TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL
the global coalition against corruption

A HANDBOOK FOR COMMUNICATORS & JOURNALISTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORRUPTION

Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption.Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we are leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into reality.

www.transparency.org

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

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> Our homes were destroyed. There was money to fix them, but somebody stole it.

This quote reflects the experiences of people today whose livelihoods are threatened by climate change, but who haven't benefited from the billions of dollars intended to help them.

Finding and telling their stories is necessary but not always easy.

This handbook is here to help.

The idea for this resource first arose in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in a meeting of anti-corruption and climate change experts hosted by the Transparency International (TI) movement.

Most of those in the room were citizens of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations. From Bangladesh to Kenya to the Maldives, colleagues shared a similar challenge — one with disastrous potential: Even though climate finance is a defining issue for today's generations, and future ones even more so, it's often too difficult to get the public to care.

It's easy to see why. While climate change communicators have done a good job of turning technical topics (like greenhouse gas emissions) into a widely understood and recognised problem, the conversation is stuck at that very point: the problem.

We need to do the same thing for the solutions, starting with climate finance.

The stakes are high: by 2020, governments have pledged to mobilise $100 billion a year for climate finance. How these funds are spent could save the lives of millions now, and ensure billions in the future are set on a safe path.

But the governance structures managing the response to climate change are under threat. As TI points out, some of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world also fare the worst on TI's Corruption Perceptions Index[1].

1 http://www.transparency.org/research/cpi/overview

Corruption scandals could derail the world's efforts to mobilise the billions of dollars needed. Around the world, journalists and civil society have a huge part to play in sounding the alarm.

There's no reason this topic should be technical or boring. When confronted in real life with climate change or corruption, anyone would react with outrage, fear, or a mix of both. These are causes which activists have dedicated — and some sacrificed — their lives fighting.

To tackle the combination of climate change and corruption is to tackle two of the greatest threats to people and planet. As one of our colleagues, Vania Montalvo (Transparencia Mexicana), put it[2]:

> Climate change and corruption share many symptoms. They hit the poorest first and worst. They are caused by powerful individuals or entities seeking short-term gain. In the long term, they put livelihoods at risk and threaten entire economies. They thrive on the flaws of national governments: You need strong global cooperation to stop them.

In that meeting in Dhaka, we decided to create a resource to help our peers — from journalists to environmentalists to watchdogs — bring climate finance to life.

The handbook targets NGO professionals and journalists who recognise the importance of these issues, but may be too busy and stretched across subjects to think deeply about how best to turn complex, technical narratives into a compelling and memorable story.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact press@transparency.org

2 https://www.devex.com/news/in-mexico-tackling-climate-change-starts-with-corruption-86574

GUARDING AGAINST CLIMATE SKEPTICISM

GUARDING AGAINST CLIMATE SKEPTICISM

Any advocacy you undertake should relay these messages:

1. Climate finance is a matter of life and death
2. There is a lot CSOs and governments are doing already - and can do still - to prevent corruption
3. That's why it's so important to call out corruption and close down loopholes

WHY?

Climate change advocacy has always faced - and will, most likely, continue to face - a well-known opponent: climate denial, usually spurred by reasons of politics or business interest. It is possible to be a 'denier' at one of many levels. For example, you can (wrongly) believe climate change is happening but question whether human activity caused it. Or you can believe it caused it, but doubt it did so to a significant degree. Or you can believe it does so to a significant degree, but not compared to the 'forces of nature' so as to warrant a meaningful collective response by humanity. You could also believe climate change is critically man-made while doubting there is much we can do, at this point, to steer the ship back to safety.

What all this points to, sadly, is that climate finance faces **the most difficult political debate** of any subset of the 'climate debate', and while climate change continues to worsen.

Often, you will see this problem overlap with the one posed by international aid: in most aid-giving countries, there is usually a constituency committed to questioning its worth or the merit of the aid beneficiaries. To give the example of the UK, a certain slice of the political class and the media - the textbook example being a newspaper called The Daily Mail - are determined to put a spotlight on any perceived mistake perpetrated by the Department for International Development (DFID).

As you may have guessed, the Daily Mail is no more a fan of climate finance leaving (in their minds) the wallets of UK taxpayers to fund the likes of flood defences in Bangladesh. (If you are curious about their opinion, see this article[3].)

The problem may have reached its highest point yet with the election of Donald Trump to the presidency of the United States. Donald Trump is on the record as calling climate change a hoax "created by and for the Chinese in order to make U.S. manufacturing non-competitive."

What this all means is that climate finance advocates have a responsibility to highlight cases of corruption, negligence, etc, without falling into the trap laid by climate deniers, whereby such cases can be used as arguments against climate finance as a whole.

While it is never completely possible to prevent anyone with an agenda to twist the evidence you produce and the stories you tell to advance their own (adverse) interest, it is possible to ensure that your communications are, at face value, free of confusion: **the point is that we want to highlight corruption cases in climate finance to make climate finance work better, not because we think climate finance is a bad idea.** It is the opposite.

REMEMBER :

1 - Climate finance is a matter of life and death

2 - There is a lot CSOs and governments are doing already - and can do still - to prevent corruption

3 - That's why it's so important to call out corruption and close down loopholes

3 http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3614562/Up-smoke-paid-quad-bike-cut-carbon-dioxide-Bangladesh-spending-7billion-five-new-coal-fired-power-stations.html

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE IN PLAIN TERMS

IN SIMPLE WORDS, WHAT IS CLIMATE GOVERNANCE?

Climate governance is an umbrella term for the various national, international, and private structures established to respond to the threats and opportunities of climate change. Actors include governments, development banks, non-governmental organisations and private companies. In most cases, their job is to decide and implement policy related to climate finance.

Put plainly, climate finance is money invested to help countries prevent global warming and adapt to its worse effects.

The majority of climate finance is spent domestically. However, there is also a significant portion that is spent overseas.

International climate finance is money pledged by rich, carbon-emitting countries (who have the greater share of responsibility in causing climate change) to poorer, climate-vulnerable countries. (The glossary offers a slightly more nuanced definition.)

People usually talk about three types of climate finance:

- **Mitigation finance:** that is, to fund projects that limit (mitigate) the onset of climate change. For example: renewable energy projects, reforestation efforts and other low-carbon initiatives.
- **Adaptation finance:** that is, to fund projects to adapt to climate impacts. For example: seawalls or cyclone shelters.
- **REDD+:** that is, money invested in forest protection and reforestation projects, sometimes through carbon trading schemes.

