

# Annual Report 2015

## Building resilience during a year of firsts



RED CROSS/RED CRESCENT  
**CLIMATE CENTRE**



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The Netherlands  Red Cross



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COVER PHOTO: FORECAST-BASED FINANCING (FbF) IN UGANDA. IRENE AMURON (FOREGROUND), DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGER WITH THE UGANDA RED CROSS, LED THE FIRST HUMANITARIAN USE IN THE MOVEMENT OF THE NEW FbF CONCEPT IN KAPELEBYONG COUNTY IN NOVEMBER. "ONE OF THE DISASTER EFFECTS WE WERE TARGETING IS WATERBORNE DISEASE," SHE SAID AFTERWARDS. FORECAST-BASED FINANCING WAS LATER FULLY UNVEILED IN A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE IFRC AND THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME. (PHOTO: DENIS ONYODI/CLIMATE CENTRE)



# Table of Contents

<b>Acronyms</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>1. Capacity-building and operational support</b>	<b>9</b>
1.1 <b>Partners for Resilience 2011–15</b>	<b>10</b>
PFR success stories	10
1.2 <b>Forecast-based financing</b>	<b>12</b>
1.3 <b>Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Extremes and Disasters</b>	<b>15</b>
1.4 <b>The Global Framework for Climate Services</b>	<b>17</b>
1.5 <b>Support to National Adaptation Plans</b>	<b>18</b>
1.6 <b>Learning and policy dialogues in Asia</b>	<b>19</b>
1.7 <b>Community resilience in Ethiopia</b>	<b>20</b>
1.8 <b>Other capacity building</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>2. Humanitarian diplomacy</b>	<b>21</b>
2.1 <b>A milestone year I: COP 21, Sendai, the UN global goals</b>	<b>21</b>
COP 21 and the Paris agreement	21
The Sendai framework for DRR	23
The UN global goals	24
2.2 <b>Development and Climate Days</b>	<b>25</b>
2.3 <b>A milestone year II: The IFRC's One Billion Coalition and community resilience</b>	<b>26</b>
2.4 <b>World Weather Attribution: raising awareness of changing extremes</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>3.</b>	<b>Lessons, research, games</b>	<b>30</b>
3.1	Case studies	30
3.2	Working papers and briefs	30
3.3	Academic engagement	31
3.4	Educational games	34
<b>4.</b>	<b>Mobilizing resources</b>	<b>36</b>
4.1	Supporting National Societies	36
4.2	Mobilizing human resources	37
4.3	Financial resources	38
<b>5.</b>	<b>External communications</b>	<b>39</b>
5.1	The new website	39
5.2	Support to IFRC communications, web news, video	40
5.3	Social media	42
<b>6.</b>	<b>Following the future</b>	<b>43</b>
6.1	Algorithms that learn for early warning	43
6.2	Social protection	44
6.3	Geoengineering	44
6.4	Humanitarians and the arts	45
<b>7.</b>	<b>Finance and administration</b>	<b>46</b>
7.1	Income	46
7.2	Organization	46
7.3	Governing board	47
7.4	Management and team	47
<b>8.</b>	<b>Annual accounts 2015</b>	<b>48</b>
	<b>Other information</b>	<b>60</b>

# Acronyms<sup>1</sup>

A2R	Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (UN resilience initiative)
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Extremes and Disasters
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
CIF	Climate Investment Funds
COP	Conference of the Parties (UNFCCC)
CPRR	(IFRC Department of) Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction
D&C Days	Development and Climate Days (at COP meetings)
DFID	(UK) Department for International Development
DGIS	Directorate-General for International Cooperation (at Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
DRR	Disaster risk reduction
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
FbF	Forecast-based financing
FUNES	Functional estimation
GFCS	Global Framework for Climate Services
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
HFA II	Hyogo Framework for Action II
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRI	International Research Institute for Climate and Society
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
ODI	(UK) Overseas Development Institute
PfR	Partners for Resilience
ROR	Reality of Resilience
SOP	Standard operating procedure

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<sup>1</sup> For brevity here acronyms for individual Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies are only given in the text.

UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNISDR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCDRR	World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
WFP	World Food Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WWA	World Weather Attribution

# Preface

EVEN BEFORE IT ended we were thinking of 2015 as an historic “year of firsts” – above all, of course, because of the ground-breaking global agreement at the COP 21 UN climate talks in early December. The Paris agreement not only displayed great ambition in limiting long-term climate change, but put the need for ambitious adaptation on an equal footing, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups, reflecting the concerns brought to the fore every year at ‘Development and Climate Days’ in the middle weekend of the UN climate talks.

Paris crowned a memorable year for the world and the Climate Centre that included several other ambitious international policy frameworks with substantial components on climate and resilience – the most important surely being the new global goals for sustainable development finalized at the UN in New York in September, and also the new commitments on disaster risk reduction agreed at Sendai, Japan, in March.

With our now-widely recognized ability to blend science, policy and practice, the Climate Centre helped put the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement on the map in these forums, with a focus on the impact on the most vulnerable people of the rising climate risks we all face.

Our efforts to shape global efforts to build resilience amid rising risks also resulted in new partnerships and programmes that support these new ambitions.

In 2015, the Partners for Resilience programme secured funding for a second phase from the Dutch government in recognition of excellent results in the first, and we provided technical support to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s ‘A2R’ initiative on resilience that is linked to the IFRC’s own One Billion Coalition for Resilience.

We also continued our engagement with the UK-supported BRACED programme – ‘Building resilience and adaptation to climate extremes and disasters’ – strengthening the knowledge base for evidence-based programming for resilience at all scales.

Together with the American Red Cross we were invited to join Climate Services for Resilient Development, led by the Obama administration, to be the only humanitarian actors in a partnership that includes governments, development banks, foundations and the private sector.

Historic, too, in its own way, was a small humanitarian distribution made in November in the rain-soaked countryside some 300 kilometres north-east of the Ugandan capital, Kampala, triggered by a scientific forecast. In the first full humanitarian use of ‘forecast-

based financing' (FbF), the Uganda Red Cross distributed humanitarian relief to flood-prone communities procured with the support of the German government and Red Cross.

These early FbF pilots are part of the Climate Centre's systematic efforts to enable better early *action* based on early *warnings*. Too often, constraints in humanitarian financing have prevented action when there is clear evidence of significantly increased levels of risk. The pilots, now expanded to seven countries supported by various donors, and the methodological work accompanying it, are attracting increasing attention, including in discussions leading up the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul.

Our work on the attribution of extreme events in real time – part of the World Weather Attribution (WWA) programme – attracted significant media attention. We and other WWA scientists said publicly in July it was “virtually certain” climate change had increased the likelihood of the heatwave affecting Europe. We provided specific numbers on the rising risk while the heatwave was actually underway – the first WWA statement of its kind, following up on IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As Sy's commitments at the 2014 UN climate summit at the UN in New York.

All of these efforts were undertaken in close collaboration with the IFRC secretariat, building on the previous successful collaboration in developing joint training materials such as the *Climate Training Kit* and the IFRC e-learning course on climate change, as well as ongoing training and capacity-building efforts around the world.

We also thank all National Societies and other partners for the excellent collaboration in the very special year of 2015, and look forward to continuing our joint efforts to address rising climate risks.

Finally, we are very grateful for his extensive contributions over the years to our now-former board member, Walter Cotte, from the Colombian Red Cross. He joined our board in 2013 after supporting climate-related work across the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement for many years. We look forward to working with him in his new position as IFRC Regional Director for the Americas. Walter is succeeded on the Climate Centre board by Garry Conille, IFRC Under Secretary General for Programmes and Operations.



Ed Nijpels  
*Chairman*



Maarten van Aalst  
*Director*

# Introduction

THIS REPORT COVERS the highlights of 2015, an exceptional year for the Climate Centre when we saw significant expansion in many areas.

Our activities continued to build on work by Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies, the IFRC secretariat, and external partners in reducing the humanitarian impacts of climate change and extreme weather on vulnerable people worldwide.

