



THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND INITIATIVE

Funding Proposal | 2016 - 2020

Climate Justice for the Climate Displaced



DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS



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A woman is seen from behind, rowing a small wooden boat on a vast, choppy blue ocean. She is wearing a bright pink long-sleeved shirt and a dark skirt with yellow and white geometric patterns. A red headscarf is tied around her head. The boat's wooden hull and a coiled rope are visible in the foreground. In the distance, a low-lying island with some buildings and trees is visible under a cloudy sky. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

States facing climate-related displacement within their borders require significant financial support and technical expertise to develop solutions that provide for the rights of those affected.

Mary Robinson
UN Climate Change Envoy



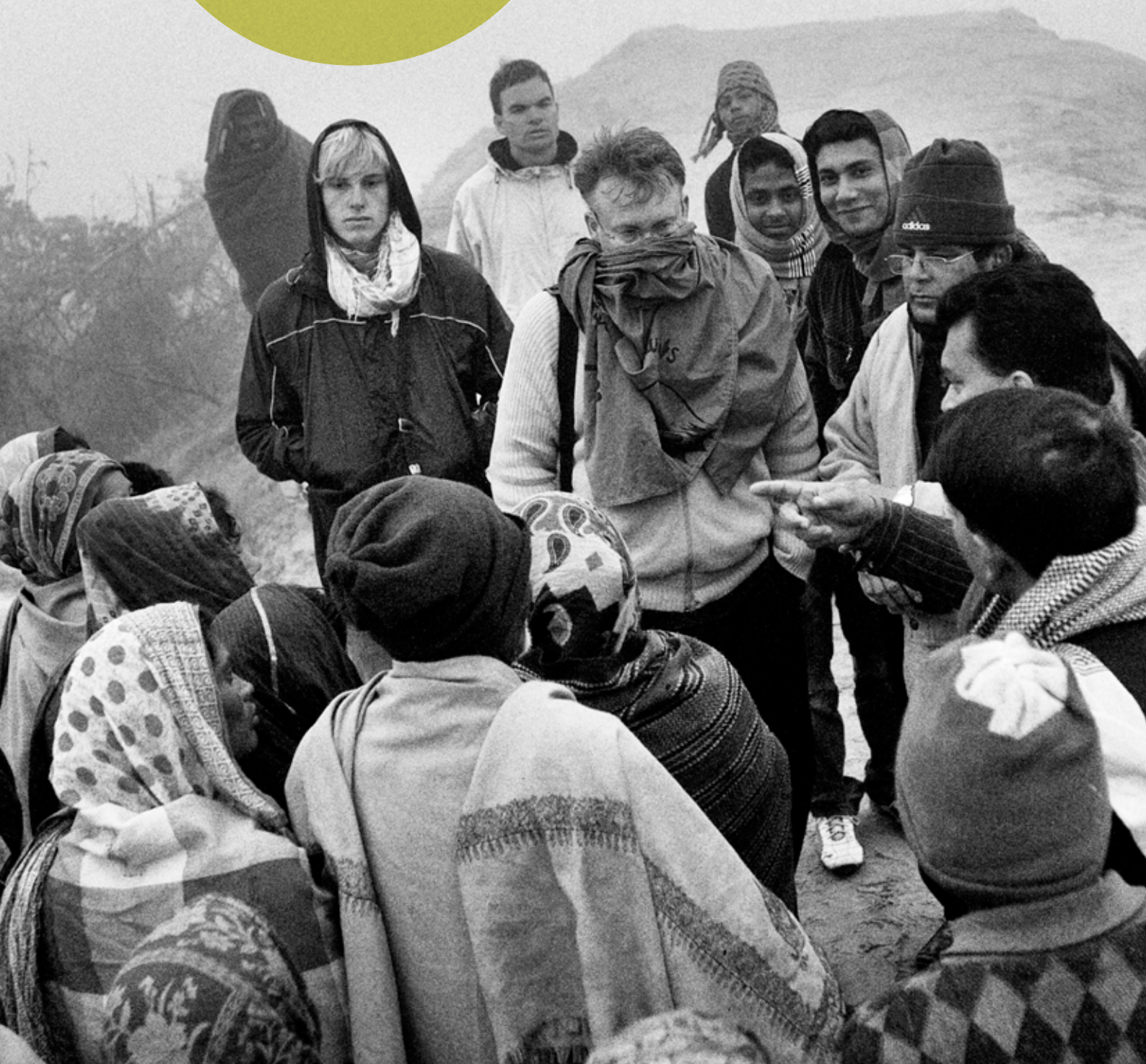
TWO OF THE 30,000
GUNAYALA INDIGENOUS
ISLANDERS FORCED TO
RELOCATE TO THE
PANAMANIAN MAINLAND
DUE TO RISING SEA LEVELS.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Guna Yala, Panama



DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS
AND YPSA IN DISCUSSION
WITH CLIMATE DISPLACED
COMMUNITY LEADERS IN A
VERY CHILLY BANGLADESH.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Khulna, Bangladesh

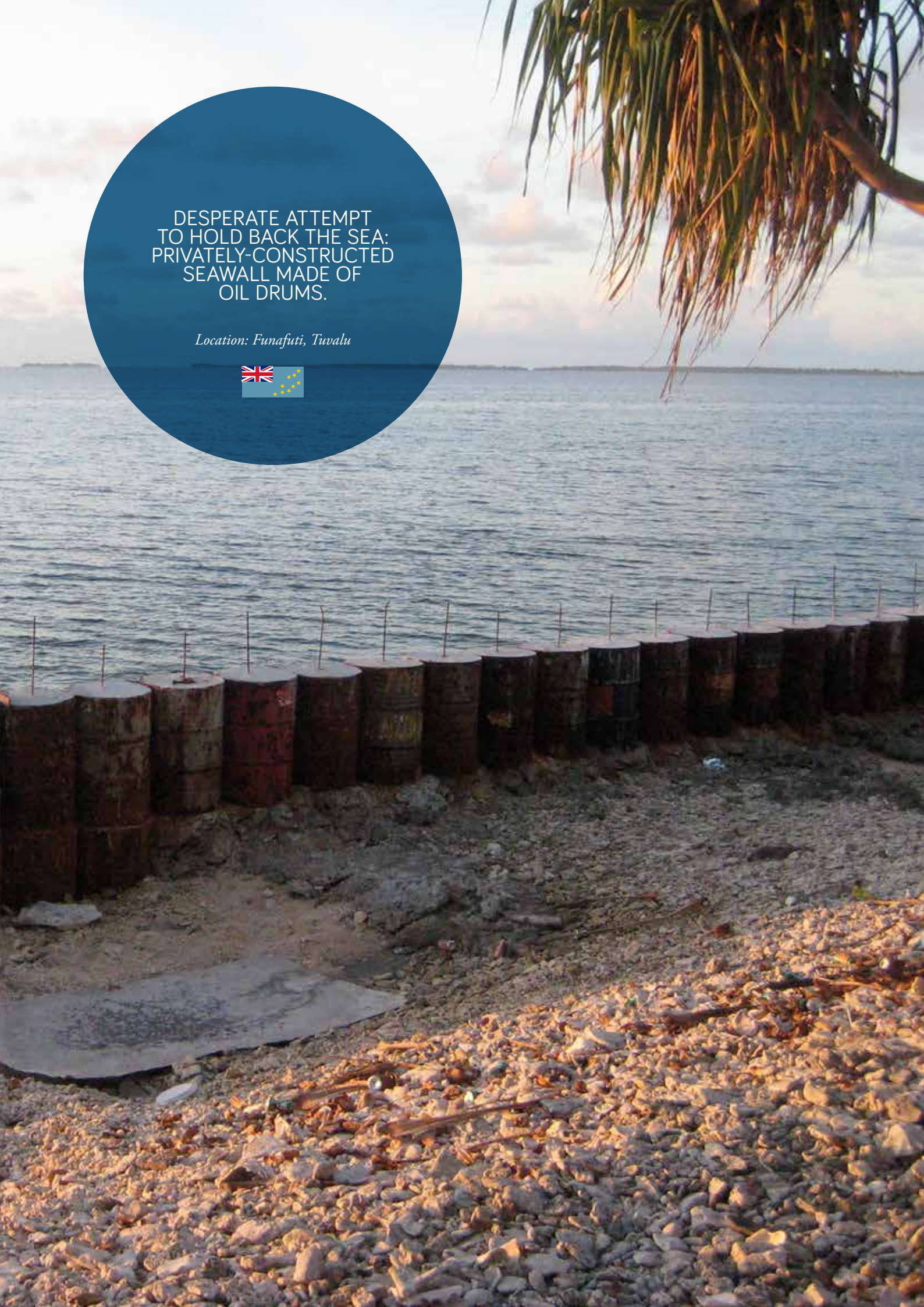


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DESPERATE ATTEMPT
TO HOLD BACK THE SEA:
PRIVATELY-CONSTRUCTED
SEAWALL MADE OF
OIL DRUMS.

Location: Funafuti, Tuvalu



I. INITIATIVE SUMMARY

01

“Although there is a growing awareness of the perils of climate change, its likely impact on human displacement and mobility has received too little attention.”

--António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Climate displacement is a growing global reality that undermines human rights and threatens underlying social and economic development, as well as peace and security. Millions of people have already been displaced, with tens of millions of people under the very real threat of displacement. This new form of displacement has not received the attention it deserves despite its growing scale, and the fact that internal climate displacement can be repaired with the right combination of political commitment, targeted laws, appropriate policies and other measures dedicated to finding durable solutions for everyone in need of new housing and land.

The *Climate Displacement Land Initiative* will implement a series of innovative measures designed to prevent and resolve climate displacement in five key countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Colombia and Panama.

The actions envisaged in the *Climate Displacement Land Initiative* will build on nearly a decade of practical hands-on work experience on climate displacement by Displacement Solutions. The Initiative will seek to assist in alleviating the plight of climate displaced persons by ensuring that they enjoy the full spectrum of human rights, in particular housing, land and property rights, both within their own nations and in countries where they may need to be resettled.