Climate finance sounds a bit like international aid. Is it a type of aid?

No. The definition of climate finance is enshrined in UN conventions, and these make a deliberate distinction between aid and climate finance.

There's a very good reason for this. In UN parlance, climate finance must be "new and additional" to any aid money previously pledged, and must be specifically pledged to climate projects. (This often gets very complicated in practice, and something for transparency activists to be very vigilant about. More on this later.)

Does climate finance only come from governments?

Climate finance can come from public or private sources. Even though countries are considered responsible for the flow of climate funds, climate finance can come from the private sector, too. You may hear about 'leveraged' climate finance, for instance — in which some climate finance from a government gets a project started to the point it becomes economically viable for companies to invest in it as well.

For more information on the private sector's involvement, see 'Carbon markets' and 'Leverage' in the glossary.

How much money are we talking about, here?

The UN's target is to 'mobilise' $100 billion a year by 2020. The important word here is 'mobilise', which means that while governments (and international financial institutions, i.e. the climate funds) must take the lead in finding money, it does not say how much of the money must come from government pockets and how much from the private sector.

This $100 billion is supposed to flow through a purpose-built organisation called the Green Climate Fund[4]. It is still some way short of its target, though it is still the largest climate fund, with $10.3 billion total pledged by donor governments as of December 2016.

The Green Climate Fund is not the only climate fund — for more information on the principal funds, see the 'Who's who?' section.

How much is any given country supposed to give?

This is a fraught issue. While governments have agreed to climate finance in principle, there is nothing to dictate how much any government should give or receive.

Oxfam once attempted to map out what a 'fair share' for the world's most polluting nations should be in the lead-up to a GCF target of $15 billion. You can read about it here[5].

4 https://www.greenclimate.fund/projects/portfolio
5 http://politicsofpoverty.oxfamamerica.org/2014/06/talking-dollars-cents-big-questions-green-climate-fund/

WHEN THINGS GO WRONG: STORY IDEAS AND CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDIES

This section contains several examples of climate governance "gone wrong".

For each, we have bolded the crucial passages that illustrate corruption, incompetence, lack of accountability, etc.

These examples illustrate both some general themes to look out for when researching or writing about climate finance, as well as what 'makes a story'. This isn't an exhaustive list of possible problems, just some obvious ones.

Journalists — if you are looking for stories likes these, please contact press@transparency.org.

Cyclone shelters built without walls

Quoted from a 2015 Newsweek story[6]:

In 2011, Bangladesh set aside $3.1 million to build "climate-resilient housing" in the country's coastal southwest after Cyclone Aila gutted it. **When researchers from Transparency International Bangladesh visited the site, they discovered homes built without walls.** "I don't know whether it is built for human beings or not," said Khadija Begum about her house. It turns out the structures had been built exactly to Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief-approved specifications. According to Transparency International Bangladesh, the government halved the cost to construct each house so it could take credit for building more houses.

Tsunami recovery money disappeared

The following is adapted from an op-ed[7] penned by Mariyam Shiuna (Executive Director of Transparency Maldives) for The Independent:

In December 2004, we watched as waves the height of ten-storey buildings crashed against our shores and shattered thousands of people's livelihoods. Some of our atolls were submerged for days. Almost 100 people died.

Years later, claims emerged that corrupt officials had embezzled US$1.6 million from the tsunami relief effort.

The case was alleged to have implicated top officials in the government treasury, as well as in the National Disaster Management Centre. A report on the case was forwarded to the Prosecutor General's Office for prosecution in 2012. There appears to have has been little progress in the case since then, and a number of those originally arrested were released.

Such delays are common in the Maldives. **As details of the fraud allegations emerged (a case of forged documents and imaginary construction supply orders, it is claimed), our Anti-Corruption Commission seemingly suspected a larger amount of money could be missing. Here too, it could take a while to follow the paper trail.**

6 http://europe.newsweek.com/green-climate-fund-must-fight-corruption-it-can-beat-global-warming-336209%3Frm%3Deu

7 http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/how-the-maldives-can-avoid-yet-another-corrupt-relief-effort-in-the-face-of-climate-change-a6718416.html

Using climate funds to build coal plants

In November 2013, a group of climate and development think tanks published a report[8] on "Fast Start Finance," one of the UN's early efforts to mobilise climate funding. Deep in the report was a discussion on Japan's decision to report as climate finance the funding of a gas-fired power plant in Uzbekistan and two coal-fired power plants in Indonesia. Japanese authorities reasoned that the new power plants were cleaner than the energy infrastructure that would have been built without their intervention. (And it allowed Japan to "inflate" its climate finance contribution total.) Yet without carbon capture technology, the burning of fossil fuels contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, the authors wrote, and such plants have long life spans, "locking in" dirty energy for decades.

When the press learned about Japan's coal projects, a technocratic debate about levels of additionality became a global conversation about accountability. The Associated Press[9] broke the story under the headline, "Climate funds for coal highlight lack of UN rules." Interviewed by the AP, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres said she didn't know Japan had counted about $1 billion in loans for coal plants as climate finance but said, "Unabated coal has no room in the future energy system."

In the aftermath, the Green Climate Fund, the world's largest climate finance mechanism, has still not ruled out funding coal projects, despite environmental groups and climate scientists who warn we're running out of time to significantly cut greenhouse gas emissions. It has, however, agreed to set minimum standards for emissions reductions.

Threats and eviction in Cameroon's forests

The indigenous people of Cameroon are sustained by the forests they've lived in for generations. They depend on the forests to hunt, gather, and farm, generally through sustainable methods, allowing fields to fallow. In 2005, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility suggested REDD (see the glossary for a REDD explainer) as a way for the Cameroon government to pay for sustainable development. Eager to establish itself as an "emerging nation" in the world economy, the government, along with international and non-governmental partners, began making plans for a variety of REDD and REDD+ programmes throughout the country. Renowned as a biodiversity hotspot, Cameroon is also experiencing rapid deforestation caused mainly by agriculture and logging.