We act as a think tank and humanitarian hub, bridging science, policy and practice; our work is intended to feed into the IFRC's 2013–16 plan of action on climate change and has been closely aligned with planning by its Community Preparedness and Risk Reduction (CPRR) department.

While the report is broadly organized by clustering activities along the lines of our annual work plan, several are actually cross-cutting, blending capacity building and operational support, humanitarian diplomacy, research and innovation, as well as resource mobilization and communications.



ROSE AKITENG, A 35-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF EIGHT CHILDREN, WAS AMONG NEARLY 400 FAMILIES IN RAIN-SWEPT KAPELEBYONG COUNTY WHO GOT NON-FOOD RELIEF ITEMS IN ONE OF THE FIRST HUMANITARIAN DISTRIBUTIONS UNDER FORECAST-BASED FINANCING IN NOVEMBER 2015. (PHOTO: DENIS ONYODI/CLIMATE CENTRE)

# 1. Capacity-building and operational support

SUPPORT FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING is a core role of the Climate Centre. These efforts cover on-the-ground implementation of climate-smart resilience-building, including innovative forecast-based financing (FbF), support for policy dialogues, links with climate information providers, and even strengthening networks for learning and capturing of evidence from local practice. They are undertaken in close collaboration with the IFRC secretariat and National Societies, but also, for example, with the Partners for Resilience (PfR) and the BRACED network.

The IFRC and the Climate Centre facilitated capacity-building workshops and training sessions with a wide range of National Societies and other partners, partly through regional workshops like the five-day ‘training of trainers’ with IFRC staff and representatives from 12 National Societies in West Africa and another seven in South Asia; and also by invitation of specific National Societies, like an event on orientation and awareness-raising with the Cyprus Red Cross Society and a corporate event organized by the Swiss Red Cross.

In addition, as noted in Section 1.5, for instance, workshops were organized jointly with the IFRC and the Danish Red Cross to help National Societies engage with National Adaptation Plans (NAP), and to position them as implementation agencies for local climate-smart disaster risk reduction (DRR) in Kenya and Malawi.<sup>2</sup>

Most of these capacity-building initiatives were supported by a range of ongoing projects, such as PfR and various FbF pilots, BRACED, the Tanzania-Malawi Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), another programme to support engagement in NAP, a project under the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) to support learning and policy dialogues in Asia, and a community resilience programme in Ethiopia.

This chapter details these main Climate Centre projects with a core focus on capacity-building.

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<sup>2</sup> All lists of countries in this report are given alphabetically.

## 1.1 Partners for Resilience 2011–15

An inspirational global work conference in October 2015 marked the end of the five-year PfR programme. It highlighted the wealth of experience that now underpins the unique resilience approach to reducing the impact of natural hazards on vulnerable people in Ethiopia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Uganda.

The Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) (lead agency), CARE Nederland, Cordaid, Wetlands International and the Climate Centre, together with more than 40 local partner agencies, have reached more than some 600,000 people in the past five years. Our approach to the building of resilience, developed with local implementing partners, integrates DRR, climate change adaptation, and ecosystem management and restoration into ‘integrated risk management’.

In its final year, much emphasis was placed on documenting outcomes in, among other ways, a fruitful series of ‘writeshops’<sup>3</sup> that generated a plethora of case studies, an online library, material for the final conference in The Hague, and more. These examples and experiences now provide a solid platform for the new five-year strategic partnership between the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the partners centred on humanitarian dialogue (*see below*).

Some PfR partners helped to sustain programme work through the promotion of government ownership of national interventions – in India for example. In other countries, like Kenya, local implementing agencies mobilized resources to continue work; in others, like Ethiopia, integrated risk management will continue through funding applied for jointly at the global level.

The unique approach of PfR is now recognized as a major contribution to the IFRC’s One Billion Coalition for Resilience, unveiled in November 2014, and the UN’s Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (‘A2R’) initiative on resilience; its methodology of integrated risk management features prominently in ongoing dialogues with key donors, such as the European Commission.

