

We call for the following actions on climate change:

A global agreement that keeps temperature increases as far below two degrees Celsius as possible by ensuring large cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. IPCC IV clearly indicates that even if temperatures are kept below this level, vulnerable regions and countries, including the Arctic and Small Island Developing States, will be severely affected by the inevitable impacts of climate change.

Learn from the experiences of indigenous peoples and islanders on adaptation and assist these communities to build upon their traditional knowledge. Appreciate that there are limitations to our capacity to adapt in the context of runaway climate change.

The world's richest countries must help the vulnerable to adapt to climate change by providing adequate financial and technical assistance. For the Small Island Developing States and other particularly vulnerable developing countries, this means living up to existing adaptation funding commitments. Arctic peoples need a commitment from their own countries to fund local adaptation efforts in the Arctic regions.

Partners

Aleut International Association
Arctic Athabaskan Council
Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CICERO – Center for International Climate and Environment Research
Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
Climate Law and Policy Project
Inuit Circumpolar Council
Nature Seychelles
New Zealand Tourism Research Institute
Organization of American States, Department of Sustainable Development
Overseas Countries and Territories Association of the European Union
Pacific Regional Environment Programme
Sea Level Rise Foundation
Stockholm Environment Institute
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP/GRID-Arendal
WWF South Pacific Programme

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Photo: Björn Franzen



For more information on the Many Strong Voices programme, visit www.manystrongvoices.org or write to voices@grida.no.

Many Strong Voices

– turning vulnerability into strength



Photo: TopFoto



Photo: Corel

The Many Strong Voices programme bridges the farthest reaches of the world to bring together the peoples of the Arctic and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address climate change. These peoples face some of the most potentially devastating impacts of climate change, from loss of livelihoods and cultures to loss of land and food. The two groups were singled out in the 2007 Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change IV reports as being particularly vulnerable to climate change.

The vision of Many Strong Voices is to ensure the well-being, security and sustainability of communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States in the face of climate change. The programme facilitates collaboration between peoples and organizations on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local, national, regional and international levels.



Photo: John Main

Challenges shared by partner communities include:

- relocation of communities away from coastal areas due to rising seas and frequent storm surges
- human and economic impacts of changes to the marine and freshwater resources upon which Arctic and SIDS communities depend
- threats to cultural survival and ways of life
- threats to food security

We are focusing our activities on three areas:

1. **Educating Policy Makers** – the people making international climate policy must understand our unique challenges.
2. **Communications and Outreach** – bringing our stories to the rest of the world, and strengthening ties between us.
3. **Research and Assessment** – development of an assessment of the vulnerability and adaptive capacity of our regions.



Photo: Petter Haugneiland

“Our rights, our human rights that we share with all of you – to live as we do and to enjoy our unique culture as part of the globe’s cultural heritage, are at issue. The Arctic dimension and Inuit perspectives on global climate change need to be heard in the corridors of power.”

Patricia Cochran
International Chair, Inuit Circumpolar Council



Photo: Petter Haugneiland

“Climate change has an impact on almost every aspect of our lives. Most of our rural communities are still very dependent on natural resources such as fisheries, agriculture, or forestry to earn a living, but because of climate change, these resources are becoming scarcer.”

Taito Nakalevu
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme