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**REPORT ON THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' WORKSHOP FOR COMMUNITY
BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE GAMBIA**

Mansea Hotel, March 2011



Cross section of participants

Executive Summary

The National Stakeholder's Workshop on Community-Based adaptation to Climate Change was a two-day forum conducted on the theme: Climate Change and Agriculture; ensuring food security in our changing climate. It was organized by Global Unification and funded by Actionaid The Gambia.

Held on the 24th and 25th of February 2011, at Mansea Hotel, Senegambia, the National forum attracted personalities from relevant sectors in the country to deliberate, and share good practices on climate change solutions and community based adaptation to climate threats in particular.

Climate actors and stakeholders from Government departments, Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organisations, youth groups among others gathered and produced the content of this framework document that aims for enhancing grassroots involvement in national climate resilience efforts.

This Report gives a breakdown of the Workshop; from the proceedings of the workshop, the summary of presentations, the recommendations/outcomes to the future engagement of local communities in climate change actions in the Gambia.

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I. BACKGROUND

Global Unification The Gambia is a youth-led research and development association established in 2006 by students of the University of the Gambia. It is registered as charitable association - registration number: 754/2006, with a mission to foster youth participation in national development and to global peace. Using the motto, ‘advancing humanity” Global Unification The Gambia, has cross-cutting areas of intervention, such as climate change, peace building, leadership development, responsible citizenship and advancement of right of women among others.

The association is a national chapter of Global Unification International, with the headquarters in Australia. Run mainly by graduates of the University of The Gambia, the association continues to recruit young people of varying ages to attain its goals and objectives and for its sustainability.

Being an association that has incorporated diversity in its mode of operation, Global Unification The Gambia (GU) has for the past few years redirected its focus towards addressing climate change and environmental degradation which continue to pose major threats to human survival and to undo national development gains so far. In this, we have initiated and implemented numerous youth-led projects and advocacy programs to enhance climate change resilience in the Gambia.

It is in this regard, Global Unification The Gambia organized the National Stakeholders Workshop on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change, held at Mansea Hotel on the 24th and 25th February 2011, with funding from Action aid International, the Gambia

Chaired by Madiba Sillah, Secretary to the National Committee of Global Unification The Gambia, the workshop gathered stakeholders from various sectors of the society including policy makers, relevant government departments, research institutions, community based organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, the media, as well as youth groups.

With the theme, ‘**Agriculture and climate change; ensuring food security in our changing climate**’ the workshop, aimed to create a platform for discussion and sharing of experiences on the best methods of community based adaptation to climate change by the relevant climate actors. It was meant to be the phase one of the Action Aid-sponsored program, with the second leg being a community out-reach activity in which members of Global Unification would educate

the communities visited, the best techniques and methods of adapting to the looming threats of our changing climate in the context of food security.

This comprehensive report, highlighting the result of the workshop, would be used as a guide for policy makers and other relevant actors in designing projects and programs for the purposed of ensuring appropriate local communities participation in climate resilience efforts in the country. It will as well be used as a working tool in the out-reach activity that we are to embark on.

II. WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

1. Day One of the workshop started with opening remarks by Jainaba Nyang-Njie, representative of the Director, Action Aid The Gambia; Mr Ebrima Darboe, representing the Minister of Forestry and Environment and Mr Ebrima Dem, National Coordinator of Global Unification The Gambia.
2. The speakers welcomed the participants and expressed delight at the attendance, as well as the opportunity to be part of such a unique forum
3. After the opening remarks, Mr Ebrima Dem gave the synopsis/ methodology of the workshop and this was followed by introductions by participants. The program agenda was then adopted by participants.
4. After the adoption of the program agenda, participants then moved out of the conference room to have a group photo outside before heading for breakfast.
5. Workshop proper for Day One began with deliberation by Alpha Jallow of the Department of Parks and Wild Life, who presented on Application of Climate Information to enhance food security and his presentation was followed by question and answer session.
6. Day One was wrapped up by the end of the 5th presentation of the day with general discussions in the intervals of the presentations.
7. On Day Two, began with recap of day one by chair. Then presentations continued with the usual general discussions in the intervals. A total of five presentations, making an overall total of ten presentations for the workshop were held.
8. The workshop was brought to an end by a group working session. The participants were divided into three working groups to discuss three thematic areas after which the draft recommendations, the result of the discussions, were read out and approved.

