



Local Solutions from the Global South

Changing the Narrative of the Climate Debate





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About Catalyst 2030

Catalyst 2030 is a fast-growing global movement of people and organisations committed to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Joining forces with communities, governments, businesses and others, Catalyst 2030 members are changing systems at all levels through collective action and bold new strategies.

With 1900 members and counting, across 197 countries, Catalyst 2030 emphasises collaborative action to accelerate change in the lives of billions. With this report, Catalyst 2030 members are taking the first step to reimagine, redefine and eventually transform the way communities tackle the challenges posed by unabated climate change. By tapping into the power of collective intelligence and local knowledge, Catalyst 2030's social entrepreneurs create an impact that ripples beyond the communities they serve.

Our values are the cornerstone upon which we judge ourselves and the yardstick against which we invite our stakeholders to measure us.

Our five core values are:



People and nature at the centre

In everything we do, we place people, nature and their ways of life at the heart of what we do. We stand accountable to them for our actions.



Co-creative mindset

The future of innovation is co-creation. We seek to acknowledge our own biases and silos and work to move beyond them. This includes sharing all relevant data when we collaborate and that whatever Catalyst 2030 produces is non-proprietary.



Collaborative leadership

We prioritise co-creating approaches that reflect shared ownership and credit collective impact. Shared norms are based on the needs and challenges we face.



Humble audacity

We have audacious goals and approach them with the humility that none of us alone know how they can be best accomplished.



Spirit of generosity

On any given day we are all donors, doers, visionaries or clients. We commit to sharing our knowledge, time and networks freely without expectation of receiving anything in return, other than the achievement of collective goals.

Introduction

Unmitigated climate change is raising new questions and concerns for global societies, particularly as its effects are unequal and disproportionately impact the vulnerable. Many poor and at-risk households in the Global South — especially those in agricultural communities — are disproportionately exposed to its impacts compared to their counterparts further north. Adding to this, developing countries face having to achieve their economic development objectives in a changing and often unpredictable climate.

Framing the Global South as a victim tells only part of the story. Despite the negligible contribution that most countries in the Global South have made to the climate crisis, these countries are often the most ambitious in tackling it. It is here that, despite seemingly intractable challenges, resilience and ingenuity are thriving.

In *Local Solutions from the Global South: Changing the Narrative of the Climate Debate* we shed light on local innovations and practical solutions from organisations headed by Catalyst 2030 members. They are climate champions who are making a difference by ensuring their community's voices are heard and their needs are met as they confront seemingly intractable environmental and climate change threats.

Innovation is key to mobilising resources to tackle development priorities. The solutions proposed by the entrepreneurs in this report reflect these priorities. Local leaders and movements are creating high-potential ideas and alternative approaches while developing new narratives. These solutions range from saving the environment and the rhino in Southern Africa, to increasing farmer incomes in Peru to mitigating e-waste problems in India.

For example, when organisations like Friendship aim at empowering the lives of the casualties of climate change in Bangladesh, they do so inclusively, in consultation with the communities they serve. Working closely with local populations in disaster preparedness and response increases their resilience and their ability to mitigate the impacts of intense cyclones and flooding.

Similarly, in drought-prone Egypt, Sekem an organisation which has been promoting sustainable development since 1977, pioneered a global movement of regenerative agriculture. Working with 250,000 smallholder farmers, it encourages farmers to not only use environmentally sustainable ways of farming, but it also provides markets for their crops and promotes the wellbeing of farmers.

We invite you to read and share this celebration of achievement and inspire others to learn from and emulate these stories of success.



The top section of the cover features a vibrant green background filled with various eco-friendly icons. These include large green leaves, a stylized tree, a small house with a chimney, a windmill, a person riding a bicycle, a cloud with raindrops, and modern wind turbines. The icons are rendered in a flat, illustrative style.

Profiles of Organisations led by Social Innovators in the Global South and their Solutions to Climate Change



Focus on environmental data to drive economic gains



The impacts of climate change on the landlocked Southern African country of Malawi are apparent in how natural rainfall patterns have changed over the last few years. Malawi experiences frequent droughts and floods which threaten the livelihoods of farmers. The economy is highly dependent on agriculture with 80% of the population engaged in smallholder farming.

It is essential to understand the implications of these climate events which bring economic upheaval. ClimSA responds to the needs of farmers through a framework guided by science and technology, while simultaneously mitigating and adapting to climate challenges. ClimSA mainstreams climate data and informs the public about the unpredictability of the changing climate to prepare communities in advance.

