

POVERTY



**TIME FOR**  
**CLIMATE JUSTICE**

CAMPAIGN GUIDE



'This is one problem which, if we don't resolve, no one is going to survive' Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Archbishop Desmond Tutu addressing supporters of the Countdown to Copenhagen campaign in Denmark's capital in December 2009

## CONTENTS

<b>The evidence and the science</b>	2-3
<b>The motivation: experience on the ground</b>	4-5
<b>Christian Aid's climate campaign: the story so far</b>	6-7
<b>Copenhagen: the global countdown</b>	8-9
<b>Moving forward: next steps in the campaign</b>	10-11
<b>Your role: call for climate justice today</b>	12-13

# TIME FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

People like you have been campaigning on behalf of the world's poorest for generations. Speaking out against injustice is in your make-up – whether it's your faith, your roots or your friends that have inspired you – you know that tackling poverty is not just a question of bigger aid budgets.

Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can, and must be, swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

Our generation of campaigners has an enormous challenge, largely unidentified by those before us. Climate change is threatening years of development progress and the lives and livelihoods of millions.

The partner organisations and communities with which Christian Aid works are facing enormous and devastating consequences from the changing climate – a problem they have done little to create. A fresh and far-reaching injustice is causing them harm and it is up to us to be part of the solution.

## **Mohamed Adow has been part of Christian Aid's climate change campaigning from its early stages and has been on an amazing journey in the process.**

'I came to the UK in 2007 to walk 1,000 miles in the Cut the Carbon march. I faced a huge challenge. That was just the start of my journey. Since then I have been part of civil society delegations at UN climate conferences in Bali, Bonn and Copenhagen, campaigning for a FAB (fair, ambitious and binding) climate deal. I've been inspired by the courage and perseverance of my African colleagues

in their quest for climate justice – and dismayed by the failure of rich countries to show any genuine desire to seal a deal that adds up to keeping the world safe. Thank you to Christian Aid campaigners already walking the road to climate justice with me. Pressing your government on the issue will smooth the way and help us reach our destination faster and avoid the catastrophic impacts of climate change!'



Mohamed and fellow Cut the Carbon marchers meet pupils at Ysgol Gymraeg Caerffili, Caerphilly, Wales

## THE EVIDENCE

Christian Aid's Time for Climate Justice campaign is based on clear scientific information about climate change and its effects, as well as our own work with poor people and our understanding of their experience.<sup>1</sup>

The poorest people are on the frontline of climate change. Their livelihoods are often dependent on subsistence agriculture and many such

communities live in areas especially vulnerable to drought, high winds and rising sea levels.

Already living on the edge, climate change is adding further risk and unpredictability. Across the developing world, poor communities are telling a story of change – conditions are worsening and weather is becoming more extreme and less predictable.<sup>2</sup>



Already vulnerable due to poverty and a fragile environment, riverbank communities in Bangladesh are being placed at even greater risk as climate change takes its toll across the country. The rate of river erosion is reportedly increasing, partly as a result of the effects of climate change on river flow, water salinity, storms and rain patterns

- In the Indian state of **West Bengal**, farmers report that there are now only three distinct seasons instead of six. Winters are getting shorter and warmer, spring has 'disappeared' and summers are hotter (above 35°C) and longer. It is raining on fewer days in the year, including during the monsoon months. When the monsoon comes, the rain is continuous, which means that farmers cannot work in their fields for a part of the day as they did previously.
- In **north-east Brazil**, droughts are becoming longer and more frequent, according to scientists and farmers. In the past 30 years, temperatures have risen by 1°C. Rainfall has become more sporadic, making it harder for farmers to know when to plant their crops. It also comes in heavier downpours, which can damage crops and cause flooding.
- In **northern Kenya**, drought has increased four-fold in the past 25 years. Nomadic, pastoralist communities living in the arid and semi-arid regions have been hardest hit. The devastating drought in 2005 led to a massive loss of herds, reducing farmers' already-scarce assets.
- In coastal areas of **Bangladesh**, communities are facing more intense cyclones, loss of land to river erosion and sea-level rise, and saltwater contamination of freshwater sources due to climate change. (In this context, climate change has exacerbated existing climatic hazards, such as cyclones and river erosion.) Many thousands of people have already been uprooted from their homes and farmland because of erosion and inundation by the sea.
- In **Tajikistan**, at current rates of change, thousands of small glaciers will have disappeared completely by 2050, and in **Peru**, temperature increases have led to a 22 per cent reduction in the total area of its glaciers in the last 35 years. In both cases, there could be severe freshwater shortages after the ice has disappeared.