9. Ms. Jalika Keita, Head of Gender and women rights unit of Global Unification, gave the vote of thanks.

III. SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

A. Application of Climate Information to enhance Food Production in The Gambia

This was presented by Alpha Jallow from the Department of Water Resources. His presentation highlighted the importance of using climate change information in climate adaptation. Key points of his presentation were:

10. In the Gambia it has been observed that current low crop yield is partially attributed to the variability and irregularity of rainfall. Thus, the use of climate information can increase agricultural production by guiding farmers and policy makers in making decision towards food security.
11. Agriculture in The Gambia contributes up to 30% to GDP, employs 70% of active population, and provides 50% of national food supply. It is also a source of alleviating mal-nutrition on women and children. About 91% of the poor and 72% very poor depend on agriculture for livelihood
12. Food production in the Gambia is seriously affected by over-reliance on rain-fed agriculture. Rainfall regime with increasing unpredictability, inadequate water control measures and irrigation structures, saline intrusion in freshwater source, poor soils – torrential downpours, winds and inadequate soil fertilization, prevalence of pests and diseases are said to pose major challenges in national efforts for food self-sufficiency
13. Climate change has potential impact on agricultural production in the Gambia such as loss of agricultural land (through erosion, flooding), increased inter-annual variability of production under rain-fed systems, rural-urban migration and municipal planning and infrastructure development.
14. To adapt to the impact of climate change on food production in the Gambia, it is important to ensure optimal use of natural resources (water, land, labour), maximize

production in seasonal wetlands. And for uplands fields, high-yielding, early maturing and drought tolerant crops such as sorghum, early millet, cotton, groundnut (73-33) and NERICA rice should be adopted by farmers.

15. Increasing plant spacing to reduce competition for nutrients, planning an early start of dry season activities, early season planting to ensure full utilization of effective rainfall are right based approaches to adapt to the impact of the changing climate. In addition, there is the need to use improved cultural practices in seasonal wetlands which will maximize the production of crops that need plenty water example rice.
16. To cope with the menace of the changing climate, farmers need to select medium and short season varieties of crops with high-yielding potentials. They can also split the application of fertilizer as risk of leaching may be high. Farmers should seek warnings and advise on weather and climate before and during agricultural activities.

B. Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security

This was presented by Buba Khan, Coordinator of the Right to Food at Actionaid International, The Gambia. His presentation stressed on the need to tackle poverty as a right-based approach to community-based adaptation. This, he said, is a major barrier and unless something is done the level of poverty among local communities, communities' involvement on climate change adaptation will still be a far-fetched dream for Gambia. Key areas of his presentation are as highlighted below:

17. In order to deal with challenges of climate change in the Gambia, mitigation measures that would reduce the sources of emissions is required, while at the same time enhancing adaptation by building systems and capacities to reduce vulnerability to the impact of climate change.
18. Climate change is a major concern for Actionaid International because it is hitting harder on the poorest people; it threatens to undo our development gains, reflects and reinforces inequalities and is an issue of injustice.
19. Policy and program measures for adaptation in the Gambia should be enhanced through infrastructure investments to protect against asset and crop loss. Empirical research to develop community based adaptation models should be conducted. In addition to this, there is need for effective climate information and advisory services for agricultural and fishing communities supported by reliable and timely early warning systems. Furthermore, there is urgent need to support farming communities by strengthening their institutions, economy and enhancing access to credit, market, technology and training.

20. Recognize agriculture as a sector that is particularly vulnerable to climate change, and provide funding for adaptation strategies based on sustainable agricultural techniques that allow communities to combat hunger and realize their right to food
21. If nothing is done to reverse the current trend of the changing climate, the impact of climate change on people and resource in the Gambia could result to increased frequency of heavy precipitation, causing flooding. In this case, fisheries will be affected adversely; coastal villages and towns will be exposed to increasing risks due to sea-level rise, leading to large scale migration.