Estimating risk beforehand allows farmers to reduce the risk of loss from episodes of crop loss, water shortages and energy crisis. As part of the process farmers enrol for an index-based weather insurance scheme, with the premium based on the probability of a payout.

Of the farmers who are part of the system, 86% returned to the scheme the following year. Through weather data and micro-insurance services, farmers have improved their understanding of weather shocks while boosting their livelihood prospects.

Beyond the story

- Works for Least Developed Countries (LDC), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States
- Programmes include agriculture and food security, health, water, disaster risk and energy
- Supports Regional Climate Centres by bringing added value to climate services through the integration of socio-economic elements, analytical components and visualisation tools
- Works with farmer organisations, bankers, insurers and other stakeholders to explore the potential of insurance mechanisms for reducing loan default risk



Vision for the Future

The solution is not to reject change to avoid risk but to prepare for opportunities. If ignored, these risks can turn into crises that reverse hard won gains and endanger social and economic reforms. The next big step is the collaboration of private, public and government agencies and investment in early warning systems and insurances.



Better workplace today, better life tomorrow: Tending to the informal economy in India

Informal workers are the lifeblood of cities in developing economies, facilitating the swift flow of goods and services. The street is their office and the open sky is the roof of their workplace. But climate change presents workers with multiple challenges, impacting their work infrastructure, economic stability and health.

Jai Odisha, a partner of Upfront works in Odisha, an East Indian coastal state, where it is striving to create a safe and climate resilient environment for scores of street vendors. The programme informs street vendors about the health impacts of heat waves, cold stress and other weather fluctuations and provides them with access to affordable health clinics.

Waterproof sheets, semi-permanent roofs and better storage systems are also offered to street vendors to help them adapt to climate challenges. This enables vendors to work in a safer environment.

Beyond the story

- CMS works with vulnerable communities across sectors and cities in 25 countries
- For more than 25 years, CMS has collaborated with communities to address challenges in agriculture, health, livelihoods, finance, waste management, women empowerment and education
- CMS is a group of solution-focused activists working closely with partners to incubate and invest, accessing a mix of resources, expertise and on-the-ground experience to shape local equity, while working across eight SDGs



Vision for the Future

Climate change requires all of us to work together. But what we lack right now are collaborative mechanisms. We need cross-sectoral platforms so that we can collaborate better. And we can even challenge each other better.



Eco-farming makes farmers better off in Peru

From small-scale farmer to president of an association working with marginalised smallholder avocado growers in Peru, Olga Lidia Alayo Reyes, has come a long way. Reyes has reached new heights after working with Fairtrasa for the past decade.

For years, small-scale farmers in Peru have been dominated by big corporations and large landowning farmers. Reyes came into contact with Fairtrasa in 2010 and received training on how to transition his farming operation to produce organic crops. She later moved on to sell her produce at higher prices in markets previously unknown to him.

Fairtrasa's aim is to provide smallholder farmers with the economic impetus to engage in ecologically sustainable agriculture. This is achieved by following a three-tier model of development. Farmers who are trained are moved from the first tier to the third.

This enables them to become more economically secure and independent to run sustainable farming projects.

Farmers like Reyes, who have worked in the system have realised an income growth of 10-30%. But most importantly, their health has improved and their farms have become robust. Bees, insects, butterflies and birds have returned to their fields as the ecological balance is restored for the first time in many years.

Beyond the story

- Supports thousands of poor small-scale farmers in Latin America, Europe and North America and helps them to adopt sustainable and organic approaches in agriculture
- Protects and restores soil fertility
- Aims to implement regenerative farming practices
- Works towards a circular economy in supply chains
- Works for reforestation of rainforests and strives for ways to reduce non-biodegradable plastic pollution in the production cycle

