

# Capability Statement

## Reducing Vulnerability and Building Resilience to Meet Climate Change Challenges

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## Contents

<b>Highlights of this Capability Statement .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Who We Are .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Examples of Relevant Experience of <i>theIDLgroup</i>/FRR.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.....	4
2. Carbon Credits and Forest Financing.....	5
3. Equitable Access to Forest Benefits .....	8
4. Innovative Financing for Sustainable Livelihood Security .....	10
5. Land and Agriculture Policies for Resilience.....	12
6. Enhancement of Civil Society Engagement and Access to Rights .....	14
<b>Profiles of Selected Staff Consultants.....</b>	<b>16</b>

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## Highlights of this Capability Statement

This Capacity Statement is submitted by *theIDLgroup*, an international development consultancy firm based in the UK. We specialise in supporting governments and international donor agencies to develop and implement policies and improve institutional relationships, to promote pro-poor economic growth, improved governance and improved management of natural resources.

### Track Record

*theIDLgroup* was at the forefront of pioneering the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach which provides an analytical and operational framework for major development interventions particularly in rural areas. The firm has an unrivalled track record in advising diverse clients on strategies for reduction of poverty and vulnerability and increased resilience to stresses and shocks through a range of entry points. Climate change is currently the greatest threat to our clients' initiatives to support their vulnerable target communities as they face new and more frequent shocks and stresses to their lives and livelihoods. *theIDLgroup* has over twenty years of experience in contributing to the improvement of governance for increased community resilience to environmental, social and natural shocks and risks. We achieve this through proposing wise changes to policies, institutional arrangements, incentive measures, social structures, natural asset management and access to opportunities. Such recommendations for change management are delivered through six thematic areas. The purpose of this Capability Statement is to describe the range of skills, experience and commitment of *theIDLgroup* to reducing vulnerability, building resilience and meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by climate change.

### Capabilities

- A cadre of in-house staff consultants with **strong technical and process skills**. These skills include consultation, research, communication and negotiations, and the facilitation of dialogue.
- The ability to source and attract additional high calibre **international specialists** to tackle both complex analyses of policy options, and their subsequent implementation.
- A proven **track record of productive working with national colleagues** and consultants, and at all levels within Governments.
- **A thorough understanding of the political, institutional, historical and operational context** surrounding the reforms and changes that Governments wish to make.
- **Regional capacity in Africa and Asia**, in particular through regional offices in West Africa (based in Accra, Ghana), East Africa (Kampala, Uganda) and East Asia (Hanoi, Vietnam), and a project office in Monrovia, Liberia.
- Extensive expertise in the **social, institutional, governance, and environmental aspects of inclusive, pro-poor, economic growth**.

## Who We Are

The IDL Group Ltd. (*theIDLgroup*) was established in 1993, and is an international development consultancy committed to delivering professionalism and fresh perspectives to the challenge of eradicating global poverty.

We are based in Bristol, England, and provide international development consultancy services in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, the Americas and the Pacific. We have offices in West Africa, East Africa and South-East Asia.

In 2007, *theIDLgroup* integrated with FRR Ltd., which has 20 years of experience in forestry sector development, biodiversity conservation, protected area management and natural resource governance and management.

Together, *theIDLgroup* and FRR provide advisory services in five inter-connected areas:

- 1) Rural growth and livelihood security
- 2) Natural resource management and the environment
- 3) Governance, institutional reform and political economy
- 4) Social development, and civil society strengthening
- 5) Development strategies in fragile and post-conflict states



The primary service of *theIDLgroup* is an informed process of policy development and institutional reform. It delivers this through consultancy, facilitation, training and mentoring. We provide programme management, training, research, practical assistance and advice on how to configure policies and institutions so that poor people gain more robust livelihoods through improved access to their basic rights to natural resources, services and to entrepreneurial opportunity in secure and peaceful political contexts.

We help major donors to think through their policies at a corporate level and their programmes and strategies in-country, as well as working with national Governments, local-level administrations and civil society groups.

The group is committed to consistently delivering work of the highest possible quality, and is accredited with both ISO 9001 and 'Investor in People' standards.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## Examples of Relevant Experience of *theIDLgroup*/FRR

### 1. Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

*As UNFCCC non-Annex I, or developing, countries prepare themselves to adapt to climate change and Annex I, or developed, countries get ready to support them, new and changed institutional and funding arrangements need to be devised. theIDLgroup is supporting both parties to consider the options and to develop strategic plans for adaptation and disaster risk reduction.*

#### **Asia Regional: Design of the Asian Adaptation Learning Programme. (CARE Denmark, 2009).**

*theIDLgroup* was responsible for writing and coordinating the necessary inputs from relevant CARE Country Offices and CARE Denmark to write a high quality project proposal (an Asian Adaptation Learning Programme) for submission to the EU. This is a proposed CARE Denmark initiative focusing on climate change adaptation interventions in Asia.