C. Community Based Adaptation program in the Gambia, good practices, challenges and the role of youth.

This topic was presented by Ibrahima Ceesay, the Co-coordinator of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change. His presentation highlighted the importance of community-based adaptation to climate and the significance of youth involvement. The presentation gave brief background and role of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC), engagement of young people in climate change solutions in Africa and Gambia in particular. Key points of his presentation were:

22. The impact of climate change affects response to other development agenda like the Millennium Development Goals and vision 2020
23. Communities in the Gambia have long been adapting to climate change, but these adaptations have typically been discrete. Adaptation to climate change should be planned, proactive, and anticipatory. Our National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs) tends to prioritize national-level priorities with lesser considerations for community-based ones. The danger is that such national initiatives may actually harm the locals if they do not take account of local practices.
24. Community-based adaptation should combine local knowledge with scientific knowledge. It should also respond to pressing needs of local communities, draw upon local knowledge, foster community-driven innovation, and supplement community capacity with knowledge and material resources.
25. Community-based adaptation allows for experimentation, helps improve local capacity to adaptation, and makes it easier to identify and share information about best practices.

26. Community-based adaptation takes a variety of forms, from 'mainstreamed' (integrated into existing or planned development projects) to 'direct' (developing local projects aimed at addressing discrete adaptation needs). It also recognizes the need for context-specific adaptation projects that identify local vulnerabilities, draw upon local knowledge and capacity, improve local adaptive capacity, and directly involve local stakeholders, including women and youth.
27. The importance of youth participation on climate change and sustainable development is guaranteed by article 11 of the African Youth Charter. This is based on the fact that youths are the powerhouse of every country, Gambia being no exception. Youth represent the next generation of decision makers and as those who will feel the brunt of the negative impacts of climate change. This has been widely agreed upon.

D. Climate Change Adaptation in Least Developed Countries (LDCs); good practices, existing barriers and the potentials for improvement.

This was presented by Ms. Fatou Gaye. Madam Gaye is senior Climate Officer at the Ministry of Forestry and Environment. She is also the UNFCCC Article 6 Focal Point for Gambia.

Madam Gaye's presentation started with brief explanation of climate change, using both scientific and local terms. This, she said was geared towards improving understanding of climate change discussion. In her presentation, she also made a clarification between mitigation and adaptation, as she noted that the two are often wrongly being used interchangeably by climate actors. Her presentation raised number of good points such as:

28. Rising temperatures will cause shifts in crop-growing seasons which affect food security and changes in the distribution of disease vectors putting more people at risk from diseases such as malaria and dengue fever
29. There is existing pool of knowledge and experience with local communities on coping with climate variability and extreme weather events to adapt for generations; however, this is basically based on trial and error. This knowledge and experience can help communities to adapt, but where these options cause other climate change effects, then mal-adaptation would take place
30. Some of the barriers to adaptation and integration of climate change to national policies are lack of funding compounded by the complexities involved in accessing the funds when they are available; lack of resources, institutional and technical capacities to integrate adaptation into policy and development planning as well as increase costs and

vulnerability due to further delay in the implementation of the urgent and most immediate needs contained in the NAPAs

31. Other barriers include lack of sufficient institutional memory on climate change issues affecting continuity, representation at international meetings, education and training, insufficient public awareness especially involving the local communities among others
32. There is the need for a shift of focus from vulnerability assessment, to a much more improved assessment of the cost of adaptation projects already identified. Added to this, it is important that as stakeholders, we also consider improved assessment of other adaptation vulnerabilities and agree in full cost funding additional to development planning programs.

E. Empowering Communities through participatory forest management in the Gambia

This paper was presented by Hatab Camara, the National Coordinator of Market Analysis and Development on Forest Products and Services at the Department of Forestry. Mr. Camara's presentation dealt briefly about Gambia's experience in community based forest enterprise development, followed by a brief profile of the country. At the end of the presentation participants plunge into discussion dealing with issues such as the economic importance of community forestry program in enhancing REDD (Reduction of Emission from Desertification and Forest Degradation) and REDD plus.

Below are some of the salient points of his presentation:

33. In mainstreaming community based forestry enterprise development in the Gambia, government created the enabling environment through legislative and policy frameworks, which was tasked to review forest policies and regulations (taxation). Strategic alliances were also built through networking between interest groups. This was compounded by inter-sectoral collaboration in capacity building and resource mobilization Institutional alignment
34. One of our good practices was the creation of market analysis and development (MA&D) in number of communities that depend on the forest. Through MA&D, local people were assisted in developing income-generating enterprises while conserving the tree and forest resources. The main strength of the MA&D process was its inclusion of social and

environmental concerns alongside the technological, commercial and financial considerations of products/services.

