

Annual Report 2007

Red Cross Red Crescent disaster risk reduction and climate change



RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT
CLIMATE CENTRE



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Netherlands  **Red Cross**

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PHOTO ON THE COVER: SHEHAB UDDIN/DRIK/BRITISH RED CROSS, ACTORS LISTEN TO A CYCLONE RADIO ALERT DURING THE DRAMA JAGO MANUSH (BE AWARE). OVER 8 MILLION PEOPLE LIVING IN HIGH-RISK COASTAL AREAS CAN NOW BE ALERTED BY THE CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME. THE WARNING SYSTEM RELIES ON ASIA'S BIGGEST RADIO NETWORK LINKING THE CAPITAL, DHAKA, WITH 143 RADIO STATIONS. ALERTS ARE THEN RELAYED TO 33,000 VILLAGE-BASED VOLUNTEERS, WHO PASS ON THE WARNING BY MEGAPHONE TO THEIR VILLAGE COMMUNITIES. THE SYSTEM HAS NOW BEEN WIDENED TO INCLUDE OTHER HAZARDS, AND IS AUGMENTED WITH YEAR-ROUND AWARENESS-RAISING AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING REGULAR DRILLS TO ENSURE THAT THE SYSTEM WORKS WHEN NEEDED.



Table of contents

	Acronyms	5
	Preface	6
	Executive summary	8
I	Introduction	10
2	Climate change science and disasters	11
2.1	Weather-related disasters	14
2.2	Disaster statistics	16
3	Building capacity	17
3.1	The “preparedness for climate change” programme	17
3.2	The IFRC and IRI: a partnership to save lives	19
3.3	Partnerships with PNS	19
3.4	The Mozambique Red Cross and climate change	20
4	Advocating climate-risk reduction: meetings and events	21
4.1	The working conference on the humanitarian consequences of climate change	21
4.2	The General Assembly of the International Federation and the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	22

4.3	The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia	23
4.4	Participation in other events	25
5	Media and publications	27
5.1	Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide	27
5.2	Audio-visual work	27
5.3	Articles	28
5.4	Website and newsletter	30
6	Programmes with external partners	31
6.1	HIER in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua	31
6.2	The World Bank Institute programme	32
6.3	Climate change and microfinance in Indonesia	32
6.4	Audio-visual tools for adaptation in communities: Malawi	33
7	Organization	35
7.1	Board of governors	35
7.2	Fund-raising	35
7.3	Climate Centre staff	36
8	Annual accounts 2007	39
	Colophon	50



PHOTO: MARKO KOCIC/ INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES. VOLUNTEER SANDRA ROMANA FLORES WATCHES CHILDREN DRINKING CLEAN WATER FROM ONE OF THE TAPS OF COLONIA MITCH IN GUATEMALA, BUILT FOR VICTIMS OF THE FLOODING CAUSED BY ITS NAMESAKE, HURRICANE MITCH.

Acronyms

ACCCA	Advancing Capacity to Support Climate Change Adaptation
COP	Conference of the Parties (to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)
CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters
DIPECHO	Disaster Preparedness for European Commission Humanitarian Office
GISS	Goddard Institute for Space Studies
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IRI	International Research Institute for Climate and Society
KNMI	Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut (Royal Dutch Meteorological Institute)
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPL	Nationale Postcode Loterij (Dutch national postcode lottery)
NS	(Red Cross Red Crescent) National Society/Societies
PNS	Participating (Red Cross Red Crescent) National Society
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN/ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
VCA	Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WBI	World Bank Institute

Preface

After 20 years of increasingly alarming scientific reports, and after ten years of record-breaking temperatures worldwide, the message that climate change is a very real threat finally broke through to catch the attention of many people in 2007, including opinion formers and policy makers around the world and also within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. However, it has not only been scientific projections but real-life experience that has caused this breakthrough.

Where four years ago climate change was literally bottom of the agenda at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, it took the lead at the Conference in November 2007. In various workshops, presidents and secretary generals from all around the world testified to unusual and unexpected weather events leading to disasters, leaving people traumatised and impoverished. For the Climate Centre these reports were very sobering. Though we were relieved that attention was finally being paid to the humanitarian consequences of climate change, these reports from the field underlined that we had lost the first battle.

In 2007 the Climate Centre celebrated its 5th anniversary: five years of promoting understanding of climate change risks and integrating them into the humanitarian actions of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies; five years of experience in more than 40 countries all over the world; five years of experience coalescing in a very inspiring workshop with 80 colleagues in June which prepared the way both for the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide.

Looking back and seeing all the work done with a small team of extremely committed people, 2007 marked the end of a very important and productive period for the Climate Centre. But we don't have time to look back. The year 2007 ended with a very clear, even daunting, task: meeting the commitments made by the International Conference and in the action plan agreed by the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali.

The Hague, May 2008



A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping curve that starts high on the left and ends with a small hook on the right.

Ed Nijpels
Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, sweeping curve that starts high on the left and ends with a small hook on the right, similar to the signature of Ed Nijpels.

Madeleen Helmer
Head

Executive summary

The Climate Centre supports National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in their work to reduce loss of life and damage to the livelihoods from climate change and extreme-weather events, and cooperates closely with the wider Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.

The scientific evidence on climate change is stronger than ever: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Fourth Assessment Report in early 2007, saying that climate change is now unequivocal. It confirms that extremes are on the rise and that the most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, face the brunt of impacts. Several international humanitarian and development agencies have started seriously addressing climate-risk reduction.

The year 2007 has been an important and busy year. The awareness of climate change has grown hugely within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, as reflected in the final declaration of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Many National Societies have found their way to the Climate Centre for advice; 35 of them, all in developing countries, now participate in our Preparedness for Climate Change programme. Many more have signed up to join the programme but due to limited funds the centre has had to open a waiting list.

The Climate Centre organized a working conference on humanitarian consequences of climate change in The Hague in June 2007 to facilitate the exchange of experience of National Societies actually participating in the programme and other interested societies. Based on the stories and experiences gathered at this conference, the Climate Centre team wrote an extensive work, the *Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide*. In this guide best practices are highlighted, followed by how-to modules to guide National Societies in addressing climate change.