#### **Vietnam: Community-led Drought Mitigation Project, Final Evaluation. (Care International, 2009)**

*theIDLgroup* was contracted to conduct field surveys and meet key stakeholders and project beneficiaries in order to carry out an independent final evaluation of this project. The Community led Drought Mitigation Binh Dinh Province programme, is a regional two - year programme with three projects across East Timor, Vietnam and Cambodia. The goal of the programme is to enable poor households to sustainably live with recurrent drought. Within Vietnam, the project is implemented in Binh Dinh province. The goal will be achieved through outputs from activities within three intervention areas: capacity building on drought preparedness and mitigation and strengthened inter-operability through institutional linkages; livelihood improvement through efficient and sustainable use of limited resources; and water and sanitation related activities on low-cost water technology and usage.

#### **Global: Climate Change Advice to Australian Aid - (2008-2009)**

*theIDLgroup* seconded an Environment Adviser in a full-time capacity to support the Australian aid agency. She advised AusAID on environmental management processes and procedures including the development of a new environment and climate change strategy for the Australian Aid programme. The advice included:

- Review and strengthening of AusAID's overall environment and climate change strategy for the agency
- Inputs and re-design of the performance assessment framework to support the environment and climate change strategy
- Participation in programme selection committee for REDD demonstration projects
- Development of a two day training program on integration of environment and climate change issues for AusAID staff.

#### **Vietnam: Assessment and Baseline Setting: Disaster Risk Reduction Projects Vietnam-Oxfam GB (2008)**

*theIDLgroup* conducted a situational assessment of Oxfam GB's livelihoods and Disaster Risk

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Reduction (DRR) projects in Lao Cai and Ninh Thuan provinces and provided recommendations for future monitoring and evaluation of initiatives on DRR and Climate Change under the new Programme Partnership Agreement with DFID. The work also informs Oxfam GB in Vietnam for their own Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) purposes at the project level.

## 2. Carbon Credits and Forest Financing

*Deforestation is estimated to contribute 15-20% of global carbon emissions. The COP 15 negotiations are likely to agree on reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) under which countries could win tradable carbon credits or get compensated by Annex 1 countries for avoided deforestation. theIDLgroup has been working with both developing and developed countries to consider how best REDD can be managed. Another innovative financing mechanism which protects forests in order to ensure their continued provision of ecosystem services, such as water conservation, is Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES). theIDLgroup has provided institutional and regulatory structures advice on the development of PES through which large-scale resource users such as hydro-power or water supply companies pay communities to protect the source of the resource.*

### **Africa Regional: Support to BioCarbon finance / payments for forest environmental services. (Forest Trends, 2007 – 2009)**

FRR provided support to a multi-donor funded programme in support of new forest financing mechanisms. These include workshops and consultation processes in East Africa, the development of approaches for social impact assessment for community based programmes, and assisting in preparation for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) activities. Such approaches help reduce the vulnerability of poor people in two ways: (i) providing direct cash to households and (ii) maintaining local tree and forest cover which ensures flow of goods and services including fuelwood, wild foods and medicines, soil moisture and fertility.

### **Ghana: Development of Ghana REDD+ Preparation Proposal (2009)**

National preparations for benefitting from the global carbon trading and financing opportunities, poised developing nations to accrue major inflows of funds which can flow to stewards of forests and land (i.e. farmers, pastoralists and poor and vulnerable rural people). *theIDLgroup*, in collaboration with Winrock International and Climate Focus, provided support to the Government of Ghana in the development of their REDD+ Readiness Preparation Proposal. The document creates a roadmap for preparations for Ghana's participation in an international mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation. It identifies existing and historical challenges within the forest sector and opportunities to incorporate mechanisms for REDD+ within the evolving forest governance agenda. The document also identifies activities that need to be undertaken for a mechanism for REDD+ to be developed in Ghana and presents a costed proposal for these.

### **Global: 'The Potential and Challenges of Forest Carbon Finance for Commonwealth Countries'. (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2008)**

*theIDLgroup* prepared a paper for the Commonwealth Secretariat which summarised an

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analysis of REDD and other 'carbon finance' options as part of a review of forest carbon finance and which was presented at a meeting of the Commonwealth Consultative Group on Environment (Commonwealth Environment Ministers) in Monaco, 20 February 2008.

**Tanzania: Facilitation of dialogue on the design of REDD Readiness activities in Tanzania (Forest Trends, 2008).**

*theIDLgroup* facilitated stakeholders to discuss their visions, institutional responsibilities and preparations for designing REDD Readiness activities as incorporated into the East and Southern African Katoomba Group Meeting, 16-20 September, 2008.