As several pilot projects got underway, researchers from the Forest Peoples Programme, an indigenous rights organisation, traveled to Cameroon to speak with local residents about their experiences in two regions subject to pilot REDD efforts. In reports detailing both cases[10], the authors found varying degrees of negligence with respect to the principle of free, prior, and informed consent, and locals had been victims of shake-downs, beatings, and evictions.

"The ancestors were free to move about," one resident said. "We do not understand this dividing up of the forest." It seems no one had properly

8 http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/mobilising_international_climate_finance_final_0.pdf
9 http://bigstory.ap.org/article/07b1724c91604b0d8a3d272424912580/climate-funds-coal-highlight-lack-un-rules
10 http://www.forestpeoples.org/topics/un-redd/publication/2014/deforestation-redd-and-takamanda-national-park-cameroon-case-study

explained to them why guards funded by a German development bank were suddenly preventing them from conducting their lives in the forest. "The local representatives have stated very clearly that they had neither been informed nor consulted on the issue," according to one report, from 2014. "In fact, they seemed to have no idea about REDD, let alone an opinion on it." Again and again, indigenous people were not adequately informed of meetings or excluded entirely. One senior staff member from WWF, which partnered with a logging company on one project, explained, "You could sit and wait forever for the Baka to understand."

The lack of consent of indigenous people — as well as a lack of clarity about how the benefits of carbon trading would be shared — were still unresolved issues into 2016. "If further proof were needed that WWF is more interested in securing corporate cash than really looking out for the environment, here it is," said[11] Stephen Corry, executive director of Survival International.

Green Climate Fund responds to demands for more transparency

On July 9, 2015, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), whose stated aim is to instigate a "paradigm shift" away from fossil fuels and toward clean energy, announced it had selected one of the world's largest investors in coal to handle its money. The GCF board's decision to accredit Deutsche Bank, among others, a selection made entirely in secret, provoked an uproar among climate finance monitoring organisations. Analyst Brandon Wu of ActionAid USA said[12] it "boggles the mind", and pointed out that Deutsche Bank has also been involved in market manipulation and money laundering.

Climate funds often work with private banks and international financial institutions to receive and distribute funds and act as implementing entities. Few such organisations are without blemish. In that sense, the GCF's biggest mistake may have been conducting business of global public concern behind closed doors. The GCF is intended to be the world's main conduit for climate finance, with a goal to raise $100 billion annually by 2020. Yet it has little more than $10 billion in pledges from world governments to date. As the fund sought to steer that number north in the lead-up to the COP21 conference in Paris in 2015, it was undermined by a barrage of pressure from civil society organisations concerned about the fund's lack of transparency and accountability mechanisms. In November 2016, just before the COP21, the board hastily approved eight climate projects at its meeting in Zambia even though it still lacked a firm information disclosure policy or accountability mechanism.

But by mid-2016, it seemed the GCF was rounding a corner, pledging to hire more staff in order to meet information disclosure demands and bowing to an intense pressure campaign to livestream board meetings online. It was a victory, but it felt too-hard won: More than 100 civil society groups had been lobbying for live webcasting since 2012.

11 http://www.survivalinternational.org/news/11276

12 https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jul/09/green-climate-fund-partners-with-deutsche-bank-to-green-fury

WHO'S WHO

WHO'S WHO

The number of climate governance actors around the world is dizzying and growing all the time. From private sector to civil society to government, the players range from staff auditors at engineering firms to boards of directors at billion-dollar climate funds. When it comes to the integrity of the climate finance system, each individual or body is as important as the next. And most importantly, as watchdogs it's our responsibility to hold each actor accountable.

It would be overwhelming, and probably counterproductive, to list and explain every important entity in climate finance. Instead, this section is intended as an overview of the international governance structures, key funds, and major civil society organisations.

We'll start near the top and work our way down through this global architecture:

The UNFCCC and the Conference of Parties

The big ideas in climate finance usually stem from the goals and policies set out by the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — better known as the COP and the UNFCCC.

The UNFCCC is an international treaty adopted in 1992 declaring that the earth's climate is changing in dangerous ways, that humans caused it through emissions of greenhouse gases, and that developed countries must assume the financial burden of both mitigating atmospheric carbon and fortifying human systems against negative effects.

Conference of Parties (COP)

The COP is the decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, comprising all 197 states that are parties to the convention. Each year, the COP convenes to review efforts and set new policies to accomplish the UNFCCC goal of reducing greenhouse gases to "a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human induced) interference with the climate system."
www.unfccc.int

This treaty has powerful legitimacy because nearly every country, including some non-United Nations members, signed it. These countries form the COP, a decision-making body that gathers once a year to set policy how best to accomplish mitigation and adaptation.

That's where things become complicated: While countries recognize the necessity to act, they often disagree on the particulars. The result is that the COP generally fails to produce firm country-specific obligations, but rather vague guidance. Nonetheless, the UNFCCC has spawned the Kyoto

Protocol[13] in 1997 and its binding emissions-reduction targets, mobilised billions of dollars from the public and private sector, and channeled international focus toward a common problem.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is an international scientific organisation within the United Nations that provides objective assessments on climate change. Established in 1988, the IPCC gathers evidence from the world's leading climate scientists and presents policymakers with observations, projections, and options for mitigating and adapting to climate change. www.ipcc.ch

Climate Funds

Climate funds are intermediaries that raise money from donors and lenders and deliver it to developing countries for projects that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change, or simply "build capacity" to handle megaprojects.

The first fund established under the UNFCCC was the Global Environment Facility in 1991. Since then, a variety of multilateral and bilateral funds have been set as mechanisms for climate finance, both within and apart from the UNFCCC. International financial institutions can also play a large role in climate funds, as in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, which managed by the World Bank and is recognised by the COP to spearhead the United Nations' REDD+ efforts.

In the lead-up to COP21 in 2015, the Green Climate Fund was positioned to be the primary vehicle for climate finance in the 21st century, pledging to "mobilise" $100 billion per year by 2020, when the Paris Agreement would enter into force.