# THE SCIENCE

There are three key indicators that the world is warming:

1. Increasing global average temperatures.
2. Reduction in arctic sea ice.
3. Temperature proxies (traces within the environment that scientists use to reconstruct temperature data).

## Why so warm?

Natural variations and volcanic and solar activity are just some of the causes scientists are scrutinising to find out why the world is heating up. The most significant cause is the 'greenhouse effect', through which gases (including carbon dioxide) trap heat from the sun and warm the earth. Human activity is releasing stores of carbon into the atmosphere at a faster rate than it is being absorbed back into the planet. The present concentration of gases is the highest it has been for 650,000 years.

## What's the problem?

Depending on the levels of future emissions by humanity, we will see somewhere between 1.1 and 6.4°C of warming by the end of the century, over pre-industrial levels. If emissions stabilised today, we could expect a rise of between 0.3 and 0.9 C due to existing greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

Scientists are confident climate change is happening – the uncertainty is around how climate will change in detail and how this will manifest itself in the future. Specific predictions for countries about whether they will see more or less rain are difficult, but clear trends – such as the drying of parts of Africa – have been identified and understanding is quickly improving.

### Right now, they can confidently predict that it will:

- cause more unpredictable and extreme weather.
- change rainfall patterns and melt glaciers, permafrost and ice.
- contribute to sea-level rise and increased natural disasters.

## Who says?

Ninety-eight per cent of climate scientists that publish research on the subject support the view that human activities are warming the planet.<sup>3</sup>

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** comprises some 3,000 scientists from research institutes in 194 countries, brought together by the United Nations to analyse the science to date.

Their fourth assessment of climate science, published in 2007, reported that 'warming of the climate system is unequivocal', linked greenhouse gas levels to global temperatures and said human activity is 'very likely' (more than 90 per cent certain) to be its primary cause.<sup>3</sup>

The IPCC's next report is due in 2014, and will have more analysis on which to draw.

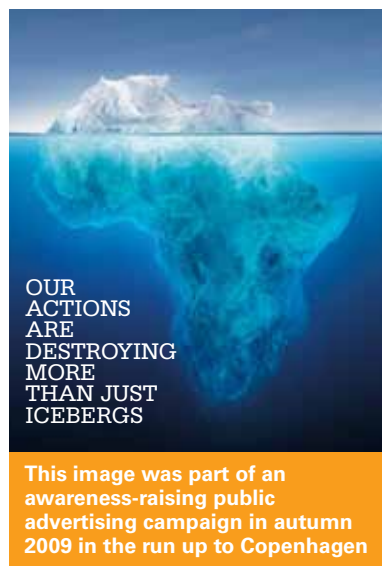
## Dangerous distractions

Two high-profile controversies have recently brought the small but noisy group of climate sceptics under the spotlight.

- The theft and selective publication of emails from the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia (UEA). Two independent inquiries have clearly supported the work of UEA and found no evidence of misconduct.
- A minor error identified in the preface of a chapter of the IPCC's 2007 report (a badly sourced, untrue assertion that Himalayan glaciers could disappear by 2035). This mistake did not detract from the report's main argument or the case about the potential impact of climate change on glaciers.

The widely anticipated next 'error' of the IPCC to be exposed is that their 2007 predictions may well have been too conservative! One respected subsequent study has indicated that sea-level rise may take place two to three times quicker than the IPCC predicted – potentially increasing [by what?] to 1.83m by the end of the century.

Climate change sceptics are working hard, often funded by fossil-fuel companies, to undermine action on climate change.



