

VOLUME 1 – BULLETIN OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN COLLECTIVE

This is the initial article for the Bulletin. The collective is centered around coordinating resources to first help understand the nature and quality of the threats from changes in climate and then to find ways to help communities deal with those changes. This paper will attempt to layout general procedures for determining the threat facing communities from the changes in climate and developing solutions to deal with those threats. We hope that this paper will generate interest in individuals and groups concerned with climate issues to make comments and offer advice and get involved with helping the Collective find solutions.

GENERAL GUIDE TO DEVELOPING POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH CLIMATE THREATS

It is important at the start to state that the Collective believes in reality of climate change. There are already communities around the world that have to deal with concerns arising from the changes in climate. There are communities facing the immediate need of relocation. The community having to physically move to other regions in order to survive. In many additional cases there are communities that may be able to remain in their present location but to do so will require restructuring of the physical and social aspects of the community.

It will be important to collect data and information on not just the present state of the community but its history as well. The societies that will have to relocate will face the issues and problems of becoming immigrants. The history of immigration is not one with many positive aspects. So an important part of our data collection will be to have enough information to fully understand the social aspects of the society how the individuals interact to each other and outsiders and how the community interacts with its environment. This data will help when finding areas and ways to integrate this community within the societies of the region it has to relocate to.

The following pages will deal with the general layout of the procedures to collect the required data to make it possible to reestablish communities that have to relocate and those that can remain in the present location in a sustainable situation.

THE FIRST STEP - GATHERING NECESSARY DATA

RESEARCH – USING ONLINE, LIBRARIES, AND GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES

The first step will be to collect as much data as possible about the situation facing the community. This will be done in several steps using different resources. This initial data collection will largely be done from the office or libraries. At this initial stage I think it is possible to have a member or the group in country to help in gathering information from local sources. Developing contact with local government officials and researchers. We will need to put operators in the field but we need as much information that we can collect before we go into the field to help determine field operations more on that later.

RESEARCH INTO THE HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

Here we will be collecting data from online sources, published papers, conversations with researchers interested in the history of the region and any government archives. The need is to find out how long the society has occupied the areas they presently inhabit. It will be important to compile as much data as

possible on the prehistory of the society. It is more than possible that the community is a relative recent arrival into the area and its roots go back to distance places.

We will need to have data on those possible areas of past development as that is part of how the society has developed.

The data collected should include surrounding areas not just the immediate area of habitation. It will be required to have information from any archaeological investigations of the region to help determine what sites of historic importance or within the areas occupied by the society.

An important issue will be how the society has interacted and interacts with surrounding communities and has the society been involved directly or peripherally in wars and ethnic conflicts. need to have data on how our society has interacted and interacts with surrounding communities.

RESEARCH INTO THE CURRENT SITUATION

This is in many regards a continuation of the previous section data collection on the history but here the focus is on the current political situation. Here we will be interested in the political structure of the community the local, regional and national government structure. This data will important to help determine how to relocate the community and if it is possible for it to remain in the region what political issues might arise. The data will also be important to give us an idea about any issues a field operation will face and how to deal with those issues.

RESEARCH INTO THE ECONOMIC BASE OF THE SOCIETY

This will be data on how the community survives how it pays the bills. But the data will have to be not just for the community but for the general region. How does the community find the resources to feed and clothe and house the members. Is this a community based on farming, fishing, herding or with an industry. Does it own the land or the fishing grounds or it is a community of day laborers. Do some of the members have industrial or professional skills. Is this a community with engineers.

What resources does it control. If it has to move does it have enough resources to finance the move or part of the move and if it can stay does it have the resources to do what will be needed to continue in the region.

Alot of this data will have to be collected in the field but it is important to get as much information before hand so the field operation has some idea on how and what data to collect. If the community will have to relocate then we will need research and information on the existing economic base of areas of potential relocation as well as the regional and national economic situation.

RESEARCH INTO THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE COMMUNITY

Here we are concerned with gathering as much existing information on how the community functions. How the members interact with each other and how the community interacts with its present environment. This includes how the social structure of this community might differ from surrounding societies and societies in areas of potential relocation.

Most of this information will need to be collected in the field but it will be important for the field crew to have as much information before hand to help determine what to collect and how to collect it.

RESEARCH INTO THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

This would include not just the immediate area the community occupies but the local, national and regional areas.

If the community will have to relocate we will need to do data collection about the environment of any potential area of relocation. We will need to have enough data to see how the community deals with the environment in its present situation. This will be help in determining how the community houses it self how deals with special gatherings. If it has to move we will need to try and find areas where the environment area similar if possible. If it can stay we will have to try and find ways for it to deal with the changes in environment.

The medical situation will be important. Is there endemic medical problems like malaria or ebola and what is the general health of the community. Is the changing climate putting additional pressure on the health of the community and if it has to move will there be medical concerns between the communities involved in the relocation. Also having some idea about the medical concerns in the region will help determine who we could bring in from outside for field crew operations. This concerns would be how the local availability of medical help and the medical history of potential field crew members.