**Malawi: Developing Financial Incentives for Sustainable Forest Management / Establishing Mechanisms for Payments for Ecosystem Services (EU, 2008).**

*theIDLgroup* provided a staff consultant (forest and NR economist) to identify the most feasible financial incentives which will provide long-term support for Participatory Forest Management (PFM) in Malawi at community, district and national levels, and to develop an action plan for support for their development and implementation. The assignment was undertaken in the framework of the Government of Malawi / EU Improved Forest Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Programme (IFMSLP), which aims to encourage PFM in Malawi. Our report "Paying the Real Value of Malawi's Trees: Potential and Challenges of Payments for Ecosystem Services" set out recommendations for ecosystem services including to:

- ③ establish institutional and technical capacity to promote, support and regulate PES projects - an 'Ecosystem Services Bureau' (ESB)
- ③ make linkages with other activities in Malawi such as Payments for Water Services (PWS), and ICRAF and Plan Vivo charcoal and sequestration pilot projects, as well as broader international processes, such as REDD.
- ③ develop a suite of PES projects in the Mulanje Mountain area, taking advantage of the institutional and financial basis of the Malawi Mountain Conservation Trust (MMCT).

**Global: Certification of Ecosystems & Climate Change (Forest Trends, 2008-2009)**

*theIDLgroup* provided support to a two-year research study to assess the potential for extending forest management or agroforestry certification to cover ecosystem services (carbon sequestration or avoided forest emissions, watershed or hydrological benefits, biodiversity protection) and also the certification of 'bundled' (one or more) ecosystem services. The aim of this is to increase the viability of certified sustainable forest management (SFM) and conservation, and accelerate the spread of both certification and payments for ecosystem services (PES) since currently SFM and conservation in most natural forest situations is not viable. During the first phase of the work, *theIDLgroup's* consultants worked with other team members to research the potential, issues and problems in developing the necessary methodologies and standards for certification of ecosystem services, and is identifying some 6-8 pilot or case study examples. During Phase 2, the team worked on the development of the pilot case studies, with the aim of bringing the certified ecosystem services to market by mid-2009. Outputs from the study include an international conference, a book and policy papers.

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**West Africa Regional: ‘The Potential and Challenges of Payments for Ecosystem Services for Tropical Sustainable Forest Management (International Tropical Timber Organisation, 2007)**

A paper prepared by *theIDLgroup* was presented at the Forest Investment Forum for Central and West Africa, Accra 28-30 August 2007.

**Global: ‘Financing for Sustainable Forest Management. An International Dialogue,’ (Forest Trends, 2008).** A paper presented at UNFF meeting Suriname, 8-12 September 2008 (for Forest Trends Coordination of country case studies in Uganda and Peru identifying a ‘Portfolio Approach’ to forest financing and incentives.

**Africa Regional: Support to the Congo Basin Forest Fund. (African Development Bank, 2009 – current)**

The Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) supports a regional partnership of ten governmental and several non-governmental organisations to improve governance and thus the sustainability of the forests of the Congo Basin on which the livelihoods of millions of people depend. As global and national assets the maintenance of the Congo Basin forests also sustains national economies, reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and represent an opportunities for international transfers of carbon sequestration funds. *theIDLgroup* has provided an interim coordinator to the Secretariat of the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF). Based in Tunis, working directly with the OSAN (agriculture and agro-industry) Department of AfDB, to develop and establish the CBFF systems and procedures and then manage transition to a permanent CBFF Secretariat. The role includes oversight and set-up of a grants management processes; establishing offices in Tunis, Kinshasa and Yaoundé; and networking with stakeholders including the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, COMIFAC, CEEAC, central African governments, other donors and NGOs.

**Africa Regional: Support to the Forest Law, Governance, Enforcement and Trade (FLEGT) Initiative - Ghana, Liberia and elsewhere in West Africa (DFID/EU, 2007-2011)**

Illegal and uncontrolled logging and trade in timber deprives near-forest communities of their livelihood base and their whole nations of valuable forest revenue opportunities. Together with lost economic opportunity, forest degradation exposes landscapes and infrastructure to the negative physical impacts of climate change thus increasing the risks of floods, drought and disease. To redress illegal international forest transactions *theIDLgroup’s* FRR division is providing technical and process facilitation support to bilateral trade negotiations between the EU and the Governments of Ghana, Liberia and elsewhere in West Africa, under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). The FLEGT initiative aims to control the flow of timber and timber products into the EU to ensure that only legally sourced timber is able to access the EU market. It engages with a wide range of local, national, regional and international stakeholders in the forestry sector, to improve governance of forest areas and timber resources. Since September 2007 *theIDLgroup* has provided full time support in the West African region. Initially we provided a specialist in forest trade and governance to facilitate the development of a bilateral voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) between the Government of Ghana and the European Union on the export and control of illegal timber from Ghana to EU counties. Ghana subsequently became the first country to sign a VPA. In addition, *theIDLgroup* is providing a mechanism for DFID to offer over \$950,000 of

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accountable grant funding to the Government of Liberia, to establish a Technical Secretariat that will oversee FLEGT VPA negotiations with the EU. In 2009, an initial scoping and support mission was undertaken in order to identify potential opportunities for the FLEGT initiative in Cote d'Ivoire.