Christian Aid cannot ignore the testimony from our experienced partners that in the communities in which they work, conditions are changing for the worse. Coupled with respected scientific evidence and our desire to root out injustice and be good stewards of the earth, action on climate change is a top priority.

Read more about the science and impact of climate change in our June 2010 *Time for Climate Justice* briefing, **Warning signs: the science and impacts of climate change**, which includes 'Common challenges to the science – and the truth' – a handy set of clear, evidence-based responses to typical arguments of sceptics (for example, 'climate change will be beneficial').

# THE MOTIVATION: EXPERIENCE ON THE GROUND

If carbon emissions keep increasing and global warming continues, the IPCC predicts the following impact on different parts of the world, which will exacerbate poverty in several ways.<sup>4</sup>

## Food security

- In semi-arid and arid developing countries, even a relatively small temperature change (1–2°C) could reduce crop productivity and increase the risk of hunger.
- In parts of Africa, the area suitable for agriculture, the length of the growing season and crop yield would all be reduced.
- In Asia, a 30 per cent drop in crop yield would occur in central and south Asia by 2050.
- In Latin America, drier areas will experience a significant drop in crop and livestock yields.
- Fish stocks will be further diminished due to the warming and acidification of the seas.

## Freshwater access

- Around 50 per cent of the world's surface could be vulnerable to drought by 2100.
- In Africa, 75 to 250 million people will be affected by water shortages by 2020.

## Health

- Malnutrition will rise.
- A greater number of deaths, diseases and injury will result from extreme weather events (heatwaves, floods, storms, droughts, and so on).
- The incidence of diarrhoea, primarily associated with contaminated water supplies during floods and droughts, will increase.
- Changes in spatial distribution of some infectious diseases, including malaria, could reduce deaths in some areas while increasing risk of infection in others.

## Forests

- Increased frequency of forest fires and pests will impact on forestry.
- By 2050, tropical forest will be gradually replaced by savannah in the eastern Amazon area, with some predictions of much more severe degradation of the Amazon rainforest by 2100.



Hermogenia and her husband Aldo live in a remote farming community, high in the Peruvian Andes. Their community depends on a mountain glacier to provide a constant flow of water for drinking, crop irrigation and even energy. But temperatures are getting warmer and the glacier they have relied on is shrinking.

Aldo explains: 'Water here is not like before. The river gives life; today the river has almost dried up. The river is fed by glacial water. Around six years ago the glacier used to be very white – not these days.' With the support of Christian Aid partner the Centre for Agricultural Development (CEDAP), Aldo and Hermogenia have learnt better farming and irrigation techniques, but life is still hard. Water is now in short supply and harvests have decreased.



Women help to 'dress' the bank of the canal at Kandi, West Bengal, which is being widened and deepened in an effort to prevent flooding.

# WANT TO GO DEEPER?

## Time for Climate Justice briefings

Christian Aid's Policy team has produced a set of concise briefing papers exploring key issues on the climate change and development agenda. In the run-up to Copenhagen, a series of *Time for Climate Justice 'Signposts'* papers examined the United Nations process and concepts such as 'climate debt', and a new series of briefings is now available. The latter starts with an analysis of how to move forward from Copenhagen. All of these documents can be downloaded from the 'policy' section of Christian Aid's website, or paper copies can be requested by contacting the Campaigns team (see back of guide for contact details).

## Climate change case studies

Christian Aid's website has some examples of situations across the globe that our partner organisations and the communities they work in are faced with because of climate change. Case studies are also featured in a range of policy reports which can be browsed and downloaded from the 'policy' section.

If you or your church/community group has a special interest in, or connection with, a particular country in which Christian Aid works, contact us and we will do our best to share with you some climate change stories from that part of the world.