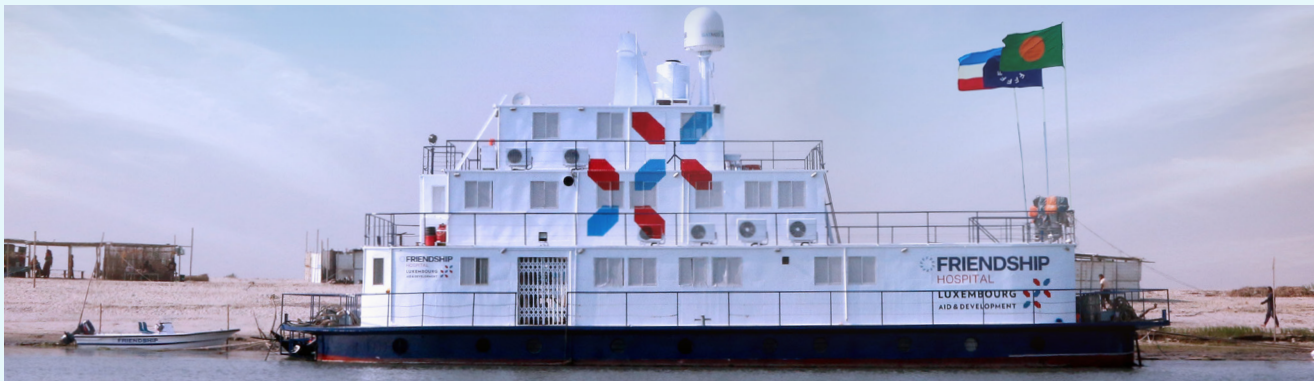


Vision for the Future

One of the biggest challenges for smallholder farmers living in poverty in the Global South is exploitation by middlemen. Exposing farmers to new markets to achieve better financial gains while encouraging them to produce sustainably are the development standards we aspire to.



Reviving mangroves while building resilience in Bangladesh



Sundarbans is a mangrove area in the Ganges Delta formed by the junction of the Brahmaputra, Jamuna and Meghna Rivers in Bangladesh's Bay of Bengal. These lush forests not only protect the mainland from the onslaught of cyclones and storms, but also feed local populations, providing them with livelihoods and shelter.

However, water pollution, deforestation and frequent harsh weather have weakened the natural shield of the mangroves. This has led to saline water seeping into the soil, rendering the land infertile. As a result, communities who depend on the mangroves for their survival end up going deeper into the forests in search of fish, crabs, honey and firewood. This often leads to dangerous conflict between people and wildlife.

Friendship launched a mangrove afforestation drive with the support and cooperation of the local communities, government and the forestry department, which is slowly helping the mangroves to revive.

Mangrove forests store more carbon than terrestrial forests but only half of the world's mangrove forests remain intact. If the destruction of mangroves continues, the ecosystem could be extinct in the next 100 years, leaving behind not just ecological catastrophe, but poverty, diseases and the long-term devastating impacts of natural disasters.

To date, Friendship has planted more than 100 hectares of forests on mud lands to protect the embankments and simultaneously help locals to build resilience against the multiple impacts of climate change.

Beyond the story

- Serves the people of Bangladesh, especially communities living on the shifting islands of the Brahmaputra and Jamuna rivers
- Runs programmes to alleviate poverty by helping people to access healthcare and providing financial support and training for small businesses
- Offers programmes for women's empowerment
- Works for overall development of communities to build better futures



Vision for the Future

The social, economic and political empowerment of people affected by climate breakdown and their preparation for the future, goes hand in hand with mitigating and adapting to a changing climate. Our work does not stop at helping people devastated by climate emergencies but includes bringing substantial change to their lives overall.



Upcycling urban textiles brings dignity to rural India



By 2030, half a billion people in the world will be living on less than \$1.90 per day. This vast number of people will face multidimensional poverty, including lack of adequate clothing. By contrast, 30% of global seasonal production of cloth is never sold. This generates close to 13 million tonnes of cloth waste annually and contributes to 92 million tonnes of cloth waste generated each year globally. By 2050, global waste generation is projected to nearly double.

Goonj (echo in Hindi) reimagines waste as an opportunity and resource for addressing poverty, inequality and the climate crisis. The Goonj model repositions surplus material as a new sector agnostic resource to mobilise and motivate civic participation in urban and rural communities, nudging them to address development and environmental issues. This model creates a barter between urban surplus material and rural wisdom and labour, turning them into two new alternate currencies for development to achieve at scale development and impact.

Goonj rapidly responds to provide relief to communities impacted by natural calamities, mobilising disaster-hit communities as active participants in the creation, repair and reviving of their own damaged infrastructure. Moreover, it rewards their efforts with basic needs material (harvested from urban surplus material).

Every year Goonj collects 10-12,000 tonnes of urban surplus material which results in up to 10,000+ community-led asset-creation projects

across the country. Working in 27 Indian states and Union Territories, Goonj not only eliminates thousands of tonnes of waste and pollution from landfills, it circulates vast quantities of products and materials to impact diverse issues like education, agriculture, health, environment etc.

