



Many Strong Voices

Five-Year Action Plan¹

Vision

Ensure the well-being, security and sustainability of coastal communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States in the face of climate change.

Goal

To bring together the Arctic and Small Island Developing States regions through a consortium of organizations to take collaborative and strategic actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local, national, regional and international levels.

Objectives

1. **Collaborate and build capacity in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States** so that people in these vulnerable regions have a stronger voice in:
 - 1.1. negotiating international and national measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
 - 1.2. developing, strengthening and implementing adaptation strategies at the local, national, regional and international levels.

2. **Raise awareness about the effects of climate change on vulnerable regions** in general and on the Arctic and Small Island Developing States in particular:
 - 2.1. globally, to highlight the need for immediate mitigation action
 - 2.2. in the vulnerable regions, to empower people in these regions to respond to climate change

3. **Increase understanding of needs and solutions, and take practical measures on adaptation** by:
 - 3.1. developing community-driven comparative and integrated research on the socio-economic and natural conditions that shape vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change.
 - 3.2. undertaking practical, on-the-ground projects on adaptation in coastal communities in the Arctic and Small Island Developing States
 - 3.3. delivering targeted products to meet demands for information, and tools to assist people in addressing climate change issues
 - 3.4. identifying and promoting mechanisms by which developed countries can provide funds and resources to address the climate change adaptation needs of coastal communities in the Small Island Developing States and the Arctic.

¹ Given the evolving nature of the climate change discussions, the MSV Five-Year Plan has been designed as a living document which will be amended as circumstances require, lessons are learned and priorities refocused.

Operating Principles

- The Many Strong Voices consortium recognizes and responds to: 1) the urgent need for global action on cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and, 2) the urgent need for adaptation to climate change in coastal communities of the Arctic and Small Island Developing States.
- The participants in Many Strong Voices use this consortium to build alliances and make progress on mitigation and adaptation both within and outside of formal processes, always striving to strengthen international, regional and national processes and organizations taking action on climate change.
- The programme builds on good experience and does not duplicate work done through other programmes and projects.
- This is a long-term programme, initially working under a five-year plan.
- Many Strong Voices is community-driven but works across scales, taking into account the global nature of climate processes and the multiple scales of mitigation and adaptation responses.
- Many Strong Voices engages in policy-relevant integrated research and pulls together the results of research and monitoring based on science and traditional knowledge in order to support decision-making. Mutual respect by scientists and holders of traditional knowledge, promotion of good dialogue, and the integrity of research, are paramount.
- Adapting to climate change relies on maintaining healthy, functioning ecosystems and is in step with strengthening natural resource management.

**MSV FIVE YEAR PLAN
June 2008**

Objective	Results	Activity	Timeline
1. Capacity Building for MSV participants			
Negotiations	i. MSV identity built and reinforced	Multi-stakeholder meetings take place annually.	Annually in autumn
	ii. Participants develop capacity to take part in UNFCCC negotiation process	-One day training workshop at the annual meeting - development of planning and development of negotiating strategies and communications activities	June and October 2008 then annually with autumn workshop
	iii. MSV participants are effective in lobbying at UNFCCC negotiations	Identify key people to be at COPs and supporting them to attend.	October annually
	iv. Participants in the UNFCCC negotiations learn about MSV partners' concerns	MSV featured in Climate Days at COP XIV	December 2008
	v. Knowledge base on key negotiating issues developed	Initial areas of focus to include examination of human rights implications of rapid climate change in Arctic and SIDS	2008

Objective	Results	Activity	Timeline
Adaptation	vi. Participants to present the latest information from their regions and to discuss strategy at the UNFCCC meetings	Hold a second MSV Stakeholders' Workshop modelled on the successful Belize workshop in 2007.	Fall, 2008
	vii. MSV participants are able to more easily acquire information on adaptation	Designate information and advice focal points for adaptation and adaptation funding mechanisms	
	viii. MSV partners have an improved understanding of adaptation planning processes	Provide assessment and analysis tools and options for local partners to choose for understanding and implementing adaptation. Exchange information between regions; integrate MSV work into UNFCCC processes like Nairobi Work Programme	2008 and ongoing
	ix. Support provided to Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on Climate Change	Information on adaptation in SIDS to be presented	2009
2. Carry out research and assessments in the SIDS and Arctic that is policy relevant and fills knowledge gaps			
	i. SIDS assessment template	Develop draft and review with MSV steering committee	Start in spring 2008 or as soon as funding is received
	ii. SIDS assessment	Carry out regional assessment Publish and publicize the results.	Begin summer 2008 to 2011 Deliver Progress reports at UNFCCC COPs XIV and XV