## The theology of climate change

As the agency of the churches in Britain and Ireland, all of the key issues on which Christian Aid campaigns are supported by a theological position. Two particularly relevant pieces are available to download from our website:

*All Creation Groaning: A Theological Approach to Climate Change and Development*

*Theology and International Development*

To download visit [www.christianaid.org/resources/churches/theology](http://www.christianaid.org/resources/churches/theology)

## The Time for Climate Justice campaign

As well as this guide, you can order the following resources to help you call for climate justice:

- the latest campaign postcard
- the campaign DVD
- the campaign poster
- climate change campaign leaflet.



Fifteen-year-old Harida looks after herds of goats belonging to several families in Kenya. Her own family's herd has shrunk dramatically in numbers as a result of the drought. She injured her eye in a fight over water during the last tanker delivery, and now fears she might lose the sight in this eye because she has no access to medical assistance.

Abdullahi Abdi, executive officer of Christian Aid partner Northern Aid, says: 'Every day, I witness climate change impacting on the lives of Kenyans. The pastoralist way of life is under serious threat. Climate change has turned people's lives into a nightmare: the drought cycle that used to recur every 11 years now happens every second year.' Northern Aid tankers supply communities with water at the height of each drought.



# CHRISTIAN AID CLIMATE CAMPAIGN: THE STORY SO FAR



February 2007



**Cut the Carbon campaign launch**

The campaign launches with the publication of the **Coming Clean** report – its revelation that carbon emissions from UK companies account for 12-15 per cent of the globe’s carbon footprint makes front-page news.<sup>5</sup>

March 2007



**Campaigning to companies to ‘come clean’**

**Morrisons** was among the businesses Christian Aid targeted with our call for companies to declare and cut their carbon emissions.

**‘Commit to 80%’ MP lobbies help strengthen the UK Climate Change Bill**

By this time, the UK **Climate Change Bill** was taking all our energy as we approached MPs, asking them to ‘commit’ to increasing the proposed emissions reduction target from 60 to 80 per cent.

Spring 2008



October 2008



**Countdown to Copenhagen campaign launches**

With the UN meeting in Copenhagen over a year away, campaigners from every county in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland descended on London to launch the Countdown to Copenhagen, with the ‘people map’ and campaigners appearing in local papers up and down the land.



**Cut the Carbon march**



July–Oct 2007



**20 marchers, 80 days, 1,000 miles** – ambitious and exhausting, the Cut the Carbon march was the longest protest march in UK history and allowed Christian Aid partners to share their climate change stories with churches, companies and MPs across the UK. Over 2,000 campaigners marched the final mile into St Paul’s Cathedral on the day the Prime Minister received the 10,000-signature-strong ‘great shoelace’ petition.

**Climate Change Act**

November 2008

As the **Climate Change Bill** became an Act, we celebrated, along with sister agencies, that the target was increased to 80 per cent. Christian Aid campaigners hailed an additional victory, as our unique call for mandatory reporting of emissions by UK companies was included for further consideration. In autumn 2010, campaigners will hold the government to account and ask them to make reporting mandatory for all companies.

December 2008

The EU’s ‘climate and energy’ package set the European agenda in the run-up to Copenhagen. Christian Aid campaigners sent postcards to MEPs and picketed the embassies of countries seeking to weaken the deal as the UN met in Poland.



**Campaigning to the European Union**

December 2007

**UNFCCC in Bali**

The UN meets in Bali and launch a two-year road map to deliver a new global climate change deal.

**UNFCCC meet in Poznan, Poland**

December 2008

The **Countdown to Copenhagen campaign** makes its first major international appearance, with campaigners running events and stunts and taking part in a giant demonstration during the UN conference.

Thank you to all our campaigners, who can look back at these achievements and feel proud. We hope the story so far inspires new campaigners to join the call for climate justice.

## 2009

19 March 2009

### Climate change day of action



The Christian and scientific communities came together in Coventry to call for the UK government to take Copenhagen seriously. NASA scientist Dr James Hansen and the Bishop of Liverpool, Right Reverend James Jones, addressed Christian Aid and CAFOD campaigners before a Stop Climate Chaos march through the city and demonstration outside energy company E.ON's headquarters.



### Don't Blow the Deal, EU!

Bonfire-night-inspired pressure is put on key European politicians as their position ahead of Copenhagen is finalised.