After the success of the first phase of PfR, in late 2015 the Dutch government signed an agreement for a new strategic partnership to last until 2020. Addressing fellow heads of government, UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon and other world leaders at the opening day of COP 21 in Paris, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said the agreement with the five Netherlands PfR agencies would strengthen “the resilience and livelihoods of many vulnerable

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<sup>3</sup> Originally developed by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction, a *writeshop* is an intense, peer-to-peer learning process in which participants draft, revise and finalize case studies in, usually, less than a week.

communities, connect this to government priorities and investments, and support economic growth that is inclusive and sustainable”.

PfR now moves from project implementation to building capacity for humanitarian dialogue, partnerships and knowledge.

In 2014, four researchers supported PfR through the Climate Centre’s global scholarship programme in Indonesia, the Philippines and Uganda. Graduate students from universities including King’s College, London, conducted research and supported documentation of the project.

### PfR success stories

One success story out of thousands registered by Partners for Resilience (PfR) programmes worldwide is John Nangiyo, a new bee-keeper, and his family in the Napak district of Uganda’s Karamoja region. He was able to clear a hospital bill after the arrival of a new baby thanks to cash from his honey sales.

Bee-keeping (*photo*) is one of several diversification projects supported by PfR in Uganda, along with seeds that resist drought and mature early, vegetable cultivation and goat-rearing. Energy-saving stoves and tree nurseries helped roll back ecosystem damage from charcoal burning.



UGANDAN BEE-KEEPERS PRACTICE THEIR SKILLS AS PART OF THE PfR PROGRAMME IN THE COUNTRY. THEIR EXPERIENCE WAS DETAILED IN A CASE STUDY AT A NAIROBI WRITESHOP THAT DOCUMENTED FIVE YEARS OF WORK IN ETHIOPIA, KENYA AND UGANDA. (PHOTO: KOCHO JUSTIN BOB/ECOLOGICAL CHRISTIAN ORGANISATION-UGANDA)

Highlights from other PfR countries include:

- Ethiopian pastoralist women became more economically independent through savings groups; they can now cope better with droughts, engage in additional economic activities, and keep their children in school.
- Guatemalan communities and the environment around them benefitted from wood-saving stoves and eco-filters to reuse water; vegetable gardens help them get through periods when harvests are affected by prolonged drought.
- At least 16,000 Indian farmers were helped to introduce flood-resistant rice varieties, rehabilitate fish lakes, and set up domestic vegetable production.
- Indonesian communities diversified and strengthened livelihoods and food security through soil conservation, nurseries, pest control, organic fertilizers, crop rotation and storage, and animal husbandry.
- PfR in Kenya helped communities plan for disasters; the programme supported the Waso River Users Empowerment Platform, bringing together 40 civil-society groups along the river.
- At least 4,600 people in Mali improved their livelihoods by restoring degraded land and introducing drought-tolerant seeds and rain gauges to help farmers decide when to sow.
- Partners in Nicaragua facilitated a plan for watershed management, in collaboration with municipalities and universities, to mitigate droughts and floods in the Inali and Tapacali river basins.
- Forty-four communities in the disaster-prone Philippines made preparedness and risk reduction plans, while drills took place in schools and communities.

## 1.2 Forecast-based financing

Forecast-based financing developed from a long-standing element in Climate Centre work: assisting the mainstreaming of the *early warning early action* model into Red Cross Red Crescent disaster management worldwide. It recognizes there are often forecasts available but no humanitarian organization with resources to act *before* a disaster – especially when there is no complete certainty and hence a risk of acting in vain.

The FbF project in Uganda finalized standard operating procedures (SOP) under which non-food items are automatically disbursed when triggered by a flood forecast. The forecast, generated by global models from partner institutions and verified with the Uganda National Meteorological Authority, reached its trigger level in November. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) then mobilized volunteers, notified beneficiaries and distributed non-food items to nearly 400 households (1,815 people) in four villages in Kapelebyong sub-county.

Each household received two jerrycans, two bars of soap, five sacks for food storage, one hoe and 30 water purification tablets (a month's supply). Prior to the distribution, a meeting was held with the district and beneficiary communities to plan the action.