**Africa Regional: Strategic Planning, West Africa Team, World Agroforestry Centre (2007, ICRAF, a CGIAR institute).**

Agro-forestry, the growing of trees together with other farm crops, is a means to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of increased temperatures, prolonged and more frequent droughts and erratic and more extreme precipitation events which are features of climate change. In 2007 *theIDLgroup* provided a facilitator to assist senior management team from ICRAF headquarters and ICRAF West and Central Africa to develop their strategy for agro-forestry research in the newly formed West and Central Africa team.

### 3. Equitable Access to Forest Benefits

*Ensuring that the benefits from natural resources accrue to the most vulnerable and risk prone households is crucial to equitable and sustainable development. In performing all of the assignments mentioned below theIDLgroup used/s its capacities in forest livelihoods analysis, forest policy analysis, forest management planning and poverty impact assessments to provide recommendations on institutional, financial and organisational changes which give greater access for poor near-forest communities to the goods, services and financial gains which can be achieved from more profitable and more sustainable forest management. More equitable, profitable and sustainable forest management provides forest communities with a more secure livelihoods and resilient physical environment while maintaining a diverse bank of animal and plant species for innovative adaptation to the impacts of climate related stresses and shocks.*

**Vietnam: Vietnam Forest Sector Development Project – Special Use Forest Planning & Implementation: Northern Regional TA (2007-2009, Vietnam Conservation Fund, \$1.2 million).**

The VCF is a new financing mechanism that provides small grants to initiate and improve management of special use forests of high biodiversity value on a competitive basis. The VCF supports the management of protected areas that meet specific eligibility criteria. FRR assists the SUF management boards, building the capacity needed within the management boards and local communities to access VCF funds, and the capacity required to use the grants effectively. A key priority for the majority of protected areas in Vietnam is strengthened capacity for forest protection and an important of the role is in designing appropriate capacity-building programmes for the protected areas.

**Global: Development of the 'Katoomba Ecosystem Services Incubator' (Forest Trends 2008).**

*theIDLgroup* provides on-going support to the development of the Katoomba Group's Ecosystems Services Incubator for provision of appropriate technical and financial support to community PES projects, especially in Central America and in Uganda.

### **China: Yunnan Environmental Development Project, 2001-2005 (DFID)**

FRR provided the Team Leader and the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists for this DFID funded project. The project supported a participatory and integrated strategic approach to reduce environmentally linked incidences of poverty in Yunnan, based on a stronger Agenda 21 Process. The project developed models for practical initiatives which address high priority environmental-poverty reduction challenges.

### **India: Orissa Forest Sector Support Project (DFID, 2006-08)**

Inputs were provided by *theIDLgroup* to develop new forest management strategies relating to Joint Forest Management (JFM), bamboo, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and ecotourism development. Such management advice and capacity building strengthened the ability of the forest sector to promote pro-poor economic growth and improved livelihoods of forest dependant communities. The project worked with the Orissa Forest Department (OFD) to strengthen human resource management and develop a communications strategy to raise awareness about developments in the forest sector. A series of pilot projects were implemented at local level to develop income generation activities to improve the livelihoods of forest dependant tribal communities, through the collection, secondary production and marketing of medicinal plants and NTFPs, and development of eco-tourism activities.

### **Other Relevant Assignments**

Other examples of the many natural resources management projects through which *theIDLgroup* has contributed to improving livelihood security for near-forest communities are listed below:

