



DISPLACEMENT
SOLUTIONS

Coastal Kids

*Coastal Dwelling Students in Australia, Bangladesh and beyond
learning from each other about our Changing Global Climate*

CONCEPT NOTE & PROJECT PROPOSAL
June 2012







Contents

INTRODUCTION	2
PROJECT GOALS AND OUTPUTS	4
PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS	5
Sorrento Primary School, Victoria, Australia	
William Carey Academy, Chittagong, Bangladesh	
THE PROJECTS	6
ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE OF DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA	10
ORGANISATIONAL ATTRIBUTES OF DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS AUSTRALIA	11
PROPOSED BUDGET	12
LETTERS OF COOPERATION	14

*1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to: ...
(e) The development of respect for the natural environment.*

--Article 29, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.



Introduction



The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the most widely ratified of all international human rights treaties, and forms the cornerstone of global efforts to secure the full spectrum of rights for children everywhere.

Article 29 of the CRC noted above speaks to the need to ensure that respect for the natural environment forms a key part of the education process. The initiative outlined in this concept note – *The Coastal Kids Project* – aims to implement the sentiments found in Article 29 within the participating schools and countries.

No environmental issue is likely to impact upon the children of today more than climate change. Throughout the world, temperatures and sea levels are rising, climate-induced environmental changes are causing drought, ever more severe storms, and people in growing numbers are beginning to face the very real prospect of being forced to flee their homes because of climate change.

While everyone, everywhere is affected in some way by the effects of climate change, it is the coastal dwelling children of today, their children and then their grandchildren who are likely to face the worst consequences of environmental change, even if the more moderate predictions of sea-level rise and related changes to the climate come to pass. Should global temperatures increase by 2°C in the coming decades as is commonly assumed, this will mean (among other things) a sea level rise of anywhere between 30cm – 90cm by the year 2100, if not more. If seas do indeed rise by this amount, the human effects of displacement, relocation, lost income, lost properties and lost livelihoods will inevitably be massive.

And yet, climate change is anything but a futuristic proposition. Indeed, climate change and its effects are already well underway throughout the world with people in a number of countries already grappling with displacement, future resettlement and slowly eroding standards of living. This is particularly true in countries such as Bangladesh, Kiribati, Maldives, Papua New Guineas and Tuvalu, all of which, like Australia, are located within the Asia-Pacific region, an area considered by experts to be under the most extreme climate threats anywhere in the world. Displacement Solutions Australia has worked extensively in these countries and maintains close partnerships with local grassroots groups, school officials and Government representatives in each of these nations, and has seen first-hand how climate change is already affecting these frontline countries.



The *Coastal Kids Project* will be carried out from 2012-2015 and will initially connect schools and students living in coastal areas in Bangladesh with schools and students in Australia who are also coastal dwellers. Using communications technology such as Skype and other forms of internet-based connections and learning, the *Coastal Kids Project* will bring children from these countries into direct face-to-face contact during which time they can discuss the reality of climate change, learn how climate change is affecting them and what kids in all of these countries can do to better understand the needs and wishes of coastal kids everywhere. In time, the *Coastal Kids Project* will seek to involve six to eight schools from other countries that are also vulnerable to climate change.

The *Coastal Kids Project* has already been initiated by Displacement Solutions Australia in one school - Sorrento Primary School – in Sorrento, Victoria in Australia. Displacement Solutions Australia has provided talks on climate change to students from grades three and four, including a presentation by a leading climate change campaigner from Bangladesh, Mr. Muhammad Abu Musa, the founder and director of the Association for Climate Refugees.



The students and teachers who attended these presentations were enthusiastic, engaging and all expressed an interest in expanding the project further. In addition, Displacement Solutions Australia has distributed a range of its climate change publications to several classrooms in the school.

Displacement Solutions Australia believes that putting children in direct contact with children in other countries using the topic of climate change as the discussion centerpiece serves a variety of very useful purposes for children on both sides of the discussion. These face-to-face exchanges will greatly assist in facilitating understanding by students in Australia of the real life challenges facing coastal dwellers in other countries in the developing world, and simultaneously encourage learning about how actions and consumption patterns in wealthier countries can directly impact on people elsewhere on the planet. The project will also build important international friendships and partnerships that can inform students' perspectives throughout their lives, and can assist in building bridges of hope between developed countries and those frontline countries struggling against the reality of climate change.