35. MA&D helps local people to be responsive as they develop their enterprises. It also supports the development of small, natural resource-based enterprises, and because of its focus on ecological sustainability it was especially applicable to enterprise based on resources that need to be protected.
36. Key development aspects of MA&D were sustainability which included resource sustainability, market sustainability, social/Institutional sustainability and technical sustainability. It also promoted public participation, where community members were the main decision-makers. MA&D also focuses on capacity building and strengthening institutions at the local level in order to provide the support for local people's need.
37. The MA&D had a number of impacts that were ecological, social and economic in nature. Ecological impact were measured based on increased acceptance of the local communities to protect their local forest, increased consciousness about forest utilization methods, increased environmental knowledge and awareness and reduction in illegal forest utilization.
38. The social impacts of the MA&D were increased consideration of gender and the realization of the benefits of working together by promoting synergy of efforts. It also helped to reduce friction between stakeholders and also created economic incentives and employment opportunities for local forest users. The MA&D also ensured that forestry sector contributed to poverty reduction through the transfer of forest resource ownership and utilization responsibilities to the rural communities.
39. Some of the lessons learnt were that community-based enterprise development requires multi-sector approach and that it is important to empower communities with skills necessary to manage and utilize their forest resources.

F. Climate Change, Biological Diversity and Poverty: The Link

This paper was presented by Alagi Manjang. Mr. Manjang is the Deputy Director of Department of Parks and Wildlife. The presentation highlighted the importance of biodiversity protection in curbing climate change and reducing poverty among local people. It precisely dealt with the linkage that exists among climate change solution, poverty reduction and biodiversity protection. By defining of each of the three terms, Mr. Manjang concluded that the three are closely inter-linked and neither will succeed without the other. Here are some of the important points raised in his presentation:

40. Biodiversity is key to how well people can adapt to climate change, how effectively landscapes absorb and store carbon, and how effective vegetation and ecosystems are in reducing the adverse impacts of climate change.

41. Climate change has already added stress to habitats, species and ecosystems; it triggers species migration, and leads to habitat reduction. Up to 50% of Africa's total biodiversity is at risk due to reduced habitats. This problem he said is compounded by the over exploitation of land resources including forest, population increase, desertification and land degradation.
42. The heavy dependence of local communities in the Gambia on climate-sensitive sectors and natural resources means that the impact of climate and other environmental changes on biodiversity and ecosystem services poses a real threat to the livelihoods, food security and health of the poor.
43. Understanding inter-relationships between biodiversity and climate change clearly shows that conserving and managing biodiversity protects the resilience of natural systems and so helps all people, particularly the most vulnerable, to cope with a shifting global climate.
44. To adapt to the impact of climate change, farmers should plant crop varieties that are resistant to floods, drought or saline conditions and vegetation used as live hedges to protect agricultural land from excessive water or wind erosion in times of heavy rainfall or drought should be preserved. There is also the need for biodiversity conservation and the maintenance of ecosystem integrity. This is central to improving the ability of the poor to cope with climate change.
45. Mangroves are coastal buffers renowned for dissipating the energy of waves braking onshore and therefore protecting against coastal erosion damage to seaside communities. Thus there is the need for rehabilitation of coastal mangroves, which serve as havens for biodiversity.
46. With biodiversity under threat from climate change it is important we establish protected areas for species at risk. These protected areas play an important role in sequestering carbon as well as supporting sustainable natural resource use and support local livelihoods.

G. The Role of Universities in Combating Climate Change

This paper was presented by Adama Cole Gaye. Ms Cole is lecturer at the University of The Gambia. Her presentation looked into the definition of climate and global warming. It also touched on key reports by the UNFCCC and other research entities substantiating the fact that the changing climate has adverse effects on local people and posing a serious challenge to sustainable development. The presentation closely looked at the historical responsibility of universities in research, curriculum development to practical issues affecting humanity. Her presentation put into account the following points:

47. In The Gambia, many of the likely characteristics of the resulting changes in climate are frequent heat waves, uncertain rainfall pattern, increase in frequency and intensity of many extreme climate events and sea-level rise.