- © Bangladesh: Evaluation of the Social-Economic Impact and Livelihood Outcomes for Beneficiaries of SUFER Funded Research Awards, Bangladesh (2004, DFID)
- © Cambodia: Independent Multi-stakeholder Forest Sector Review (2003-2004, FAO)
- © Cameroon: Community Forestry Development Project II, 2000-02 (£1.8million) DFID
- © Cameroon: Design of a Multi-Stakeholder Forest Sector Support Facility (DFID, 2005)
- © Cameroon: Forest Plantation Strategy Development (Government of Cameroon, 2002)
- © Ghana: Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands and Forestry (2004-2006)
- © Ghana: Forest Civil Society Strengthening Facility (DFID, 2003-2004)
- © India: Himachal Pradesh Forest Sector Reform Project, India (2003-2007, DFID)
- © Kenya: Institutional Strategic Environment Assessment (World Bank, 2006-2007)
- © Kenya: Forest Sector Reform (FINNIDA, 2007-2009)
- © Vietnam: Social Forestry and Nature Conservation in Nghe An Province Project, Vietnam, 1997-2004 (£219,000) EC
- © Vietnam: Tam Dao National Park and Buffer Zone Management Project, 2004 – ongoing GTZ
- © Vietnam: Capacity Building for Biodiversity Conservation (CBBC) Project (2008-2010, Trust Fund for Forests)

## 4. Innovative Financing for Sustainable Livelihood Security

*Social protection programmes are a means of preventing vulnerable people from falling into chronic livelihood insecurity when they are faced by sudden and /or extreme stresses or shocks such as those presented by climate change. theIDLgroup supports Africa's largest social protection programme, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) affecting 15 million lives in Ethiopia with expertise in design, institutional structures, collaboration mechanisms, programme formulation, implementation guidance and monitoring and evaluation systems. Innovative financing mechanisms are also part of theIDLgroup's package of advice to the highly successful Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) which reaches over 90,000 flood-prone households in Bangladesh. Here simple construction adaptations protect homes from flooding which has become more frequent and extreme with the onset of climate change.*

### **Ethiopia: Design of Food Security Programme, Ethiopia (World Bank/Multi-donor trust fund, 2009).**

*theIDLgroup provided expertise in facilitation of workshops, strategic planning advice, and final editing for the design of the national \$3 billion Government-led multi-donor Food Security Programme, comprising components on safety nets, financial services, local infrastructure, and resettlement.*

### **Ethiopia: Design of Risk Financing Mechanism, Ethiopia (World Bank, 2008-9)**

*theIDLgroup provided the Team Leader for the design of a mechanism by which the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) will be scaled up in the event of shock to protect against transitory food insecurity – linked to a wider process of reform of the emergency humanitarian response to shocks in Ethiopia. People who in a normal year maintain their livelihood without needing support from either PSNP or the emergency system can be forced, by for example extreme climatic events such as drought, to activate coping strategies which lead to a reduction of livelihood assets, and thus the potential to become chronically food insecure. In such a case these people can fall into the PSNP – thus increasing the caseload. This was perceived as a threat to the sustainability of the PSNP. In order to avert this possibility, and to protect the investment on chronic needs in the PSNP, a team from *theIDLgroup* ensured that transitory needs in PSNP Woredas were brought more substantially within the programme design.*

### **Ethiopia: Strategic Planning for Productive Safety Net Programme, Ethiopia (World Bank, 2007-8).**

*theIDLgroup identified the need for and facilitator of three multi-stakeholder logframe workshops for Ethiopia's PSNP, including reconciling logframe approaches preferred by a number of different donors and Government of Ethiopia. Following much negotiation the logframe introduced a clear objective for the PSNP for the first time, two years into its implementation. This resulted in clearer visioning of the programme, enhanced the quality of programme assessment, especially in the Mid-term review.*

### **Bangladesh: Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP) (DFID, 1999-2000)**

*theIDLgroup is proud that the Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP), to which it provides advisory inputs to the design, review and evaluation at project, sector and programme level,*

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has achieved most of its major objectives in moving people sustainably out of poverty and vulnerability. This means that over 80,000 coastal delta homes are physically protected from flooding and 50,000 have sanitation services. Over 50,000 livelihoods have been made more resilient through asset provision, improved food production, market development, human capital investment (health and education) and financial mechanisms such as safety nets, microfinance access and cash for work programmes. Advisory services to DFID spending departments in London and overseas, commissioned studies and policy research; and delivery of specialised training and facilitation by *theIDLgroup* have also contributed to the success of the CLP.

**Ethiopia: Emergency Drought Recovery Project Qualitative Impact Assessment, Ethiopia. (World Bank, 2007).**

This final impact assessment carried out by *theIDLgroup* determined the impact of the project activities on beneficiary communities and households and informed the Implementation Completion and Results Report of The World Bank. It also provided recommendations for future and ongoing drought mitigation and recovery interventions in Ethiopia.