An important part of the work in 2007 was to shape global policies to manage the rising risks, both within and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent, which sent a delegation to Bali to spread the Red Cross Red Crescent message that adequate actions to reduce the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable people need to be included in post-2012 agreements.

Organization

The newly elected chairman of the board of governors, Mr Ed Nijpels, started in January 2007 and the board came together four times. Elike van Sluis, senior programme officer left the team in July 2007 after contributing greatly to the work of the Climate Centre from the start. We are very grateful for all the work she has done, right back to 2002.

Fund-raising

In the financial arena, the Climate Centre received its main support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the IFRC and the Netherlands Red Cross. In addition to these funds the centre received funding from FedEx, the Swiss Ministry of Development Cooperation, the Provention Consortium and many Participating National Societies.

1 Introduction

In 2002 the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre was established by the Netherlands Red Cross, in close cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to help the Movement understand and address the risks of climate change.

In the years that followed, the centre developed approaches to meet this objective, based on the experience with Red Cross programmes in countries like Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Nicaragua, Vietnam and Pacific Island nations, and in a rapidly growing number of National Societies since 2006.

The key elements of our approach are still today what they have been for the last five years:

1. The poorest people in the poorest countries are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change though they contribute the least to the problem. They are still the main focus of the Red Cross Red Crescent climate-risk reduction.
2. The centre connects the scientific and humanitarian communities to help apply scientific knowledge about climate change to early warning of disasters, health programmes and general grass-roots awareness of the issues involved. The Red Cross Red Crescent has repeatedly proved itself to be well placed to facilitate such cooperation between environmental, scientific and humanitarian actors who would not normally meet.
3. Addressing climate change risks should be integrated (“mainstreamed”) into the programmes of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Stand-alone climate change programmes have less chance of success.
4. Though climate change risks are primarily defined on a global and regional scale, the main challenge is to make climate knowledge relevant at the national and local level. In turn, national and international policy needs to be informed by the realities on the ground.

2. Climate change science and disasters

In 2007 the IPCC released its Fourth Assessment Report. The report gives a comprehensive and rigorous picture of the global state of knowledge on climate change. A key message was that “warming of the climate system is now unequivocal”. Besides changes in global temperature, there have been numerous other changes in rain, snow and wind patterns and extreme weather.

The report is outspoken on whether the observed changes are due to the burning of fossil fuels: “Most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20th century is *very likely* due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations.” The previous IPCC report published in 2001 still used the term *likely* to indicate the level of certainty. Representatives from 113 governments formally endorsed its main conclusions, making them a basis for international climate policy.

The IPCC also projects that climate change will continue and probably accelerate, bringing further increases in extreme-weather events such as heatwaves, heavy rain and snowfall, drought and more intense cyclones (see table 1). These changes will be greater if we continue to emit greenhouse gases. But even if we were to stop burning fossil fuels today, global warming would continue for several decades and sea levels would go on rising for several centuries.

Table 1: Examples of climate change impacts

Phenomenon and direction of trend	Likelihood that trend occurred in late 20th century	Likelihood of future trend	Examples of major impacts
Over most land areas, warmer and fewer cold days and nights, warmer and more frequent hot days and nights	Very likely	Virtually certain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased agricultural yields in colder environments, decreased yield in warmer environments • Increased insect outbreaks • Effects on water resources relying on snow melt • Reduced mortality from cold exposure • Declining air quality in cities.
Over most land areas, more frequent warm spells/ heatwaves	Very likely	Very likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced yields in warmer regions due to heat stress • Increased risk of bushfire • Increased water demand, water-quality problems • Increased heat-related mortality, particularly for the elderly, chronically sick, very young and socially isolated.
Over most areas, increasing frequency of heavy precipitation	Likely	Very likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to crops • Soil erosion • Adverse effects on quality of surface and groundwater • Water scarcity may be relieved • Increased risk of deaths, injuries and infectious respiratory and skin diseases • Disruption of settlements, commerce, transport and societies due to flooding • Pressures on urban and rural infrastructure • Loss of property

Phenomenon and direction of trend	Likelihood that trend occurred in late 20th century	Likelihood of future trend	Examples of major impacts
Increasing area affected by drought	Likely in many regions since 1970s	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land degradation • Lower yields, crop damage • Increased livestock deaths • Increased risk of wildfire • Increased risk of food and water shortages • Increased risk of malnutrition • Increased risk of water and food-borne diseases • Migration
Increasing intensity of tropical cyclones	Likely in some regions since 1970s	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to crops and trees • Power cuts causing disruption of water supply • Increased risk of deaths, injuries and disease spread through water or food • Post-traumatic stress • Disruption by flood and high winds • Withdrawal by private insurers of coverage in vulnerable areas • Migration, loss of property
Increased incidence of extremely high sea levels	Likely	Likely	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salinization of irrigation water and freshwater systems, and decreased freshwater availability • Increased risk of deaths and injuries by drowning in floods • Migration-related health effects • Costs of coastal protection versus relocation • Potential for relocation of people and infrastructure • Tropical-cyclone effects.

SOURCE: IPCC 2007 WORKING GROUP II, SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS

2.1 Weather-related disasters

The statistics confirm the trend of rising numbers of weather-related disasters. Floods remain the main disaster type that affects people around the world. More than 164 million people were affected by floods in 2007 out of the 197 million affected by disasters, and half of them were caused by the June-July floods in China.¹ “Current trends are consistent with the predictions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in that Asia, and also West Africa are already suffering from more severe and frequent floods,” says Professor Debarati Guha-Sapir, director of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED). The year saw a total of 399 disasters recorded, close to the 2000–6 average (394).