This was the first time the URCS received money from the FbF preparedness fund to be spent after a forecast. It allowed the National Society to act before a disaster. In the past, distribution of relief items would only take place *after* a disaster strikes, but now – whilst widespread flooding was reported in the areas – non-food items were already being distributed.

The team will follow up with surveys in 2016 to assess the impact. The Red Cross later issued an unofficial appeal to respond to flooding in neighbouring areas, again with non-food items.

Uganda was part of the first two pilots on FbF supported by the German Red Cross. The other, implemented by the Togo Red Cross, also led to an innovative collaboration with dam operators, enabling better early warning downstream, facilitated by an innovative algorithm supported by the World Bank (*see below, Following the future*).

We also provided technical support to several subsequent pilots supported by the German Red Cross as part of the humanitarian action plan on adaptation to climate change of the German Federal Foreign Office; these included the Bangladesh Red Crescent and the Mozambique and Peru Red Cross working on SOP for flood and cyclone risk.

In Peru, the project completed SOP for flood risks associated with El Niño that were put in place before the Pacific phenomenon peaked in December. The El Niño forecast triggered action in north-west Peru and the Red Cross team embarked on FbF preparedness actions that included community education.

In 2015, the Climate Centre also embarked on several new FbF projects, including one with the Tanzania Red Cross National Society<sup>4</sup> and the American Red Cross, in partnership with the World Bank and local government and supported by the Danish Red Cross, exploring actions and forecast triggers for urban flood risk in Dar es Salaam.

Over the year the FbF concept has grown and developed. The IFRC hosted two 'dialogue platforms' to bring together practitioners and partners. These included the World Food Programme (WFP), which also triggered action as part of their Food Security Climate Resilience Facility in parts of Guatemala and Zimbabwe where there was a high forecast risk of drought.

(In early discussions leading up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit FbF was seen as a concrete example of how to incentivize early action and bridge the gap between humanitarian action and long-term development, especially in the face of rising climate risks.)



PARTICIPANTS AT JULY'S DIALOGUE PLATFORM AT THE IFRC GENEVA OFFICE THAT WAS PART OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE AND RED CROSS ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION; IT ATTRACTED METEOROLOGISTS, SCIENTISTS, HUMANITARIANS AND DONORS TO THE IFRC GENEVA OFFICES TO COMPARE NOTES ON FORECAST-BASED FINANCING. (PHOTO: GERMAN RED CROSS)

<sup>4</sup> This the correct full name of the Tanzanian National Society, according to the IFRC directory, but it is also called simply the Tanzania Red Cross.

## 1.3 Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Extremes and Disasters

The three-year UK-supported BRACED programme aims to build the resilience of more than 5 million vulnerable people against climate extremes and disasters by supporting more than 100 organizations working in consortia in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and – in Asia – Myanmar and Nepal.

The programme provides a valuable resource on topics at the core of Red Cross Red Crescent work and aims to improve global practice and investment in and policy on the increasingly central issue of resilience (*see Section 2.3*) – particularly with rigorous knowledge management. In July Maarten van Aalst took over as team leader of the BRACED knowledge-management component – of which the Climate Centre is a key element – connecting 15 country consortia through monitoring and evaluation, research, and communication.

BRACED knowledge management seeks to affect change in and beyond the programme's focus countries: the Climate Centre plays an important role in promoting learning and dialogue, making the case for scaling up investment in community resilience.

During 2015, the Climate Centre passed several milestones marking our growing contribution to building the base of knowledge and evidence about what works in strengthening resilience. We successfully piloted discussions and webinars to spur dialogue and knowledge sharing between partners within and beyond BRACED, for example.

We also helped establish new partnerships, such as between BRACED and PfR, the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia, the Applied Improvisation Network and the Italian theatre NGO Giolli Societa Cooperative Sociale, promoting the exchange of knowledge and evidence on resilience.