The Initiative outlined below will aim to systematically analyze and understand the climate displacement circumstances in five carefully selected countries, combined with an intensive series of actions in support of at least 10,000 persons in need in each Initiative country. DS has developed a detailed, practical and attainable five-year plan of action comprised of four carefully formulated subject areas:

- ▶ Project 1: Initiative Coordination and Management
- ▶ Project 2: The Climate Displacement Land Project: Asia (Bangladesh)
- ▶ Project 3: The Climate Displacement Land Project: Pacific (Fiji and Solomon Islands)
- ▶ Project 4: The Climate Displacement Land Project: Americas (Colombia and Panama)

Each of these innovative projects will build upon the many years of DS' practical experience in the field working to resolve and repair climate displacement with the very people who are already facing this growing global crisis. Clear plans of action have been developed for each project component,

combined with detailed and concrete minimum objectives for each Initiative country. DS works with key local and community-based partners in each Initiative country, who will be critical to the eventual success of the Initiatives's aims and objectives.

We are very grateful to the donors who have seen the unique value added by the work of Displacement Solutions since our establishment, as well as to those who serve on our Board and Advisory Board. We are also thankful to the four leading figures in the climate displacement field who were kind enough to prepare letters of recommendation in support of this Initiative that are included below.

To implement the planned projects that together form the elements of the Climate Displacement Land Initiative will require new funding resources. The total budget required to implement our unique approach to climate displacement is CHF 9'120'000. A disaggregated budget is included at the end of this document below.

We thank all prospective donors for their time in considering our proposals and look forward to working together to resolve climate displacement through implementing the Climate Displacement Land Initiative.



Scott Leckie

Director and Founder
Geneva, Switzerland
1 October 2015



THE DS-INSPIRED PENINSULA PRINCIPLES ARE HELPING GUNAYALA PEOPLE IN PANAMA TO PLAN THEIR
RELOCATION TO THE MAINLAND (IMAGE: KADIR VAN LOHUIZEN / NOOR)

A portrait of a woman from Ontong Java Atoll, Solomon Islands. She has traditional orange and yellow face paint, including a large 'V' shape on her forehead and circular patterns on her cheeks. She wears a thick, curly headband made of dried palm fronds and a beaded necklace with black, white, and red beads. She is wearing a teal-colored garment. The background shows palm trees.

THE HUMAN FACE OF
CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT:
A WOMAN FROM
ONTONG JAVA ATOLL
CONTEMPLATING AN
UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

Image: Ben Knight
Location: Ontong Java Atoll, Solomon Islands



KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND INITIATIVE

Climate displacement is *already* occurring, communities are *already* moving and land acquisition and planned relocation are *already* recognised in the five Climate Displacement Land Initiative countries as central components in the quest to find new homes and livelihoods for those affected. DS will work in each country to support climate justice for everyone who is threatened with or who has lost their homes and lands as a consequence of climate change. As such, from 2016-2020 the Climate Displacement Land Initiative will:

- ▶ **Work directly**, passionately and with sustained commitment with climate-affected persons and communities and local officials to secure affordable, viable and well-located land resources for climate displaced persons in the five Initiative countries;
- ▶ **Engage directly** with local and national governments in the five Initiative countries to incorporate effective approaches to the resolution of climate displacement within domestic law, policy and practice;
- ▶ **Advocate** for the establishment of Climate Displacement Land Banks in each of the five Initiative countries as integral component of effective domestic policy designed to repair climate displacement;
- ▶ **Ensure** that all planned relocation measures in the five Initiative countries fully incorporate human rights protections and are designed with best practice methods at their core;
- ▶ **Achieve** the following concrete targets in each Initiative country: the identification of 20 or more land parcels appropriate for eventual planned relocation, the acquisition of a minimum of 120ha of land into national land banks and the foundations for permanent solutions to climate displacement for at least 10,000 people in each Initiative country; and
- ▶ **Prevent and Repair** climate displacement and protect the rights of climate displaced communities in Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji, Panama and the Solomon Islands through the use of human rights and other laws beneficial to these groups.

II. DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS

05

APPLICANT AGENCY

Agency:	Displacement Solutions, founded on 28 December 2006
Legal Status:	Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt International Association, registered in Geneva, Switzerland
Official Addresses:	DS International – 14, rue des Cordiers, 1207 Geneva, Switzerland
Contact Name:	Scott Leckie
Title:	Founder and Director
Phone:	+61.400.388.345
Email:	info@displacementsolutions.org
Website:	www.displacementsolutions.org
Bank Account:	UBS SA, Geneva, Switzerland, Account: 0240-328557 (CHF)
IBAN:	CH720024024032855701Q
SWIFT:	(BIC) UBSWCHZH80A

WORKING METHODS

Displacement Solutions (DS) is an international non-profit association working innovatively to resolve human displacement generated by climate change. DS was established in December 2006 to assist in resolving all forms of displacement through a reliance on human rights law. The organisation has focused increasingly on newer forms of displacement, in particular the movement of people from their homes and lands due to the consequences of climate change, and over time has developed into a leading voice in this field. DS has worked intensively on these issues in a wide range of countries throughout the world, and has been supported by a variety of international donors for these efforts. DS works to improve international legal rules and guidelines protecting climate displaced people, and aims to empower climate displaced persons and communities to access practical durable solutions to their displacement with an emphasis on their housing, land and property rights. DS works directly with

communities facing or threatened by climate displacement, as well as local and national governments responsible for these citizens, UN and other international organisations, and local and community-based groups. The expertise provided by Displacement Solutions includes legal analysis, planned relocation strategies, policy advice and development, training, research and advocacy.

For the past eight years DS has worked extensively in many countries in Asia, the Pacific and the Americas on a range of climate displacement issues, with a focus on measures to promote innovative, rights- and land-based solutions to the problem. DS was one of the first organisations to carry out efforts to identify and support the procurement, setting aside and allocation of land for climate displaced communities in countries including Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Myanmar, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.¹ Beyond these country-specific efforts, DS published a landmark study on this issue in 2013², followed by a book on the same theme published by Routledge/Earthscan in 2014³, and another book entitled *Repairing Domestic Climate Displacement*, published in 2015. DS research on this issue also developed the first-ever estimate - some .03--.14% of the world's land surface - of global land needs to provide land resources to all projected climate displaced persons. Based on the results of these research efforts, DS has conducted advocacy efforts at the UN for action on climate displacement and associated land issues.

DS was the first international NGO to focus structurally on the issue of repairing climate displacement by working with threatened communities and governments facing these complex challenges to identify, access and allocate new land resources to affected people and to develop national planned relocation action plans. DS began this work in 2007, when it developed a multi-layered plan with landowners, local community-based organisations and provincial government to access several thousand acres of land on the island of Bougainville (Papua New Guinea) to resettle the entire population of the climate-affected Carteret Islands. Since then, DS has worked in a range of frontline States grappling already with the very real displacement effects of climate change, including Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Myanmar, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and the US state of Alaska. In our projects in the field, we work with local organisations, communities themselves, governments and the UN to find practical ways of resolving climate displacement wherever it occurs.

Beyond these concrete field efforts, DS has also spearheaded activities to develop new international principles and guidelines on how best to manage climate displacement through the coordination of global efforts that led to the widely heralded *Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement Within States* (2013), a text now frequently used at all levels to guide domestic approaches to the problem.⁴

¹ A comprehensive overview of DS work on these issues can be found here: <http://displacementsolutions.org/ds-initiatives/climate-change-and-displacement-initiative/>

² Scott Leckie, *Finding Land Solutions for Climate Displacement: A Challenge Like Few Others*, Displacement Solutions, 2013.

³ Scott Leckie (ed) *Land Solutions for Climate Displacement*, Routledge, 2014.

⁴ For instance, the UN Climate Change Envoy, Mary Robinson, recently stated that: "The Peninsula Principles provide a normative framework, based on human rights, to address the rights of internally displaced people."

THE HUMAN FACE OF
CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR

Location: Khulna, Bangladesh





DS has prepared a range of academic and other articles, which have been widely cited, as well as publishing several photo-essays and films depicting the tragic reality of climate displacement in Bangladesh, Colombia, Greenland, Kiribati, Panama, PNG, Tuvalu, the US and elsewhere. DS has also designed and published the world's first global interactive map on cases of climate displacement and maintains a very popular website (www.displacementsolutions.org) which is viewed by more than 250,000 unique visitors every year. DS has also backed innovative photographic exhibitions on these themes, including the current *Where Will We Go* Exhibition, which has already been viewed by tens of thousands of people throughout the world.



DS AND UNEP LAUNCHED THE WHERE WILL WE GO EXHIBITION AT THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS IN LIMA, PERU IN DECEMBER 2014.

The DS Director designed the world's first law school course on climate change and human rights, and now teaches this course at five leading law schools. He also sits on the Consultative Committee of the Nansen Initiative on Disaster-Induced Cross Border Displacement.

In 2015 DS was awarded a certificate of merit as part of the prestigious international United Nations Sasakawa Award in recognition of its groundbreaking work on disaster risk reduction through seeking land solutions to climate displacement.

DS has also produced a variety of landmark books, reports, popular handbooks and other publications on various aspects of climate displacement including: *Repairing Domestic Climate Displacement: The Peninsula Principles* (2015); *Land Solutions for Climate Displacement* (2014); *The Climate Change and Displacement Reader* (2012); and *Climate Displaced Persons and Housing, Land and Property Rights: Preliminary Strategies for Rights-Based Planning and Programming to Resolve Climate-Induced Displacement* (2009).

SOME OF DS' CLIMATE
CHANGE BOOKS,
REPORTS AND OTHER
PUBLICATIONS



CERTIFICATE OF
MERIT PRESENTED
TO DISPLACEMENT
SOLUTIONS BY THE UN
SASAKAWA AWARD IN
RECOGNITION OF WORK
TO REPAIR CLIMATE
DISPLACEMENT

The 2015 UN SASAKAWA AWARD for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sasakawa Jury has decided, on
17 March 2015, to award the *Displacement
Solutions (DS) - Climate Change and
Displacement Initiative (CCDI)*, Switzerland
with this *Certificate of Merit* for demonstrating
excellence in innovation, collaboration and acting
ahead to improve the resilience of nations and
communities to disasters under the theme
"Shaping the Future."




Margareta Wahlström
Special Representative of the Secretary-General
for Disaster Risk Reduction

The issue of displacement-induced loss of property, land and assets is a growing concern of both humanitarian and development actors seeking to support families displaced through natural or human-made crises. Displacement Solutions offers an informed, substantive resource both to Member States and to the international aid community grappling with the restoration of these losses, and facilitating a sustainable future for the victims of these events.