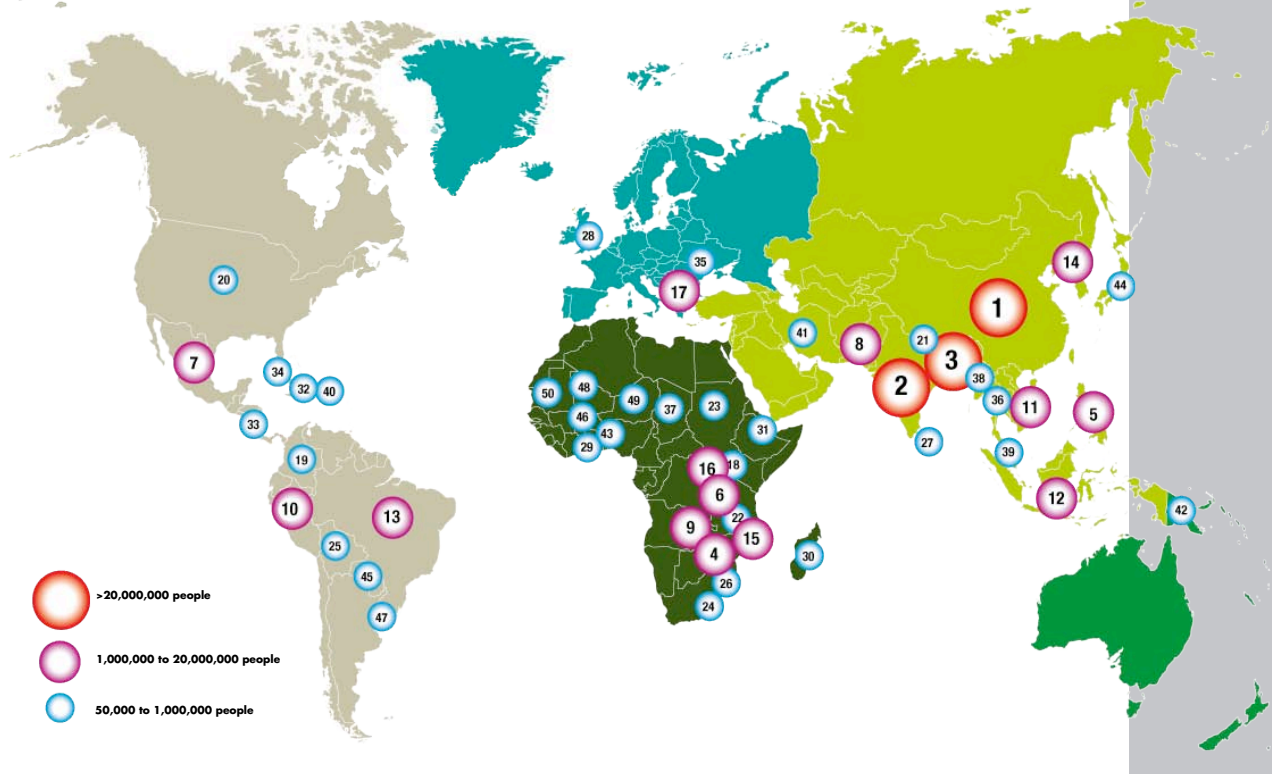
And last but not least, 2007 was the warmest year ever recorded during the period of instrumental data, except only for the record warmth of 2005, according to a Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) analysis.

In figure 1 the 50 countries are listed which have suffered most from natural disasters in 2007. The countries are ranged in order of most affected people.

Figure 1: Top 50 countries hit by natural disasters

Total number of people affected by a natural disaster per continent	
Asia	179.508.616
Africa	12.358.831
Northern and Southern America	7.645.219
Europe	1.638.579
Pacific (incl Australia and New Zealand)	151.879
Total	201.303.124

¹ Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, 2008



Total number of people reported affected*

Natural disaster**

1. China (PRC)	120,114,218	floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones
2. India	27,063,236	floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones
3. Bangladesh	22,930,220	floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones, cold wave
4. Zimbabwe	2,117,003	drought, floods
5. Philippines	2,037,237	heavy storm/rains/cyclones, floods, tsunami
6. Burundi	2,025,707	floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones
7. Mexico	1,858,220	floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones
8. Pakistan	1,652,542	heavy storm/rains/cyclones, floods
9. Zambia	1,538,768	floods
10. Peru	1,369,595	cold wave, earthquake, floods
11. Vietnam	1,367,666	floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones
12. Indonesia	1,215,959	earthquake, floods, volcanoes
13. Brasil	1,207,655	drought, floods, landslides
14. Korea (DPR)	1,172,167	floods
15. Mozambique	1,066,524	drought, floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones
16. Rwanda	1,004,500	drought, floods
17. Macedonia (FRYOM)	1,000,202	heatwave
18. Uganda	721,062	floods
19. Colombia	717,253	floods, cold wave, volcanoes, earthquake
20. United States	671,849	heavy storm/rains/cyclones
21. Nepal	640,741	floods
22. Malawi	602,726	drought, floods
23. Sudan	565,335	floods
24. Lesotho	475,060	drought
25. Bolivia	469,400	floods
26. Swaziland	411,500	drought, heavy storm/rains/cyclones

Total number of people reported affected*

Natural disaster**

27. Sri Lanka	406,057	floods
28. Great Britain	370,200	floods
29. Ghana	332,730	floods
30. Madagascar	255,495	heavy storm/rains/cyclones
31. Ethiopia	247,386	floods, volcanoes (note: people affected by the insect infestation is not included in this number)
32. Haiti	220,062	heavy storm/rains/cyclones, floods
33. Nicaragua	212,726	heavy storm/rains/cyclones, floods
34. Cuba	210,561	heavy storm/rains/cyclones, floods
35. Moldova	210,394	drought
36. Thailand	183,208	floods
37. Chad	173,145	floods
38. Myanmar	166,664	floods
39. Malaysia	166,533	floods, heavy storm/rains/cyclones
40. Dominican Republic	162,763	heavy storm/rains/cyclones, floods
41. Iran (IR of)	160,041	heavy storm/rains/cyclones, floods, earthquake
42. Papua New Guinea	143,000	heavy storm/rains/cyclones
43. Togo	141,353	floods
44. Japan	128,222	earthquake, heavy storm/rains/cyclones, heatwave
45. Paraguay	125,000	drought/ fire, floods
46. Burkina Faso	121,043	floods
47. Uruguay	120,000	floods
48. Mali	88,858	floods
49. Niger	57,274	floods
50. Mauritania	54,120	floods

*Number of people severely affected by (the consequences of) a natural disaster
 ** ordered by severity of disaster

SOURCE: CRED (2008), WDR/IFRC (2008)

2.2 Disaster statistics

As showed in the *CRED Annual Statistical Review, Numbers and trends in 2007*,² the year 2007 fitted the upward trend in occurrence of natural disasters world wide. Mainly the increasing number of hydro-meteorological disasters causes this upward trend in natural disasters. The report indicated that “in recent decades the number of reported hydrological disasters has increased by 7.4% per year, on average”. The report states that in the period of 2000 and 2007 the strengthening of this upward became stronger with an average annual growth rate of 8.4%.