As an example of how we bridge the gap between local practice and the global academic knowledge base, we brought together participants from implementing partners in Asia and Africa at a writeshop in London to produce several case studies and a formal research paper on gender and social equity. From another workshop in the Niger capital, Niamey, a series of case studies emerged on technology and innovation.

The Climate Centre is leading a BRACED initiative called Reality of Resilience: Learning from Disasters Avoided (*see box*), which gathers evidence about how interventions that succeeded in strengthening resilience actually worked, in both expected and unexpected ways. The evidence – comprising news articles, videos, blogs and pictures – is posted online and a report on the methodology used made available.

Other BRACED publications that helped shape global discussions on resilience included the *Geography of Poverty Report*, presented at the BRACED side-event at COP 21 in Paris, as well as numerous papers, case studies, blogs and scoping papers.

## 1.4 The Global Framework for Climate Services

The GFCS is a UN-led initiative piloted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to guide the development and application of climate services for decision-making. Last year the Climate Centre provided technical support for GFCS activities ranging from climate research to advocacy.

### **BOX**

#### **Reality of Resilience: Learning from Disasters Avoided**

The Reality of Resilience (ROR) initiative is part of the Climate Centre's work on fostering learning about what can strengthen resilience amongst the 15 BRACED projects in Africa and South Asia. It tracks climate-related events like floods, droughts and storms in near real-time using satellite information and other weather data.

When an extreme event is identified, we notify a network of regional partners, thematic experts, and journalists to gather evidence about how resilience-strengthening interventions have worked in expected and unexpected ways.

Evidence is arrayed on the ROR mini-site as news articles, videos, blogs and pictures that also form the basis of webinars that encourage knowledge-sharing amongst projects and the wider climate-resilience community. Methodological reports were available and evidence was gathered in 2015, for example, on urban flooding in Senegal and drought in Ethiopia.

In the context of a multi-agency flagship programme for the GFCS that started in 2014, supported primarily by the Norwegian government, the Climate Centre helped stakeholders manage risks related to climate variability and change, in support of the Malawi and Tanzania Red Cross and the IFRC. Activities included the application of the 'Minimum Standards for local climate-smart disaster risk reduction' ('the Minimum Standards'), mapping communications pathways in early-warning systems for floods and drought on various timescales, and strengthening relationships between National Societies and national meteorological services.

## 1.5 Support to National Adaptation Plans

Working with the IFRC and the Danish Red Cross, the Climate Centre has been engaged in a project to support engagement in NAPs, aimed at ensuring adaptation needs and requirements of vulnerable communities are at the centre of development planning. We have helped National Societies engage in this process, supporting staff and volunteers to engage with governments.

The project, funded by the Danish association Civil Society on Development, is an outcome of the COP 16 and 17 UN climate talks, when developing countries were invited to develop NAPs to underpin adaptation funding.

The Climate Centre has developed training modules on humanitarian diplomacy for National Societies, intended to influence development in favour of *local* adaptation. Training sessions for staff and volunteers have been conducted in Malawi and Kenya, and action plans on engagement with governments have been drawn up that provide for the formation of NAP task forces; possible advocacy messages have been identified. The Climate Centre helped stakeholders in these countries contribute to the NAP agenda and promote fund-raising.

In addition, based on collaboration between the IFRC and the WMO, efforts have been made to strengthen the relationships between these National Societies and their home meteorological services.

The Climate Centre's work on National Society involvement with the NAPs was exhibited at Development and Climate Days in Paris, and was continuing in Armenia, Georgia and Nepal in 2016 and at COP 22 in Marrakesh.

## 1.6 Learning and policy dialogues in Asia

With the final year of support from the UK-based Climate and Development Knowledge Network, the Climate Centre and its partners in Indonesia and the Philippines were able to scale and translate lessons, outcomes and ideas from PfR into fruitful, evidence-based policy dialogue.

In addition, tools were developed to enhance capacities of grass-roots organizations to engage in dialogue. The partners brought this dialogue to local, national and regional policy forums, and ultimately also introduced it to some major international agreements.