Project Goals and Outputs

The *Coastal Kids Project* will generate improved educational outcomes, build international understanding and create face-to-face interaction between coastal students in Australia, Bangladesh and eventually other countries resulting in a multitude of benefits for all participants.

THE PROJECT WILL:

- Enhance learning opportunities by students in Australia, Bangladesh and other project countries;
- Improve international educational understanding of a major global issues by students in all project countries;
- Introduce, almost invariably for the first time, students from the project countries to one another through face-to-face interactive discussions about coastal life and how climate change affects their lives, thereby building international networks and regional partnerships;
- Provide hope to coastal kids in affected countries and expand networks of coastal kids throughout the world.

In addition to the numerous non-material outputs expected from the implementation of the project, the *Coastal Kids Project* will also generate a number of innovative and multi-purpose concrete outputs associated with the themes addressed in the project. These are elaborated in the eight sub-projects outlined below and will include:

- A publication on Coastal Kids and Climate Change and a booklet entitled *How Can Parents Talk to Their Kids About Climate Change?*;
- Classroom talks on climate change and coastal areas;
- Curriculum development for children on climate change and coastlines;
- Face-to-face interaction between coastal children in Australia and coastal children in Bangladesh and other project countries;
- Visits and exchanges between selected students and their parents to project countries;
- The construction of a Coastal Kids website;
- Fundraising projects by schools in Australia for schools in Bangladesh and other project countries; and
- An educational film on *Coastal Kids and Climate Change*.



Participating Schools

The *Coastal Kids Project* will initially involve a strategically chosen school in each project countries. As the Project develops, additional schools in each project country will be involved, as will schools from other countries affected by climate change. Displacement Solutions Australia has existing partnerships with both of the following schools and has secured agreements from them to engage fully in the *Coastal Kids Project*. These schools are:

SORRENTO PRIMARY SCHOOL, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

Located on the Mornington Peninsula, south of Australia's second largest city Melbourne, Sorrento Primary School is recognized as a leading public education institution in the state of Victoria. With 260 students, the small, community-minded school, led by Principal Meg Dallas, teaches children from prep to sixth grade (ages 5-12) covering all basic educational issues, including international topics such as climate change. Displacement Solutions Australia has an active partnership with Sorrento Primary School, presenting talks about climate change and working collaboratively to develop the broader *Coastal Kids Project*. Sorrento Primary School will initially act as the base for the *Coastal Kids Project* in Australia. Once the key activities of the project have been successfully carried out, the project will expand its efforts to other schools throughout Australia.



Sorrento Primary School, Victoria, Australia

WILLIAM CAREY ACADEMY, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

The first school in Bangladesh to participate in the *Coastal Kids Project* is the William Carey Academy, located in the eastern city of Chittagong. The William Carey Academy provides English-medium instruction using an American curriculum. The goal of the school is to provide a model of international-standard education that will prepare Bangladeshi students for study at world-class universities. The school was founded in 1996 with grades K to 3. Each year a new class was added, and in 2006 the first graduation of the 12th grade was held. School enrollment for the 2010-11 school year is 400 students, 79 of whom are in the high school. WCA offers a traditional American curriculum in a distinctly Bangladeshi context. All courses except Bengali and foreign languages are taught in English, and English is used in all school related activities. WCA balances this focus on English use by celebrating Bangladeshi holidays, teaching Bengali language and observing Bangladeshi customs when possible.



*Students from the William Carey Academy,
Chittagong, Bangladesh*

The Projects

The *Coastal Kids Project* is designed to enhance understanding of the effects of climate change through educating Australian children about climate issues and facilitating direct contacts between students in Australia with children of the same age group from Bangladesh and, in time, other countries particularly threatened by climate change.

If children are enabled to discuss climate change issues directly with children in other countries grappling with the consequences of rising sea levels, salt water inundation and real and looming displacement, Displacement Solutions Australia believes that they will be able to

express greater understanding of the effects of climate change, while simultaneously stimulating compassion and concern for the plight facing coastal children throughout the world. Furthermore, this project presents a unique opportunity for enhanced and dynamic student learning, and will, above all, promote greater comprehension of geography, cultural diversity, language and the inherent power of international relations between ordinary people, in this case children.