**Global: Sustainability of FFW/FFA programmes - Operational Research Consultancy - (World Vision International, 2008)**

World Vision and its partners commissioned *theIDLgroup* to assess the effectiveness of FFW/FFA programmes - some of which also included cash transfer mechanisms - following the withdrawal of food aid. This study reviewed the global experiences of WV and its partners, and made recommendations on how FFW/FFA programmes can be more effectively implemented to contribute towards the Food Programming and Management Group's goal of reducing child malnutrition and hunger by half within ten years. Country case-studies included Lesotho, Laos, Ethiopia and Georgia. This 6-month participatory study addressed two interrelated sets of issues: the right to food (access, entitlements and participation of that receiving food assistance) and the impact of food assistance (on livelihoods, malnutrition, household economy, gender relations and asset created) (World Vision, 2008). Since 2000 World Vision have been collaborating with partners to implement Food For Work (FFW) and Food For Asset (FFA) as part of their emergency recovery programs aimed at alleviating food and livelihood insecurity in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. This project aims to review the experiences emerging from FFW/FFA programmes in their ability to contribute to the sustainable creation/rehabilitation and use of productive assets that increase household food security.

**East Africa Regional: Coastal Communities, Assessment of environmental and sustainable livelihood opportunities for Mozambique and Tanzania (IUCN, 2004)**

*theIDLgroup* provided expertise in environmental economics to assess the dependence of household on Tanzania's southern coast on marine natural resources and to provide recommendations on economic opportunities which could improve livelihood security. This contributed to IUCN's Eastern Africa Regional Programme as part of the Jakarta Mandate Project. The study comprised a regional review focusing on case studies of alternative or supplementary livelihoods that are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable

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(EESLs) and relevant within coastal communities. This involved reviewing best practice and developing guidelines on how to use Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches and included training for district government officials. Detailed livelihoods assessments were undertaken in Tanzania and stakeholder consultations in Mozambique.

## 5. Land and Agriculture Policies for Resilience

***Adapting agricultural research:*** A major climate change adaptation challenge is to find crop species and varieties which can thrive through dramatic climatic and pest and disease stresses. Agricultural development has been neglected and focussed towards commodities for market rather than farming systems which ensure food security therefore there is an urgent need to re-focus research to provide answers to the climate change challenge.

### **Africa Regional: Strengthening Research in West & Central Africa (CORAF/WECARD, 2006-2010)**

In 2006 *theIDLgroup* provided technical services to strengthen agricultural research in West and Central Africa, by the sub-regional research organisation (CORAF/WECARD) which represents 21 countries within the region. Tasks included:

- Revision of the sub-regional strategic plan for agricultural research cooperation (including broader natural resource management and policy components)
- Preparation of a five-year operation plan for CORAF/WECARD to facilitate the implementation of the West & Central African Agricultural Productivity Program (which includes biodiversity and agroforestry issues).
- Preparation of a change program for CORAF/WECARD.
- Provision of change management team in support of the Executive Director (2009-2010).

### **Global research: Maximising the Contribution of Agricultural Research to Rural Development. Global Donor Platform for Rural Development - EIARD Joint meeting (GTZ, 2009).**

*theIDLgroup* was engaged to prepare a discussion paper for a high-level conference on international agricultural research and rural development in November 2009. The need for the paper was driven by concerns that there has been little synergy between investments in international research and rural development, leading to poor outcomes for poverty reduction, natural resource management and climate change. We undertook a strategic analysis of both achievements and constraints in the collaboration between agricultural research and agricultural development, through literature reviews and interviews with key actors in both arenas. The analysis diagnosed weaknesses in communication, failures in bringing relevant research to field realities, and inadequate institutional linkages between key international actors in agricultural research and rural development. The diagnostic pointed for the need for more resources for research at national and regional level, but with much more emphasis on demand driven processes, more effective communication between agricultural research and agricultural development, and improved harmonization of donor investments particularly through regional programmes such as those of the AU and CAADP processes in Africa. The final output was presented at the conference and is published as Platform/EIARD Discussion Paper No 1.

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**Promoting Sustainable and Equitable Land Management:** *Improved land tenure is critical for both agricultural and forest investments and for the sense of ownership that leads to better stewardship which makes land and production systems more resilient.*

**Mozambique: Design of a Community-based Land Registration and Negotiation Fund (DFID, 2004-2005)**

FRR (a division of *theIDLgroup*) managed the Design Phase of a Multi-Donor funded Community Land and Natural Resource Registration and Negotiation Fund. The Fund aimed to (i) facilitate the formal registration of community land in line with the land reform policy and to secure community rights to, and benefits from, land and natural resources, in order to promote economic development and growth in rural areas of Mozambique. And to (ii) stimulate the development benefits of the reforms by facilitating equitable partnerships between communities and entrepreneurs. The design of the Fund involved an in-depth consultation process with various stakeholders ranging from national and provincial government, NGOs, private sector service providers and local communities. A range of demand-side and supply-side issues were assessed, such as the existing capacity of community representatives, the capacity of NGOs and private sector service providers, and gaps in the government's regulatory framework. We were engaged to provide advice on:

- Land fund design
- Institutional capacity, socio-economic and legislative assessments, and
- Monitoring and evaluation.