Much of the preparatory work for the diplomacy at the UN conferences in Sendai and COP 21 in Paris was based on outcomes of this CDKN-supported project, including case studies and booklets produced at workshops and a paper on the Minimum Standards for the *Global Assessment Report* of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), as well as the work of PfR alliance members on engagement at Sendai, where the Climate Centre and our PfR colleagues helped keep a focus on climate risk management as part of the global agreement.



PARTICIPANTS AT A GAMES WORKSHOP AT THE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE DAYS SIDE-EVENT AT COP 21 IN PARIS WHO PLAYED *ANSWER WITH YOUR FEET* – A QUICK ENERGIZER THAT ALLOWS PLAYERS IN A ROOM TO ORGANIZE ACCORDING TO CALLED-OUT QUESTIONS. (PHOTO: CLIMATE CENTRE)

Since the Sendai conference, Asian PfR members have started preparing for the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to help operationalize the global framework.

The main tool developed under this project was the Minimum Standards, which have been distributed and applied widely in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and outside it. We use this tool in most training events on climate risk management and DRR worldwide as a reference for making proposals to donors climate-smart, and as a benchmark in evaluations such as Red Cross climate adaptation in Vietnam.

Last year also saw a push for the application of some of the practical tools – including community risk-assessment within PfR – that are now supported by instructional videos and games at workshops and conferences.

## **1.7 Community resilience in Ethiopia**

The approach of this project relies on partnership with branches of the Ethiopia Red Cross Society (ERCS) and the government, focusing on taking action before a crisis unfolds; and in ways that promote long-term solutions. In a country affected by chronic crises, this elicited considerable interest.

While progress with planned activities in this project was slow, largely due to the sheer novelty of the approach, 2015 also saw some very encouraging results. We helped the Somali Region ERCS branch finalize plans for early action in response to seasonal outbreaks of disease, frost risk to crops, and floods, including commercial livestock sales ahead of droughts. Planned work with the region's meteorological agency was also delayed.

In 2016, the project centred on building a relationship with Ethiopia's National Meteorology Agency for collaborative activities such as a seasonal conference.

Very importantly, the ERCS hopes to work with the Climate Centre to extend this approach to other branches, without external funds, and to make it, simply, a way in which ERCS branches normally work.

## 1.8 Other capacity building

All 31 Climate Centre projects in 2015 involved capacity-building at some level. In addition to those detailed above, the Future Resilience for African Cities and Lands programme is one of the regional consortia within the Future Climate For Africa (FCFA) project led by the University of Cape Town and supported by a range of partners including the Climate Centre.

It focuses on climate risks and decision-making in cities in Southern Africa and aims to advance scientific knowledge about regional responses to climate change, working through high-resolution case studies Lusaka, with others planned for Maputo and Windhoek, in collaboration with National Societies and other partners.

The Climate Centre also led a consortium of partners to undertake heatwave research in Nairobi, to determine if informal settlements face localized 'heat-island effects' not seen elsewhere in the city.

The Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions (ASSAR) promotes research on vulnerability and adaptation in semi-arid regions of Africa and South Asia. Together with project leaders also at the University of Cape Town, we and others are facilitating training on communicating climate-risk scenarios and modelling of otherwise complex issues centred on adaptation to climate change.

The Climate Centre also provided technical inputs to evaluation by the Australian, German and Viet Nam Red Cross of an adaptation project in the Mekong delta, and we also met many requests from National Societies with, for example, with evaluating adaptation projects.

## 2. Humanitarian diplomacy

THE YEAR 2015 was confidently expected to be historic well before it began, and thus it proved, with new global agreements on DRR, sustainable development, and climate at major international meetings in, respectively, Sendai, Japan, New York and Paris, as well as the statutory meetings of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in Geneva.<sup>5</sup>

The Climate Centre played a full part in each, as well as many other lower-profile meetings, and Dr van Aalst and/or other senior colleagues attended all of them, alongside IFRC figures whom we assisted with technical and diplomatic advice on the spot.

### 2.1 A milestone year I: COP 21, Sendai, the UN global goals

#### COP 21 and the Paris agreement

Looking at the most recent and most historic of these first: the climate agreement at COP 21 in Paris, where the Climate Centre joined the IFRC delegation and our involvement included joint stewardship of the 13th annual Development and Climate Days Event ('D&C Days') (*see next section*).

