rather than on fundamental and broad sweeping structural organisational or systemic changes. As a result, we expect future actions taken by VIOs will most likely continue to strengthen what they currently do to address climate change, rather than pursuing innovative and forward-looking ways of meeting gaps in their current services and activities.

While recognising that nearly half of the respondents to this survey indicate a serious concern that VIOs are doing too little to address climate change, there is also a significant, if smaller, number who consider that VIOs are getting it about right on climate change, many of whom were based in the Global South. This spectrum of views needs to be better understood. In some cases, it reflects a sense of the limitations felt by VIOs to engage in wicked and complex issues like climate change. However, there does seem to be a connection between those organisations who see climate justice as a matter of serious development concern alongside a willingness to do things differently. This implies organisations that think VIOs are getting it 'about right' are likely to focus on doing more of the same in the future-most likely more or similar climate action not more climate justice.

The conditions for sharing and learning between organisations are evident. It is argued in the accompanying paper to this survey that more of the same is insufficient to address the causes of climate change and the related development challenge of climate justice.[17] There is scope to address learning between organisations that are changing their programmatic and organisational approaches and practice; and there is also scope for that learning to be shared more widely across VIOs as a whole. The role of volunteer networks is significant in that regard and have an important role to play in these areas.

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17 See Allum, Devereux, Lough and Tiessen "Volunteering for Climate Action" 2020

In consequence, some simple recommendations can be put forward:

- That participating networks share the outcome of the survey with their members, supported by webinars where appropriate to open up wider discussions of VIOs and climate justice

- That consideration is given to establishing mechanisms for shared learning amongst VIOs about programmatic and organisational change related to climate change, climate action and climate justice

vanuatu climate strike photo 2019 avi

Annex 1: List of Participating Organisations

ActionAid Hellas, Greece

Agence Nigérienne de Volontariat pour le Développement (ANVD), Niger

Agency for Volunteer Service, Hong Kong

Association, JSO, Togo

AVI, Australia

CECI, Canada

Conselho Nacional do Voluntariado – CNV, Mozambique

Cuso International, Canada

France Volontaires, France

Halley Movement Coalition, Mauritius

Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers, JICA

Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation, Norway

Philippine Coalition on Volunteering, Philippines

Philippine NVSCA, Philippines

Rwanda Volunteer Network, Rwanda

Singapore International Foundation, Singapore

University of Central Punjab, Pakistan

VIONet Sierra Leone

VIO Society, Kenya

Volunteering Taiwan

Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa (YSS) / Student Volunteers Foundation, Malaysia

Annex 1 Case Study: Norec: Programming to address improved environmental practice while raising public awareness

Norec's approach is to facilitate a partnership-based model within which volunteer participants operate. Partnerships between organisations in the Global South have become increasing important in the balance of Norec's programme. One example of using volunteering to tackle an environmental issue concerns innovative E-Waste Management in Kenya and Madagascar.

This partnership brings together the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Centre (WEEE-Centre), a Kenya-based social enterprise that offers the services of awareness creation (training) and safe disposal of electrical and electronic waste (e-Waste), with Vohitra Sarl, a company based in Madagascar which offers solutions to the treatment of waste adapted to the local economy while preserving the environment.

The focus of this partnership was to enhance knowledge base and joint activity on handling e-waste; scaling up their business activities; develop joint campaigning about the health and environmental risks of electronic waste; and work together to influence governmental regulatory frameworks. In that sense this case study operates at a number of different levels in addressing both the causes and consequences of activity that impacts on the environment.

"Within the framework of staff exchange, both companies will learn from each other through discussing ideas and joint research of handling e-waste for a green, safe and healthy environment. This is particularly relevant for the creation of new ways of collecting, recycling and safe disposal of e-waste. The companies will cooperate in creating innovative practices for waste management related to urban mining, which potentially provides both companies with the opportunity to scale up their businesses.

WEEE-Centre and Vohitra Sarl will also campaign together to inform the public about the environmental and health risks posed by electronic waste. It is hoped that these campaigns will stimulate greater awareness among the public for the need to safely manage electronic waste; at the same time, it will potentially create more demand for the services of both companies. Finally, WEEE-Centre and Vohitra Sarl will work together on policy input for the adoption of relevant regulations by the national governments in their respective countries."