The Goonj model extends the world's surplus material beyond conventional market-based material circularity principles to exponentially impact development and environmental goals. In a systemic loop, Goonj has created a platform that builds a connection between citizens in cities and villages, to make, exchange and circulate value from surplus material and peoples' efforts rather than using new resources.

Beyond the story

- Works to instil mindset and behavioural change in the way city dwellers dispose of material, while implementing a high quality processing system to ensure materials matches the needs of rural communities
- Mobilising and motivating rural communities to collectively identify their own most neglected challenges
- The communities evolve and implement their own localised solutions with their own resources, capacities and wisdom
- Participants receive essential material kits (from Goonj) as a reward for their efforts. The model impacts individual poverty while community-led action impacts the wellbeing of communities and individuals



Fighting the plastic challenge from ground zero in Indonesia

Greenhope works to shift global dependence on fossil fuel based, non-biodegradable plastics towards carbon-efficient biodegradable bioplastics, using renewable resources from local cassava farmers.

Greenhope's patented technology makes bioplastics using locally sourced starch rich cassava plants. With Fair-for-Life certified buyback schemes, smallholder cassava farmers are encouraged to address the problem of plastic pollution from ground zero.

More than 20 farmers are currently working with Greenhope, managing more than 10 hectares of land to grow cassava. Cassava supplied by farmers every month is converted into tapioca starch through a low-carbon home industry process and sent to Greenhope's factory to produce Ecoplas and Naturloop bioresins. These technologies are suitable to make biodegradable packaging, bags, film, waste bags, seedling bags, food containers and many other items that are not economically viable to recycle and are too small or too contaminated in their post-consumer state.

Greenhope estimates that 500 under privileged farmers and their families can be assisted by the future production of more than 200 tonnes of cassava monthly. The company envisions that sustainable consumption and production can be achieved by using locally sourced materials that emit at least 30% less carbon and are fully biodegradable at end of life, while positively impacting the lives of Southeast Asian cassava farmers.

Beyond the story

- Tackles plastic pollution using its patented, innovative renewable source and engineering processes
- Leverages local resources suitable for the local context
- Understands that the biggest barrier to shifting towards green options to save the environment is the price of eco-friendly products, which can be overcome through scale, experience and further collaboration



Vision for the Future

We all must work together towards a roadmap / master plan that fits the local context. NGOs and local / national governments should design, test, measure and adapt contextual sustainable consumption and production processes as a way forward to a greener earth. Greenhope is an innovative company that can supply the Global North to help their societies move towards more sustainable consumption, strengthening global collaboration.





Advancing gender equality and social inclusion through climate action, in sustainable consumption and production

The carbon footprint and environmental impact of the food, fashion and home decor industries doesn't often make headlines. Yet, the sector has surprisingly high carbon emissions during the manufacturing process, including in modern agricultural processes.

About 60% of global customers are seeking sustainable consumption across these sectors. Industree provides consumers who believe in ethical and conscious living with a logical solution to environmental problems.

Climate action today speaks considerably towards the Global South needing funds for Climate adaptation. Industree believes the conversation should be moved to the role these communities can play in carbon mitigation. As practitioners of regenerative agriculture and production, women from the most vulnerable communities have the ability to become change agents and a substantial source of goods at scale. Industree works with rural women from low income communities to produce sustainable interior decor products made from natural fibres like banana, bamboo and many other biodiversity enhancing raw materials. It's focus lies in growing the pool of nature based solutions in the Global South .

Industree launched the brand, Mother Earth, working with women artisan producers in India. Recently it launched www.flourish.shop and www.flourishplanet.com visualised as a global platform for sustainable consumption and production. Its deep work with most vulnerable people, including indigenous forest based communities, is largely centered in the Indian states of Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. It has partnered with Swedish multinational, IKEA, to reach a far larger market.

Industree has impacted 500,000 lives and created \$58 million market access for its communities. This has generated income for producers and led to the critical nature of low carbon footprint, handmade, culturally rich solutions being featured on an international platform. Industree's work intersects the issues of equity, climate and gender. It focuses on women taking ownership of their collective enterprises, which are ESG compliant SME's capable of supplying products at scale to the stringent standards of national and global customers.

Beyond the story

- Empowers women with skills and leadership opportunities
- Works with women artisans and entrepreneurs from marginalised and tribal communities in Karnataka, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Ethiopia
- Has three producer-owned companies, one of which has a 100% women workforce
- Confronts climate change by building sustainable value chains using natural fibres while adopting green business practices



Vision for the Future

Promoting indigenous and local knowledge to grow capacity to create better and widespread impacts for the restoration of the environment, while focusing on attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.