Number of disasters: 399

- Total deaths: 16,517
- Total number of people affected: 197 million
- Estimated damage: US\$ 62.5 billion

Percentage of people killed by natural disasters by region

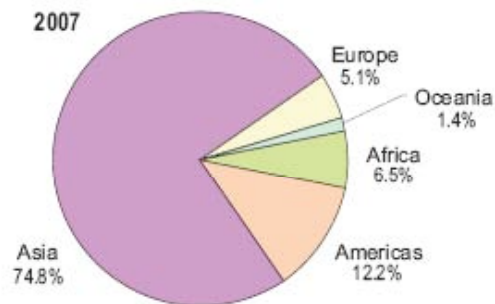


FIGURE 2. SOURCE: CRED, CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DISASTERS

² Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters, CRED Annual Statistical Review, Numbers and trends in 2007, May 2008

3. Building capacity

The Climate Centre has concluded that one of the most important aspects of its work for the next few years will be capacity building within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. It is essential to scale up risk-reduction activities and share knowledge across all layers of the Movement. In 2007 the centre signed agreements with a number of zonal and regional IFRC offices. These offices can assist National Societies in the Preparedness for Climate Change programme and other climate-related activities. The climate-resource specialists in the IFRC regions are rapidly expanding their knowledge on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

3.1 The “preparedness for climate change” programme

Developing countries, and especially their poorest inhabitants, do not have the means to insulate themselves from natural disasters. The expected increase in floods, droughts, cyclones, heatwaves, sea-level rise, pests and disease due to climate change will affect them, above all others. A better understanding of climate change and how it affects vulnerable people will eventually lead to more effective humanitarian measures to reduce such threats.

Since 2006, Red Cross and Red Crescent societies in developing countries have had the opportunity to participate in a Climate Centre programme called “Preparedness for Climate Change”. The programme consists of four steps to improve National Societies’ understanding of the issue and the consequences of extreme-weather events for their work. After each step, they can decide if and when they wish to continue, but the last step needs to be completed at the end of 2008. The programme is flexible, fitting local needs and circumstances, and is carried out in coordination with regular disaster-management activities.

Thirty-five National Societies worldwide have now joined the programme. Twenty-three National Societies conducted the first step, which contained the organization of an internal workshop for all departments within the National Society and some experts from other organizations or knowledge institutes. At the end of the year the Climate Centre received the first round of reports about these workshops and they were judged of great benefit. Some National Societies used the workshop not just as an internal means of exploring this new topic, but also reaching out externally to individuals and organizations they believe could be partners in addressing the consequences of climate change. In general the discussions motivated and inspired many of the participants to put climate change on the agenda of their National Society.



PHOTO: NOORA KERO / INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES. IN NORTHERN GHANA, THE WHITE VOITA RIVER IS ABOUT FOUR TIMES WIDER THAN IT IS NORMALLY. TWO FARMERS FROM KRASENKPE COMMUNITY SIT ON A SMALL PROGUE WITH GHANA RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS WATCHING THE RIVER THAT HAS FLOODED THEIR MAIZE FIELDS, WHICH WERE SITUATED ON THE RIVER BANKS. THIS AREA, SOME 400KM FROM THE CAPITAL ACCRA, WITNESSED TORRENTIAL RAINS THAT STARTED IN THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST.

The programme obviously has to compete with other humanitarian priorities and the capacity of National Societies to take on the climate challenge can be limited. Nevertheless, all but one of the 23 NS who undertook step 1 have continued to the second step and intend to complete the others. In three regions, the step 3 regional workshop has already been organized – in the Pacific, East Africa and Central America. Large numbers of regional experts and specialist organizations in the field were invited to these workshops, stimulating further regional partnerships.

A rapidly growing number of NS in 2007 wanted to join the programme and in September we had to establish a waiting list due to financial constraints. Largely because of our workshops during the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November, many National Societies signed up to learn more about climate change activities.

3.2 The IFRC and IRI: a partnership to save lives

In 2007, the Climate Centre brokered a partnership between the International Federation and the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), based at Columbia University in New York. IRI has been developing tailored forecasting and monitoring products to help the IFRC improve its capacity both to prepare for and respond to disasters through its Disaster Management Information System (DMIS). The collaboration is currently being extended to the regional level to enhance the flow of information and interaction between Red Cross Red Crescent staff and knowledge providers all over the world.

3.3 Partnerships with PNS

In 2007 the Climate Centre, for the first time, invited partner National Societies from the industrialized countries to help meet some of the core costs of the centre. Contributions came from Austria, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK. Some of them also contributed to the working conference on the humanitarian consequences of climate change, which made it possible to invite over 40 participants from developing countries. The Climate Centre has increased its cooperation with these and other partner National Societies, through visits, presentations and advice. Visits were made to Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the US. Some of these National Societies want to use our expertise and help in dialogue with their governments.

3.4 The Mozambique Red Cross and climate change

In the face of climate change, there is a growing recognition in Mozambique that the country needs to adapt and produce, or reproduce, strategies for reducing the impacts.

The Mozambique Red Cross (MRC) is a trailblazer in developing community-based activities on climate change and risk reduction in the country. In 2005 it initiated a climate change preparedness programme supported by the Netherlands Red Cross in which awareness is key. This was delayed in 2007 due to structural changes in the NS but will hopefully continue with additional funding and a new coalition of partners. MRC activities came to global attention when the BBC made a documentary on preparedness activities by volunteers in vulnerable communities, including evacuation drills and a warning system based on colour-coded flags.

The Climate Centre gave consultancy support to the Mozambique Red Cross in 2007. It helped the National Society understand climate change science and exchange best practice with other countries. In previous years it has helped the National Society build up contacts with local researchers and universities. Furthermore the centre advised on designing awareness-raising tools such as audio-visual materials and activities to integrate climate change into existing programmes.