The volunteer model is of interest in providing continuity. The project involves the exchange of pairs of participants from each organisation in each 'round'. On return they share their experience and progress within their own organisations which informs the next pair of participants to be exchanged. There are three rounds in total and the project

continues through COVID-19, with the participants remaining on assignment. In this way the knowledge and learning is shared both within and across the partner organisations.

The outcomes of this ongoing partnership have been to develop the expertise and capacity of both organisations but the area of enhanced public awareness is specifically identified:

"The most significant change for Vohitra in Madagascar is the increasing role of awareness on the importance of waste treatment, in the organization's work. Vohitra is now investing time to create awareness on the social media via its Facebook page and mass media through radio show to get higher public awareness on e-waste management…..

"Through increased public awareness campaigns by the participants, WEEE Centre became host to various media houses willing to air the e-waste management story for the public. As a result, the organization experienced increased activities and request for partnerships in e-waste disposals."

How this works at grass roots level – an example from the partnership below describes the role and impact of the participants from WEEE-centre in relation to the work of Vohitra.

The partnership of Vohitra with Fanavotana has Vohitra processing waste from Fanavotana at no cost while Fanavotana hires women from needy community to do the collection of waste thus the women earn income from this activity. Through the partnership with Fanavotana the participants contributed in improving the social economic well-being of the women from disadvantaged community served through the partnership. This set of participants took awareness creation a notch higher through taking it to the radio with the help of the host organization thus reaching out to masses.
— **Source: Norec internal programme report**

This case study shows how innovative programming approaches can engage in environmental issues at the levels of community, organization, and public awareness. Because the prime actors are the organizational partners, the volunteer participants can not only operate in person on assignment but also remotely, providing continuity over the lifetime of the partnership, and within the context of a potentially multi-faceted model.

For more information on Norec's approach https://www.norec.no/en/home/

Annex 2 Case Study: ActionAid brings together mitigation and adaptation within a framework of climate justice

"We focus on climate justice and equity, recognising the responsibility of wealthy countries to lead rapid climate action, and supporting developing countries to cope with climate impacts and transition to greener pathways. Working with vulnerable people and communities around the world, we help them to make their livelihoods, food, homes and safety more resilient to climate change."

Source: ActionAid website 6 June 2020

The ActionAid six-point plan:

"Support communities' ability to adapt to climate change by strengthening national plans and processes

Protect and financially support people facing climate induced losses, and people who are forced to migrate due to climate change

Pressure wealthy countries to support initiatives like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to enable climate action and adaptation in poorer countries

Advocate for system change and scale up successful local solutions

Challenge false solutions such as "Climate Smart Agriculture", and promote real solutions such as agroecology

Ensure that land-based solutions respect human rights and food security"[18]

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18 ActionAid website 6 June 2020

The linkage is developed in respect of specific events, such as how drought, cyclones and flooding have impacted in southern Africa and are linked to the failure of the Madrid Climate Change conference (COP 25).[19] COVID 19 is also linked to climate change in its impact on climate refugees

"COVID-19 has exposed how poorly migrant workers are treated, as overnight in Bangladesh factories were shutdown leaving garment workers with no way to earn a living. In India, tens of thousands of workers with no job security left cities to walk hundreds of kilometres back to their villages.

"This pandemic must act as a wake-up call to governments about the need for social protection measures to ensure that climate migrants get basic services like food, education, shelter and security. It is also an opportunity to ensure that supporting farmers and communities to become more resilient to climate change is built into long term response plans." [20]

There is a recognition of climate change as a feminist issue and this is not simply located as something that has a disproportionate impact on women but connected to the position women hold in different societies. This embraces the issues of power, access, roles and gender-based violence alongside the differential poverty impact on women.[21]

How this translates into the activities of ActionAid on a day to day basis is evidenced in the response from ActionAid Hellas to the accompanying survey to the report.

"ActionAid Hellas through various educational programs has been sensitizing and mobilizing students and youth as well as the educational community in general on climate change. Through our programs we try to develop awareness and critical understanding of climate change as one of the biggest challenges in the globalized world, its root causes and its impact. Moreover, with the belief that young people have tremendous potential to be both present and future drivers of sustainable development, since 2017 we have been implementing in partnership with schools mobilization and sensitization activities on SDGs and in particular around Sustainable Cities , Goal 11 and Climate change, Goal 13.

