

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Legal Response Initiative
Name of the project TFN funded:	Supporting good climate legislation in sub-Saharan Africa
Date Funded by TFN:	25/04/2017
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>The project objective is to develop pro-poor, equitable climate legislation that protects human rights and livelihoods in sub-Saharan Africa through a participatory “bottom up” process. The TFN funding allowed us to trial such a law review and development approach in close collaboration with the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) in one jurisdiction – Cameroon.</p> <p>Under the theme “Stakeholder consultations on climate change legislation in Cameroon” the Cameroonian chapter of PACJA – the Cameroonian Climate Change Working Group (CCCWG) - organised four meetings in different cities of Cameroon between July 2017 and February 2018. The meetings took place</p> <p>in Cameroon’s inland capital Yaoundé, its commercial centre Douala, the beach resort and seaport Kribi as well as in the small town of Idenau.</p> <p>All meetings followed the same format: sessions opened with a short introduction to the project and its subject matters. This was followed by a facilitated focus group discussion structured along a set of pre-determined questions. In addition, meeting participants were asked to complete a two-page survey questionnaire.</p> <p>The consultations engaged a wide range of national stakeholder groups, including non-governmental organisations, climate affected communities and indigenous peoples. Their overall purpose was to elicit the views of participants on, first, priority areas for legislative initiatives on climate change in Cameroon, and second, the quality of legislative interventions – e.g. the adequate approach, processes or potential barriers. A total of 78 people, 37 men 41 women, attended the meetings.</p> <p>The consultation process resulted in increased national awareness of the need for legislative responses to climate change, see example here . We summarised the methodology, experience and findings in a booklet that will be widely disseminated. While the report provides a snapshot analysis and does not claim to capture public opinion in Cameroon, the general approach provides a blue print for undertaking such consultations on a larger nationwide scale.</p> <p>Awudu Cyprian Mbaya, a member of the Cameroonian parliament and Executive President of the Pan African Parliamentarian Network on Climate Change stated that: 'The consultations in Cameroon are an important first step to illustrate how legislation that works for people and the environment could be developed bottom up. The approach</p>

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	<p>should provide guidance and inspiration for law and policy makers in different jurisdictions all over Africa.' To achieve this, the Pan African Parliament, PACJA and LRI have co-founded a wider initiative the African Climate Legislation Initiative (ACLI).</p> <p>As the concluding step of the project we will hold an in-country (round-table) dialogue between government, lawyers and civil society stakeholders to identify concrete legislative initiatives for climate change adaptation. However, as a result of the unrest in Cameroon meetings had to be postponed and timelines have changed. The political focus at present is very much on the autonomy (or even secession) of Cameroon's anglophone regions and the local partner are currently deciding on the right timing for such a dialogue.</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	50%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	78
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	468
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	CDKN matched the funding raised during the TFN event and contributed £11.9K to the project.
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	We work through a network of pro bono lawyers from solicitor firms, barrister chambers and universities. So far they have contributed around 30 hours of free technical legal advice to the project.
How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?	We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding
Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?	No
Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?	A really valuable process that allowed African civil society organisations to reach out to a new audience and lever support to influence law and policy on climate change.
Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of	At all the consultations events participants felt that agriculture and land use were the most important sectors for regulatory

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<p>the project?</p>	<p>interventions. Agriculture employs around 70 per cent of the country's workforce. However, in many areas farmlands are being taken over by property development and industrial activities, pushing subsistence farmers and other land users to the margins.</p> <p>The negative effects of climate change are an additional threat with the potential to disrupt food and livelihood systems for rural and urban citizens. One particular issue repeatedly raised by participants concerned the effects of changing and increasingly unpredictable rainfalls. This has led to the disruption of planting seasons and crop cycles and, consequently, low yields in both the quantity and quality of crops.</p> <p>The majority of Cameroonian farmers are small holders who obtain low yields from small plots of land using traditional methods. The availability of easily accessible information on, for example, the duration of expected rainfalls would help them to manage their land (and adapt). While the national meteorological service collects data on changing weather patterns the relevant information is not shared (in an accessible format) with farmers.</p> <p>A technical question for law and policy makers in this connection, therefore, is how to integrate an obligation to proactively inform citizens about the quality and scope of expected rainfalls into the existing regulatory landscape. Two LRI legal experts (one an international lawyer and one local practitioner) have addressed the question and provided a legal opinion free of charge.</p> <p>The advice we were able to give outlines several options for possible legal interventions. It, in particular, refers to Decree No. 2005/118 of 15 April 2005 on the organisation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the decree's section 3 on information and rapid alerts. In their view, Article 101 on monitoring crop related information and early warnings could be easily revised to include an obligation to disseminate meteorological data to farmers.</p>
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