--Dan Lewis, Chief, Urban Risk
Reduction Unit, UN-HABITAT

DS maintains a small core staff that enables DS to perform efficiently and flexibly in response to requests for assistance from governments, UN agencies, displaced communities and others. The core management staff of DS is augmented by a team of leading HLP experts who work on various DS initiatives and projects who will assist in implementing the five-year plan outlined below.

ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The DS Director and Founder is Scott Leckie. He is an international human rights lawyer, advocate and researcher with some 30 years of experience in the international protection and promotion of human rights. He has carried out human rights work in more than 80 countries and was the driving force behind many international human rights standard-setting efforts in support of housing rights, the prevention of forced evictions and rights to housing and property restitution for refugees and IDPs. Most recently, he conceived and led the processes that resulted in the development of the *Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement* in August 2013. He has written more than 200 published books, articles and reports, teaches on various human rights themes, including the world's first law school course on human rights and climate change that he teaches at the Australian National University, the University of Melbourne and several other highly ranked law schools. Throughout his career he has worked in expert and advisory capacities with many United Nations and other international agencies including UNHCR, OHCHR, UN Habitat, OCHA, the World Bank and many others. His comprehensive CV is available upon request.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of Displacement Solutions International is comprised of Chairperson: Matthias von Hein; Treasurer: Simon Studer; and Secretary: Robert Zoells. The Board meets at least twice annually to oversee and review the work of the organisation, in substantive, legal and financial terms.

FUNDING AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Displacement Solutions welcomes funds from governments, UN agencies, foundations and private individuals. Displacement Solutions is committed to financial transparency and accountability to all its stakeholders. The organisation abides by generally accepted accounting practices and conforms to all applicable laws and regulations. Accounts are annually audited in Geneva, Switzerland. Annual audits for 2007-2015 are available upon request.

Since its inception in 2007, the climate displacement work of Displacement Solutions has been financially supported by a range of donors, including the German Ministry of Development Cooperation (BMZ), German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ/GIZ), The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the Office of Foreign Affairs of the government of Liechtenstein, the Canton of Geneva, the Hoffmann Foundation and the Pictet Foundation.

BENEFICIARIES AND CONSULTATION

The actions planned in the Climate Displacement Land Initiative will benefit a wide range of stakeholders, including:

- ▶ Current and future climate displaced persons and communities in the five Initiative countries.
- ▶ Local, national, regional and international organisations supporting the rights of climate displaced persons and communities.
- ▶ Local and national governments responsible for securing the housing, land and property rights of climate displaced persons and communities.
- ▶ Countries throughout the world, both those generating climate displaced persons and communities and host countries, in determining the best policy responses to displacement caused by climate change.
- ▶ International bodies such as the UNFCCC, IPCC, Global Climate Green Fund, UN agencies and others entrusted with addressing the human dimensions of climate change.
- ▶ The general public, through raising awareness of the issues, problems and potential rights-based solutions associated with climate change-induced displacement.

Through the ongoing work of Displacement Solutions on climate displacement throughout the world, DS has consulted and continues to consult with people at all levels in determining how the organisation can make the most effective contribution to alleviating displacement crises linked to climate change. Through extensive work and discussions with the climate displacement community over many years DS has been able to develop a range of ideas that have assisted in designing the present Initiative to ensure that it is most likely to have a real impact.

The actions envisaged in the Initiative, if implemented in full, will ultimately make a fundamental difference in the lives of many people in each Initiative country who face or will face displacement due to the consequences of climate change. At the national level, the actions proposed will assist governments to better grapple with the climate displacement challenges they face, and at the same time prepare these governments for a likely future of considerable forced movement of people and communities due to climate change. Implemented in full, the various land activities envisioned will not only assist in securing the rights owed to all climate displaced persons, but will also assist in preventing conflict and other severe social tensions that may result from climate displacement and must be seen as threats to international peace and security.



IT'S HARD TO HAVE
HOPE WHEN YOUR HOME
IS LOCATED HERE.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Dacope, Bangladesh



III. INITIATIVE RATIONALE

In the very near future, climate displacement is likely to dwarf current levels of human displacement caused by natural disasters, conflict and poorly implemented development projects, with most estimates pointing to more than one hundred million people facing the potential loss of their homes, lands and properties in coming decades. As a report covered by the BBC worryingly notes:

More than 3 billion people live in coastal areas at risk of global warming impacts such as rising sea levels – a number expected to rise to 6 billion by 2025. Sea-level rise due to climate change has already doubled the risk of extreme flood events in coastal cities, and the greater population of Anthropocene cities only puts more lives at risk. For example, a study shows that during Hurricane Sandy in 2012, as many as 100,000 extra people were at risk of flooding for every foot of water in New York. More than half of the population of America's coastal cities live below the high-tide mark....What's the solution? Some cities are investing in new sea walls, dykes and polders, or high-tide gates – like London's Thames Barrier – to hold back high waters. In poorer places, people simply endure the problem until they are forced to abandon their homes.⁵

And, indeed, these processes of displacement and planned relocation are well underway. DS works with people in more than a dozen nations who are already facing the direct consequences of climate change. Climate displacement is occurring in a growing number of countries, as is the use of planned relocation and land acquisition as a means for resolving this new form of human displacement. In each of the five Initiative countries, concrete cases of climate displacement have been recorded, as have measures to identify land resources for use by climate displaced persons and communities.

Someday, our children, and our children's children, will look at us in the eye and they'll ask us, did we do all that we could when we had the chance to deal with this problem and leave them with a cleaner, safer, more stable world?

--Barack Obama, President of the United States

Without appropriate, well-targeted and adequately funded action, millions of people – all of whom are rights-holders – run the risk of becoming both homeless and landless, and in the process suffering losses of rights, livelihoods, assets and the ordinary attributes of a full and dignified life. Left unaddressed, these new crises can easily degenerate into economic insecurity, political instability and even violent conflict.

⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20130613-the-rising-threat-to-our-cities/2> (accessed 14 June 2013).

The work of DS focuses on climate displacement, and increasingly the role of land in providing practical solutions to displacement – two issues on which few organisations work directly or have practical, field-tested expertise. In pursuing these aims, DS conducts field-level projects that focus on addressing these issues in specific countries, as well as broader thematic projects which focus on policy, legal and educational activities. DS experts have worked on these issues in many countries and have played a catalytic role in putting climate displacement issues on the political agenda, as well as facilitating policy and legal changes protecting displaced communities who have lost their homes and lands.

Our work is grounded in international human rights law. As such we are pleased that the terms ‘climate displacement’ and ‘planned relocation’ are currently included within the draft Final Text of the negotiating text of the UNFCCC set to be approved in Paris in December 2015, for this will enable a convergence of international climate law and human rights law, which in turn will strengthen the normative basis of our efforts.⁶ While we do not yet know what form the Final Agreement will take, it is clear that the work of Displacement Solutions places the organisation in a unique position to assist in the implementation of the UNFCCC and other relevant norms such as the Cancun Adaptation Framework.

CASE STUDY: DS WORKS TO OBTAIN LAND FOR CLIMATE DISPLACED PERSONS IN BANGLADESH

DS has worked in partnership with local NGO Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) to find land-based solutions to climate displacement in Bangladesh since 2010. While the majority of DS’ efforts focus on broad policy and legal initiatives rather than individual cases, in some instances individual test cases are initiated to assist these broader efforts. The following case study illustrates one aspect of this work.

Rustam Ali was living in Rangunia, south-eastern Bangladesh, when he lost his home and land due to severe river erosion caused by climate change. His family was forced to live in temporary accommodation in a number of different locations. His children had to stop school and he lost his livelihood. With YPSA’s assistance, Mr. Ali made an application under the government’s *khas* land programme which granted public plots of land to poor landless families. The application was successful, and Mr. Ali was able to rebuild his life with his family on his new plot of land.

⁶ Climate displacement is addressed in paragraphs 70.3.a, 75 and 76 of the draft agreement, which read as follows: 70.3. Institutional arrangements under the Convention shall be strengthened to support the implementation of the commitments related to loss and damage under this agreement: a. Provisions for establishing a climate change displacement coordination facility that: i. Provides support for emergency relief; ii. Assists in providing organized migration and planned relocation; and iii. Undertakes compensation measures. 75. The governing body shall develop arrangements relating to loss and damage through the establishment of a climate change displacement coordination facility, and 76. The climate change displacement coordination facility shall: a. Establish measures for emergency relief; b. Assist in providing organized migration and planned relocation; and c. Establish procedures for coordinating compensation measures.



IV. INITIATIVE PROJECTS

PROJECT 1: INITIATIVE COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

BUDGET:
CHF 3'020'000

The Climate Displacement and Land Initiative (CDLI) will expand practical and problem-solving attention to securing the housing, land and property rights of climate displaced persons in five key countries: Bangladesh, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Colombia and Panama. In particular, it will seek to ensure that realistic and sustainable policy and legal solutions are developed in all Initiative countries, each of which is *already* beginning to experience climate displacement. The Initiative will build on work underway within each of the Initiative countries where DS is engaged with local partners to practically address how best to repair climate displacement.

Initiative coordination and management will involve the continuing supervision of the CDLI within the organisational structure of Displacement Solutions. The CDLI will build on the considerable experience thus far accrued by Displacement Solutions on climate change issues and will enable the organisation to structurally expand its problem-solving expertise into the climate change and displacement domain.

The CDLI is guided by the perspective that climate displaced persons everywhere are citizens, rights-holders and beneficiaries of the international human rights legal regime. The CDLI works to ensure that these rights are respected and protected through developing practical, affordable and realistic housing, land and property solutions for climate displaced persons, within their own countries.

In the implementation of the Initiative, if adequate funding is procured DS experts will be placed in the offices of our local partners in each of the Initiative countries to work closely together with climate displaced persons, their communities and local and national governments to develop **short, medium and long-term housing, land and property solutions for all of those affected by the varying degrees of displacement**. Efforts will be made to assist in building local and national networks of climate displaced persons and their supporters and to assist them to campaign, both locally and internationally, for viable solutions to their displacement that they themselves conceive, design and eventually implement.

Working in this manner, the CDLI will provide an institutional basis for tackling climate change problem-solving that is not currently available at the international level. In this regard, the CDLI will act as an international focal point and clearinghouse of viable solutions to climate-induced displacement.