RESEARCH INTO LOCAL SUPPORT

This would include finding local groups interested in the issues around climate change that might lend support in helping find solutions or collecting data to determine the situation. We would be looking for people associated with local or regional universities and government officials as well as local leaders.

We would also be looking into what local or regional firms would be capable and interested in providing needed support and services in the field operations. Local engineering and surveying and environmental firms. Also we need to get some idea on the availability of support from locals for task associated in field data collection or support for the field crew.

Information on how to support our field crews in country how to house them and move them around. This information will have include on visa and custom requirements for moving people and equipment in and out of country.

RESEARCH IN THE PROJECTED CHANGES IN CLIMATE

This data will be done entirely on line. We will need access data bases from groups and agencies that do the research and produce the projections on climate change in various regions.

The issue of climate change is global but the immediate effect is local. We will need to know what the projected changes are for the specific community or communities we are dealing with. But in addition we will need to understand the projected changes in the climate for not just the local area but regional and national areas.

The solution for each community is local or regional but part of a global concern. To determine if a community will have to relocate or be able to remain in its present location we will need as much information as possible on the projected changes. We will need to have some idea on how immediate the threats are for the area the community inhabits. This will gives some idea on how soon the community may have to move or how soon it will need to restructure elements of the society to be able to remain where it is. The concerns facing the community will be part of the issues facing the larger region. The effect of the changing climate within the larger regions will probably have to be considered to help the specific community be able to restructure its physical and economic base.

When it comes to communities that will have to relocate we will need data on the projected changes in areas of possible relocation. We can not move a community into a new region only to discover that in 10 years it will have to move again or go through serious restructuring to remain.

It will also be important to have enough data to be able to help determine what technology might be required to help the community survive. By this we mean what kind of houses and physical facilities will have to be constructed or reconstructed for the needs of the community. In addition to help the community rebuild an economic base changes in technology of farming and food production and construction and industry may be required. To determine just what will be needed it will be necessary to have data on the projected climate change. The ideal solution is to produce a sustainable future for the community.

THE SECOND STEP – DETERMINING THE SIZE OF FIELD OPERATIONS

OPERATION MANAGER

While the research steps are in progress it will be required to have at least 2 individuals in country. These would be an Operation Manager and Assistant. The Operation manager at this state would be concerned with making contact with government officials and local and regional leaders. In addition he would start exploring how to deal with supporting the field crew operations.

His task would include finding individuals and groups interested in aspects of the project and coordinating their efforts inside the general format of the project. At this stage the Operations Manager would not be involved in actual field data collection but helping to set up the support for the field crews. It will be important to see how much local support we can find to work as part of the field operation.

It will also be important to determine possible restrictions on the sex and age of field crew researchers in collecting data within the communities. It could be possible that females would be restricted in observing and interviewing male individual members of the community and the same with male team members having contact with female members of the community. Also there may be an issue about religious practices. It might be that a community might have restrictions on different faiths being in and around community activities.

The other areas of concern would be clarifying visa and custom requirements for moving and maintaining people and equipment inside the country.

The Operation Manager would be in charge of coordinating the activity of any local support from companies, individuals and officials. When the project moves into data collection in the field there would be Field Crew Managers in country. Depending on the size and complexity of the project there could be more than one Field Crew in country and thus more than one Field Crew Manager. The Operation Manager would be responsible to coordinate activities between the Field Crews and local institutions and officials. It is very possible that during the Field Operations the Operation Manager will need more than one assistant. It is important to mention that no field researcher should be alone all operations in country will require at least 2 people to be present and that means 2 outside team members.

In addition the Operation Manager will have to set up communication networks for passing information to the home office and among the field crew members. Depending on the size and complexity of the project there maybe a requirement for an IT specialist to be in country.

THE THIRD STEP – FIELD OPERATION

Once we have enough collected enough information on the general situation on the community and the support situation we will start field operations.

Depending on the size and complexity of the project the field operations may require the following specialists for field collection.

Surveying and mapping specialist – they would be responsible for physically mapping the physical aspects of the society. Things like housing and community buildings both interior and exterior and topographic maps of the areas of occupation and community use. If the community has to relocate then these specialist would map the areas of the potential areas for relocation. The surveyors might also need to be involved in property issues. If the community relocates there might be surveys need to delimitate new property boundaries. In addition it might be required for the surveyor to produce maps for help in dealing with climate issues. Maps that might show drainage basins and vegetation changes.

Photographers and video specialist – this group or individuals would be responsible for recording a digital record of the live of the community. Digital images of individuals and families and community gatherings. This would also include recording special village gathering points and sacred spaces and the physical aspect of the community. Here restrictions might exist on where the specialist could record images. Certain events might be off limits.