In particular ActionAid Hellas together with 18 European partners have been implementing the project Walk the Global Walk which aims to serve as an initial introduction to students on global awareness and active citizenship based on SDG and

19 Chikondi Chabvuta, ActionAid's regional humanitarian adviser for Southern Africa. Source: ActionAid website 5 June 2020

20 Harjeet Singh ActionAid's global lead on climate change quoted in "Covid-19 crisis shows South Asia id unprepared to protect climate migrants' 6 May 2020. Source: ActionAid website. Also see Climate migrants pushed to the brink published by ActionAid.
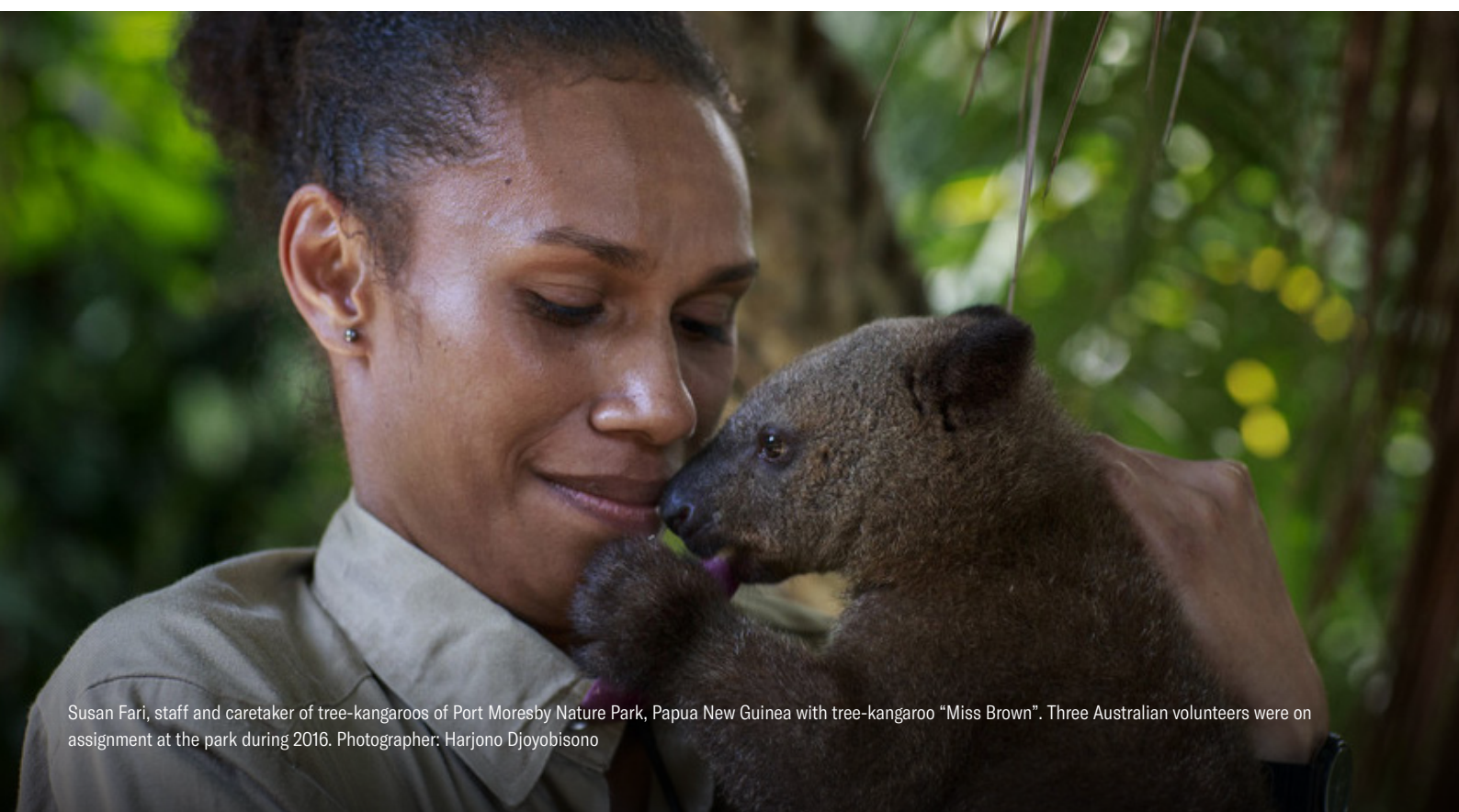
21 'Climate Change is a feminist Issue' ActionAid website 26 December 2019 see https://www.actionaid.org.uk/blog/news/2019/12/26/climate-change-is-a-feminist-issue

take action locally to impact communities both locally and around the globe. In 2019 we engaged more than 500 schools and 20.000 students where they united their voices and recommendations for a more sustainable world and raised the issue of Climate change."