KEY OUTPUTS:

INITIATIVE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

The DS Director will oversee and direct the Initiative, and work closely with a Coordinator of the Initiative who will report directly to the DS Director. Their work will be supplemented by an initiative administrator who will report to the Initiative Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible for the daily management of the three regional coordinators of the Initiative in consultation with the DS Director, as well as Initiative oversight, management, document review, editing, publication management, travel, fundraising, media and other activities. In substantive terms, the Initiative will be structured around three **Regional Climate Displacement Land Programmes**. These will concern:

- ▶ Asia programme: Focus country: Bangladesh
- ▶ Pacific programme: Focus countries: Fiji and Solomon Islands
- ▶ Americas programme: Focus countries: Colombia and Panama

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS OF THE CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND INITIATIVE

Displacement Solutions was one of the first international human rights organisations to take a structural and long-term approach to the question of climate displacement and how to repair and resolve it. The work of Displacement Solutions is widely recognised for its forward-looking, unique and innovative approaches. In this respect, the Initiative will:

- ▶ **Assess land needs, identify viable land and acquire land for planned relocation** in all five Initiative countries;
- ▶ **Creatively apply human rights norms** as a tool for securing the housing, land and property rights of climate displaced persons and communities;
- ▶ Develop detailed **National Planned Relocation Action Plans** in all five Initiative countries;
- ▶ Draw on *pre-existing* local networks and organisations, combined with governmental and UN connections, to identify **practical land-based solutions** to climate displacement; and
- ▶ Propose **well-planned and clearly targeted approaches** that are designed to inspire and facilitate similar approaches in other countries affected by climate displacement.

The regional programmes will include four action-oriented projects on each country designed to result in detailed **planned relocation action plans** in all five project countries that secure land resources for climate displaced communities. DS works with several of the world's leading planned relocation experts, who will assist in developing the most practical, fair and equitable land-based solutions to climate displacement as are possible in each of the CDLI countries.

Throughout the duration of the Initiative, DS will work with local partners in each of the project countries and devise and develop a series of resettlement/relocation action plans as a concrete means by which climate displacement can be repaired in the most positive manner possible.

In particular, the DS Director and Coordinators will jointly develop, implement and oversee the following four key aspects of the Initiative:

- i. **Phase 1: Climate displacement land needs assessments** in all Initiative countries. This will involve comprehensive land needs assessments to determine the likely scale of climate displacement, the geographical areas most likely to be affected, the groups working on these issues and the projected land requirements in each country to repair and resolve all manifestations of climate displacement. This will include detailed reports, maps and analysis resulting in the following publications:
 - (1) Bangladesh: Climate displacement land needs assessment
 - (2) Fiji: Climate displacement land needs assessment
 - (3) Solomon Islands: Climate displacement land needs assessment
 - (4) Colombia: Climate displacement land needs assessment
 - (5) Panama: Climate displacement land needs assessment

“Homeland is not just about a physical piece of soil – it’s about your spiritual existence, your roots into this earth. Everybody associates with the land they live on, not only as somewhere you reside. It goes deep into the earth itself.”

---Anote Tong, President of the Republic of Kiribati



EARLIER EFFORTS BY DS AND LOCAL PARTNER YPSA HAVE IDENTIFIED TEN LAND PARCELS IN CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH SUITABLE FOR THE RELOCATION OF SELECTED CLIMATE DISPLACED COMMUNITIES, INCLUDING THIS SIX ACRE PARCEL.

- ii. **Phase 2: Climate displacement land identification** analysis in all Initiative countries. This will involve the identification of at least 20 land parcels in each country that may be suitable for the relocation of persons and communities facing or threatened by climate displacement. The research will develop databases of land parcels of a size suitably large to provide new residential options for those displaced due to climate change. The research will result in the preparation of five country reports:
 - (1) Bangladesh: Climate displacement land identification analysis
 - (2) Fiji: Climate displacement land identification analysis
 - (3) Solomon Islands: Climate displacement land identification analysis
 - (4) Colombia: Climate displacement land identification analysis
 - (5) Panama: Climate displacement land identification analysis
- iii. **Phase 3: Pilot climate displacement land acquisition projects** in all Initiative countries. This will involve carrying out pilot climate displacement land acquisition projects involving in-depth legal research into land acquisition procedures in each of the five project countries, as well as advocating for the creation of National Climate Displacement Land Banks whereby land can be set aside for eventual allocation to persons, households and communities requiring new land because of climate displacement. The research and action will result in the following outputs:
 - (1) Bangladesh: Climate displacement land acquisition project
 - (2) Fiji: Climate displacement land acquisition project
 - (3) Solomon Islands: Climate displacement land acquisition project
 - (4) Colombia: Climate displacement land acquisition project
 - (5) Panama: Climate displacement land acquisition project
- iv. **Phase 4: Develop five country climate displacement relocation action plans:** This final phase of the Initiative will culminate in combining the research findings of the first three phases of the Initiative, leading to the development of national climate displacement relocation action plans in all five project countries. These plans will articulate the components of successful planned relocation and how these components can be transformed into practical policies that best support climate displaced persons and communities. The following five plans will be prepared:
 - (1) Bangladesh: Climate Displacement Relocation Action Plan
 - (2) Fiji Climate: Displacement Relocation Action Plan
 - (3) Solomon Islands: Climate Displacement Relocation Action Plan
 - (4) Colombia: Climate Displacement Relocation Action Plan
 - (5) Panama: Climate Displacement Relocation Action Plan

INITIATIVE STAFFING

The CDLI will be implemented by a carefully selected team of world leading experts on climate displacement and related issues. The overall management of the Initiative will be carried out by the DS Director who will work with the DS Board of Directors to ensure the success of the Initiative. They will be joined by a range of highly skilled legal experts who will implement various aspects of the Initiative who will work with six key Initiative staff: The Initiative Coordinator will coordinate the work of three regional coordinators (Asia, Pacific and Americas) in implementing the five year plan. The three Regional Coordinators will be hired and be responsible for overseeing the country-specific work associated with each of the respective regional programmes. Two additional Initiative Support Staff will be hired to perform the tasks of an office assistant and Information Technology officer to manage all IT aspects of the Initiative.



DS ASSOCIATE AND GLOBAL RELOCATION EXPERT PROFESSOR ANTHONY OLIVER-SMITH
AT WORK WITH INDIGENOUS GUNA INVOLVED IN PLANNING RELOCATION FROM THEIR ISLAND
HOMES TO MAINLAND GUNAYALA TERRITORY.

PROJECT 2: CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND PROJECT: ASIA

LOCAL PARTNER IN BANGLADESH: YOUNG POWER IN SOCIAL ACTION (YPSA), CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Since 2011, DS has focused its efforts in Asia on the question of preventing and repairing climate displacement in Bangladesh due to the sheer scale of the need in that country. For the past five years, DS and leading local NGO Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)⁷ have jointly carried out a Bangladesh Housing, Land and Property Initiative. The Initiative has achieved a number of considerable successes, including comprehensive training sessions to over 5,000 civil society representatives and government officials on the housing, land and property rights of climate displaced persons, as well as advocacy and lobbying with local, regional and national government officials on the need to respond to climate displacement in a rights-based framework.

In response to this advocacy DS and YPSA have been requested by senior government officials to provide technical advice and support to the government in designing and implementing rights-based solutions to climate displacement. DS and YPSA have published a series of ground-breaking publications on climate displacement in Bangladesh, including *Climate Displacement in Bangladesh: The Need for Urgent Housing, Land and Property Rights Solutions* in 2012, which was the first report to comprehensively address the causes and effects of climate displacement across the country, as well as three preliminary land studies and a number of high-profile articles and editorials on climate displacement in internationally regarded publications. As part of the Bangladesh HLP Initiative, DS has developed an in-depth understanding of climate displacement through consultations with climate displaced persons and through extensive travel across the country, including fact-finding and research visits to virtually all of the climate-affected districts throughout the country. In addition to meetings and discussions with thousands of people displaced by the effects of climate change, DS has also held extensive consultations with local, regional and senior government officials, local and national civil society organisations, media professionals, academics, international NGOs and representatives from UN agencies.

⁷ For an overview of YPSA's work, see: www.ypsa.org.

THE HUMAN FACE OF
CLIMATE CHANGE TODAY:
ONE OF MILLIONS IN
BANGLADESH REQUIRING
NEW LAND TO REBUILD
THEIR LIVES.

Location: Bangladesh



The DS-YPSA partnership has developed a Five-Point Advocacy Plan to guide the priorities of the Initiative comprised of the following key advocacy perspectives: 1. There should be a mechanism for monitoring or recording climate displacement across Bangladesh; 2. Climate displaced people should get top priority in the criteria of *khas* (public) land settlement; 3. Non-agricultural *khas* land should be allocated for the settlement of climate displaced peoples in their respective district; 4. As one of the most challenging issues facing the government, climate displacement should be included in existing laws and policies; and 5. For the rehabilitation of climate displaced persons, there should be a comprehensive rehabilitation policy in place. The first five years of the Initiative have yielded considerable results, which form the essential foundations for the next five years of work to prevent and repair climate displacement.

THE BANGLADESH HLP INITIATIVE: 2016-2020 - BUDGET: CHF 1'220'000

Perhaps no country in Asia faces more daunting climate change displacement challenges than Bangladesh. While no one can state with any precision the exact number of people threatened with climate displacement, the best estimates point to a minimum of ten million people facing permanent, irreversible displacement, with some estimates running into the tens of millions. As a result, in 2016-2020 the Bangladesh HLP Initiative will expand its efforts to identify and allocate private and public land to provide permanent new homes for communities displaced by climate change.

PHASE 1: BANGLADESH CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)

Despite the scale and prominence of climate change issues in the country, as of late 2015 there were still no government or non-government programmes designed to specifically assist climate displaced people to find new homes and new lands to replace their lost homes and lands in Bangladesh, other than the DS/YPSA partnership. Phase 1 of the Initiative will therefore involve the completion of a comprehensive national land needs assessment in Bangladesh to determine the likely scale of climate displacement in the country, including: how many people, households and communities will be affected, the geographical areas most likely to generate displacement, the groups working on these issues and the projected land requirements to repair and resolve all manifestations of climate displacement. This assessment will be carried out throughout 2016 and will result in analyses otherwise unavailable in the country. Once completed, the study will form the empirical basis for effective policy design to resolve climate displacement.