5 November 2009

### The Wave

Over 50,000 blue-clad campaigners descend upon Westminster to pressure the UK government to galvanise its position as it headed to Copenhagen. In the week before, over 60,000 Countdown to Copenhagen pledges were handed in to Downing Street – and on the day of **The Wave**, the Prime Minister met with supporters. Waves also took place in Glasgow and Belfast.



5 December 2009

### No New Coal!

Throughout 2009

The **Stop Climate Chaos Coalition** was part of the campaign that successfully halted the building of the coal-fired power station at Kingsnorth, as well as highlighting the hypocrisy of the UK government pursuing a dirty approach to domestic energy while heralding the Climate Change Act a 'world first'.



Sept-Nov 2009

### Mass Visual Trespass

The Countdown to Copenhagen intensified as campaigners recorded video messages for the Prime Minister, which Christian Aid projected onto prominent buildings, including Ironbridge Power Station, Edinburgh Castle, Custom House in Dublin and the Houses of Parliament!

### UN intercessional meeting in Bangkok

International campaigners call for climate justice alongside 3,000 other civil society protesters from the Global South during the UN's intercessional meeting ahead of Copenhagen.

October 2009



### Campaigning in Copenhagen



December 2009

100 supporters travelled to campaign alongside activists from across the globe during the crucial talks. Highlights included Archbishop Desmond Tutu handing over half a million signatures from the Countdown to Copenhagen campaign to Yvo de Boer of the UN calling for a fair, ambitious and binding deal.

## 2010

### Ask the Climate Question

May 2010



To make climate change a key election issue, campaigners in 50 of the UK's most marginal seats to put on **Ask the Climate Question** hustings and encourage constituents to raise climate change on their doorstep with candidates.

### Score a Goal for Climate Justice

June 2010



During the World Cup, Climate and Energy Secretary Chris Huhne was encouraged to 'Score a Goal for Climate Justice' as the UK delegation headed to an EU ministerial meeting to discuss raising their emissions reduction target from 20 to 30 per cent.

# COPENHAGEN: THE GLOBAL COUNTDOWN

Did you know that since 2007, Christian Aid has been at the heart of an unstoppable movement of international climate change campaigning? More than half a million people in 24 countries have taken part so far. From El Salvador to Cameroon, from Bangladesh to Kyrgyzstan, campaigners already affected by climate change are building a movement for climate justice.

## COUNTING DOWN TO COPENHAGEN AROUND THE WORLD



**Bolivia:**  
**Climate Justice Tribunal**  
In 2009, Bolivian civil society hosted an international tribunal at which climate change problems threatening indigenous people and human rights were presented. With

international press coverage and praise from Nobel Peace Prize winner Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, the successful tribunal was repeated in Bangkok during the UN meeting later that year. Here, 'witnesses' from Bangladesh, the Philippines, Micronesia, Nepal, Thailand and Indonesia all gave evidence of climate change.



**Bangladesh:**  
**112,000 signatures in three months**  
The Countdown to Copenhagen Bangladesh Campaign united 54 NGOs and over 100,000 people vulnerable to climate change. In rural areas, men and women unable to read or write used fingerprints to sign the petition, after volunteers read out the demands.



**South Africa: stop 'dirty' World Bank loans**  
In early 2010, Christian Aid gave its support to 50 African organisations campaigning against a \$3.75 billion World Bank loan to build a coal-fired energy plant in South Africa. Their action highlights why the World Bank cannot be trusted to manage existing or future climate funds. Members of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) were instrumental

in this campaign. Formed in 2008, PACJA's mission is to promote its vision for climate justice to the African Union and African governments involved in the United Nations climate negotiations.

**To keep up to date with international climate change campaigning, visit our global coalition website [www.climatejusticeonline.org](http://www.climatejusticeonline.org)**

## WHAT HAPPENED IN COPENHAGEN

The world counted down to Copenhagen, with climate campaigners and the developing world pinning hopes on the United Nations conference as the best chance yet to secure a fair, ambitious and binding global deal. Despite a groundswell of public support for an agreement and a media storm, world leaders failed to negotiate a deal.