The *Coastal Kids Project* will involve a series of eight projects that will be carried out to implement the aims and objectives concerned:

PROJECT 1 PUBLICATION ON COASTAL KIDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND A BOOKLET ON HOW PARENTS CAN TALK TO THEIR KIDS ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

Project One will involve two publications, the first of which will be a 30-page brochure entitled Coastal Kids and Climate Change aimed at an audience of students in grades 5 and 6. This brochure will be published with an initial print-run of 10,000 copies, and will be freely distributed in schools in all of the project countries. Including many pictures from around the world, and clear, easy-



The Projects

to-read text, the brochure will cover a number of topics in an engaging and accessible way, including; the basic science of climate change, the issue of climate displacement and its truly global nature, as well as the effects climate change will have on coastal areas.

The second publication under this Project will be a 15-page booklet for parents entitled *How Can Parents Talk to Their Kids About Climate Change?* and will be designed to encourage parents to discuss the issue of climate change with their children openly and honestly, fostering a positive, solutions-oriented perspective. This booklet will also be distributed at no cost to parents in all Coastal Kids schools, in all project countries. Together, these publications will help to facilitate greater understanding of climate change and its effects among parents and children, encouraging them to both learn about this issue and discuss it together in an open way. This basic understanding of climate change will act as the foundation upon which other projects will be implemented.

Project One will commence in June 2012 and be completed by December 2013.

PROJECT 2 CLASSROOM TALKS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTAL AREAS

Project Two will consist of a series of at least six talks (three per school) across each participating school about climate change and its global impact on coastal areas. Student participation will be encouraged in these interactive talks, which will act as a precursor to the face-to-face Skype conversations between students, to ensure that they have a basic understanding of the relevance of climate change and its effects. In each school, a representative of DSA will facilitate these interactive classroom talks alongside regular classroom teachers. Not only will these representatives have proficiency in presenting about the issue of climate change in a clear and straightforward way, but also they will be able to draw upon invaluable first-hand experience advocating for the rights of current and future climate change displaced persons around the world. Leading figures from various civil society and Government positions who are involved in the issue of climate change will address the students via Skype during these talks whenever possible. Lastly, an effort will be made to build, over time, a network of grassroots and national NGOs in each involved country to further expand the reach of this project in the future.

Project Two will commence in June 2012 and be completed by December 2015.

PROJECT 3 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILDREN ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND COASTLINES

Under Project Three, curriculum will be designed with the view to educating children in all of the project countries about the global issue of climate change in a holistic fashion. This curriculum will be integrated with other core learning components, such as geography, history, civics, integral studies, science, language and others, as climate change is indeed a vast, cross-cutting issue and has unique and interesting implications in each of these learning areas. As with the publications and classroom talks, engagement with this curriculum will enrich the face-to-face discussions under Project Four, as children will have had a chance to understand various aspects of climate change, and develop thoughtful questions that will be addressed during the dialogue.

Project Three will commence in June 2012 and be completed by December 2015.

PROJECT 4 FACE-TO-FACE INTERACTION BETWEEN COASTAL DWELLING CHILDREN IN AUSTRALIA AND COASTAL DWELLING CHILDREN IN BANGLADESH AND OTHER COUNTRIES

Face-to-face interaction will be facilitated under Project Four, as students from Australia will converse, via Skype, with students from Bangladesh, and eventually other countries. Once successfully carried out, efforts will be made to encourage further direct contact between these schools. In this exciting project, students will almost invariably be introduced for the first time to students from the respective other country. These conversations will involve a question-and-answer format, guided by a DSA representative and teachers in both relevant countries. The purpose of these interactions will be to help students better understand both what life is like in the other country and the effects climate change is having there already, and will have in the future.

Project Four will commence in June 2012 and be completed by December 2015.

PROJECT 5 VISITS AND EXCHANGES

Project Five will facilitate child and parent exchanges between schools in host countries. The selection of students for these potentially life-changing exchanges will be based on the completion of a class project on climate change. To ensure that the most inspired and engaged students participate, the boy or girl who submits the most impressive project, as assessed by a panel in each school, will be chosen. As part of Project Five, a focus will be on educating the parents of the selected children about how to talk to this child about climate change. On the exchange, students will visit five schools in the host country, including any participating Coastal Kids schools. This project is designed to give students an opportunity to engage deeply with the issue of climate change and develop a more nuanced understanding of both climate change from the perspective of the host country, and the nature of coastal life for children from that country.

Project Five will commence in January 2013 and be completed by December 2015.