PHASE 2: BANGLADESH CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND IDENTIFICATION ANALYSIS (2017)

Under Phase 2 of the Initiative, DS and YPSA will work intensively to identify and locate plots of public and private land that are suitable for the possible relocation of climate displaced persons in Bangladesh. DS and YPSA will draw on the research results of Phase 1 and then identify 20 specific parcels of public land that could be used for the relocation and rehabilitation of a minimum of 10,000 climate displaced persons. This will include physical site visits to determine the suitability of the land for relocation (including adequate access to healthcare, education and livelihoods), photographic and satellite verification of the land and other means to assess the true availability and suitability of the land, including whether it is illegally occupied (illegal occupation of land is a common practice in Bangladesh). DS and YPSA will then present the results of this research, including the 20 (or more) specific plots of land, to government officials and national stakeholders in a high-level national workshop. This workshop will include senior government officials, key national stakeholders and international experts. Phase 2 will take place throughout 2017, and then combined with the results of Phase 1, will form the foundations of the even more complex aims of Phase 3.

PHASE 3: BANGLADESH CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT (2018)

In Phase 3, DS and YPSA will then work to advocate that specific land parcels be acquired and set-aside by the government and partners, including the Bangladesh HLP Initiative, and organized under the auspices of a National Climate Land Bank that will form the institutional basis for ensuring that climate displaced persons and communities are able to obtain new homes and new lands on those plots.⁸ Land acquisition efforts will be carried out in ten climate-threatened upazilas (local government entities), and will aim to acquire at least 120 ha of land for the relocation of selected climate displaced communities. This will not only have an enormous benefit for climate displaced persons in Bangladesh, but it will also be an important precedent setting activity for other countries affected by climate displacement - demonstrating that domestic housing, land and property solutions are not only possible, but also that they can provide the basis for truly durable solutions for permanently resolving climate displacement.



THE END IS NEAR: ISLANDS ON THE VERGE OF PERMANENT INUNDATION IN BANGLADESH.

⁸ There are currently a large number of "landless" programmes implemented by the government of Bangladesh that are ostensibly designed to provide "landless" communities with new public (*khas*) land at no cost. However, despite the clear potential for these programmes to benefit climate-displaced communities, there is no specific provision for recognizing or prioritizing climate affected communities among the many categories of landless persons across Bangladesh. Furthermore, these programmes are marred by widespread allegations of corruption and mismanagement. Under this action, DS and YPSA will seek to improve the transparency and effectiveness of these landless programmes as well as seek enhanced and guaranteed access of climate displaced persons to receive land under these programmes.

EMERGENCY HOUSING
ATOP A LEVEE FOLLOWING
EXTREME FLOODING
IN SOUTH-EASTERN
BANGLADESH.

Location: Khulna, Bangladesh





PHASE 4: BANGLADESH CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT RELOCATION ACTION PLAN (2019-2020)

Drawing on the identification of the 20 plots of land suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons and communities, in Phase 4 (2019-2020) DS and YPSA, alongside national and international partners, will conduct a series of pilot relocation programmes on that land. These programmes will draw on international best practice as well as in-depth consultation with affected communities in the design and implementation of these programmes. It is anticipated that these pilot programmes will be jointly implemented with the partnership of the government of Bangladesh, as well as national and international partners, including UNHCR and UNDP in Bangladesh.

These rights-based pilot programmes will not only provide the policy support required to achieve the provision of new homes and new land for lost homes and lost land, but will provide the basis for ongoing livelihood support, as well as ensuring access to education, healthcare and other facets of the right to adequate housing, ensuring respect for climate displaced person's housing, land and property rights.

Success under Phase 4 will lead to a minimum of 10,000 climate displaced persons and communities receiving new homes and lands as a direct result of the Initiative. Achieving this goal, as well as similar goals in the other four Initiative countries, will have the important impact of demonstrating to the respective national governments, as well as international stakeholders, that domestic land solutions to climate displacement are possible.



ARIFUR RAHMAN, DIRECTOR OF DS PARTNER YPSA, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH.

PROJECT 3: CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND PROJECT: PACIFIC

LOCAL PARTNER IN FIJI: PACIFIC CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES
(PCC) - SUVA, FIJI

LOCAL PARTNERS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS:
JMT CONSULTANCY AND SOLOMON ISLANDS
DEVELOPMENT TRUST - HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Pacific is often characterized as the global frontline of climate displacement due to the extreme vulnerability of the many low-lying island nations of the region. Climate displacement is already taking place in many Pacific countries, including those which are faced with the very real possibility of disappearing entirely into the rising seas. DS has worked in a wide range of Pacific countries since it commenced its climate displacement work in 2007, including Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu. Two of these countries in particular - Fiji and Solomon Islands - have already experienced a range of internal community relocation exercises from areas facing climate effects to safer areas within the same country.

DS has worked extensively in both Fiji and the Solomon Islands and has developed excellent partnership networks in both countries, involving community-level groups as well as local, regional and national government agencies and officials. From 2016 - 2020, the Initiative will develop country-level HLP initiatives in Fiji and Solomon Islands including detailed work plans in both countries to focus solely on the issue of securing land resources for climate displaced communities. As with the other countries involved in the Initiative, the Pacific programme will involve land needs assessments, land identification efforts, land acquisition efforts, and national climate displacement relocation action plans in both project countries. The details of these key outputs are outlined in the following pages.

THE FIJI HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY INITIATIVE: 2016-2020 - BUDGET: CHF 1'220'000

Fiji lies at one of the global epicentres of climate displacement, both in terms of internal displacement within the country, as well as acting as a potential port of call for climate displaced populations from nearby Kiribati and Tuvalu should conditions in those countries deteriorate further.



RIISING SEAS SWALLOW SACRED GRAVESITES IN FIJI (IMAGE: KADIR VAN LOHUIZEN / NOOR)

Many of Fiji's 900,000 people are already suffering the effects of climate change.⁹ The government has therefore already determined that more than 676 villages will be affected by climate change and that many of these will need to be relocated in the coming years because of rising sea levels, with as many as 42 villages to be potentially relocated during the next decade. Several villages have already been relocated, including the villager-initiated relocation of Vunidogoloa. The government's Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently preparing a national climate relocation policy, and in many respects has led the world in finding land-based solutions to climate displacement. The Fiji Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Initiative will draw on DS' extensive experience and partnership networks in the region and will work with the Pacific Conference of Churches to assist the government in ensuring that these large-scale relocations are carried out in an organised and planned process, where human rights are at the forefront of the entire effort. This project will involve fieldwork in Fiji designed to improve the planned relocation prospects of villagers throughout the country who are now threatened with climate displacement.

⁹ See, for instance, Luke Rawalai, 'Climate change impacts villages', in *The Fiji Times* (17 Jan 2014) and Brianna Piazza, 'Rising sea levels prompt relocations in Fiji' on *World News Australia Radio* (31 Jan 2014).

PHASE 1: FIJI CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)

Drawing on extensive research, on-the-ground experience, and consistent with prevailing policy and practice by the government of Fiji, it is clear that land is at the heart of rights-based solutions for climate displaced persons in Fiji. Phase 1 (2016) of the Initiative will involve the completion of a comprehensive national land needs assessment in Fiji to determine the likely scale of climate displacement in the country, the geographical areas most likely to be affected, the groups working on these issues and the projected land requirements to repair and resolve all manifestations of climate displacement. A series of innovative and original reports will be prepared and published outlining the key findings of the research, and which will form the basis of the subsequent three phases of the Initiative. Phase 1 will be carried out throughout 2016 and result in outputs that are currently unavailable in the country and which will be crucial for the sustainability of the government's efforts to solve climate displacement.

THE FIJIAN VILLAGE
OF VUNIDOGOLOA
RECENTLY RELOCATED
TO A NEW AND SAFER
SITE JUST 2KMS AWAY.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Fiji



PHASE 2: FIJI CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND IDENTIFICATION ANALYSIS (2017)

Under Phase 2 (2017) of the Initiative, DS and local partners will work intensively to identify and locate plots of public land that are suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons in Fiji. Phase 2 will draw on the research results of Phase 1 and then identify 20 specific parcels of public land that could be used for the relocation and rehabilitation of climate displaced persons. This will include physical site visits to determine the suitability of the land for relocation (including adequate access to healthcare, education and livelihoods), photographic and satellite verification of the land and other means to assess the true availability and suitability of the land. The Initiative will then present the results of this research, including the 20 specific plots of land, to government officials and national stakeholders in a high-level national workshop. This workshop will include senior government officials, key national stakeholders and international experts. Phase 2 will take place throughout 2017, and then combined with the results of Phase 1, will form the foundations of Phase 3.

PHASE 3: FIJI CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT (2018)

In Phase 3 (2018), DS, Pacific Conference of Churches and other partners will then ensure that specific land parcels are acquired by the government and partners, including the Fiji HLP Initiative, and organized under the auspices of a National Climate Land Bank that will form the institutional basis for ensuring that climate displaced persons and communities are able to obtain new homes and new lands on those plots, creating truly durable solutions to their climate displacement. Land acquisition efforts will be carried out on at least three islands and will aim to acquire at least 120 ha of land for the relocation of selected climate displaced communities.

PHASE 4: FIJI CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT RELOCATION ACTION PLAN (2019-2020)

Drawing on the identification of the 20 plots of land suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons and communities, in Phase 4 (2019-2020) DS, PCC, Fijian and international partners will conduct a series of pilot relocation programmes on that land. These programmes will draw on international best practice as well as in-depth consultation with affected communities in the design and implementation of these programmes.

These rights-based pilot programmes will assist the government of Fiji and the communities concerned to improve and refine ongoing efforts at planned relocation in the country. They will aim to ensure the respect of the housing, land and property rights all of climate displaced persons and communities across the country.

Success under Phase 4 will lead to a minimum of 10,000 climate displaced persons and communities receiving new homes and lands as a direct result of the Initiative. Achieving this goal, as well as similar goals in the other four Initiative countries, will have the important impact of demonstrating to other countries affected by climate displacement and other international stakeholders that domestic land solutions to climate displacement are possible.