Restoring biodiversity in Brazil

Pontal do Paranapanema is a region in the westernmost part of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Before 1940, 85% of the region was covered in forests. When the railroad was constructed, people started to settle in the area, eventually leaving only 16% of the land covered in forest.

The main forest area is now confined to only protected areas, Morro do Diabo State Park and the Black Lion Tamarin Ecological Station. Black lion tamarins are the rarest type of monkey, endemic to this region of Atlantic forests in Brazil. IPE was formed to promote the conservation and protection of black lion tamarin monkeys.

Connecting local ecological corridors to make way for the free movement of fauna became the biggest agenda for habitat restoration. IPE's efforts to connect ecological corridors resulted in the successful connection of the Tucano fragment with the Morro do Diabo State Park.

These ecological corridors connect the forests with more than 100 local plant species which wildlife feed on. The entire corridor is also covered with Brachiaria grass, the single most important forage grass for pastures in the tropics.

As part of the project, a 'Dream Map' is being created which acts as a bridge between the locations that need to be restored and fragments of the forests that can be connected. Indigenous trees are planted on rural properties to form a bigger corridor of life. This has led to the sequestration of 600,000 tonnes of carbon, impacting 1,200 people directly.

Beyond the story

- Restores forest land, promotes afforestation by distributing seedlings to communities and focuses on expanding local species of flora
- Trains locals in agro-ecological practices, strengthens management of protected areas and development of production chains
- Undertakes research on fauna species and creates awareness amongst local populations
- Implements education projects which are helping 29 communities in the Amazon
- Supports the formation of an agroecology network in the Amazon by representatives of institutions and groups of farmers in the state
- Promotes sustainable agriculture, handicrafts and community-based tourism



“

Vision for the Future

Ideas for sustainable development have to be spread across regions and local people must be encouraged and incentivised to participate in the protection of biodiversity.

”

Closing Material Loops in India



Karo Sambhav was founded in 2017 with the aim of 'Making the Circular Economy Possible'. The organisation started its technology-enabled work with e-waste, but gradually built solutions for plastics packaging, battery and glass waste. Currently, the organisation is exploring new sectors, including finding solutions for waste generated in manufactured solar, mattress and tyre products.

Karo Sambhav's vision is to make recycling a way of life for more than one billion people. The organisation aims to achieve this by:

- Setting up grass root collection systems - making it easy for everybody to participate in responsible management of their waste
- Setting up recycling systems – to recover materials from the collected waste
- Enabling secondary material utilisation systems – where manufacturers can use the recyclates to create new products
- Building a technology platform - to manage waste and its processes in a transparent and accountable manner

Karo Sambhav works with stakeholders across the waste value chain to create awareness and drive long-term behavioural shifts.

The organisation is also working towards mainstreaming circular practices by developing processes, benchmarks and reporting systems in alliance with government bodies, UN agencies, the International Finance

Corporation, the International Labour Organisation, WEEE Forum (Brussels), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), India's Ministry of Electronics and IT (MEITY) and industry associations. The organisation has developed its end-to-end technology platform that it is using to foster transparency and traceability in waste collection, recycling and secondary materials management.

Beyond the story

- Helps startups, colleges, corporates and government institutions to manage their e-waste
- Designs sustainable, ethical EPR models for corporates to deal with their waste
- In helping to build a circular economy ecosystem, projects focus on capacity building, awareness programme delivery, development of standards and driving intersectional approaches to e-waste



Vision for the Future

The world needs to move past dependence on the informal sector to address waste issues and producers need to take better responsibility.



Changing narratives, engaging with locals

Colombia is considered one of the world's megadiverse countries. At the same time it is highly vulnerable to climate change and experiences drought, superstorms, changing weather patterns, melting glaciers, loss of beaches and coral bleaching. The country's national goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Organization for Environmental Education and Protection Corporation (OpEPA) and Climate Reality Latin America are working to build links and connect territorial institutions and civil society with solutions to the climate crisis, based on hopeful narratives that lead to action. This includes the Camino Towards Carbon Neutral (CHCN) project which is funded by the UK Pact Programme and Climate Reality Latin America in alliance with the Procuraduría General de la Nación.