PROJECT 6 COASTAL KIDS WEBSITE

Project Six will involve the creation and maintenance of a Coastal Kids website designed for use by both parents and children, which is particularly important given that the internet is becoming ever more relied upon by increasingly young students in their education. This website will be designed as a global clearing house for all information pertinent to coastal kids everywhere, and allow students from host countries to create meaningful relationships with each other and communicate via messages. In addition to providing news updates about relevant *Coastal Kids projects*, it will include links to curriculum and other educational resources as well as pictures from schools and other areas in each of the host countries. It is hoped that the new, child- and student-friendly website will encourage the rapid expansion of the Project to new schools and new countries.

Project Six will commence in June 2012 and be completed by December 2015.

The Projects

PROJECT 7 COASTAL KIDS HELPING COASTAL KIDS

Under Project Seven, fundraising events in each Coastal Kids' Australian school will be carried out to raise money for projects in the sister schools in Bangladesh and other countries. Projects and related budgets will be developed in each of these sister schools, based on their relevant needs, and may include the construction of new schools and the provision of essential educational resources. In addition to providing much-needed funds for these under-resourced sister schools, the fundraising events in Australia will encourage student involvement, foster altruism and promote awareness about the issue of climate change and displacement, and its implications for coastal kids.

Project Seven could commence in January 2013 and be completed by December 2015.

PROJECT 8 EDUCATIONAL FILM ON COASTAL KIDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Project Eight will involve the development of an educational film on coastal kids and climate change aimed at an audience of grade three and four students, aged eight to ten years. This film will follow a student from each country, and shed light on their story – what daily coastal life is like for them, how they understand climate change and the implications that this phenomenon will have on them. This film will give an insightful cross-section of the issue, revealing the different dimensions of climate change in both Australia and the other highly climate-vulnerable countries, including Bangladesh, and will be shown to students in all of the schools participating in the *Coastal Kids Project*.

Project Eight could commence in June 2012 and be completed by December 2012.



Organisational Profile

of Displacement Solutions Australia

Displacement Solutions Australia empowers displaced people and refugees to exercise their right to return and have restored to them their original homes, lands and properties. When this is materially impossible or not the wish of the refugee or displaced person concerned, DSA supports initiatives involving resettlement and/or compensation. We work on behalf of people displaced not only by conflict, forced eviction or other human rights abuses, but also natural disaster, climate change or other circumstances beyond their control. The major services provided by Displacement Solutions Australia include legal expertise, policy advice, training, research and advocacy.

DSA is registered as a non-profit, tax-exempt Incorporated Association in Australia, and is closely affiliated with Displacement Solutions, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Displacement Solutions Australia does not believe in simply blaming those responsible for human rights abuses. DSA takes human rights work one step further, offering practical guidance on reducing, eliminating or redressing abuses.

We work with displaced communities, governments, UN and humanitarian agencies to find creative ways to strengthen and enforce housing, land and property rights of people wishing to return to their homes. We are dedicated to ensuring displaced persons can be given the most viable options to returning home within the shortest possible time.

Through its Climate Change and Displacement Initiative, DSA has made many meaningful contributions to the issue of climate displacement, working in particular in five main focus countries: Bangladesh, Kiribati, Maldives, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu. DSA has conducted extensive fact-finding missions in each of these countries and worked with Government, UN agencies and other civil society organizations to develop human rights-based solutions to climate displacement. Notably, DSA assisted the Papua New Guinean organization, Tulele Peisa, with its work involving the resettlement of Carteret Islanders threatened

by climate change – one of the first efforts made, throughout the world, to relocate climate change displaced persons. Additionally, DSA works closely with the Bangladeshi organization, Young Power for Social Action (YPSA), to identify and acquire many acres of land within Bangladesh to be used to resettle people displaced by climate change. DSA has also composed a number of articles and other resources on this topic, including the 500-page reader, Climate Change and Displacement Reader, published by Routledge/Earthscan, UK. DSA has conducted HLP rights and climate change training courses in Bangladesh, Kiribati and Tuvalu, and DSA Director, Scott Leckie, created and coordinated the first-ever Climate Change and Displacement course at the Australian National University, as part of their renowned LLM Project.

The director of Displacement Solutions Australia, Scott Leckie (BA, LLM), is an international human rights lawyer, advocate and researcher. He has carried out human rights work in 77 countries over 25 years and was the driving force behind many international human rights standard-setting efforts in housing rights, prevention of forced evictions and property restitution.