SEA LEVEL RISE SUCH
AS THIS HAS LED THE
GOVERNMENT OF FIJI TO
IDENTIFY MORE THAN
40 VILLAGES REQUIRING
PLANNED RELOCATION.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Fiji





THE HUMAN FACE OF
CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT:
A WOMAN FROM
ONTONG JAVA ATOLL
CONTEMPLATING AN
UNCERTAIN FUTURE.

Image: Ben Knight

Location: Ontong Java Atoll, Solomon Islands



THE SOLOMON ISLANDS HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY INITIATIVE: 2016-2020 - BUDGET: CHF 1'220'000

A growing proportion of the 560,000 people who call the Solomon Islands home have been or will be affected by climate displacement. A series of internal relocation measures have already been undertaken across the country, with further relocation plans to be implemented in the coming five-year period. Most of the relocation undertaken thus far has been in the provinces of Malaita and Temotu. Low-lying coastal areas on the mainland, notably Lilisiana on Auki Harbour, as well as the entire atoll of Ontong Java - which is one of the world's largest atolls - are also slated for relocation due to continually worsening conditions.

Climate relocation is always complex and fraught with countless challenges. This is also the case in the Solomon Islands - a nation which recently endured a brutal internal conflict - due to potentially explosive land disputes because of cultural differences between different groups that will increasingly be forced to live in close proximity to one another as a result of climate relocation.

The government of the Solomon Islands has developed a number of national policies and plans which recognize the need for the resettlement of communities affected by climate change and the acquisition of land for this purpose. These provide a solid basis for the work planned under the CDLI to develop a clear framework on how this will take place. In particular, the acquisition of customary land for relocation needs to be examined carefully in the Solomons due to the complexity of the system, and the need for an adequate process of consultation and negotiation between landowners, Churches and the state. DS has extensive experience in the Solomon Islands, including a two-month research visit to Ontong Java in mid-2015, and maintains wide networks in the country.

PHASE 1: SOLOMON ISLANDS CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)

In the Solomon Islands as elsewhere in the world, land is at the heart of rights-based solutions for climate displaced persons in the country. Phase 1 (2016) of the Initiative will, therefore, involve the completion of a comprehensive national land needs assessment in the Solomon Islands to determine the likely scale of climate displacement in the country, the geographical areas most likely to be affected, the groups working on these issues and the projected land requirements to repair and resolve all manifestations of climate displacement. A series of innovative and original reports will be prepared and published outlining the key findings of the research, and which will form the basis of the subsequent three phases of the Initiative. Phase 1 will be carried out throughout 2016 and result in data that is currently unavailable in the country, and which will be crucial for the sustainability of the government's efforts to solve climate displacement.

PHASE 2: SOLOMON ISLANDS CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND IDENTIFICATION ANALYSIS (2017)

Under Phase 2 (2017) of the Initiative, DS and local partners will work intensively to identify and locate plots of public land that are suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons in the Solomon Islands. Phase 2 will draw on the research results of Phase 1 and then identify 20 specific parcels of public land that could be used for the relocation of climate displaced persons. This will include verifying the legal status of the land concerned, in particular whether it is customary land. This will also include physical site visits to determine the suitability of the land for relocation (including adequate access to healthcare, education and livelihoods), photographic and satellite verification of the land and other means to assess the true availability and suitability of the land, including whether it is under dispute.

The Initiative will then present the results of this research, including the 20 specific plots of land, to government officials and national stakeholders in a high-level national workshop. This workshop will include senior government officials, key national stakeholders and international experts. Phase 2 will take place throughout 2017, and then combined with the results of Phase 1, will form the foundations of the even more complex aims of Phase 3.

PHASE 3: SOLOMON ISLANDS CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT (2018)

Phase 3 (2018) will then ensure that specific land parcels are acquired by the government and partners, including the Solomon Islands HLP Initiative, and organized under the auspices of a National Climate Land Bank that will form the institutional basis for ensuring that climate displaced persons and communities are able to obtain new homes and new lands on those plots, creating truly durable solutions to their climate displacement. Land acquisition efforts will be carried out on at least three islands, and will aim to acquire at least 120 ha of land for the relocation of selected climate displaced communities.

PHASE 4: SOLOMON ISLANDS CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT RELOCATION ACTION PLAN (2019-2020)

Drawing on the identification of the 20 plots of land suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons and communities, in Phase 4 (2019-2020) DS, local and international partners will conduct a series of pilot relocation programmes on that land. These programmes will draw on international best practice as well as in-depth consultation with affected communities in their design and implementation. The Initiative will aim to physically secure durable land-based solutions for at least 10,000 climate displaced persons and communities.

Efforts by the Initiative in the Solomon Islands will aim to ensure the full incorporation of housing, land and property rights concerns into broader policies on planned relocation, and to result in improved living conditions for all persons and communities needing to resettle and relocate because of the effects of climate change.

A photograph of an elderly man with grey hair and a weathered face, standing shirtless in front of a partially destroyed wooden structure. He is wearing a yellow sarong with a white and brown floral pattern. The background shows palm trees and a clear blue sky. A circular inset in the top right corner contains text and a flag.

A VILLAGER AND HIS
DESTROYED HOME IN
ONTONG JAVA ATOLL,
SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Image: Ben Knight

Location: Ontong Java Atoll, Solomon Islands



PROJECT 4: CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND PROJECT: AMERICAS

LOCAL PARTNERS IN COLOMBIA: ASSOCIATION OF LEADERS
FROM GRAMALOTE AND MUNICIPALITY OF GRAMALOTE -
GRAMALOTE, COLOMBIA

LOCAL PARTNERS IN PANAMA: GARDI SUGDUB
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE, GARDI SUGDUB TRADITIONAL
AUTHORITIES AND THE GUNA GENERAL CONGRESS -
GUNAYALA, PANAMA

The Americas and the Caribbean have also been badly affected by the effects of climate change. Over the past two decades there have been a series of extreme weather events across the region, from Hurricane Mitch in Central America in 1998, to Katrina (2005), and Sandy (2012) in the US, to El Niño in Colombia in 2010-2011, as well as the melting of the Arctic in Alaska and rising sea levels in the Caribbean and other coastal regions in Latin America. The vulnerability of populations affected by these events is magnified among marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples and other rural populations. Vulnerability also increases in countries with weaker institutions and poor governance levels which are ill-prepared to cope with the effects of climate change.

DS has been working on these issues in Colombia and Panama, and has developed excellent partnership networks in both countries, including community-level groups and local, regional and national government agencies and officials. From 2016-2020, the CDLI will focus on developing rights-based adaptation responses to climate change. As with other countries in the Initiative, the Americas Programme will involve climate displacement land needs assessments, land identification and acquisition, and national climate displacement action plans in both Initiative countries. The details of these key outputs are outlined below.

THE COLOMBIA HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY INITIATIVE: 2016-2020 - BUDGET: CHF 1'220'000

Colombia combines a very extensive coastal area on the Atlantic and Pacific oceans with Andean mountains, which are split into three separate ranges, covering a large portion of the country's territory. Historical patterns of human settlement have resulted in the fact that approximately 70% of the Colombian population lives in mountainous areas. Extreme weather-related events in these zones typically result in floods, landslides and avalanches. As a result of extreme weather-related events associated with "La Niña" phenomenon during 2010 and 2011, Colombia suffered the worst flooding and mudslides in recorded history. Some three million Colombians were affected by the extreme weather, with economic losses calculated at more than US\$6 billion.

In addition, Colombia combines a population of those internally displaced by the armed conflict with a population displaced as a result of natural disasters and of climate-related events, such as those produced by La Niña 2010-2011. Colombia has the second highest population in the world of individuals internally displaced by an armed conflict. The country is currently in the middle of complex peace negotiations to end the internal armed conflict that has endured for the last fifty years. Considering that massive land grabbing took place during the conflict, the Colombian government has also been implementing a very ambitious, and so far fairly successful, land restitution programme, mainly guided by the UN Principles on Housing and Property Restitution for Refugees and Displaced Persons (the Pinheiro Principles). If the peace process is successful, land restitution and land reform in general will be one of the main issues on the political agenda in the years to come; an ideal scenario to work on land banks to relocate communities facing or threatened by climate change.



THE TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF GRAMALOTE BY SEVERE CLIMATE CHANGE-INDUCED RAINS HAS LED TO THE WHOLESAL RELOCATION OF THE ENTIRE TOWN (IMAGE: KADIR VAN LOHUIZEN / NOOR)

DS has worked in Colombia conducting research on climate displacement resulting from the 2010-2011 rains, focusing on the climate displacement and planned relocation of approximately 3,000 residents of the municipality of Gramalote, and published a detailed report on this situation in 2015. The Colombian case offers a unique opportunity to build and learn from the experience of the planned relocation of Gramalote. During the coming five-year period, DS plans to work with the Association of Leaders from Gramalote, the Municipality of Gramalote, the national government, and local NGOs to promote HLP rights and durable solutions for the displaced population in Gramalote and other areas under threat of climate displacement elsewhere in Colombia.

PHASE 1: COLOMBIA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)

Drawing on extensive research and on-the-ground experience, DS will work with partners in Colombia to follow-up the implementation of the planned relocation of the municipality of Gramalote, and assess the land needs of Gramalote residents still requiring durable rights-based solutions as climate displaced persons. Phase 1 involve the completion of a local land needs assessment in the Gramalote area, as well as a national-level comprehensive land needs assessment to determine the likely scale of climate displacement in the country, the geographical areas most likely to be affected, the groups working on these issues and the projected land requirements to repair and resolve all manifestations of climate displacement. A series of innovative and original reports will be prepared and published outlining the key findings of the research, and which will form the basis of the subsequent three phases of the Initiative. Phase 1 will be carried out throughout 2016 and result in outputs that are currently unavailable in the country.



ONE POSSIBLE RELOCATION SITE FOR NEW GRAMALOTE, COLOMBIA

PHASE 2: COLOMBIA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND IDENTIFICATION ANALYSIS (2017)

Under Phase 2 of the Initiative DS and local partners will work intensively to identify and locate plots of public land that are suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons in Colombia. DS and partners will draw on the research results of Phase 1 and then identify 20 specific parcels of public land that could be used for the relocation and rehabilitation of climate displaced persons and communities. This will include checking written land records to verify that the land is formally under the control of the government, as well as physical site visits to determine the suitability of the land for resettlement (including adequate access to healthcare, education and livelihoods), photographic and satellite verification of the land and other means to assess the true availability and suitability of the land, including whether it is illegally occupied.