Archaeologist and Historians -these would be responsible in collecting data on the history and pre-history of the community and the region. Their data would be addition to the data collected in the research section. Depending on the situation with the community we may need to do some archaeological field testing and actual excavations. It would be important to try and protect historic sites from being destroyed during improvements to the physical side of a community if it will try and stay in its location. If it has to relocate it will be important to see where historic and archaeological sites are located when it comes to design the relocation of the community. Also if there are cemeteries present in areas that are going to be impacted by say sea level rise and flooded the community might wish to try and relocate the burials. This will require quite and effort to accomplish this. There also might be a requirement to relocate certain monuments to remove them from destruction from climate change.

Ethnographers, Sociologist, Political Scientist, Religious and Medical specialties
This group would be responsible to developing an understanding on how the community interacts with itself and the surrounding communities. The initial observations would be to collect a base line data on how the community functions in its present situation. This data would be used to help figure out the necessary changes in the social structure that might be required to restructure the physical aspects of the communities. The medical specialist would be required to determine the general health of the

populations involved in the region and the potential impact on health of communities if one has to relocate.

Economic and financial specialist -

The knowledge and experience of this group would be needed in helping to rebuild the economic base of the community. It might be possible to find groups of investors who might want to invest in this rebuilding and it be possible to find grants from banks and other financial institutions to help in the rebuilding of the economic base. The important thing is that this rebuilding is for the benefit of the community not of corporations. Our solutions are centered around making the community sustainable not to be indebted to corporations. If groups or people want to invest then we will need to make sure that the return the investors expect or required will place the community into a life time of financial slavery.

Environmental specialist

Depending on the project this group could include Geologist, botanist, biologist both marine and terrestrial. It could also include people involved and skilled in agronomy, forestry, animal husbandry and fishing. The demands would be on determining the nature of the existing environment that the community occupies and how that environment might alter from climate change. This research would be done in the region the community occupies and the surrounding regions and if it has to relocate the areas around the potential sites for relocation. Again depending on the size and location of the project this research could require lots of data collection above the ground and below the water levels.

Engineers, Architects and Construction specialist

The skills of this group would be needed to help in the rebuilding of the community. If the community can stay in its current location there might be needed alternation in the physical side of the community. Buildings and infrastructure might need to be elevated and rebuilt to with stand increases in the frequency and intensity of storms. Farms and areas surrounding the structures might need to be regraded and drainage structures constructed or altered. If a community has to relocate then designs for new facilities will have to be done. The nature of the construction of new facilities will have to be done to fit in with local standards to a degree but it will be important to use as many of the new construction techniques being developed. These could result in build quality structure at a reduced cost in a minimum amount of time.

The structure of the field crews-

Each crew will require a Field Crew Manager and he will need an assistant and depending on the project he might need more than one. The actual size of the crew will depend again on the nature, size and complexity of the project. It is more than possible that not all the disciplines listed above will be required for all projects. The Collective will have to have team members from outside the region to be a part but how many outsiders will be needed will be determined on support form within the region. A lot of the specialist like surveyors and engineers could come from local firms and professionals and some of the field assistants required to move equipment around could come from locals. It will be important to higher to use as many locals as possible. The Environmental Concern Collective has the purpose of helping communities not being a competitor against locals. But no Environmental Concern Collective field crew member can not operate by their self at no time should a research be in the field alone.

THE FOURTH STEP – THE SOLUTION

Once we have compiled the data from the Research efforts with the data from the Field Operations we will then be able to determine what the options are for the community to deal with the climate change. At this stage we will need to hold meeting with the community. Depending on the size of the community these meetings might be limited to the leaders of the society. Who ever attends the discussion will be around the nature of the threats and what are the options to deal with those threats. The community will have decide on what option to take. We will have to layout how serous the threats are and how much time the community has in its present situation. Then we will have to show what will be necessary for the community to survive. We will have to explain in detail on what this will involved what changes will probably occur in social and physical structure of the community. It will necessary to show how much it will cost and how we can raise the money to facilitate the changes.

At the same time we will have to have discussions with local, regional and national governmental officials about what will be required. We will need permission from government agencies to make a lot of the changes.

Once we have permission from the government agencies and the communities involved then we start on the changes. This will require a lot of assistance from local construction firms but also from local charities and community service groups.

THE FIFTH STEP – MONITORING THE PROGRESS

After chances have been made in the social and physical aspects of the community it will necessary to monitor the progress. This will required for at least a couple of reasons. Due to the uncertainty in the nature of the future changes in the climate it possible that we have relocated the community into a region that will in the short term future has serious issues from the changing climate and might have to move again. If the community has stayed in its ordinal location the future changes might result in it having to relocate or at least do further reconstruction of the physical side of the community.

Our solution is not just a one off it is part of how to make a community sustainable. To do that is a learning process so part of the monitoring is helping to determine ways to find better more long term solutions. With each project the steps laid out in this paper would probably change from the reality of situation.

THE PUBLISHING OF THE RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

All of the data collected would be compiled in a series of volumes of the Journal of the Environmental Concern Collect. The actual number of volumes would be determined by the size of the project. We would publish the compiled data on the history and the environment and the social structure and the changes and the monitoring.