Copenhagen was characterised by a lack of progress and ambition from rich countries, back-room deals and dirty tricks. The difference at this conference compared to previous occasions was the determination of developing world delegations to play their full part – to share their current climate change challenges and refuse to let the rich world shirk their responsibilities to shoulder the burden of cleaning up their mess.



**Augustine Njamshi** from Cameroon is PACJA's Coordinator for West Africa and was part of the Alliance's delegation in Copenhagen: 'You cannot say you are proposing a "solution" to climate change if your solution will see millions of Africans die and if the poor not the polluters keep paying for climate change.'



## ACTION ON THE GROUND

### Stunts inside the conference centre

Members of PACJA join Countdown to Copenhagen campaigners inside the UN talks to demand that rich countries commit more climate finance to help poor countries adapt to climate change.



Members of PACJA join Countdown to Copenhagen campaigners inside the UN talks, warning rich countries



that killing the Kyoto Protocol threatens the lives of millions of poor people in Africa.



Christian Aid youth campaigners don detective costumes inside the UN conference centre at a climate crime scene set up to highlight the need for climate justice.

### On the streets of Copenhagen

100 Christian supporters travelled over land to take part in the largest climate change protest ever, an ecumenical church service and the hand in of the Countdown to Copenhagen petition.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu hands over the half a million signatures from the Countdown to Copenhagen petition to Yvo de Boer of the United Nations.

**Stuart Douglas** from Scotland said: 'Having walked 1,000 miles during the Cut the Carbon march it was important to me to travel to Copenhagen and once again campaign alongside our brothers and sisters from the global South.'

**Adam Gardner** said 'Copenhagen was incredibly inspiring when we were there - people had come from all around the world, including places actually affected by climate change - and we all stood shoulder to shoulder, calling for climate justice'

**Jane Russell** started her journey in Dublin... 'I'm going to do a scrapbook for my grandchildren entitled, When Granny Went to Save the Planet.'

**Olwen Roberts** travelled to Copenhagen by bus from Wales and on their long trip home said: 'There's nowhere else I'd have wanted to be this weekend.'

**Fatija Abdul Hajid** from Kenya was part of PACJA's delegation: 'We are very disappointed; we are going home empty handed.'



'Coming home was strange. In the end it felt like the talks hadn't come to that much at all. But I don't think Copenhagen was ever going to be the end of it anyway. Even if things had gone better, we'd still have to be lobbying business and governments to be doing their bit - so it just means we have to carry on that bit harder!' Christian Aid campaigner, **Adam Gardner**.

**Shirley Bolanos** was part of the Philippines delegation: 'It is very frustrating for all of us. This means that we will suffer and have no justice from the rich countries. So this means more death and more suffering for poorer countries.'



# MOVING FORWARD: NEXT STEPS IN THE CAMPAIGN

The goal of the Time for Climate Justice campaign is to get a fair, ambitious, binding and effective global climate change deal for the world's poorest. Christian Aid believes that getting a global deal through the UN process is still the best answer to this global challenge – but it must be the right deal. A key feature of an adequate new international climate change deal will be sufficient and well-managed 'climate finance' – money to help communities adapt to their changing climate and access clean sources of energy for development

## Energy poverty

More than 1.5 billion people across the developing world (about one-quarter of the world's population) have no access to electricity. They have no light in the evening, limited access to radio and communications, no modern power for their work, no way to safely store medicines. Over 2.5 billion people worldwide cook on open wood, dung or charcoal stoves – the smoke pollution from which causes more than 1.5 million deaths each year.

This lack of energy has limited the ability of individuals, communities and countries to achieve adequate standards of living or economic growth. This is keeping people trapped in poverty. And this poverty is only getting worse because of the impact climate change is having on the developing world. Those struggling to access energy are also those on the frontline of climate change impact.

Poor people need action on climate change and they need action on poverty. If they had help to gain access to new low carbon sources of energy, they could tackle both of these problems.