**South Sudan: Social and Institutional Assessment for Participatory Natural Resource Management (UNFAO / UNHCR, 2006)**

A consultant from *theIDLgroup*: (i) analysed capacity of key actors, including State and technical authorities, local authorities, traditional authorities and local social organisations, to incorporate views of returnees in consensus-based land and natural resource management planning, and community-driven recovery activities. (ii) recommended a strategy to incorporate UNFAO and UNHCR project activities in to emerging Local Government Framework of Southern Sudan processes, and (iii) recommended mechanisms of dialogue and coordination, and community participation.

**Ghana: Framework Contract: Support to the Ghana Land Administration Project (DFID 2005-2009)**

*theIDLgroup* provided international and national consultants who represented DFID in the monitoring of this multi-donor programme, and participated in Implementation Support Missions (ISMs) and Mid-Term Reviews (MTRs) of the project, including assessments of progress on:

- Land policy and land legislation
- Institutional development, including proposals for a new Lands Commission
- Systematic land titling, survey, ortho photo, and geodetic information components
- Land valuation and cadastre
- Socio-economic planning and development, gender, and land use planning
- Project management, including procurement and financial management arrangements.

### **Ghana: Parliamentary Support Facility (2003-2005, DFID)**

As part of the Ghana Forest Sector Development Project (Phase II), *theIDLgroup's* FRR Division was engaged to provide targeted support to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands and Forestry. The aim of this initiative was to assist parliamentarians to become better informed on key issues that were emerging in land forest and wildlife sectors, and to allow them to contribute more fully to the debate on upcoming legislation (e.g. on land laws, competitive bidding regulations, new wildlife legislation) and multilateral trade negotiations.

## **6. Enhancement of Civil Society Engagement and Access to Rights**

*Livelihood resilience and poverty reduction require the improvement of all aspects of the household asset base. This includes individual and collective capacity to access basic rights to resources and services. Through technical support to governance and rights programmes theIDLgroup assists governments and donors to design and implement programmes that broaden the space for citizen engagement and strengthen civil society's capacity to exploit such new negotiation opportunities. Peace is a prerequisite to sustainable livelihoods and asset accumulation and theIDLgroup contributes process skills and advice towards robust governance and conflict resolution in fragile states.*

### **Ghana: Rights and Voice Initiative (DFID, 2004-2010)**

*theIDLgroup* is a member of the management consortium for RAVI a £4.7 million funding facility to strengthen civil society and enhance citizen engagement with the state in relation to the respect, protection and fulfilment of civil, political economic, social and cultural rights. Civil society organisations benefiting from RAVI include mining advocacy groups; forest watchdogs; agricultural trade unions; and local CBOs. The specific expertise contributed by *theIDLgroup* includes programme design and systematic monitoring, review and evaluation advice and facilitation.

### **Ghana: Support to Environmental Policy Formulation, Government of Ghana (EU, 2009)**

*theIDLgroup* was engaged to assist the Government of Ghana in the preparation a Policy Document for Environment and Natural Resource Sectors in Ghana including the cross-cutting issues of climate change, sustainable land management (SLM) and financing for the environment sector. The policy document was developed through a structured, participatory process, and encouraged Government to engage with civil society and other stakeholders in the formulation of the statement of policies. The final statement was endorsed and signed by the Ministers of Finance & Economic Planning; Land and Natural Resources; and Environment, Science & Technology. In addition, *theIDLgroup* assisted the Government in the preparation of its Letter of Development Policy for a second Development Policy Loan from the World Bank, under the Natural Resources Environmental Governance (NREG) Program.

### **Vietnam: Civil Action for Social Inclusion (CASI) Phases II & III, (CARE International, 2008-2009).**

Following its engagement for the final evaluation of CASI Phase II and the underlying causes of poverty study (see both below), *theIDLgroup* was again contracted to provide technical

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assistance with the production of a final programme document for the third phase of this civil society strengthening programme. The programme has five components including one on enhancing the capacity of civil society organisations to help communities to cope with disasters and climate change. The programme aims to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into community based development plans and initiatives in the northern mountains.

**Liberia: National Conflict Mapping (Truth & Reconciliation Commission/EU, 2008 - date)**

*theIDLgroup* is currently engaged in a conflict mapping programme on behalf of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Field survey teams are assessing key issues which contributed to the root causes of earlier conflicts (such as conflict over access to land and natural resources, the perceived alienation of some age groups and ethnic groups, limited access to economic and social opportunity).