48. In the country, sectors that are sensitive to climate change are agriculture (crop and livestock production sub-sectors), fisheries, energy, water resources, forest resources and health.
49. The university should conduct continuous research on climate change and the results of such research should always be circulated to law, policy makers and politicians for better and sustainable national development and for the benefit of our society. The university should become a primary tool for “green” development in the country. The university can initiate their own environmental projects such as community forestry, tree rehabilitation which can be funded from local and international funding bodies.
50. The establishment of community forestry (CF) projects in The Gambia is very timely because it will help rural communities to intensify the CF programmes and promote CF in communities that have not yet embraced them. Villagers are now aware of another potential use of palms and are embarking on tree nursery projects for the development of large plantations of the palm. These plantations when well planned and fully established, will enhance reforestation, agro-forestry and provide a sustainable supply of the leaves for geotextile production and food security.
51. The Gambia, being a semi-arid and sub-humid bioclimatic region, has a suitable environment for the growth of the palm. If the rural community could be made aware of this and taught how to make geotextile mats then opportunities and benefits such as poverty alleviation and employment of disadvantaged groups would be realized.

H. Combating Climate Change at the Village Level: The United States Peace Corps Approach

The paper was presented by Saikou Njai, ENRM Program Manager, Peace Corps and Casey Donahue, a volunteer at Peace Corps. Their presentation started with brief explanations of what Peace Corps is and its areas of intervention in the country such as education, health and environment. Below is summary of their presentation:

52. At Peace Corps volunteers work with motivated community members. They are trained to seek out positive deviants, individuals willing to try new things. They also work with already existing groups (NGOs, associations). Every volunteer is placed in a community and directed to assess its needs before starting their work.
53. The Peace Corps, in its efforts to enhance food security and environmental protection have recently focused on agro-forestry. Through this program, volunteers strive to teach farmers agro-forestry practices of which they can incorporate into their daily life. The combinations of improved agriculture and forestry work are designed to create more sustainable farming practices and prevent desertification in country.
54. Key agro-forestry practices used by Peace Corps are ***Inter-cropping***, which simultaneously enriches the soil and protects it from harmful erosion, and provides the

farmers with secondary products such as timber, animal fodder, and fruits. And **windbreaks** which protect the soil from wind erosion.

55. Many of these trees used as windbreak are cashew trees which apart from serving as wind breaks have high economic values. For instance, the cashew's root system can provide stability and prevent soil erosion, the cashew nuts and fruits can be harvested for income generation. From the fruit, local communities can make cashew butter and they can be dried and sold as well.
56. We are working on another tree call ***Moringa oleifera***. This tree is used by our volunteers to make garden beds, live fencing, and border-planting. The plant is rich in many essential vitamins lacking in the populations' diet, especially calcium, protein, vitamin A, magnesium, iron, and potassium.

I. Adaption to Climate Change in The Gambia

This was presented by Zachary Bailey. Mr. Bailey is the Political/Economic Officer at U.S. Embassy in Banjul, The Gambia. Mr. Bailey's started his presentation by looking at the impact of climate change in general context in sub Saharan African countries. It also highlighted the role of international community on climate change solution at the policy level. According to him climate change is projected to cause a major development challenge in Africa such as:

57. Development pressures are driving degradation of Africa's soil, water, and biodiversity resources, resulting in a significant threat to the economic well-being of future generations of Africans. And by 2020, between 75 and 250 million people are projected to be exposed to increased water stress due to climate change in Africa. This he said will lead to increased food insecurity due to high dependence on rain fed agriculture, decreased water availability as a result of elevated surface temperatures and also heightened disease burden due to an increase in the range of mosquitoes, results of floods and droughts, and higher rates of malnutrition.
58. In the Gambia people are attracted to the coast because it is a focal point for economic growth—accounting for infrastructure, transportation, trade, tourism, recreation and a myriad of ecological goods and services. They provide habitat and nurseries for the majority of commercially important marine fish species, and provide food security and livelihoods. However, these settlements are seriously threatened by coastal erosion as

private local investments are often built too close to the shore or do not consider appropriate building techniques for dynamic shorelines.