The three strategies OpEPA has been working on are:

- Bringing subnational governments closer to territorial governments by creating a joint vision that allows them to find mechanisms to implement actions / initiatives / projects in a coordinated manner benefitting local environments
- Facilitating bridges between financing mechanisms and project formulators and

implementers in a governmental context

- Creating a call to action using hopeful language that is easily accepted by civil society to take climate leadership and generate a sense of ownership of the country's goals

Moreover, as a communication strategy to bring the technical and governmental component of climate action and decarbonisation closer to everyday life, OpEPA involves social network influencers, who are known for their work in music, fashion, television and theatre to attract different audiences.

Beyond the story

- Works in Colombia towards achieving the goal of making the country carbon neutral by engaging with communities and raising climate sensitivity
- Reconnects youth with nature to prepare them for a sustainable future and to motivate them to act in environmentally responsible ways
- Advocates for sustainable and nature tourism to make people more aware and responsible about nature



Vision for the Future

We need to reconnect the youth to nature and people to the Earth to build more sustainable, regenerative and peaceful communities.



Awakening the next generation

Platô Cultural aims at educating young children about the changing climate and its impact on the planet. This is achieved through an immersive education experience - 'School of the (Im)Possible'. The educational experience involves children being given tasks that make them aware of climate change during a course that is taken over eight weeks. In the process of completing the tasks the children are presented with new ideas on how to curb climate change.

As part of the learning phase, children interact with characters from the future. They work on books with predetermined titles and fill in the gaps with their own creativity by becoming a communication channel between the present and the future. They communicate with an imaginary scientist, Massami Alamair, from 2072, while discussing a sustainable future.

The aim of the system is to engage children to find new ways of communicating the challenges of climate change. The project creates fictional settings to instill a love for nature and the environment in children from a young age.

Beyond the story

- Works in Brazil and Scotland towards transforming education for eight-to-ten-year-old primary school learners to make them aware of the changing climate
- Uses digital innovation as a tool to explore possibilities for art education to create social impact
- Currently works in six schools with 375 children
- Empowers children through imagination and play by immersing them in the fictional world and then reconnecting with the real world
- Children are inspired to see themselves as agents who transform the community



Vision for the Future

By inviting children to create a vision of the future, we empower them to become agents of change.



Ending conflict by turning pastures green

The Fulani are one of the largest ethnic groups in the Sahel and in West Africa. They are primarily pastoralists who are mostly nomadic and own indigenous cow breeds. In Nigeria, they are based mainly in the north. They own 90% of the cattle, although some migrate to the south in search of water and pasture and to bring their cattle to the markets where they are sold.

The availability of quality feed, pasture and water has drastically declined due to the effects of climate change and limited access to production resources. Pastoralists are migrating to areas with greater forage and to where herds would be safe but this has led to deadly clashes with farmers and insecurity.

To mitigate the challenges around production among pastoralists, Sahel Consulting, through the Advancing Local Dairy Development in Nigeria (ALDDN) programme is catalysing a vibrant local dairy sector in an inclusive way that improves the livelihoods, productivity, nutrition and the empowerment of smallholder women dairy farmers and their communities.

ALDDN helps organise smallholder dairy farmers into formal groups, provides training and extension services, access to animal health care, quality feed, financial services

and infrastructure support. It then links households to the formal market through the supply of milk to five commercial dairy processor partners in five states. Through its feed and fodder intervention, it is engaging dairy farmers and crop farmers in the cultivation of pasture and adoption of improved practices to increase farmer's access to quality feed and reduce migration due to feed scarcity caused by climate change.

Beyond the story

- Works in Africa's agriculture and nutrition landscape to address issues like food insecurity, malnutrition and unemployment while fostering economic growth
- Drives ecosystem solutions in yam, cassava, maize, rice, dairy and other critical value chains, commercialising research and engaging with partners to shape policy and drive sustainable growth for people and the planet
- To date has integrated more than 36,000 out of a targeted 60,000 smallholder dairy farmers into their programme
- Is actively engaging with industry associations and government agencies at federal and state levels to advocate for an enabling environment for local milk sourcing from pastoralists

Vision for the Future

Our vision is a just, equitable and sustainable food ecosystem that leverages data, technology & innovation, driven by Africa's vibrant and dynamic entrepreneurs ensuring that Africa nourishes itself and the world!



Towards a sustainable farming model - farmers earn more, customers pay less in Egypt



Consuming organic produce is a healthier option for people and planet, but the high cost of production is a barrier that often prevents it from becoming a common household commodity. Egyptian based, Sekem's Economy of Love (EoL) project is working to ensure that more farmers grow organic produce to make it more accessible to households.