Displacement Solutions Australia thus has the necessary experience, expertise and capacity to successfully undertake the proposed project within the noted timeline and budget.

Organisational Attributes

Agency Displacement Solutions Australia Inc.

Address 2/3741 Point Nepean Road, Portsea 3944, Vic, Australia

Contact Scott Leckie

Title Director

Phone +61.400.388.345

Email scott@displacementsolutions.org

Website www.displacementsolutions.org

Bank Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Sorrento, Victoria

Account 10133531

ABN 39 898 387 082



Proposed Budget

	AUD\$
Coordination	
1. Project Coordinator @ 80,000/yr	320,000
2. Project Administrator	28,000
3. Project Accountant	12,000
Sub-total	360,000
Project 1 – Publication on Coastal Kids and Climate Change	
1. Researcher	25,000
2. Editing	20,000
3. Printing and Graphic Design (10,000 copies)	100,000
4. Distribution	20,000
Sub-total	165,000
Project 2 – Classroom Talks on Climate Change and Coastal Areas	
1. Lecture Preparation (Six Grades)	20,000
2. Travel	5,000
Sub-total	25,000
Project 3 – Curriculum Development for Children on Climate Change and Coastlines	
1. Curriculum Developer (Six Grades)	30,000
Sub-total	30,000
Project 4 – Face-to-Face Interaction Between Coastal Children in Australia and Coastal Children in Bangladesh	
1. School contribution to participating schools	20,000
2. Coordination	20,000
Sub-total	40,000
Project 5 – Visits and Exchanges	
1. Bangladesh » Australia Exchange	15,000
2. Australia » Bangladesh Exchange	15,000
Sub-total	30,000
Project 6 - Construct Coastal Kids Website	
1. Content development	15,000
2. Graphic design and website construction	10,000
Sub-total	25,000

Proposed Budget

	AUD\$
Project 7 - Coastal Kids Helping Coastal Kids	
1. School competitions	25,000
2. School supplies/building upgrade: Bangladesh	20,000
Sub-total	45,000
Project 8 - Educational Film on Coastal Kids and Climate Change	
1. Film Direction	50,000
2. Film Production	50,000
3. Film Edits and Effects	50,000
4. Distribution and Promotion	100,000
Sub-total	250,000
Project Overheads (@ 7%)	67,900
GRAND TOTAL	1,037,900



Letters of Cooperation

Kerferd Avenue, Sorrento
P.O. Box 121
Sorrento
VIC 3943



Sorrento
Primary School

Phone: 5984 2130
Fax: 5984 4778

Monday 13th February, 2012

Dear Scott

Thank you very much for inviting Sorrento Primary School (SPS) to participate within the Coastal Kids Project. SPS is excited to collaborate with Displacement Solutions Australia (DSA) on this excellent project.

Our school's vision states that "we provide a collaborative and dynamic learning environment where students will develop literacy, numeracy and life skills that will assist them in becoming valued and active participants in the global community". This project fits in perfectly with our vision and provides a wonderful real life opportunity for our students to extend their understanding of and empathy for the world in which they live.

We look very much forward to working with you and the other participating schools in Bangladesh, Kiribati and Tuvalu on this exciting project. We hope very much that DSA will be able to raise all of the funds required to implement the project in full.

Yours sincerely

M. Dallas

Meg Dallas
Principal

Letters of Cooperation



3 May, 2012

RE: Coastal Kids Projects

Dear Sir,

Please be informed that William Carey Academy welcomes its collaboration with Displacement Solutions Australia on their Coastal Kids Programme, which will help students from this school connect with students from Australia and other climate-affected countries around the issue of climate change.

The school would be in high spirits to get involved to improve access to learning materials and other forms of technical or other form of assistance that may be required in order to ensure that the Coastal Kids project can be carried out regularly and on a sustainable basis.

William Carey Academy has good internet connection with established computer lab for our student, which can be utilized for the Coastal Kids Project purpose as well.

Looking forward to working with you on this exciting project.

Warm regards,

Mrs. Marilou Long
Chancellor
William Carey Academy



WILLIAM CAREY ACADEMY
G.P.O. Box 96, Chittagong 4000, Bangladesh Phone: 880-31-652034, 657585
Email: info@wcabangladesh.net www.wcabangladesh.net



Rue des Cordiers 14, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland
Suite 2/3741 Point Nepean Road, 3944 Portsea, Australia
www.displacementsolutions.org