The Colombia HLP Initiative will then present the results of this research, including the 20 specific plots of land, to government officials and national stakeholders in a high-level national workshop. This workshop will include senior government officials, key national stakeholders and international experts. Phase 2 will take place throughout 2017, and then combined with the results of Phase 1, will form the foundations of the even more complex aims of Phase 3.

PHASE 3: COLOMBIA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT (2018)

In Phase 3 (2018), DS and partners will then ensure that specific land parcels are acquired by the government and partners, including the Colombia HLP Initiative, and organized under the auspices of a National Climate Land Bank that will form the institutional basis for ensuring that climate displaced persons and communities are able to obtain new homes and new lands on those plots, creating truly durable solutions to their climate displacement. Land acquisition efforts will be carried out in Gramalote and other districts, and will aim to acquire at least 120 ha of land for the relocation of selected climate displaced communities.

PHASE 4: COLOMBIA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT RELOCATION ACTION PLAN (2019-2020)

Drawing on the identification of the 20 plots of land suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons and communities, in Phase 4 DS, national and international partners will conduct a series of pilot relocation programmes on that land. These programmes will draw on international best practices, including the experience of the planned relocation of Gramalote, as well as in-depth consultation with affected communities in their design and implementation. It is anticipated that these pilot programmes will be jointly implemented in partnership with the government of Colombia, as well as national and international partners.

TWO OF 30,000
INDIGENOUS GUNA
CONTEMPLATING
RELOCATION FROM THEIR
ISLAND HOMES TO THE
MAINLAND IN PANAMA.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Panama



THE PANAMA HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY INITIATIVE: 2016-2020 - BUDGET: CHF 1'220'000

Due to the consequences of climate change, coastal erosion and rising sea levels in the Gunayala region of Panama, more than 30,000 members of the indigenous Guna community face eventual displacement from their island homes to the safer mainland. In 2010, the community on Gardi Sugdub island decided to relocate to the mainland and created a “Comisión de la Barriada” or “neighbourhood commission” to organise the relocation process. The Commission has identified and acquired 17ha of land on the mainland as the relocation site. However, despite the fact that four years have passed since the community decided to move, the relocation has yet to take place. DS has worked with the Guna indigenous people in Panama since 2013 to assist in taking the relocation process forward.

DS continues to refine the application of the *Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement Within States* in Panama and continues to also encourage the government and the communities themselves to further expand their use of the *Principles* in identifying viable solutions to the plight of the Gunayala people. In 2014, DS released the 103-page report *The Peninsula Principles in Action: Climate Change and Displacement in the Autonomous Region of Gunayala, Panama*, which presents the results of the initial fact-finding mission to assess the situation. From 2016-2020 DS will work with Gardi Sugdub's Neighborhood Committee, Gardi Sugdub's traditional authorities and the Guna General Congress to fight for the best possible relocation outcomes for those forced to leave their island homes.

The government of Panama has established an impressive national legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management and climate change measures, but none of these have yet been utilised in relation to the climate displacement which already presents an imminent threat in the Gunayala region – and indeed is already taking place from Gardi Sugdub. The relocation process initiated by the community on Gardi Sugdub could provide a model for climate displacement in Gunayala and elsewhere, if organised and implemented successfully. The initial steps already taken by the community present the government with a considerable opportunity to support and promote the process as a pilot project.

As in the other four CDLI countries, land is the key issue in addressing climate displacement: people will lose land and will need new land to start their lives over. The Gardi Sugdub relocation project already planned will only provide land and housing for a small number of those wishing to relocate. Considerably more land will have to be identified not only to accommodate those from Gardi Sugdub but the more than 40 other communities that are threatened with climate displacement from the islands. As the system of land ownership in Gunayala is quite complex, and includes at least five different types of property ownership under Guna customary laws, the process of land identification for relocation will likely be a complicated and time-consuming process. Moreover, experience from elsewhere in the world has indicated that securing land for relocation is necessarily a costly endeavour, and that public funds need to be clearly allocated for this purpose. The next steps under the Panama Housing, Land and Property Initiative will be to assist the government in land assessments, identification and acquisition, and carrying out a technical feasibility study on the relocation process to ensure that it is carried out in an organised, planned and rights-based manner.

PHASE 1: PANAMA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)

Drawing on extensive research and on-the-ground experience, it is clear that land is at the core of any rights-based solutions for climate displaced persons in Panama. Phase 1 (2016) of the Initiative will involve the completion of a comprehensive national land needs assessment in Panama to determine the likely scale of climate displacement in the country, the geographical areas most likely to be affected, the groups working on these issues and the projected land requirements to repair and resolve all manifestations of climate displacement. A series of innovative and original reports will be prepared and published outlining the key findings of the research, and which will form the basis of the subsequent three phases of the Initiative. Phase 1 will be carried out throughout 2016 and result in outputs that are currently unavailable in the country.



GUNA RESIDENTS REVIEWING PLANNING MAPS OF THEIR NEW 17HA LAND SETTLEMENT TO WHERE THEY WILL RELOCATE

PHASE 2: PANAMA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND IDENTIFICATION ANALYSIS (2017)

Under Phase 2 (2017) of the Initiative DS and local partners in Panama will work intensively to identify and locate plots of public land that are suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons in the country. The Initiative will draw on the research results of Phase 1 and then identify 20 specific parcels of public land that could be used for the relocation and rehabilitation of climate displaced persons and communities. This will include physical site visits to determine the suitability of the land for resettlement (including adequate access to healthcare, education and livelihoods), photographic and satellite verification of the land and other means to assess the true availability and suitability of the land.

The Initiative will then present the results of this research, including the 20 specific plots of land, to government officials and national stakeholders in a high-level national workshop. This workshop will include senior government officials, key national stakeholders and international experts. Phase 2 will take place throughout 2017, and then combined with the results of Phase 1, will form the foundations of the even more complex aims of Phase 3.

PHASE 3: PANAMA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT (2018)

In Phase 3 (2018), DS and partners will then ensure that specific land parcels are acquired by the government and partners, including the Panama HLP Initiative, and organized under the auspices of a National Climate Land Bank that will form the institutional basis for ensuring that climate displaced persons and communities are able to obtain new homes and new lands on those plots, creating truly durable solutions to their climate displacement. Land acquisition efforts will be carried out in Gunayala territory and elsewhere in Panama, and will aim to acquire at least 120 ha of land for the relocation of selected climate displaced communities.



THESE SELF-MADE SEAWALLS IN GUNAYALA ARE NO MATCH FOR RISING SEA LEVELS AND EVER-WORSENING COASTAL EROSION. (IMAGE: KADIR VAN LOHUIZEN / NOOR)

PHASE 4: PANAMA CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT RELOCATION ACTION PLAN (2019-2020)

Drawing on the identification of the 20 plots of land suitable for the relocation of climate displaced persons and communities, in Phase 4 DS, national and international partners will conduct a series of pilot relocation programmes on that land. These programmes will draw on international best practice as well as in-depth consultation with affected communities in their design and implementation. The Initiative will aim to physically secure durable land-based solutions of at least 10,000 climate displaced persons. It is anticipated that these pilot programmes will be jointly implemented with the partnership of the government of Panama, as well as national and international partners.

V. INITIATIVE BUDGET

	PROJECT BUDGET - IN SWISS FRANCS (CHF)							
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	Sub-total	Grand Total
1. PROJECT COORDINATION								
DS Director	120'000	120'000	120'000	120'000	120'000	600'000		
Initiative Coordinator	100'000	100'000	100'000	100'000	100'000	500'000		
Assistant to Initiative Coordinator	50'000	50'000	50'000	50'000	50'000	250'000		
Office Assistant	40'000	40'000	40'000	40'000	40'000	200'000		
IT Officer	60'000	60'000	60'000	60'000	60'000	300'000		
UN Advocacy	60'000	70'000	80'000	90'000	100'000	400'000		
Documentary Film	100'000	-	-	-	-	100'000		
Initiative Travel	40'000	45'000	55'000	65'000	65'000	270'000		
Running Costs	30'000	40'000	50'000	60'000	70'000	250'000		
Accounting and Legal Fees	20'000	20'000	20'000	20'000	20'000	100'000		
Annual audit	10'000	10'000	10'000	10'000	10'000	50'000		
Sub-total							3'020'000	
2. CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND PROJECT: ASIA								
Coordinator: Bangladesh	80'000	80'000	100'000	100'000	110'000	470'000		
Climate displacement land needs assessment	50'000	-	-	-	-	50'000		
Climate displacement land identification analysis	-	60'000	-	-	-	60'000		
Pilot climate displacement land acquisition projects	-	-	80'000	-	-	80'000		
Country climate displacement relocation action plans	-	-	-	120'000	120'000	240'000		
Initiative Travel	25'000	30'000	30'000	40'000	40'000	165'000		
Running Costs	25'000	30'000	30'000	35'000	35'000	155'000		
Sub-total							1'220'000	
3. CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND PROJECT: PACIFIC								
Coordinator: Fiji	80'000	80'000	100'000	100'000	110'000	470'000		
Climate displacement land needs assessment	50'000	-	-	-	-	50'000		
Climate displacement land identification analysis	-	60'000	-	-	-	60'000		
Pilot climate displacement land acquisition projects	-	-	80'000	-	-	80'000		
Country climate displacement relocation action plans	-	-	-	120'000	120'000	240'000		