59. Adaptation is therefore very crucial in response to actual or expected climatic changes or their impacts, so as to reduce harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. Adaptation strategies in order to be successful can consider certain steps such as assessing vulnerability, selecting coarse action, mainstreaming coastal adaptation, implementing adaptation and evaluating for adaptive management.
60. Adaptation for coastal climate change will ensure a more functioning and healthy coastal ecosystems, less vulnerable to damages from natural hazards and livelihood opportunities are maintained or strengthened.
61. To mainstream coastal climate adaptation, it is important to integrate climate concerns and responses into relevant policies, plans, programs, and projects at the national, sub-national, and local level. The long-term goal is to have climate change adaptation integrated into public policy across many sectors, woven into organizational missions, and routinely considered in decisions about development
62. The Peace Corps office in the Gambia, with the Ambassador's Cultural Preservation Fund, has planted mangroves on historic James Island to help protect the island and the CFAO Building, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites, from further deterioration due to heavy waves, erosion and weathering. Restoration and protection of the fort and island will allow for further historical research on the island and for continued promotion of the site as an educational facility for Gambian students and visitors.
63. The United States is now partnering with other contributor nations, based on the Copenhagen Accords to provide what is known as "fast start" funding for climate-related activities approaching \$30 billion during 2010–2012. And the USAID has \$8.5 million regional climate change program works across sub-Saharan Africa.

J. The role of the media in communication, education, public participation and access to information on climate change issues in the Gambia

This paper was presented by Saikou Jammeh on behalf of Madi Ceesay. Saikou Jammeh is the editor-in-chief of the Daily News. In his presentation, Saikou highlighted the significant roles the media can play in creating awareness on climate change issues. He also talked briefly on some of the constraints media houses face in enhancing good climate reports. One of the keys obstacles highlighted in his presentation is the low level of knowledge of media practitioners in sciences of climate change, leading to poor coverage of climate change stories. Key points highlighted in his presentation are:

64. In pursuance of its mandate to educate and inform, the media stimulates public participation in environmental management by purveying relevant, accurate and timely information that shapes public opinion towards a positive behavioral change.
65. Significantly, the mass media must be relied upon to provide channels for reaching various target groups through an appropriate mix of communication modes. In doing that, the media should establish links with the sources of messages to be delivered, transmit messages through various techniques and channels and observe and assess feedback.
66. Since different types of media reach different types of audiences, incorporating diverse media modalities enhances campaign's effectiveness in reaching the target groups.
67. Some of the challenges faced by the media are inadequate expertise, inadequate funds to carry-out target projects, bureaucracy in access to information, hostile media environment, inadequate involvement of the media in climate change discussion, absence of user-friendly materials and translation of these materials into local languages.
68. Public participation on climate change issues can be strengthened if the enabling environment is created for the media to execute its mandate without undue restrictions.

IV. WORKSHOP RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOME

During the workshop participants agreed on a number of recommendations in a view to enhancing community-based adaptation programs in The Gambia.

69. Climate change should be recognized as one of the greatest risks to survival globally and great challenges to national development, which if care is not taken will undo our national development gains so far, and that there is no better time to begin adaptation programs involving local communities than now
70. Climate adaptation must be built on insightful and in-depth understanding of how climate change impacts are felt by local communities, and it is very important to draw on the knowledge of local people in our efforts to combat climate change.
71. To ensure sustainability in community-driven adaptations, government and other development actors should address the basic and immediate needs, like water and sanitation, food security and livelihood strategies; these are seen as major barriers to adaptation.