Sekem promotes regenerative agriculture which helps in the conservation of and the rehabilitation of lost biodiversity. EoL has defined holistic sustainability as the balance between the four dimensions of society, economy, culture and the environment.

EoL began when 2,100 smallholder farmers enrolled for a carbon credit system. Farmers were paid to cut carbon emissions and to adopt eco-friendly methods of farming. Eventually, this created a network of producers, buyers and certifiers producing a positive impact using the financial method of carbon credits. The economic stimulus of applying carbon credits helped to reduce prices in the agricultural market, while customers did not have to bear the extra costs usually associated with buying sustainably grown fruit and vegetables.

Carbon credits are traced and registered for licensed farmers, who impact the environment in multiple ways, by sequestering carbon in the soil, afforestation, recycling of organic waste to use as compost and fertiliser and by using renewable sources of energy for irrigation.

In addition, Sekem provides microloans to new farmers to set up renewable energy sources, animal husbandry operations and beehives. Farmers can access loans of 500 euros per acre at interest rates as low as 5%.

Beyond the story

- Since 1977 has sequestered 0.5 GT of CO₂ in 40 years by converting 2,100 hectares of desert area into agricultural land
- By 2025, aims to increase the administrative and technical capacity of EoL to 40,000 farmers to implement or adopt EoL standards and benefit from its carbon credits
- Mission for 2057 is to continue to develop, enhance and spread its portfolio of biodynamic food and sustainable products
- Working with 250,000 smallholder farmers, Sekem promotes regenerative agriculture which helps in the conservation of and the rehabilitation of lost biodiversity



Vision for the Future

We need to reinvent the food system across the world and bring systemic change in how agriculture is practised. Using models like ecosystem services, we can help farmers meet their financial goals along with sequestering carbon.





Nothing is as important as safe and secure housing



Climate stressors, including floods, droughts and changing sea levels are forcing people to leave their settlements. As homes become uninhabitable, people move to new areas in search of a better life, becoming climate migrants. World Bank reports suggest that by 2050, more than 200 million people could become internally displaced climate migrants.

In India, people move in search of work, alternate livelihoods and better chances of survival. However, most end up living on pavements in makeshift houses or in the slums of big cities - enduring heat stress, cold waves and safety and security issues.

The Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC) empowers women from these backgrounds to fight for their right to shelter and helps them to secure a source of income. The first stage of this work started as a research project to explore the issue more deeply. This process eventually came to be known as Swayam Shishan Prayog (Peer and Self Education Experiment). The programme is currently operating in the southern Indian states of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

SPARC also works to strengthen the capacity of NGOs to grow women's collectives and

to negotiate with the state, while building organisational capacity to empower women to make choices about activities they engage in.

Beyond the story

- Started in Mumbai, India and now addresses housing needs in cities across Asia, Latin America and South Africa
- Works with urban poor and slum dwellers
- Helps women to participate in the organisation's work by providing them with skills training including helping them to manage credit and savings in their communities
- Supports and nurtures needs of people and children living in slums



Vision for the Future

In the times to come, more than 1.5 billion people will move to cities in search of better lives and governments and organisations across the globe will be faced with the challenge to treat climate migrants with dignity.



Conserving the rhino and the environment



At Wilderness Foundation Africa (WFA), combating climate change and sustaining life on earth underpins all of its projects. From developing innovative finance mechanisms to mobilise conservation finance to protect species and ecosystems, to taking action on the ground through rewilding and restoration, the organisation's work takes a holistic and integrated approach to conservation and environmental sustainability through its programmatic themes of people, species and spaces.

Across the world, biodiversity is under extreme threat. In Africa, elephant, rhino, lion and pangolin are being lost at an alarming rate, largely due to widespread poaching. This loss of biodiversity not only creates an imbalance in the ecosystem, but also threatens the existence of Africa's protected areas where ecotourism makes an important contribution to economic growth. The problem of rhino poaching stands at the forefront of Africa's wildlife crime and biodiversity loss crisis.

The demand for rhino horn in Asian countries remains one of the main driving forces behind the escalation in poaching of rhino in Southern Africa. More than 80% of rhino horn is trafficked through Vietnam illegally, either for local use or for export to other countries. In response to this, WFA developed and implemented a youth awareness and engagement campaign aimed at reducing the use of and demand for rhino horn in Vietnam. Since 2014, the demand reduction campaign

has reached about 25,000 Vietnamese youth directly, and nearly one million youth indirectly through campaign and youth ambassador social media activities. The campaign aims to educate consumers of rhino horn on the realities of the situation, so as to affect attitudes, change behaviour and ultimately, eliminate demand.