**Vietnam: Poverty-Environment Project: harmonizing poverty reduction and environmental goals in policy and planning for sustainable development, (2005-2009 UNDP)**

*theIDLgroup* identified potential areas and appropriate approaches for the promotion of poverty-environment best practices and proposed recommendations for policy uptakes to gain integration of the poverty-environment links. It also identified gaps of technical expertise and designed a feasible implementation plan with essential external technical services for successful implementation of the above PEP activities.

The goal of the project is to strengthen Government capacity to integrate environment and poverty reduction goals into policy frameworks for sustainable development. This occurs through: i) expanding the knowledge base on links between poverty reduction and improved environmental sustainability, ii) promoting replicable investment models on sustainable natural resource use and environmental protection for poverty reduction (including sustainable/renewable energy, and iii) advocating for policy reforms and developments to promote the integration of links between poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

**Zambia: Enabling Environment Project Design (DFID Zambia, 2004)**

*theIDLgroup* provided institutional and governance, environmental and social development inputs into the design of the DFID-financed “Zambia Enabling Environment Project”. A team of staff consultants analysed the institutional and political terrain in which policy is made in Zambia, explored the actors involved in influencing and determining policy, and examined the roles that evidence and consultation play in policy processes. We also provided (i) specialist environmental advice to ensure the effective integration of environmental issues within the programme and its sustainability, and (ii) social development inputs into the project design to ensure that the project contributed to the livelihoods of poor farmers and that it contributed towards reducing social exclusion in Zambia.

## Profiles of Selected Staff Consultants

	<b>Victoria Wiafe</b> is a natural resource and environment consultant based in <i>theIDLgroup's</i> West Africa office with experience in Ghana, Liberia, South Africa, Malawi and Kenya. She was a member of <i>theIDLgroup's</i> team supporting the preparation of Ghana's REDD Readiness Plan. Victoria currently leads our support to the monitoring of a forest transparency programme in Liberia and Ghana, and project managed for the Government of Ghana the preparation of the Northern Savannah Biodiversity Conservation Action Plan.
	<b>Steve Ashley</b> specialises in poverty analysis and in supporting policy and institutional reforms. He recently led the design of a mechanism by which the Ethiopian Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) will be scaled up in the event of shock to protect against transitory food insecurity – linked to a wider process of reform of the emergency humanitarian response to shocks in Ethiopia.
	<b>Phil Cowling</b> specialises in natural resource governance in fragile states with a particular interest on the interactions between national and international policies and practices His recently provided support to the Forestry Commission of Ghana to develop its REDD+ Preparation Proposal. He also provides monitoring and evaluation services to Global Witnesses 'Making the Forest Sector Transparent Programme' and manages <i>theIDLgroup's</i> engagement with the EITI validation process.
	<b>Richard Rastall</b> is a conservation and sustainable livelihoods specialist based in our Hanoi office. He has recently advised Oxfam GB in Vietnam on preparing livelihood and vulnerability baselines and indicators for ensuring that Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction measures are integrated into their new Programme Partnership Agreement with DFID. Richard has recently provided technical support to a Drought Mitigation Project in Central Vietnam.
	<b>Rose Hogan</b> is a specialist in natural resource management, environment-poverty linkages and climate change responses. Before joining <i>theIDLgroup</i> she advised the Ugandan government on documenting the status of climate change management in Uganda and on mainstreaming climate change into the national, sectoral and local government plans. Rose was an invited speaker at the African Initiative Congress on Climate Change in Kampala, November 2009.
	<b>Clare Brogan</b> has particular experience in supporting multi-stakeholder processes linked to forest trade, investment and environmentally sustainable development. She is currently advising on FLEGT processes in West Africa, and is also interim coordinator for the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) for the African Development Bank.
	<b>Richard Grahn</b> has ten years experience in poverty analysis, qualitative and participatory research, quantitative analysis and climate change adaptation. Recent work, mainly in the Horn and East Africa, has involved programme development and advisory work with an emphasis on the technical and managerial issues in integrating disaster risk reduction, disaster relief and development programming.
	<b>Terry Green</b> is an institutional development specialist, who for 25 years has advised governments worldwide on the design and management of their reform programmes. He is particularly focussed on the governance challenges which climate change presents including policy coherence, capacity imbalances, avoidance of corruption and the legal issues pertaining to carbon rights, land rights and the independence of monitoring bodies.
	<b>Rachel Percy</b> is a rural livelihoods specialist with extensive experience in agricultural extension, training and livelihood rehabilitation. She advises on reduction of household vulnerability and sustainable rural growth for reform of agricultural research and rural extension programmes to reduce the risks to increased livelihood insecurity posed by natural and economic externalities. She advised on livelihood rehabilitation strategy implementation by the Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) of Pakistan in 2008.