72. Education and access to information on climate change should not be limited to conferences, seminars and workshops but should filter directly to the local communities and good practices should involve local communities' coping mechanism.
73. To ensure sustainability in community adaptation, it is important not to portray poor people only as victims of climate change, but as people who, with the right support, can assume a degree of responsibility in finding in finding solution to local environmental degradation and national climate resilience efforts.
74. Local farmers need to be motivated to adopt sustainable community agro-forestry programs and tree plantings especially those varieties which have economic, medical and social values.
75. The sciences of climate change should be geared towards helping people to understand themselves as both part of the problem and part of the solution. This is important since climate change is not an individual problem, and adaptation is not an individual task.
76. It is not enough to consider the adaptation measures of individuals, households and communities. We need to take into consideration the broader social and political context involving key actors in the society; such as faith and political leaders.
77. Resource material on climate change as well as adequate funding should be provided to local communities. People need financial space to be able to adapt. They might have the knowledge, will and capacity to adapt, but without the necessary resources this would not be possible.
78. Adaptation strategies for climate change should be incorporated into all national policies and programs related to food security and agriculture.
79. Support communities' efforts to realize the right to food and to ensure that most vulnerable groups are involved in development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of adaptation policies.
80. Structural changes should be made in the design and implementation of adaptation programs at country level to ensure adequate focus on food security. The changes must increase the resilience of smallholder farmers by enhancing their capacity to practice sustainable agriculture and by developing safety nets for climate risk management.
81. Public spending on agriculture should be enhanced and oriented towards improving agricultural infrastructure, inputs, irrigation services, market linkages, credit and national agricultural extension services supporting smallholder farmers.
82. The role of local authorities and civil society in developing, implementing and monitoring adaptation measures should be strengthened

83. Government should start developing plan that addresses an enabling environment for participation of women and young people at the local, national, regional and international level in decision making on climate change and activities to implement these decisions
84. Engaging young people in actions to address climate change is a critical element to any nation's strategy and a significant contribution to sustainable development for years to come
85. Policy and program measures for adaptation in the Gambia should be enhanced through infrastructure investments to protect against asset and crop loss. Empirical research to develop community based adaptation models should be conducted. In addition to this, there is need for effective climate information and advisory services for agricultural and fishing communities supported by reliable and timely early warning systems. There is urgent need to support farming communities by strengthening their institutions, economy and enhancing access to credit, market, technology and training.
86. Community-based enterprise development requires multi-sectoral approach and that it is important to empower communities with skills necessary to manage and utilize their forest resources.

V. Issues for future engagement of local communities on climate change adaptations programs in the Gambia

Guided by the recommendations of the National Stakeholders Workshop on Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change, Global Unification will be continuing its efforts in engaging local communities in climate change solutions in the country. Key programs we identified for this year are:

87. National Community - Outreach programs on climate change adaptation

It has been observed that local people's knowledge on climate change adaptation is not adequately considered in climate adaptation programs of action. Despite their low level of knowledge in the science of climate change, local communities have had coping mechanisms. However, access to information and direct community engagement on climate solutions is still low. Thus, through this community outreach, we hope to:

- Share good practices and raise awareness on climate change issues among local communities
- Learn about indigenous communities' coping mechanisms and their struggle to live with the challenges to survival posed by climate change.
- Lobby policy makers to incorporate indigenous people's knowledge of climate adaptation into national climate change programs.

From this outreach, we hope to:

- Visit and sensitize at least 20 villages covering all regions of the country
- Improve understanding among local people on climate change issues
- Identify and strengthen local people's adaptive measures.
- Consider indigenous people's knowledge on adaptation in national climate change planning

88. Enhancing sustainable livelihood through gardening for forest-dependent local communities in The Gambia

Many rural communities in The Gambia depend on the forest for their livelihood. They derive firewood, wood for roofing and fencing and even income by selling forest products. This unsustainable use of the forest has negative impact on the forest as trees are continuously felled down. This puts the country at the risk of desertification and deforestation.

Therefore, the aim of this program is to:

- Reduce the repulsive impacts on the forest caused by over-dependence and unsustainable use of the forest and forest products by local communities
- Support of REDD and REDD+ initiative in The Gambia
- Provide alternative source of income for local communities, making them depend less on the forest.
- Engage local people in tree planting and agro-forestry practices alongside gardening

89. Climate Talk Radio Program

The Climate Talk radio program is new initiative of Global Unification the Gambia geared towards public participation in climate change discourse in the country. This program started in August 2010 and is expected to continue to August 2011. It is funded by Actionaid International The Gambia. Through this advocacy program, we are contributing in raising

public awareness on climate change and enhancing their participation in climate change discussion, thereby promoting Article 6 of the UNFCCC convention in The Gambia.

Carried on the theme **Rethinking our future**, Climate Talk comes on air every Thursday, from 5-6 pm.

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