Beyond the story

- Works for the protection of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and biodiversity and the management and creation of protected areas
- Trains, educates and helps to secure jobs in ecotourism and hospitality for disadvantaged youth in South Africa
- Works with young black leaders in conservation and nature ownership to reduce the legacy of inequality



Vision for the Future

Right now we are concerned about climate change and the SDGs but biodiversity and conservation fall under the same umbrella. We must focus on an integrated approach for conservation, tackling problems from all angles. At Wilderness we do that by working with species, the environment, people, advocacy and innovative finance.





Initiatives on the Horizon



Developing better business models for poor African farmers

Climate Action Platform Africa (CAP-A) works across Africa promoting viable business models for smallholder farmers. The carbon impact of farming practices is tracked, validated and translated into revenue. This revenue can either be transferred to farmers as financial gain or invested to subsidise the costs of new and better technologies.

CAP-A also endeavors to modernise agricultural practices by implementing a range

of climate-smart, regenerative agricultural solutions in an ecologically sensitive and economically profitable way.

Beyond agriculture, CAP-A, works closely with policymakers to reduce dependence on conventional sources of energy. According to CAP-A, three resources - land, untapped energy and a young workforce - can help Africa to find new solutions to the evolving energy crisis.



Replacing plastic with textile waste in India



In India, more than one million tonnes of textiles are discarded every year. Manufacturing industries are responsible for up to 47% of this waste with the households accounting for 53%.

India recently enforced a strict ban on single use plastic which has not gathered enough support from local vendors as there is no economical alternative for plastic bags in the market.

Desh ka Bag is a Catalyst 2030 collaborative project that aims to encourage local street vendors to replace plastic bags with cloth bags. The initiative seeks to make the bags from repurposed textile waste, thereby providing livelihoods for many, rewarding reuse and recycling and making behavioural change easy.

Sécurité Alimentaire et Agriculture

Afforestation by promoting local species in the Congo Basin

This Catalyst 2030 Collaboration aims to plant and promote two types of trees and plants in the Congo Basin. The project is underpinned by the fact that 80% of people living in the Congo Basin use cassava as a staple food. An estimated 60% of indigenous communities in the region also consume non-timber forest produce which have medicinal uses.

Considering local needs under its afforestation drive, the organisation promotes the planting of two types of plants. One of these includes medicinal plants such as iboga, which aids in the treatment of drug dependency and can also be used to produce anesthetics. The second type includes nuts like almonds and hazelnuts and seeds from the *Irvingia gabonensis* trees, native to West Africa. Farmers are also encouraged to plant cassava to produce fortified organic flour that is used to make bread.

To address the issues of food availability, Sécurité Alimentaire et Agriculture has also set up a cassava flour mill and valorises non-wood forest products in the form of bio-fortified foods, food supplements and phytopharmaceutical products (BIO Natura Gabon).



The Great Reset

Upcycling and recycling everyday products

An idea whose time has come. 'The Great Reset' aims to create a community of upcyclers and recyclers from around the world.

Incubated as a Catalyst 2030 Collaboration, the organisation aims to introduce 'bagtivism' or bag activism, an initiative to produce

high quality bags from discarded vehicle seat belts.

The Great Reset's bigger vision is to bring about behaviour change in consumers and to create jobs in underserved communities in the process.



Conclusion

The profiles listed in the document show how social innovators can collaborate with and support local communities. These stories from India to Colombia to Malawi to Nigeria, emphasise — when local allies get involved with developmental ideas, projects tend to have a deeper penetration and greater impact.

The initiatives showcased here do not look at the environment in a silo, but keep it at the centre while addressing other issues of community, like conflict, poverty, biodiversity loss, waste management, education and gender inequality. More importantly, the leaders who steer these projects are the ones who have either lived experience of the social issue, or share the geography or have shared experience with the community.

The stories here expose the power of the collective and the importance of working with and for locals in a region. Such collaborations lead to exchange of indigenous learnings, sharing of best practices and promote viable use of resources to focus on new social development initiatives. Community led or community oriented solutions are often unique, and are difficult to reproduce in other regions, but identifying the unique needs of the community are important to achieve sustainable development goals. The examples listed here are just a small glimpse of the work these organisations are performing in their respective regions and sectors. Nevertheless, they set new standards of sustainable holistic development and provide solutions that can be emulated and adapted as we work together to meet the climate challenges that face us all.










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