4. Advocating climate-risk reduction: meetings and events

Advocacy has been one of the key activities of the Climate Centre this year. The centre proactively participated in policy dialogues and networks stressing the importance of climate-risk reduction and adaptation. Underlining the need to deal with the humanitarian consequences of climate change, it calls on governments and aid agencies to finance climate change adaptation to protect millions of lives. Specifically the chairman of the board of the Climate Centre, Mr Ed Nijpels, wrote to the Netherlands government in 2007 asking it to take the initiative. This was acknowledged and a joint study, *The Economics of Adaptation*, by the Netherlands and British governments and the World Bank was officially launched at the UN Climate Conference in Bali.

4.1 The working conference on the humanitarian consequences of climate change

In June 2007 the Climate Centre organized a working conference in the Hague on the humanitarian consequences of climate change. The conference brought together more



PHOTO: JACK THIMMANS / FOTO FOCUS. ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE WORKING CONFERENCE ON THE HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

than 80 participants: Red Cross and Red Crescent disaster managers from regions of the world most affected by climate change impacts, including the small-island nations of the Pacific and Caribbean, as well as Africa, Asia and the Americas, and European National Societies, the International Federation and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

One of the main aims of the conference was to gather the experiences of more than 30 National Societies addressing the consequences of climate change. These experiences formed the basis for the *Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide* (see below, section 5.1).

4.2 The General Assembly of the International Federation and the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

In November the International Federation's General Assembly and the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement were held in Geneva. The International Conference – held every four years – brings together all components of the Movement and the signatories to the Geneva Conventions to consider and adopt resolutions on major humanitarian issues. The conference focused on the humanitarian consequences of four great challenges the world faces today which affect the individual, and specifically the most vulnerable:

- Environmental degradation and climate change
- Humanitarian concerns generated by international migration
- Violence, particularly in urban settings
- Emergent and recurrent diseases and other public health challenges, such as access to health care.

Thus environmental degradation and climate change were emphasized as important humanitarian issues of common concern. In the final documents the Red Cross Red Crescent and governments expressed great concern about the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on poor people, contributing to poverty, migration, ill health and conflict.

They stress the need for awareness raising and humanitarian assistance, and the importance of the community base of the Red Cross. They also call for more attention to be paid to disaster preparedness and risk reduction, and for the mobilization of the necessary resources for this, giving priority to the most vulnerable people.

The Climate Centre was closely engaged in activities before and during the conference

and contributed to the background documents. During the conference itself and the IFRC's General Assembly, the Climate Centre organized two side events: one launching the *Climate Guide* and, another with the IFRC secretariat, launching the UNDP *Human Development Report*.

In addition the Climate Centre participated in a panel about communications strategies for the humanitarian consequences of climate change and two workshops within the General Assembly. The interest shown by National Societies was remarkable. One workshop even had to close its doors because there was no more space in the room!

Before and during the International Conference the Climate Centre advised on the content of the declaration. More than 50 National Societies expressed an interest in becoming more actively involved in issues related to climate change, and joined the centre's information network.

4.3 The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia

The major highlight of the global focus on climate change in 2007 was the UN climate change conference in Bali, which included representatives from almost every country in the world. A Red Cross Red Crescent delegation led by the chairman of the Indonesian Red Cross, Mar'ie Muhammad, participated in the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 13).

The aim was to spread the Red Cross Red Crescent message that adequate actions to reduce the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable people need to be included in the post-2012 agreements, and also participate in side events and panels relevant to Movement interests and strengthen the partnership with civil society, governments, international organizations and knowledge centres.

The IFRC delegation spread the key messages through a large number of conversations with government representatives, including some from the poorest nations of the world and small-island states, as well as members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). There seemed to be a large measure of agreement with the IFRC position, but we decided to focus mainly on the negotiations on the Bali "road map", which was the main outcome document of the conference and would provide the elements for negotiation over the next two years, towards the next conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

During the conference the Red Cross delegation in Bali and the Indonesian Red Cross



PHOTO: OBED WEWO, INDOONESIAN RED CROSS; RESIDENTS OF TANJUNG BENGA VILLAGE, BALI, INDONESIA, AND LOCAL RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS PLANTING MANGROVES TO HELP STOP COASTAL EROSION IN THE VILLAGE DURING THE UNFCCC CLIMATE CONFERENCE (COP 13).

(PMI) organized the planting of 2,000 mangrove trees, intended to demonstrate to the world how Red Cross mangrove plantations on the typhoon coasts of countries like Vietnam have helped provide protection against storm surges.

A major programme of the UNFCCC is the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change, aimed at strengthening the capacities of developing countries. The Climate Centre participated in two workshops (in Cairo and Rome).

4.4 Participation in other events

Staff of the Climate Centre were invited to participate in or chair a large (and growing) number of international meetings, more than 30 in 2007 alone. The highlights:

- At the ProVention Forum in Dar es Salaam in February, the Climate Centre organized a session on disaster-risk management and climate change.
- At the end of February, the second international workshop on community-based adaptation to climate change was held in Bangladesh. The main aim of the workshop was to share the latest developments in adaptation programmes, discuss priorities and share solutions. The participants were policy makers, academics, development practitioners, representatives of non-governmental organizations, as well as research and policy institutes. An eight-strong Red Cross Red Crescent delegation was present at this meeting, to learn about and share adaptation activities from the many international NGOs also present.
- In March, the Climate Centre participated in a panel during the “EuroHeat” conference of the World Health Organization.
- In April, the Climate Centre spoke at a meeting of heads of agencies in Toronto and at an NGO conference on climate change and development in Washington, D.C.
- Also in April, the Climate Centre participated in a meeting in Geneva on methods and tools for climate risk management, bringing together experts from UN agencies, development banks and NGOs on integration of climate risk management into development planning, projects and community-based activities.
- The Climate Centre participated at the final session of the IPCC working group II meeting in Brussels.
- From May 2–7, the World Association for Disaster and Emergency Medicine (WADEM) held its 15th World Congress, focusing on preparedness. The centre organized a session on climate change and health.
- Also in May, the centre participated in a conference of the Global Environmental Change and Human Security group in Oslo, Norway, and in June at a major gathering on the Millennium Development Goals of the Dutch Ministry of International Cooperation.