This approach opens up the possibility for VIOs to consider a holistic approach to volunteer programming in respect of climate change, rather than compartmentalising interventions as essentially adaptation interventions in partner countries.

For further information

https://www.actionaid.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/emergencies-disasters-humanitarian-response/climate-change

Susan Fari, staff and caretaker of tree-kangaroos of Port Moresby Nature Park, Papua New Guinea with tree-kangaroo "Miss Brown". Three Australian volunteers were on assignment at the park during 2016. Photographer: Harjono Djoyobisono

Annex 3 Case Study: France Volontaires – developing awareness, building resilience and policy coherence

France Volontaires (FV) is a volunteer platform based in France that supports volunteering activity across the world. Their response to the survey indicates how they are developing synergies in their programming models, emphasising building community awareness and resilience in respect of the challenges posed by climate change, locating the role of FV in a wider call for international mobilization.

"Facing climate change, which affects human activities and lives, biodiversity and natural resources, the adaptation of our territory and the planet has become a major issue that calls for national and international mobilization.

FV facilitates the combination of climate policies with youth policies in order to amplify the impact of the actions undertaken. The local, national and international volunteers mobilized, alongside FV and its partners, are facilitators of dialogue. They contribute to amplifying and disseminating innovations and local solutions in various fields for the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems.

Since 2016, FV has been designing and implementing a policy on corporate social responsibility, including a strong environmental dimension. FV has a programme mainstreaming action on climate change. Within this programme, FV designs multi-stakeholder projects all around the world and increases volunteering opportunities at national and international level.

Led by France Volontaires, two initiatives that are part of the European Aid Volunteers Initiative (DG ECHO) strategy to strengthen local CSO capacity to mobilize and host local and international volunteers are shown below

The first aims to strengthen the resilience of communities to climate change through the involvement of young local volunteers and the accompaniment of local organizations, committed to the preservation of oases, towards a better mobilization of young people in their structures in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The capacities of partner organizations in North Africa has been strengthened regarding the involvement of volunteers in their activities and governance. Synergies have been created with youth and volunteer organizations in order to identify volunteers, who were trained on disaster risk reduction and who have then designed risk reduction plans within a campus hold in Tunisia and raised awareness of communities.

The second initiative focuses on having international and national volunteers supporting communities depending on forests. It is about to deploy 27 European volunteers to develop citizen engagement in reducing the vulnerability of communities living in forest areas and to strengthen their resilience.

- First, in order to better understand the challenges that forest-dependent people are and will be facing, some of the volunteers deployed will map existing initiatives and their needs and to create a networking space between stakeholders in each country. This work will highlight the current and future sources of vulnerability of these communities.

- Then, these same volunteers will set up spaces (seminars) for local stakeholders to express themselves on the threats they face and plan together intervention strategies based on ecosystem dynamics and vulnerability reduction. Disseminating information, creating social links and helping local populations to set up projects complementary to awareness raising actions are the key actions that will be undertaken to reduce vulnerability and strengthen the resilience capacities of these populations.

- Some volunteers will focus on activities aimed at attracting the attention of young people, involving them more actively in projects defending the rights of communities living in forest areas. Thanks to modern campaigns and tools developed by the volunteers, partners will be able to meet and inform young people about these issues with adequate and effective communication.

In our daily work, and through our office management and CSR policy, we are regularly reassessing our practices to make them more respectful of the environment as possible (recycling, choice of sustainable office supplies, etc). FV chooses its suppliers according to very strict criteria, based on environmental and social impact and put in place a sorting system and limits the consumption of consumables. FV has also started to measure its carbon impact.

Intergovernmental Panel on Cimate Change (2019). Summary for Policymakers. Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems. P. R. Shukla, J. Skea, E. Calvo Buendia et al. Bonn, IPCC.