

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GROW



Olga Tamara Morales, 38, a potato farmer in Utupampa, central Peru, lives and farms on the steep slopes of the Andes. Her community gets its water from the glaciers, so the region will be greatly affected by glacial retreat.

Photo credit: Gilvan Barreto / Oxfam

Around the world, nearly one billion people go hungry each day, thanks to lack of resources, rising food prices, and failing harvests.

Climate change makes the situation much worse. Poor communities are finding it harder and harder to grow food sustainably. Changing weather patterns make traditional agriculture much harder, crop yields are falling, and increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather destroys crops and makes land unusable.

Oxfam campaigns on climate change because these problems hit the poorest people hardest. Our GROW campaign seeks to ensure that people always have enough to eat, and this can't be done without dealing with climate change.

What do we want?

Climate change is a global problem needing global solutions, so world leaders need to act together, starting with the UN climate negotiations in Durban, South Africa at the end of November.

We need them to reduce the carbon emissions that cause global warming ('mitigation'), as well as helping poor countries adapt to climate change. Those most affected by climate change are those least responsible for causing it, and least able to deal with it. So it's only right that rich nations pay our fair share.

Rich countries have already made a start by pledging \$100 billion per year by 2020. It's now time for them to deliver on this promise and actually put money into the new climate fund. And at a time of financial crisis, we need to adopt innovative and fair ways to raise the money – such as applying a carbon price to shipping, and a Financial Transaction Tax (Robin Hood Tax).

A carbon price on shipping fuels ("bunker taxes")

International shipping is a major and rapidly growing source of greenhouse gases. Applying a carbon price to shipping could both reduce emissions, and raise at least £7bn per year by 2020 for climate change adaptation and mitigation in developing countries.

Financial Transaction Tax (Robin Hood Tax)

A Financial Transaction Tax is a tiny tax on financial transactions such as shares, bonds and currencies. It would affect those who undertake lots of financial transactions such as investment banks and hedge funds, but not the general public. The UK already has a tax on the purchase of shares, which raises around £5bn a year. Extending this to cover other types of financial assets would raise billions more – up to £250 billion. A large amount of this could pay for climate finance for poor countries.

What can I do?

In the UK, we can play our part in pushing world leaders to do the right thing. You can:

- Raise awareness of the UN climate change conference and campaign for action, as part of the **African Climate Connection**: www.the-african-connection.org
- Join the **Robin Hood Tax** campaign. The 'merrie men and women' of the campaign keep in touch online, and there are plenty of local activities and stunts to take part in: <http://robinhoodtax.org>
- Climate Change Secretary Chris Huhne will take part in an online debate open to the public on Thursday 1 December at 7pm. Participants will watch the debate streamed live and be able to ask questions. Details will be posted at www.the-african-connection.org nearer the time.



**the african
climate
connection**
WWW.THE-AFRICAN-CONNECTION.ORG

THE AFRICAN CLIMATE CONNECTION

During the UN climate talks in South Africa (26 November – 3 December), grassroots groups and individuals will connect with each other and with the climate talks, at African-themed events around the UK. The aim is to increase public support for action at the talks, and to hold politicians to account.

The events can be anything you want: anything from an African lunch to a photo exhibition, tailored to each area to build local connections, and to show your local MP the strength of concern on climate change.

How do I get involved?

- Sign up to get involved, and check if there is already a group near you using the [connections map](#) on the Stop Climate Chaos website.
- If there's no one already organising an event in your area, why not sign up as coordinator on the map, and organise one yourself?
- Contact some others in your area and get them on board: check out these [tips on how to make connections](#) in your area (pdf document)
- Decide what sort of event you want to organise. The [event organiser's toolkit](#) provides some inspiration and tips (pdf document)
- Invite your MP, using this [template MP invitation letter](#) (Word document).
- Tell your nearest regional [mobiliser](#) what you're planning.
- Publicise your event ([tips for publicising your event here](#)).

Check out the [resources page](#) for more tips and templates, and to check out what tools you could use to make your event great.