Some of the main climate funds:

Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The GCF is a major climate fund within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with a goal of promoting adaptation, sustainable development, and decreasing emissions in developing countries. Though the fund is falling short of its goal of raising $100 billion annually by 2020, the GCF is the largest climate fund, with $10.3 billion total raised from donor governments as of December 2016. www.greenclimate.fund

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The GEF was established in 1991 to address global environmental issues, including climate finance, as a partnership of most of the countries that are party to the UNFCCC. The GEF Secretariat is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and reports to the 32-member GEF Council, which comprises representatives from a mix of developed

13 http://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/items/2830.php

and developing countries approves projects. The GEF has provided $14.5 billion funding, plus $75.4 billion in complementary private financing to around 4,000 projects. www.thegef.org

The Adaptation Fund

The Adaptation Fund was established in 2001 under the Kyoto Protocol and launched in 2007 to help countries adapt to climate change. Relative to the GCF and the GEF, The Adaptation Fund has distributed far less financing: $354.9 million in 61 countries since 2010. www.adaptation-fund.org

Special Climate Change Fund

The Special Climate Change Fund, administered by the Global Environment Facility, is designed to support developing countries, especially those most vulnerable to climate change, through projects related to adaptation and technology transfer. In addition, the projects should be complementary to national economic development programs. According to Climate Funds Update, $346.3 million have been pledged from developed countries, with Germany the largest donor. www.thegef.org/gef/SCCF

Least Developed Countries Fund

The Least Developed Countries Fund is the second fund managed by the Global Environment Facility and seeks to address the immediate adaptation needs of 48 poor countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts. Each country submits a report called a National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to the United Nations outlining its urgent needs and its ideal projects to address them. Drawing from the $962 million, the fund supports and finances NAPAs. www.thegef.org/gef/ldcf

Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility was created under The World Bank to support the development of forest-related mitigation programmes known as REDD+: "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries." The facility has more than $1 billion pledged and confirmed in its two funds, The Carbon Fund and The Readiness Fund. www.forestcarbonpartnership.org

National Designated Authorities vs. National Implementing Entities

Here's where we get into the weeds. NIEs and NDAs are bureaucratic roles in the climate finance architecture, but for local and national journalists these people and offices will yield some of your best stories. That's because the millions of dollars funneling down from foreign donors passes through their hands.

NDAs are national-level bodies, usually ministries, related to finance or climate change development or both. Selected by the government, the NDA's job is to serve as a country's representative to a particular fund. This office assesses the country's needs, works with NIEs to become accredited by the fund, endorses project proposals, and, in the case of the Green Climate Fund, may object to private sector activities.

NIEs oversee project proposals and implementation, receiving money from funds and spending it on supplies and contractors. NIEs are accredited by the funds to handle large amounts of money while meeting international standards for things like auditing, human rights, and environmental protection. For that reason, NIEs tend to be government ministries and development banks.

But just because NDAs are high-profile and NIEs are accredited doesn't mean they're fully accountable and all their activities are transparent. The selection of a NDA is usually at the sole discretion of the government, and there may or may not be rules for this individual to report conflicts of interest. NIEs, meanwhile, have many moving parts where things can go wrong, particularly at the subcontractor level where accountability mechanisms may not be in place. And even if nothing explicitly unlawful takes place, there are other questions journalists should ask on behalf of the public good: Does this project proposal respond to my country's most pressing needs? Are contractors getting the best value for money? Is this infringing on anyone's human or land rights?

To find out who the NDAs and NIEs are in your country, most funds list names and contact information on their websites, even personal email addresses. For a comprehensive list and an overview of the main funds, the best resource is Climate Funds Update[14].

Think tanks, watchdogs, and NGOs

As millions, and then billions, of dollars began pouring into climate finance, civil society recognised the need to ensure this money would be used in ways that were appropriate, effective, equitable, accountable, and transparent. And so a nonprofit climate finance industry has grown alongside the public and for-profit ones.

A few organisations to know about:

Transparency International (TI)

Transparency International is the world's leading anti-corruption coalition. With headquarters in Berlin and more than 100 country chapters, TI advocates for stronger international conventions against corruption, exposes corrupt dealings, and publishes an annual Corruption Perceptions Index. With regard to climate finance, TI is leading the global effort to open up contracts and decision-making, monitor money flows, and uncover malfeasance. www.transparency.org

14 http://www.climatefundsupdate.org/

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

U.K.-based ODI is a think tank conducting research and advocacy on development issues. ODI has focused on climate finance to find ways to respond to climate change while also meeting humanitarian needs. www.odi.org

The World Resources Institute (WRI)

WRI is a global research organization that spans 50 countries, with offices in Brazil, China, Europe, India, Indonesia, and the US. WRI convenes the Open Climate Network that tracks national progress on climate change through robust, consistent, and transparent assessments. www.wri.org

Climate Funds Update

Climate Funds Update is perhaps the most comprehensive resource for monitoring climate finance flows, including donor contributions, fund structures, specialised reports, and commentary. The website is a joint initiative of the Heinrich Böll Foundation and the Overseas Development Institute. www.climatefundsupdate.org

Germanwatch

Germanwatch is an advocacy organisation that lobbies for "socially equitable, ecologically sound and economically stable development." Its climate finance activities include monitoring, research, and commentary, primarily focused on activities of the Conference of Parties and major climate funds.

AdaptationWatch

AdaptationWatch is a global consortium of NGOs and research institutes and national-level organisations focused on raising transparency and accountability of climate finance for adaptation. Its goal is to foster more local participation in developing countries with better and simpler monitoring tools, including maps, reports, and crowdsourced data from people in project areas. www.adaptationwatch.org

JOURNALIST WORKSHOP STARTER PACK

HOW TO HOST A JOURNALIST WORKSHOP

Why do it?

Here are two problems most civil society organisations have: limited resources and not enough public awareness.

The media can help to solve both of these problems, but it can be difficult to get journalists interested in climate finance. Stories of abuse are outrageous but also difficult to investigate, and the concepts are complicated (and sometimes boring, when you get into the details).

CSOs can reduce these obstacles and make inroads with the press by holding a media workshop. By explaining climate finance from a local perspective and offering story ideas, CSOs can multiply the number of investigations in their areas, raise awareness about climate finance, and promote their organisations.

Journalists, meanwhile, want one thing: a good story. And considering that, a media day can backfire, too, if they don't find the information new and useful. At Transparency International, we've held or attended many journalist workshops, and this brief guide is based on our experiences and lessons learned. Refer to the checklist at the end to help you plan your own orientation.

What's on the agenda?

If your journalist workshop is one day, here's a suggested itinerary you can use to start planning your own agenda:

1. Breakfast and introductory remarks from the head of your organisation
2. Overview presentation with brief background on climate change and the global response
3. Overview of the climate finance structure in your country: What are the NIEs and NDAs? What projects have been proposed or are in progress?
4. Break for lunch
5. Case studies: Examples of stories on climate finance in your country or other parts of the world
6. Discussion: Break into small groups to answer specific questions from journalists.
7. Press conference: Release a new report from your organisation and field questions on the record.

What do journalists want?

The simplest way to find out what journalists in your area want to understand and what kinds of stories they want to produce is to ask them. We suggest sending a short, pre-workshop survey to the journalists who have registered to attend. Try asking questions such as: What about climate finance is most confusing to you? What kinds of stories do you hope to tell? What angle do you care about most (business, politics, human rights, etc.)?

The answers will tell you a bit about how to present your talking points and which areas to focus on most. Generally speaking, journalists want straightforward information to help them identify stories they believe will interest their audience. And what interests you may not interest journalists. For example, if your expertise is improving national direct access to the Green Climate Fund, it may be best to avoid explaining the intricacies and fiduciary standards required for NIE accreditation. Instead, try giving examples of projects that could change lives but can't get off the ground because of lack of access to funds.

SHOW, DON'T TELL

A good rule of thumb to interest journalists is "show, don't tell." In other words, a story is much more powerful — because it is memorable — than a detailed account of abstract technical or policy problems.

For example: When talking about climate change, don't just explain the UNFCCC process or carbon emissions figures. Talk about the family whose village was destroyed when the river flooded it.

When talking about corruption, don't just talk about the lack of due diligence measures in the governance of climate funds. Talk about how the flooded village was never rebuilt because the money promised to villagers disappeared.

One way to think about topic ideas is to follow the money. Explain where funds for climate finance originate and why (UNFCCC, developed vs. developing, etc.). Explain national climate finance structures: Which are the relevant national ministries and offices? What private sector actors are involved? And most importantly, what projects are already under way? Are they adequately funded? Is the money being used effectively? What are your organisation's key findings?

Journalists may also ask for specific resources, such as help analysing complicated data or for international bylaws or financial documents to be translated into local languages. You should do your best to meet their individual needs or direct them to others who can help them.

WHAT TO DO AND WHAT NOT TO DO

Do be clear about what journalists should expect from the workshop

A workshop is not a press conference, though it is a good idea to present them with new information they can use for a story. Make sure they understand what they will learn at your workshop.

Make clear what is 'on-the-record', and what isn't

Being 'on the record' means that a journalist can quote and use anything you say. Unless indicated otherwise, any exchange with a journalist is on the record. When you plan your workshop, consider whether any part of it should be 'off the record'. For example: if you are expressing your personal opinion about certain individuals at the NDA, or whether you are giving journalists a 'heads up' about some investigation you are working on, but which is not ready for public dissemination yet.

When you invite journalists to your workshop, you may wish to add a line such as:

"Some of the information provided may be off the record. By attending this workshop you agree to go off the record whenever organisers request you to do so."

Don't use too many acronyms and jargon

For the most part, the journalists who attend your workshop are not experts in climate finance—their knowledge is 'an inch thick and a mile wide'. So avoid "insider" language that will either confuse them or put them to sleep.

Do be specific

The more case studies and real-world examples you present at your workshop, the more valuable it will be for the journalists. This is not an academic lecture, and these are not technocrats. They're storytellers—so give them stories.

Don't pay them

It's usually a bad idea to pay journalists because it creates a conflict of interest. As much as civil society and the press often work together, their coverage and your information should not appear transactional. However, in your national context, it may be appropriate to provide per diems for the day. You are advised to ask among your national IGO/NGO peers what the usual accepted practice is.

Do provide reference guides and contact information

Consider creating a chart that demonstrates the key actors in your country and helps explain the decision-making process and the flow of money. If possible, provide names, email addresses, and telephone numbers for important contacts.

Do get feedback and create a forum

You should ask for feedback from the journalists before, during, and after your workshop to help fine tune the topics you cover to their needs. It's also a good idea to set up a community forum—Facebook groups work great—to keep the conversation going.

Do provide other incentives for climate finance reporting

The Transparency International chapter in Bangladesh wanted to honor journalists who made the most significant contributions to climate finance reporting, so they initiated an annual excellence award.

WORKSHOP CHECKLIST

	Send invitations to every news organisation in our area.
	Journalists are not always great at RSVP'ing, and they receive a lot of emails. Call them a few days later to check if they received the invitation, and whether they plan to come. Be ready on this call to give good reasons for them to come—they will ask!
	Gather input from registered journalists to find out what topics they care about most.
	Draft the itinerary and send it to registrants so they're clear on what to expect.
	Do you summarise the international climate finance architecture and purpose?
	Do you explain the climate finance structure in your country?
	Do you provide specific case studies and story ideas?
	Create a take-home resource with key contacts.
	Start a forum to continue the conversation.
	Reach out to journalist afterward to answer follow-up questions and get feedback.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING ON CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING ON CORRUPTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

On Sept. 6, 2012, the Cambodian journalist Hang Serei Oudom published an article in his newspaper, the Vorakchun Khmer Daily, asserting that the son of a military police commander was involved in the illegal lumber trade, which has decimated the country's forests in the last two decades. Five days later, he was discovered murdered[15] in the boot of his car.

When you think of the most difficult and dangerous beats for journalists, you might imagine war reporting at the top of the list, followed by perhaps crime and, in certain jurisdictions, politics. But environmental reporting has proven just as fraught in recent years, as journalists shed light on corruption. "The level of violence to which they are exposed has never been so high," writes Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in a 2015 report[16].

As a foreign or domestic journalist working in this field, it's imperative to be more aware and to take more precautions when writing on sensitive topics. This guide for investigative journalists is based on research into from multiple news and NGO sources and on input from the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), whose "Journalist Security Guide[17]" is a must-read for reporters in the field.

Establishing yourself on the assignment or beat

When beginning research into a story or a beat, the situation is different for foreign correspondents than it is for domestic journalists. As Oudom's death tragically illustrates, the stakes are usually higher for those who live in the communities where they work.

Foreign journalists should understand the key players and their interests. A fixer is an invaluable resource, even if you speak the local language: A fixer will provide the kind of knowledge you can't get from reading clips online, especially in places where intimidation, self-censorship, and government censorship are commonplace. Make your assignment, plans, and location known to trusted people in your locale and with your employer and family back home. Research local laws regarding freedom of the press and requirements regarding press credentials.

While the risks may be severe for foreign journalists, statistics from the CPJ show that domestic journalists are far more often incarcerated or killed[18] for their reporting. Many of the same security measures apply. Take advantage of journalism industry groups or climate-related non-governmental organisations which may also offer legal, security, or political support. Most importantly, never be afraid to turn down an assignment if you feel the risks are too great.

15 http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/09/13/another-murder-on-the-resource-frontier-this-time-a-journalist-in-cambodia/
16 https://rsf.org/sites/default/IMG/pdf/rapport_environnement_en.pdf
17 https://cpj.org/reports/2012/04/journalist-security-guide.php
18 https://cpj.org/reports/2012/04/basic-preparedness.php%232

There may be other ways to report the story, or it may be that a story isn't worth the emotional toll on yourself or your family.

One way to understand the potential risks, ways to minimise those risks, and your own tolerance for risk is to complete a security assessment based on comprehensive research from a variety of live and documentary sources. The CPJ has provided a security assessment checklist[19].

If you feel threatened

The feeling of persecution is extremely unsettling. RSF has compiled dozens of instances of threats against journalists pursuing sensitive stories, from death threats on social media to beatings and arson. The most common actors responsible for violence against journalists are antigovernment groups, but governments or groups with ties to government are a close second, according to the CPJ.

The CPJ has compiled a list of journalism organisations[20] around the world that can offer resources before tackling a new story or in the case of emergency. Check the list for an organisation in your country.

Other kinds of restrictions

Reporting on climate finance isn't all about field work. Most of the reporting, in fact, takes place in board rooms and capital buildings, sifting through documents and connecting the dots.

An example from Canada demonstrates that developing countries attempting to silence the press on environmental issues. According to RSF, the Stephen Harper government made concerted steps to block journalists from reporting on tar sands oil extraction. Methods included preventing reporters from interviewing government scientists and attempting to discredit the author of the 2010 book Tar Sands.

One way to break down barriers to information, RSF observes, is to find strength in numbers. A single journalist may not make much noise against a government or multinational corporation; but a consortium of investigative climate journalists can throw more weight. "Societies," "networks," and "associations" are proliferating around the world, including in countries with severely restrictive press environments.

19 https://cpj.org/security/assessment_form.pdf
20 https://cpj.org/reports/2012/04/journalism-organizations.php

Here is an (incomplete) list of national environmental journalism associations around the world:

Benin	Association des Journalistes et Communicateurs Scientifiques du Benin http://www.ajcsb.net/
Burkina Faso	Association des Journalistes et Communicateurs scientifiques du Burkina Faso http://www.wfsj.org/associations/page.php%3Fid%3D264
China	China Forum of Environmental Journalists http://www.cfej.net/
Ethiopia	Ethiopian Environment Journalists Association https://www.facebook.com/Ethiopian-Environment-Journalists-Association-EEJA-1380834505472279/
India	Forum of Environmental Journalists in India http://feji.org.in/
Indonesia	Society of Indonesian Environmental Journalists http://www.siej.net/
Kenya	Media for Environment, Science, Health & Agriculture http://meshakenya.org/
Mexico	Society of Environmental Journalists http://www.sejarchive.org/international/espanol_REMPAconferencia2007.htm
Pakistan	National Council of Environmental Journalists http://ncejpak.org/
Philippines	Philippine Network of Environmental Journalists https://www.facebook.com/Philippine-Network-of-Environmental-Journalists-Inc-PNEJ-190967870939713/
Nepal	Nepal Forum of Environmental Journalists http://nefej.org.np/
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka Environmental Journalists Forum http://www.environmentaljournalists.org/
Sweden	Environmental Journalists http://www.miljojournalisterna.se/
Tanzania	Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania http://www.jettanz.com/
Thailand	Thai Society of Environmental Journalists https://www.facebook.com/thaisej.soc%3Fref%3Dbr_rs_WyJrZXl3b3Jkc19zZWFyY2giXQ%253D%253D
United States	Society of Environmental Journalists http://www.sej.org/
Vietnam	Vietnam Forum of Environmental Journalists http://www.vfej.vn/en.html
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Environmental Journalists Association https://www.facebook.com/zejaworld/

Do you know of an organisation that should be listed above? Please contact press@transparency.org

GLOSSARY OF CLIMATE GOVERNANCE TERMS

GLOSSARY OF CLIMATE GOVERNANCE TERMS

Other climate change glossaries (we provide links at the end of this section) may define these terms, and others we didn't include, in greater detail. The aim of this glossary is rather to explain terms briefly and plainly — and to cover important ideas in climate change, corruption and transparency.

Accountability

In the most basic sense, accountability refers to a person's or an entity's obligation to provide an accounting of expenditures, actions, policies, etc. In governance and finance, accountability involves a framework of rules, hierarchy, independent watchdogs and penalties for violations. A system is fully accountable if its behaviours are regulated, if individuals are responsible to report their behaviours to superiors, if third parties have powers of review and investigation, if mechanisms and protections for whistleblowing are in place, and if penalties are levied for rules violations and malfeasance.

Adaptation

Adaptation is the action or process of reducing the impacts and exploiting the opportunities of climate change on human systems, such as companies or residential areas. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change[21] refers to three types of adaptation: adjustments made in anticipation of changes, adjustments that occur spontaneously because of changes, and adjustments made because of planned and deliberate policy decisions. The World Bank Estimates it will cost between $70 billion and $100 billion annually between 2010 and 2050 to adapt to climate change globally.

Additionality

Over the years, a variety of international agreements, including the 2009 Copenhagen Accord, called on developed countries to provide "new and additional resources" — known as additionality—to developing countries to help them mitigate and adapt to climate change. Generally speaking, additionality refers to aid in excess of the Official Development Assistance[22] target of 0.7 percent of GDP. But exactly what funds counted as additionality, and how much developed countries were expected to pay, remained ill-defined. The 2015 Paris Agreement did not clarify the term but rather removed it and encouraged developed countries to continue their existing obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Confusingly, additionality has a separate meaning in the context of emissions offsets, referring to the amount of carbon emissions reduced by a project compared with a projected baseline assumption. Governments can earn valuable carbon credits by, for example, preserving swamps or building hydroelectric power plants. The quantity of greenhouse gases that were not released into the atmosphere as a result of a programme is known as "additionality." However, if the greenhouse gas reductions would have

21 https://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/annexessglossary-a-d.html

22 http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm

happened anyway, even without a project, such a project is not considered "additional." This may be a source of controversy, given the difficulty of calculating additionality and the large financial incentive for projects deemed additional.