- In June, the centre organized a panel on climate change adaptation at the Global Platform of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction in Geneva;
- In July, the Climate Centre participated in a panel at the launch of the European Commission's green paper on European Climate Adaptation.
- Later in July, the Rockefeller Foundation organized a week-long retreat on climate change and urban resilience in Bellagio, Italy, and in August the Climate Centre chaired a panel discussion of the WHO in Berlin.
- In September the Climate Centre gave a presentation in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The workshop was organized for more than 20 disaster managers from Red Cross Red Crescent societies in West Africa, meeting for the first time in a bid to scale up disaster preparedness.
- At the annual meeting of the World Bank in October, the Climate Centre gave a presentation on disaster risk management and climate change at the ministerial-level small states forum.
- In September the Climate Centre was present at a disaster managers seminar in Montenegro to present a European heatwave plan, together with health delegates from the IFRC and the WHO.
- The Climate Centre gave a presentation at the ICRC museum in Geneva and at the UK voluntary sector conference.
- Early in November, the European development days in Lisbon were dedicated to climate change and the Climate Centre participated in a high-level panel, making contributions on food security and climate change.
- In December, the centre gave a presentation in a seminar on food security at the IFRC Dakar office.

5 Media and publications

5.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide

The *Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide* was launched in November 2007 during the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The guide presents five years of experiences from more than 30 National Societies, particularly those of developing countries. It relates the experiences of Red Cross Red Crescent staff and volunteers all around the world who are trying to understand and address the risks of climate change.

The guide begins with the basics about climate change: the scientific consensus, the humanitarian consequences, and the general implications for the Red Cross and Red Crescent. This is followed by six thematic modules on: getting started, dialogues, communications, disaster management, community-based disaster risk reduction and health.

Each module begins with a background section with real-life Red Cross and Red Crescent experiences and perspectives, followed by a “how-to” section with specific step-by-step guidance.

5.2 Audio-visual work

Participatory video production offers an effective way to raise awareness, build capacity and develop advocacy and institutional partnerships.

The Climate Centre supported the development of audio-visual tools for the National Societies of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malawi and St. Kitts and Nevis, as well as the Cayman Islands branch of the British Red Cross. All the footage has been made available on www.climatecentre.org and to the IFRC.

The Caribbean countries have been funded by DIPECHO to make short films about climate change in the context of disaster preparedness, and the Climate Centre audio-visual team produced and directed four videos and six TV spots in collaboration with local staff and volunteers.

The Argentine Red Cross received support from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) to explore the use of video tools for climate adaptation. A 20-

minute film and a TV spot were developed by the Climate Centre in collaboration with the National Society and residents of Monte Matadero, a flood-prone shanty town.

The Malawi Red Cross and Malawi Meteorological Services have been collaborating in a project entitled *Audiovisual tools for community-based adaptation*, as part of the Advancing Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation (ACCCA) programme, funded by UNITAR and partners. The Climate Centre audio-visual team worked with government agencies and subsistence farmers, producing videos in which members of the community describe the impacts of climate-related events.

The Indonesian Red Cross launched a two-year programme on risk reduction and climate change. With support from the IFRC, the Climate Centre helped include a participatory video in which residents from two slums in Jakarta told their own stories.

Additionally, a 30-minute educational video entitled *Red Cross Red Crescent Work in a Changing Climate* was developed specifically for National Societies involved in the Preparedness for Climate Change programme and presented at a meeting of Red Cross Red Crescent communicators for the Asia-Pacific Zone in Kuala Lumpur.

The Climate Centre's audio-visual work included pro bono contributions from filmmakers Fabio Benavidez, Isabelle Lemaire, Janot Mendler, Conwell Naweya, Dee Portnoy, Ben Pritchett and Andrea Santoro.

Video tools can provide an unusually fruitful space for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to mediate between poor communities at risk and the institutions that can support community-level adaptation to climate change. The centre sees audio-visual work as an essential and effective tool for the future.

5.3 Articles

- A scientific paper, *Community-level adaptation to climate change: The potential role of participatory community risk assessment*, by Maarten van Aalst, Ian Burton and Terry Cannon, was peer-reviewed in 2007 and accepted by *Global Environmental Change*, which is an international, interdisciplinary journal spanning the social and natural sciences (it appeared in print February 2008, Vol 18 issue 1). The paper explores the links between climate change adaptation and community-based disaster risk reduction by examining Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA), a disaster-management tool widely used by the Red Cross Red Crescent.
- *HIV/AIDS, climate change and disaster management: Challenges for institutions in Malawi*, by Precious Givah, Alexander Lotsch, Kelvin Storey and Pablo Suarez. Published by the World Bank in 2008 in the Policy Research Paper series and

currently in print at the peer-reviewed journal *Disasters*. This paper analyzes the combined effects of these two major threats on the Malawi Red Cross and five other institutions experiencing staff attrition, high vacancy rates, absenteeism, increased workload and other negative consequences of the pandemic precisely when a changing climate increases demand for their disaster-management services

- *Video-mediated approaches for community-level climate adaptation*, by Fiona Ching, Pablo Suarez, et al. Report to the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research for the project “Use of video tools for disaster management and climate adaptation”. This paper describes the video work of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre in Argentina, the Bahamas, Indonesia and Malawi for climate change adaptation, and recommends practical applications for organizations supporting pro-poor adaptation. It will be published in October 2008 by the IDS Bulletin (Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex).
- *Climate change vulnerability and gender: Differential impacts, and differential capacity to adapt*, by Anthony Patt, Angie Dazé and Pablo Suarez. Submitted to *Global Environmental Change*, this paper analyzes the gender dimensions of climate change impacts and decision-making for adaptation, including a literature review, results from behavioural-science work in Zimbabwe and case studies from adaptation projects in Bangladesh and Tajikistan.
- Maarten van Aalst contributed to two scientific publications on trends in climate extremes in Africa, based on continued work with the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute KNMI (see www.knmi.org/africa_scenarios).
- Pablo Suarez was a contributing author of *Climate Risk Management in Africa: Learning from Practice*, Molly Hellmuth et al. (eds.), published in 2007 by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society.
- Pablo Suarez contributed to the World Bank policy-research paper, *Perceptions of environmental risks in Mozambique: implications for the success of adaptation and coping strategies*, Patt, A. and Schröter D., which builds on climate change work by the Mozambican Red Cross among farmers in the Chokwe district and was published in November 2007.