Objective	Results	Activity	Timeline
	iii. Case studies	Establish case study sites as part of the regional assessment Publish and publicize the results.	Begin summer 2008 to 2011 Progress reports COP XIV and XV
	iv. Communicate assessment findings	Mid-term and final assessment findings published and communicated to policy-makers, communities and the media	2008-2011
3. Continue to develop communications, outreach and education strategies to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change effects			
	i. Communications and outreach plan for 2008 finalized	Communications planning carried out by GRID-Arendal and CICERO with input from Steering Committee and MSV participants. Communications reviewed annually	Spring 2008
	ii. Key MSV messages developed and used by MSV partners	Carried out as part of communications planning	Spring 2008 with periodic review
	iii. MSV participants communicate key issues to different audiences	Provide communications training to participants	Autumn 2008 and annually
	iv. Web site redeveloped and includes intranet/project portal used by MSV participants	Web site redeveloped to include includes - email and contact lists - media lists and press contacts - media archive - presentation materials and other communications products - images - assessment results and other research	Spring 2008 Regular updates

Objective	Results	Activity	Timeline
		material - document sharing and editing resources - calendar with relevant meetings	
	v. Digital online library developed	Staged development beginning with library only. Further development to include tagging.	Begin spring 2008
	vi. MSV Electronic Newsletter focusing on key issues from regions	Develop and distribute newsletter; build distribution list	Spring/Summer 2008
	vii. Information is provided to MSV participants that assists their work in the negotiation process	Update on negotiations, including calendar of key meetings, issues, opportunities	Once in 2008 and then twice per year.
	viii. Production of information materials	Discussion and coordination of messages for MSV at the COP.	Annually
	ix. Assessment results released	Integrated into communications planning around COP activities	December 2008 and 2009
	x. Public awareness about SIDS/Arctic climate change issues increased	Speaking tours in both regions	2009
	xi. Outreach and education opportunities at key international events	- UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues - UNFCCC Subsidiary Body meetings - Indigenous Peoples Global Summit on	Various dates over the next five years

Objective	Results	Activity	Timeline
		Climate Change - Events at COP XIV in Poznan and COP XV in Copenhagen – including a Many Strong Voices event focussed on adaptation as part of Climate and Development Days, sponsored by the International Institute for Environment and Development.	
	xii. Documentation of climate change adaptation efforts in Arctic and SIDS locations.	Develop collaboration with Photo Voices – a project that gives cameras and training to people to record key environmental concerns and issues in their lives. Focus on youth and organize community exchanges for presentations, etc.	Discussions initiated in spring 2008
	xiii. List of MSV “champions” produced	Efforts to identify, contact and work with “champions” -- people with stature – as part of MSV communications and networking activities	Ongoing
	xiv. Potential funders and partners educated about issues in SIDS and Arctic	Representatives of key private foundations and government partners will be invited to participate in the discussions to improve their understanding of the links between climate change impacts in vulnerable regions; meeting to be held as part of stakeholders workshop	2008 and annually

Objective	Results	Activity	Timeline
4. Network and Programme Development and Coordination			
	i. Coordination continues to improve and activities and communications facilitated between the regions	MSV hires a project manager. Responsible for coordination, library development, web site, etc.	Fall 2008
	ii. MSV on solid financial foundation	Build contacts with a developing alliance of donors focused on the Arctic, SIDS and other vulnerable regions	2008-09 and ongoing
	iii. Financial support for MSV partners	Dedicate a portion of fundraising activities to partner support	Ongoing
	iv. Support for MSV built through UNEP and other multi-lateral bodies	Contribute SIDS and Arctic experiences to relevant parts of the UNFCCC. Participation in key UNEP meetings and ensure MSV continues to be part of UNEP programme of work.	MSV contributing to UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme. Approved as part of UNEP Programme of Work, 2008-09
	v. Increased participation by young people in MSV	Develop a MSV Youth Forum that will help develop younger spokespeople for the programme, and exchange information and experiences.	2008-2012
	vi. Increased understanding of challenges faced by people in each region, and solutions implemented.	Communities in Arctic and SIDS are twinned to broaden understanding of climate change effects in Arctic and SIDS, and expand efforts to develop	2009

Objective	Results	Activity	Timeline
		adaptation strategies	
	ii. New partnerships developed	Meetings held with Arctic and SIDS representatives in government, NGOs and other sectors and vulnerable regions, including African and Indian Ocean SIDS.	Ongoing