A daughter from Calvin Oboi's family in Uganda prepares a meal on a smoky open fire.

## Future Focus: the World Bank

In 2006 Christian Aid campaigners secured a campaign win when the UK Government withheld £50 million from the World Bank as a result of the Stop Paying for Poverty campaign. This called for an end to economic conditions being placed on poor countries in return for aid and loans. Now we return our focus to the World Bank – this time to its record of funding projects that result in damaging climate change impact for the poor.



UK campaigners and representatives from Christian Aid partners in Africa march together through Westminster in September 2006, calling on the UK Government to Stop Paying for Poverty

## The World Bank's role in climate finance

If poor countries are to respond to the impact of climate change and to develop in a clean way in the future, a global fund will need to be made available to support this. The World Bank is seeking to manage this fund.

However, a range of developing countries firmly believe that the World Bank is not well placed to deliver climate finance and that funding should instead come through the United Nations. These concerns are partly down to a World Bank energy policy consisting of large-scale fossil fuel projects and privatisation, both of which have often failed to provide energy to poor communities or reduce poverty.

In addition, these projects now threaten to worsen the lives of poor people living in a changing climate by emitting more carbon into the atmosphere.

**Between 2007 and 2009, the World Bank provided an average of \$2.2 billion a year for fossil fuel projects compared to just \$780 million for new renewables.<sup>8</sup>**

## Case study: South Africa

Despite a large and vocal campaign from South African civil society in spring 2010, the World Bank agreed to a loan of \$3.75 billion for South African energy giant Eskom to build a new coal-fired power station.



The new plant will emit an estimated 25 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, and damage the air, water and health of local communities. Big industry will benefit from the electricity produced by the plant, but not ordinary South Africans, many of whom currently live without access to electricity.

World Bank projects such as this highlight why the institution is not trusted by civil society in developing countries and why it is hypocritical for this institution to be involved in administering funds provided to help tackle climate change.

Developing countries need finance for new energy projects, but the priority must be to support low carbon energy for ordinary people.

*'We believe the World Bank has no ethical position to continue financing the destruction of the planet's climate by funding coal generation... We believe a sustainable energy future is possible if we put power in the hands of the people.'*

Bishop Geoff Davies, Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI)

## Hope for the future?

A new policy is needed, aimed specifically at improving the lives of the poor, by helping them to have access to safe, clean energy and promoting sustainable development. The World Bank has a chance to play a vital role in the shift to a low carbon energy future – one that lifts poor people out of poverty and protects us all from the effects of climate change.

Renewable energy sources are abundant in Africa and elsewhere in the developing world. They have significant potential to help countries meet their growing energy needs. We believe this should be what the World Bank invests in, not large-scale fossil-fuel projects that do not benefit local communities and contribute to climate change.

## Case study: Mali

An example of the kind of sustainable energy project that climate finance from the World Bank or the UN could, and should, support can be found in rural Mali. Here, Christian Aid partner the Mali-Folkecenter has brought together a private electricity company, international funding and their own expertise to provide electricity to Guaralo village generated by locally produced biofuel.

*'It is like [electricity] is free, grown in the field'*  
Alan Dembele, government official, Mali

*'We are a different community now. There are more businesses, we can keep vaccines in a fridge in the health centre, we can get cold fresh water and we have better security for the women at night.'*  
Mamdou Kane, Guaralo village, Mali

The Malian government is now developing a national strategy for biofuel development.

With funding and support, this national programme could develop and spread to other countries, providing the low-carbon energy security needed by poor communities across the developing world.



Since Christian Aid partner Mali-Folkecenter helped bring electricity to her village, restaurant owner Tigida Kane, 52, has invested in a fridge, making her business much more effective and profitable

## What we want:

- increased access to energy for poor people.
- support for the transition to a low-carbon-energy future.
- a reduction in the number of fossil fuel projects.



Bar Jesang Handhu, a pastoralist from Gujarat in India, marching through Copenhagen to demand a fair, ambitious and binding global deal

## YOUR ROLE: CALL FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE TODAY

**Thank you for all the time and energy you put into campaigning with Christian Aid.** We need you to join us and take action to help in our fight against poverty and climate change.