5.4 Website and newsletter

The Climate Centre website (www.climatecentre.org) was visited by an increasing number of people in 2007. An average of 2,200 visitors a month produced an annual figure of more than 26,000 visitors. Hits peaked during the launch of the *Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide* in November – mostly colleagues around the world downloading the guide. We had to buy more server capacity to cope.

We sent out four newsletters providing updates on: climate-risk reduction, programmes, publications, meetings and events. The newsletters reached over 1,500 subscribers worldwide – some 500 more than in 2006. During the International Conference, almost 100 people also subscribed to our internal Red Cross Red Crescent LISTSERV, through which the Climate Centre several times a week provides news items and useful information on extreme-weather events and climate change.

6. Programmes with external partners

6.1 **hier** in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua

In Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Nicaragua, Red Cross National Societies worked closely with the Netherlands Red Cross and the Dutch media organization Free Voice to educate communities about climate hazards and develop proactive and protective measures that communities can take. All these National Societies started the programme in 2006 and it ended in January 2008. The programme is funded by the Dutch National Postcode Lottery (NPL).



PHOTO: CARLO ORTEGA / GUATEMALA Red Cross. DURING THE INTERNATIONAL Red Cross DAY, THE GUATEMALAN Red Cross ORGANIZED A MARCH IN CHICUMULA, GUATEMALA. CHILDREN SHOWED THE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES OF THE GUATEMALAN Red Cross ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.

The final report summarized the success of the programme and how it fitted the “four-A” approach of the Climate Centre: awareness, advocacy, action, analysis. In brief some of the many activities that contributed to this success are: new disaster plans and alarm systems, reforestation to reduce the landslide risk, early warnings through radio broadcasts, evacuation drills, informative radio programmes to increase awareness, VCA in communities, educational puppet shows and plays, training, and the development of partnerships with meteorological offices and governments.

In September 2007 Hurricane Felix made landfall on the Nicaraguan coast and struck one of the project areas of the programme. It first slammed into Nicaragua’s Miskito Coast as a powerful Category 5 hurricane with 160 mph winds and pushed inland, dumping heavy rain as it went. Although it caused enormous damage, the number of victims remained relatively low. From the first reactions of those affected it became clear that the climate programme training and disaster drills had a positive influence. Inhabitants reacted quickly to warnings on the radio.

The HIER programme will continue with a second round of programmes and new funding has already been allocated by the NPL for a HIER 2 programme in Guatemala. The activities performed in HIER 1 will be extended and intensified in more vulnerable communities.

6.2 The World Bank Institute programme

In collaboration with the World Bank Institute, the Climate Centre developed an online course on climate change and disaster-risk management, part of the World Bank Institute Disaster Risk Management programme. The course was piloted in a training-the-trainers course in March 2008, and rolled out by the World Bank Institute through various regional partner institutes.

6.3 Climate change and microfinance in Indonesia

The Climate Centre has been involved from the start in a disaster preparedness and risk reduction programme in two slum areas in Jakarta, Indonesia. People living in these areas regularly suffer from floods that damage property and livelihoods.

An expected increase in frequency and intensity of extreme weather will result in more floods which will affect these communities more often.

The Climate Centre was involved in the design of the programme and implementation was made possible with contributions from the German, Indonesian and Netherlands

Red Cross, the International Federation and the Rabobank Netherlands. Within the international Red Cross Red Crescent the programme is fairly unique in comprising three dimensions: it is one of the first risk-reduction programmes in an urban environment; it considers future climate-induced risks and works on adaptation to them; and it facilitates the introduction of micro-insurance schemes (by a third party, Rekadessa) for the exposed population.

The programme will include the strengthening of response mechanisms at community level, like early warning, evacuation and first aid. An important component of the programme is awareness raising of community-induced factors that contribute to the increased risk, such as blocked drains due to poor waste management.

In August 2007 the programme was filmed and a documentary was produced, using participatory video as a means to make slum dwellers themselves show and explain the hazardous conditions in their communities. The Climate Centre contributed financially to this film, which is available at www.climatecentre.org or by request on DVD (mail to: climatecentre@redcross.nl)

6.4 Audio-visual tools for adaptation in communities: Malawi

The Climate Centre has facilitated the creation of this project, one of 11 selected from more than 200 applications to the ACCCA programme. The pilot aims to advance capacity to support climate adaptation among smallholder farmers through the development and use of audio-visual tools for raising awareness, training, enhancing best practice, and improving participatory processes. Outputs include a video for training Red Cross staff and volunteers, and short films to support community-based adaptation, user-friendly climate information and early warnings (including making connections with the meteorological service), and a peer-reviewed article.