Initiative Travel	25'000	30'000	30'000	40'000	40'000	165'000		
Running Costs	25'000	30'000	30'000	35'000	35'000	155'000		
Sub-total							1'220'000	
Coordinator: Solomon Islands	80'000	80'000	100'000	100'000	110'000	470'000		
Climate displacement land needs assessment	50'000	-	-	-	-	50'000		
Climate displacement land identification analysis	-	60'000	-	-	-	60'000		
Pilot climate displacement land acquisition projects	-	-	80'000	-	-	80'000		
Country climate displacement relocation action plans	-	-	-	120'000	120'000	240'000		
Initiative Travel	25'000	30'000	30'000	40'000	40'000	165'000		
Running Costs	25'000	30'000	30'000	35'000	35'000	155'000		
Sub-total							1'220'000	
4. CLIMATE DISPLACEMENT LAND PROJECT: AMERICAS								
Coordinator: Colombia	80'000	80'000	100'000	100'000	110'000	470'000		
Climate displacement land needs assessment	50'000	-	-	-	-	50'000		
Climate displacement land identification analysis	-	60'000	-	-	-	60'000		
Pilot climate displacement land acquisition projects	-	-	80'000	-	-	80'000		
Country climate displacement relocation action plans	-	-	-	120'000	120'000	240'000		
Initiative Travel	25'000	30'000	30'000	40'000	40'000	165'000		
Running Costs	25'000	30'000	30'000	35'000	35'000	155'000		
Sub-total							1'220'000	
Coordinator: Panama	80'000	80'000	100'000	100'000	110'000	470'000		
Climate displacement land needs assessment	50'000	-	-	-	-	50'000		
Climate displacement land identification analysis	-	60'000	-	-	-	60'000		
Pilot climate displacement land acquisition projects	-	-	80'000	-	-	80'000		
Country climate displacement relocation action plans	-	-	-	120'000	120'000	240'000		
Initiative Travel	25'000	30'000	30'000	40'000	40'000	165'000		
Running Costs	25'000	30'000	30'000	35'000	35'000	155'000		
Sub-total							1'220'000	
Grand Total							CHF 9'120'000	



Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR

FUNDING REQUEST

Displacement Solutions has dedicated the past eight years of its work to the issue of climate displacement and how best to resolve it in a rights-based manner. Building on the foundations of the extensive experience accrued by the organisation working in numerous countries already facing climate displacement, from 2016-2020 DS will devote all of its energies to the activities outlined in the present proposal.

We therefore request donors to favourably consider our funding request to enable us to achieve in full the aims and objectives of the Climate Displacement Land Initiative.

All contact with Displacement Solutions should be directed to info@displacementsolutions.org.

Sincerely,

Scott Leckie
Founder and Director

VI. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



United Nations Human Settlements Programme
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, KENYA
Tel: +254-20 7623120, Fax: +254-20 7624266/7
infohabitat@unhabitat.org, www.unhabitat.org

MEMORANDUM

10 May, 2015

To whom it may concern,

UN-Habitat has worked with the Director of Displacement Solutions since its inception in 2006, and previously in his role as one of the leading proponents of the protection of housing, land and property rights of victims of involuntary displacement. There have been over the years, many successful collaborations; notably those most recent achievements promoting the plight of families forced from their land and homes due to the impacts of climate change. This aspect of their work, inspired a nomination for the Sasakawa Award, jointly awarded by the Government of Japan, and the UN, for organizations implementing innovations addressing the impacts of disasters, including those related to changing climate.

Our organization often sees the results of this kind of displacement as families move into cities seeking refuge and opportunities without access to resources normally provided through international covenants and agreements related to refugees. Displacement Solutions has broken new ground with their initiatives to develop new standards for climate related involuntary displacement through the Climate Displacement Law Project, the Peninsula Principles, among others. The new Climate Displacement Land Initiative underpinning the first ever NGO driven resolution of bona fide climate displacement cases is a four-year programme starting in 2016 and represents another opportunity for my programme to support within our capacities, this critical endeavor by Displacement Solutions.

Sincerely,

Dan Lewis, Chief
Urban Risk Reduction Unit
UN-Habitat



May 30, 2015

To whom it may concern:

I write in support of the proposal for the Climate Displacement Land Initiative from Displacement Solutions. Displacement Solutions, established in 2006, is a world leader in efforts to improve climate driven displacement around the world. It was the first international NGO to address the question of displacement and resettlement by climate change effects from both community based and structural perspectives, with a specific focus on identifying land based solutions. Displacement Solutions has worked on behalf of people threatened with displacement by climate change in a wide variety of contexts, ranging from the islands of the south Pacific to Bangladesh and now to Panama.

Climate change driven displacement is a growing humanitarian crisis. It is projected that many of the emerging climate changes, such as increased risks of flooding, storms, deforestation, desertification, soil erosion, salt water intrusion, and sea level rise will increase the number and scale of displacements in the near future, with all the consequent stresses and the need to adapt to new or radically changed environments. The displaced may experience privation, loss of homes, jobs, and the breakup of families and communities. Moreover, the combination of increasing population, population density, increasing poverty, and occupation of hazardous sites has accentuated vulnerability and exposure to natural hazards exacerbated by climate change effects and increases the probability of displacements and forced migrations.

As a researcher with more than forty years of work on displacement issues, ranging from disaster induced to development forced displacement, I wholeheartedly support the efforts of Displacement Solutions as the leading organization currently working with communities to develop a rights based approach to address the issue of community displacement from climate change effects. It has been my privilege to work with Displacement Solutions in a number of contexts, including writing the main conceptual chapter in one of their recent books on land solutions to climate change displacement. I also have worked with them on assessing the challenges that the island dwelling Kuna people of Panama are facing from a variety of forces, including climate change, that threaten to uproot them from their traditional homes.

These efforts are generating the needed information from a variety of environmental and cultural contexts the have great promise for the development of approaches through a number of Displacement Solutions pilot projects that could well serve as regional models for governments to establish rights based policies for their citizens who are facing climate change displacement. Legal frameworks of this nature are sorely needed since relatively few nations have either the necessary legislation or the administrative structure and capacity to competently undertake the task of resettling displaced populations. Generally speaking, a mix of public agencies, with differing environmental, social, and economic responsibilities, is assembled and charged with planning and implementing resettlement, frequently creating projects with serious internal contradictions and conflicting agendas. The work of Displacement Solutions is actively contributing to efforts to remedy this situation by establishing such legal frameworks.

In addition, DS is contributing to the store of knowledge on the complex issues of displacement through important books, reports and other materials on a range of climate displacement issues. In displacement and resettlement a range of factors taking place in context of imposed spatial change and the mix of local level responses and external authority and assistance produce a process that is not entirely predictable, or amenable to standard linear planning, requiring a more open-ended, participatory approach to planning that Displacement Solutions is helping to develop both through its practice as well as through its contributions to the legal and socio-cultural knowledge base.

In summary, it has been my privilege to work with Displacement Solutions and I can support their efforts enthusiastically and without hesitation. If any further information is needed, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Anthony Oliver-Smith
Professor Emeritus of Anthropology
University of Florida

FONDATION
HOFFMANN

August 10, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I have been collaborating with *Displacement Solutions* both in my own name and through the Fondation Hoffmann on various projects since 2011. In my role as Vice President of *WWF International* and chairman of the *Fondation MAVA*, I am regularly confronted to the dramatic impact of the global ecological overshoot on ecosystems and humanity.

The state of the planet is getting worse and we cannot address the numerous ecological challenges we face by taking action in a limited number of fields only. Entire human populations are now at risk. We can no longer limit the environmental crisis to natural science. We must also look at the social cost. Climate change is now here and Scott Leckie has had the vision to look for solutions to climate driven large-scale population movements and massive loss of housing, and productive land affecting individuals in a growing number of countries.

The law-based approach developed by *Displacement Solutions* struck me as a new way of addressing environmental issues. This work allowed me to better understand the scope of the current disaster and the frightening future development possibilities of it. These problems will not only affect millions of people in remote countries but also have the capacity to become global. We must address them in an innovative manner.

I first supported the *Bangladesh Initiative* and this program helped governmental and non-governmental actors and local communities to find concrete solutions to the climate induced displacement of entire populations within their own country. *Displacement Solutions* not only raised awareness amongst stakeholders but also gave them right-based tools to tackle this domestic challenge.

The positive outcome of this work encouraged us to continue working with *Displacement Solutions*. By supporting the *Climate Law Displacement Project* we raise awareness about impact of climate change on local human communities to the international level. The adoption two years ago of the *Peninsula Principles on Climate Displacement within States* is an achievement that *Displacement Solutions* can be proud of. To strengthen the international normative framework on climate displacement law, as well as national legislations in this respect is of the utmost importance. Only vision and peerless execution makes the achievement of this goal possible. The total dedication, know-how and convening power of Scott Leckie are the assets such a cause needs. This, and the positive outcomes of a number of previous projects run by Scott and his team, is why I believe in *Displacement Solutions'* work and strongly invite you to support its unique initiatives.

André Hoffmann
Chairman



YPSA

is a non-governmental voluntary social development organization registered with various departments of Bangladesh Government including NGO affairs bureau. YPSA established in 1985 being inspired by the spirit of International Youth Year declared by the UN. YPSA works in close co-operation with several DGOs & UN agencies. YPSA awarded International Youth Peace Prize 1999 for its outstanding social development programmes.

Vision

YPSA envisions a society without poverty where everyone's basic needs and rights are ensured.

Mission

YPSA exists to participate with the poor and vulnerable population with all commitments to bring about their own and society's sustainable development.

Core Values

- Patriotism and commitment to national interest, sovereignty and national pride
- Justice, transparency and accountability
- Mutual respect and gender friendliness
- Quality and excellence
- Humility and confidence
- Respect for diversity
- Support for environment and ecology



Web Site

www.ypsa.org

ইপসা - ইয়ং পাওয়ার ইন সোশ্যাল অ্যাকশন YPSA - YOUNG POWER IN SOCIAL ACTION

[Organization in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council ECOSOC]

Ref: YPSA/HO/762/2015

Date: 22 July, 2015

To Whom It May Concern

YPSA has worked together with Displacement Solutions since 2010 on our joint Bangladesh HLP Initiative, which is one of the world's first organised efforts to secure housing, land and property rights for the people and communities displaced by the effects of climate change. The YPSA-DS partnership has carried out extensive HLP training throughout our country, engaged in several ground-breaking research projects leading to a series of new publications and has begun to identify land resources that can be acquired for the purposes of relocating climate displaced communities.

We hope very much to continue our excellent partnership and hope that all donors who review our proposals will support the continuation of our unique Initiative.

Warm regards,

Md. Arifur Rahman
Chief Executive
YPSA



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WHEN YOUR
HOMES, LANDS AND
PROPERTIES LOOK
LIKE THIS, ONLY NEW
LAND CAN PROVIDE A
SUSTAINABLE SOLUTION.

Image: Kadir van Lohuizen / NOOR
Location: Bangladesh





DISPLACEMENT SOLUTIONS

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