As well as doing all you can to call for climate justice, please help us and our partners to invite others to join the campaign. Climate change is a reality for the world's poorest and it is making poverty permanent. Across the world, activists are speaking out: help make the call louder.

### Which of these will you do to call for climate justice?

1. Sign and send the latest campaign postcard.
2. Join our photo petition to world leaders and demand that developing countries receive the resources they need to respond to climate change as part of a global deal at [www.christianaid.org.uk/actnow](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/actnow)
3. Display the campaign poster where others will see it.
4. Include a Climate Campaign slot in your church service or newsletter. Show the campaign DVD, order postcards for the congregation, or set up a stall.
5. Join Christian Aid for key campaign events.
6. Become a local lobbyist. Regularly contact your elected representative(s) and raise the latest campaign demand with them.



To be taken seriously, climate campaigners need to practise what we preach! There is a wealth of inspiration and advice available to individuals, churches and businesses seeking to reduce their own carbon footprint.<sup>9</sup>

Whatever you do, make sure your local action has a global dimension. Only ambitious, international political action can make the changes we need, fast enough to protect the poorest from the devastating impacts of climate change.

### Find out more...

Our website: [www.christianaid.org.uk/climatechange](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/climatechange)  
International website: [www.climatejusticeonline.org](http://www.climatejusticeonline.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/christianaid](http://www.facebook.com/christianaid)  
Twitter: [http://twitter.com/christian\\_aid](http://twitter.com/christian_aid)

### Contact Christian Aid's Campaigns team

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### To order more Christian Aid resources

Call 0870 0787 788 or email [orders@christian-aid.org](mailto:orders@christian-aid.org)



Christian Aid campaigners 'trespass' at the Houses of Parliament ahead of the UK delegation's departure for Copenhagen



Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality.

We urge you to join us.

### Endnotes

1 Unless otherwise indicated, all scientific analysis and statistics are taken from Christian Aid's 'Warning signs: the science and impacts of climate change', *Time for Climate Justice* briefing no.2, available at [www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/policy/climate\\_change.aspx](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/resources/policy/climate_change.aspx)

2 See *The human face of climate change*, Christian Aid report 2007

3 BBC Online, [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/science\\_and\\_environment/10370955.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/science_and_environment/10370955.stm)

4 IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Working Group 1, available to download from [www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_and\\_data\\_reports.htm#](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.htm#)

5 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability', Working Group II Report, in *Climate Change 2007, IPCC Fourth Assessment Report*, IPCC, 2007.

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7 'World Bank Group Energy Sector Lending Trends', *FY2009 Fact Sheet*, Bank Information Center, 2009, [www.bicusa.org/en/Article.11675.aspx](http://www.bicusa.org/en/Article.11675.aspx)

8 'Global sea level linked to global temperature', Martin Vermeer and Stephen Rahamsdorf, *PNAS*, 2009, [www.pnas.org/content/early/2009/12/04/0907765106.full.pdf+html](http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2009/12/04/0907765106.full.pdf+html)

9 [www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org)  
[www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)

**Front cover photo:** A member of the Countdown to Copenhagen advocacy delegation, Seng Sothirs from Cambodia takes a day out of lobbying inside the UN Climate talks to join Christian Aid partners, supporters and staff and campaigners from across the world., on the global day of action in Copenhagen. Credit: Christian Aid

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4 'The Physical Science Basis', Working Group 2 Report, in *Climate Change 2007, IPCC Fourth Assessment Report*. Available to download from [www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_and\\_data\\_reports.htm#](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.htm#)

5 'Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability', Working Group 2 Report, in *Climate Change 2007, IPCC Fourth Assessment Report*. Available to download from [www.ipcc.ch/publications\\_and\\_data/publications\\_and\\_data\\_reports.htm#](http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_and_data_reports.htm#)

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9 For help on reducing your carbon footprint, visit [www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org](http://www.shrinkingthefootprint.cofe.anglican.org) or [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com)



Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives.

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality.

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