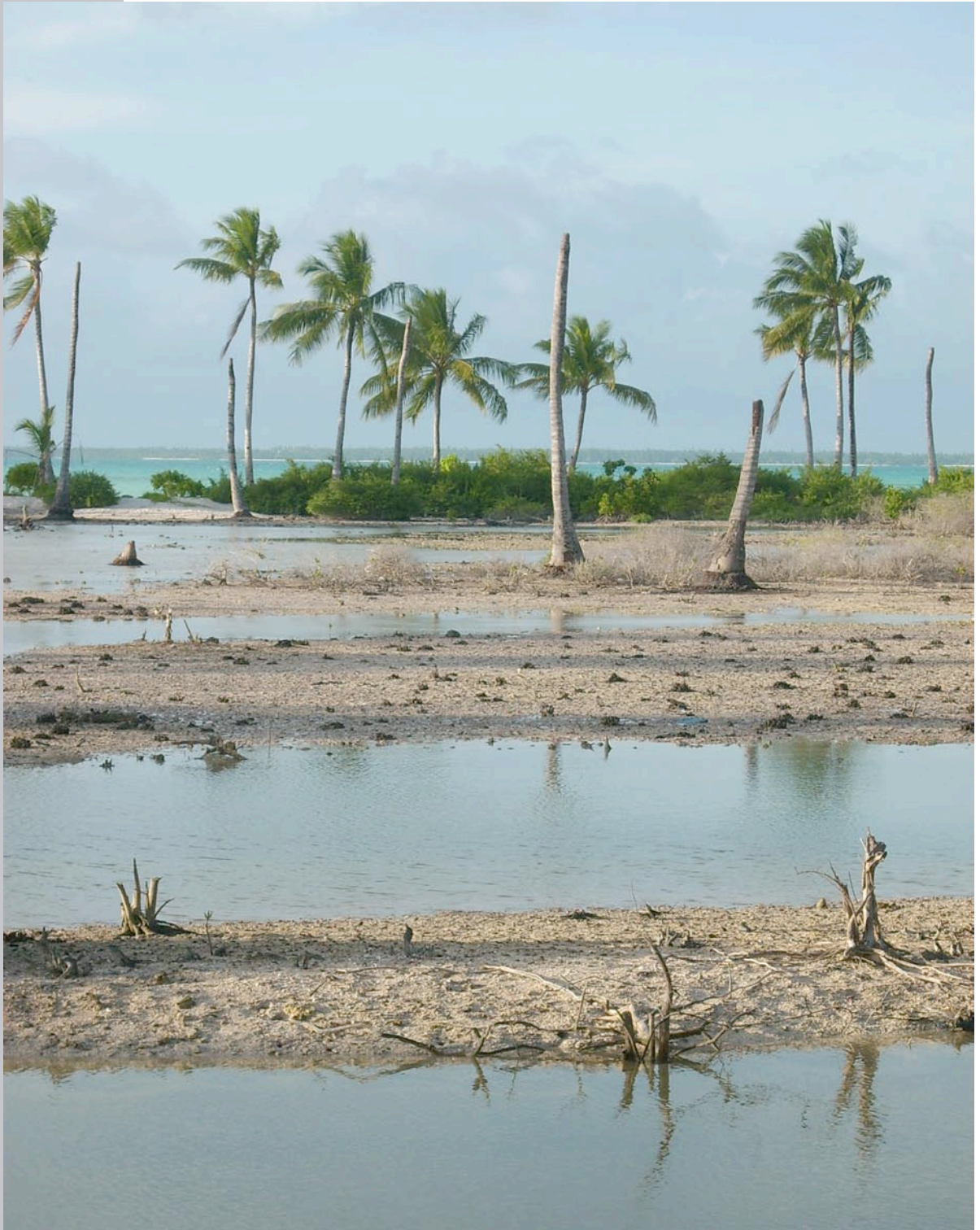


PHOTO: REBECCA McNAUGHT/ INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES. SALTWATER INTRUSION AND COASTAL EROSION IN KIRIBATI.

7 Organization

7.1 Board of governors

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre holds a unique position within the Netherlands Red Cross and the IFRC. It is an independent foundation with a board comprising representatives of both. They are responsible for the management and policy of the Climate Centre. The governing board met four times in 2007.

Name and board function	Positions in 2007
Mr E.H.T.M. Nijpels, chairman of the board	Royal commissioner in Friesland and former Dutch environment minister
Mr Ibrahim Osman, board member	Deputy secretary general of the IFRC
Mr Mohammed Mukhier, board member	Head of the disaster preparedness and response department of the IFRC
Mr Marc Hofstra, treasurer	Deputy secretary general of the Netherlands Red Cross

On 1 January 2007 Mr Ed Nijpels started as the new chairman of the board. All members of the board are selected because of their expertise and commitment to the Climate Centre. They are appointed for a four-year term.

7.2 Fund-raising

Money was raised in 2007 to cover some of the core costs of the Climate Centre and expenditure on side events at international gatherings such as COP 13 in Bali and the European development days in Lisbon. The centre also secured additional funding for their own activities like the working conference on humanitarian consequences of climate change in June 2007, and the production of the *Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Guide*.

In addition to that the centre helped a number National Societies to obtain funding for climate change related activities like ACCCA funds for the Malawi project described in paragraph 5.2 and the DIPECHO funding for the Caribbean video productions.

All Climate Centre donors are listed in chapter 8 of our 2007 annual accounts.

7.3 Climate Centre staff

The daily work of the Climate Centre in 2007 was carried out by the following members:

Madeleen Helmer, head (70 per cent)

Responsible for... overall management, strategy development and fund-raising, advocacy on the broader adaptation agenda, particularly the UNFCCC and the EU.

Maarten van Aalst, lead climate specialist and associate director (60 per cent)

Responsible for... overall management, strategy development and advocacy on adaptation, particularly in relation to development agencies and banks; links to the scientific community; analysis and guidance on climate risk management in Red Cross Red Crescent programmes, plus support to international programmes in Africa, South Asia and the Pacific.

Elike van Sluis, senior programme and communications officer (80 per cent) (to 1 July 2007)

Responsible for... internal and external communications, plus support to international programmes in South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

Fleur Monasso, programme officer (80 per cent)

Responsible for... support to the international Preparedness for Climate Change programme in Central Asia and overall programme support with a special focus on procedures, finances and communication.

Pablo Suarez, associate director of programmes based in Boston, USA (60 per cent)

Responsible for... technical advice to National Societies in Latin America and Africa in the context of the Preparedness for Climate Change programme. Pablo is also in charge of the coordination of audiovisual work for the Climate Centre, as well as projects in West Africa and the Americas.

Mo El Khayari, Office Manager (20 per cent) (started May 2007)

Responsible for... office management, financial administration and overall support to the Climate Centre.

Raimond Duijsens, senior Programme Officer (30 per cent)

(From 1 July 2007)

Responsible for...

support of climate activities in the South East Asia Region. He coordinates the Preparedness for Climate Change Program in this region. Furthermore he is a policy advisor at the policy and strategy department of the Netherlands Red Cross.



PHOTO: CEES HAMBURGER. THE NETHERLANDS RED CROSS ORGANIZED AN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN ON CLIMATE CHANGE AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, INCLUDING QUIZZES AND DRAWING CONTESTS. 45 CHILDREN IN HAZERSWOUDE (THE NETHERLANDS) COMBINED THE COURSE WITH DIRECT ACTION ON HEAT WAVE AWARENESS AND VISITED RETIREMENT HOMES TO INFORM ELDERLY ABOUT HEALTH RISKS AND THE DO'S AND DON'TS DURING HEAT WAVES

Colophon

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