Auditing

Auditing is the process of examining and certifying an entity's performance or claims. While anything can be audited, the process is usually associated with finance, in which an auditor checks the accuracy and completeness of a company's reports. Environmental auditors may evaluate the harm or risk of harm to the environment posed by an industrial process. A carbon audit measures the greenhouse gas emissions—or "carbon footprint"— of an organisation. Governments may use performance audits to assess progress toward emissions reduction goals.

Auditor general

An auditor general, or comptroller, is a government official responsible for ensuring public funds are used efficiently and appropriately. Legislatures rely on the auditor general's office to hold state agencies accountable by establishing non-partisan findings about the effectiveness of policies and the use of funds.

Carbon credits

A carbon credit is an emissions allowance equal to one tonne of carbon dioxide (or the polluting equivalent of another greenhouse gas) produced by a carbon offset. Carbon credit holders are allowed to emit greenhouse gases in excess of their quotas because each carbon credit is a certification that the emission has been offset elsewhere. Carbon credits can also be sold or traded, and entities can earn carbon credits by reducing emissions, such as by using renewable energy or preserving forests.

Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

The Kyoto Protocol established the CDM as a way to encourage developing countries to build sustainable infrastructure, such as renewable energy plants or transit systems. These projects earn, based on their additionality, a certified number of carbon offsets, which can be sold to developed countries to help them meet emissions reduction targets. As of June 2016, more than 7,700 projects were registered with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which administers the CDM. Recently, the market for offsets has fallen because of the high number of projects and the unambitious targets set for developed countries. But the CDM has been called a failure for other reasons, including the potential for fraud or error in determining additionality. The World Bank's Independent Evaluation Group summarises the problem: "The additionality screening process has been widely criticized as ponderous, costly, and ineffective. Environmentalists press for stricter screening, investors for more streamlined procedures. The current system may combine the worst of both worlds: high transaction cost with substantial nonadditionality. A growing consensus views determination of additionality as quixotic at the project level."

Climate debt

Climate debt is a concept in climate justice which holds that developed countries should pay reparations to developing countries for primarily causing climate change, the harmful effects of which will disproportionately affect developing countries. It encompasses two elements: adaptation debt and emissions debt. Adaptation debt is money developing countries believe they are owed to avoid harm caused by climate change, to compensate them for unavoidable harm, and to make up for foregone development opportunities. Emissions debt is based on the idea that the atmosphere can contain only a finite amount of greenhouse gases before climate change occurs; because developed countries have taken up more than their share of this space, developing countries believe they should be compensated for the space they cannot use.

Climate finance

The need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and the vast funds required to do so, has led to an array of financial flows known broadly as climate finance. A majority of funding as of 2016 was being used for mitigation activities, such as building renewable energy plants or public transport, as opposed to adaptation, such as flood resistance or water distribution. More narrowly, climate finance may refer to financial assistance from developed countries to developing countries that is "new and additional" beyond development aid that would have happened anyway. Some define climate finance in climate justice terms as reparations paid from developed countries to developing countries for primarily causing the climate crisis.

Climate funds

A climate fund is a pool of money used for climate finance. Funds can be multilateral (pulling money from a variety of public and/or private sources), bilateral (channeling money between one government and developing countries) or national (created and spent domestically). The largest fund by pledged dollars is the Green Climate Fund.

Climate justice

Climate justice is a perspective that considers climate change and the world's response to it as an ethical issue and not a purely scientific or practical one. Poor and persecuted communities have less ability to adapt to climate change, and they hold far less blame for causing it. Developing countries argue that developed countries are therefore liable for the harm caused by greenhouse gas emissions and accordingly owe reparations in the form of money, development, and technology transfers.

Corruption

Corruption is the use of entrusted power for private gain. Corruption can take on many forms, including bribery, embezzlement, extortion, and fraud. Three categories of corruption are grand, petty, and political. Grand corruption consists of acts committed at a high level of government that distort policies or the central functioning of the state, enabling leaders to benefit at the expense of the public good. Petty corruption refers to everyday abuse of entrusted power by low- and mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens, who often are trying to access basic goods or services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments and other agencies. Political corruption is a manipulation of policies, institutions and rules of procedure in the allocation of resources and financing by political decision makers, who abuse their position to sustain their power, status and wealth.

National Designated Authority (NDA)

An NDA is the national-level agency responsible for assessing sustainable development projects and accrediting National Implementing Entities. Under the Clean Development Mechanism, NDAs issue Letters of Approval for projects that meet legal requirements for sustainability. In other contexts, such as the Green Climate fund, NDAs have broader powers that include applying for financing and objecting to private sector activities.

Indigenous peoples

Indigenous peoples are populations with characteristics that distinguish them culturally and/or geographically. Often they engage in traditional practices, including political structures apart from the government; possess strong ties to a geographic area; and descend from ancestors present in an area before the establishment of the modern political state. Owing to their close ties to a territory, indigenous peoples are uniquely affected by climate change. This is why civil society organisations insist indigenous groups must be part of climate finance decision-making authorities and empowered to report malfeasance in projects that affect them.

Integrity

Individuals vested with power to act in the public interest may be tempted to use their position for personal gain. Integrity is the quality of adhering to rules and ethical standards while operating with honesty and transparency.

International Financial Institutions (IFIs)

IFIs are companies established by more than one country (in which the governments are usually the shareholders) to provide financial assistance in the form of loans, grants or investments for social and economic development. For example, the World Bank is an IFI that is part of the United Nations system whose mission is to reduce global poverty. IFIs are important sources of funding for mitigation and adaptation activities, and funds often rely on IFIs to support states in the creation of funding proposals, as well as managing and monitoring projects. Critics of IFIs, however, point out that the largest institutions are dominated by Western nations and that the developing countries intended to benefit from these institutions have little control over the policies and conditions of IFI support. Civil society organisations have also criticised certain IFIs for failing to protect the rights of indigenous people.

Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol is an international treaty adopted in 1997 that acknowledges the existence of climate change and the fact that man-made emissions caused it. Treaty members agreed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions below 5 percent of 1990 levels. It also established “flexibility mechanisms,” such as the Clean Development Mechanism, and The Adaptation Fund, a climate fund dedicated to helping developing countries adapt to climate change. The Kyoto Protocol was in force between 2008 and 2012. A second commitment period has been adopted under the Doha Amendment, in which nations pledged to reduce emissions by 18 percent below 1990 levels between 2013 and 2020, but only 66 countries had ratified the amendment as of July 2016. The United States signed the Kyoto Protocol but the U.S. Congress never ratified it.

Leverage

In finance, leverage is a technique that magnifies the potential gains (and potential losses) of an investment. In climate finance, for example, a fund may leverage a grant for a sustainable development project by mixing it with a loan from a bank. The grant of public funds makes climate-related projects more attractive to the private sector by reducing risk to financial institutions, while leverage increases the scope and success of the project. But the introduction of private funding may reduce transparency and accountability.

Mitigation

Mitigation refers to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to enhance and preserve environmental features that absorb carbon, such as forests and oceans. Most of climate finance resources are currently put toward mitigation projects, which include building clean energy infrastructure, carbon sequestration, public transport and forestry. Some supposed mitigation projects have been criticised for not actually reducing emissions, such as a Japanese programme to build coal-fired power plants in Indonesia.

National Implementing Entity (NIE)

NIEs are bodies accredited by climate funds to receive money and execute projects. Typically NIEs are government agencies, but nongovernmental organisations may also be accredited. Accreditation is a process that seeks to ensure the integrity of climate projects, requiring that NIEs have capacity not only to manage large sums of money, but to ensure transparency and accountability, including self-audits and reporting; assess risks to the environment and society; and protect human rights and gender equality.

Offsets

Carbon offsets are greenhouse gas emissions reductions that can be traded as carbon credits, equal to one tonne of carbon dioxide (or the polluting equivalent of another greenhouse gas). The reductions are created through mitigation projects, such as wind farms or forest preservation, that have additionality, meaning they reduced carbon emissions by a quantifiable amount and would not have happened without the project. Companies or nations that have not met emissions reduction targets may exceed their quota by purchasing commoditized offsets.

Open contracting

Open contracting is a method of public procurement involving open and timely access to information related to public-private contracts. Government contracts are rife with corruption, including bribery and conflicts of interest. The premise of open contracting is that if the process is made public and transparent, it will be held accountable to taxpayers and to other companies bidding for contracts.

Open data

Open data is information in the public interest that can be used, re-used and shared by anyone. A key principle of open data is that it must be more than simply available: It must be available in its entirety at low or zero cost and in a format that allows the data to be analysed and searched. In climate finance, the availability of open data ensures institutions are held accountable to the public.

Open government

Open government is the principle of increased transparency, responsiveness, accountability, and effectiveness in government. Open governance involves several commitments, including: publishing information about government activities in an accessible and timely manner; facilitating and responding to public feedback; instituting policies that increase transparency of public officials, protect whistleblowers, and deter corruption; and use technology to support public engagement and access to information.

Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement is an international agreement under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, separate from the Kyoto Protocol, that establishes emissions reduction targets for 179 signatory states with the goal of restricting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The agreement outlines goals for adaptation and an outline for financing for clean energy flowing from rich countries to poor countries, though the Paris Agreement does not lay out legally binding aid commitments. It will enter into effect in 2020 if a sufficient number of parties ratify the agreement.

REDD+

REDD+ is a mechanism that monetises forests under the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the goal of mitigating climate change through forest management and preservation. Originally known as REDD, the acronym stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, with the plus added in 2007 to refer to sustainable management of forests, conservation of forest carbon stocks and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

While scientists agree such activities are necessary to mitigate global warming, REDD+ has proven difficult to implement in practice. Many questions remain unresolved and contentious, including how the programme will be funded, how it will safeguard against corruption and human rights abuses, and whether there can be a reliable and consistent way to measure and verify carbon pools.

Transparency

Transparency is openness and accountability in the affairs of government, business or civil society. Civil society organization, such as Transparency International, push for more transparency in governance because increased scrutiny of decision making reduces the risk of corruption, increasing public good. In climate finance, transparency is one of the stated goals of international agreements and climate funds, but total transparency is rare. Obstacles include the cost and limitations of granting full public access to documents and meetings, the desire from the private sector to safeguard competitive information, and concern for the reputation of rejected implementing entities, for example.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The UNFCCC is an international treaty agreed in 1992 which aims to "prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference in the climate system" by curbing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 under the framework of the UNFCCC, seeks to curb global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. Virtually every country ratified the convention, and its governing body, the Conference of Parties (COP) has met annually since 1995 to review progress and set policy. In 1997, the COP agreed to binding emissions reduction targets and established "flexibility mechanisms," a prominent feature of climate finance which allows countries to release more greenhouse gases by funding offsets, or emissions reductions, elsewhere. Under the auspices of the UNFCCC, or complementary to it, climate funds have been established to facilitate financial flows from developed countries to developing countries, which are defined by the convention. As these funds grow and implement more adaptation and mitigation projects, the need for integrity and transparency will only increase.

Value for money

Value for money is a principle in procurement that refers to the amount of economy, efficiency, effectiveness, and equity in the use of funds. The concept of value for money holds that the lowest-cost bid may not be the best option when other factors, such as equitable distribution of goods or services, for example, are taken into account.

Verification

Verification refers to the process of confirming the accuracy and efficiency of climate projects, especially mitigation and offset projects in which external auditors double-check the emissions reduction claims reported by project developers. In 2007, the Conference of Parties developed the concept of measuring, reporting, and verification (MRV), which sought to standardise and increase the transparency of verification by requiring regular country-level reporting. Civil society organisations have criticised the existing verification structures as incomplete, inconsistent, and liable to inaccuracies.

Further resources for climate finance terms:

http://climatemarkets.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/IPS-ClimateGlossary.pdf

https://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg2/en/annexessglossary-a-d.html

http://www.germanclimatefinance.de/overview-climate-finance/glossary/

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