The IFRC's proposition prior to the conference, disseminated in a press release and quoted in (among other media) the *New York Times*, was for increased support to communities already dealing with climate impacts to be part of the expected agreement.

In the end, the Paris deal was pivotal – a milestone that involved recognition that climate risks are rising with potentially unmanageable consequences for the planet, as Garry Conille, IFRC Under-Secretary General for Programme and Operations, pointed out in December. "Critically," wrote Dr van Aalst later in an opinion piece for our website, "it addresses both the long-term risks – including the 2.0°C target – and the immediate needs of the most vulnerable in the face of risks that have already increased, and are bound to keep increasing due to historic greenhouse gas emissions." (He was also listed on ifrc.org as an official media contact for the International Federation during the Paris climate talks.)

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<sup>5</sup> The 32nd International Conference, the Council of Delegates, and the IFRC's General Assembly took place in Geneva from 4–10 December 2015. One International Conference resolution recognized that National Societies have an important role to play in supporting governments achieve "goals, targets and priorities set out in the context of the Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and [COP 21] outcomes...".

The centrality of the climate mandate within the humanitarian sector was brought into sharp relief by some key data publicized by the IFRC in Paris: 87 per cent of disasters were related to climate in 2014, while displacement generated by climate impacts affected more than 22 million people the year before and potentially 250 million by 2050.

The Climate Centre and IFRC argued strongly that the focus must now be on making sure climate commitments on resilience, including the US\$ 100 billion the Paris meeting earmarked in finance for the developing world by 2020, goes where it's really needed: to the most vulnerable people.

Programmes we are now closely involved with, such as BRACED and the second phase of PFR, are linking local solutions to the aspirations embedded in COP 21 and the A2R initiative on resilience launched on a special day by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon – possibly the key resilience ‘entry point’, where the IFRC was represented by Dr Conille and Dr van Aalst moderated a high-level panel.<sup>6</sup> Several new partnerships emerged, including an academic initiative to support A2R hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, to which Dr van Aalst is providing specialist advice.

The ICRC also sent a delegation to Paris and the Climate Centre provided inputs to their formal position, reflecting a closer engagement by the ICRC in the climate discussions and growing attention to the interface between climate impacts, conflict and migration.

On 3 December an interactive Climate Centre session with our French Red Cross (FRC) hosts at the UN climate talks demonstrated how the Red Cross Red Crescent is engaging on risk reduction with vulnerable people and communities, and how we are using new tools and approaches like educational games to engage staff, volunteers and the public. Climate Centre Associate Director of Research and Innovation Pablo Suarez also helped moderate a session entitled ‘Children in a changing climate’ for Plan International.

The IFRC and Climate Centre provided specialist input for the FRC's own pledge, ‘Building resilience in a changing climate’, that was presented at the 32nd International Conference (of the Red Cross and Red Crescent) in Geneva. Director of International Relations and Operations Antoine Peigney said the FRC was asking National Societies to lobby governments to sign the pledge, which commits signatories to promoting “local action to reduce risks of the most vulnerable groups, including by expanding community-based early warning systems”.

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<sup>6</sup> Dr van Aalst moderated another high-level panel at COP 21 organized by the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the WMO on the Africa Hydromet Initiative.

Finally on COP 21, an official IFRC report on the meeting (published in 2016) listed among next steps the continued implementation of programmes that “focus on making sure that the climate commitment on resilience goes where it is really needed and is used to good effect when it gets there.” These included the IFRC’s One Billion Coalition, PfR, BRACED and forecast-based financing.

## The Sendai framework for DRR

The UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, was mandated by the General Assembly to review the 2005–15 Hyogo Framework for Action and agree a successor for the next decade to be known as ‘HFA II’. Its opening over a weekend in March was overshadowed by Cyclone Pam – “a stark reminder that disaster risk management is a matter of life and death,” as a report by UNISDR, the conference coordinators, put it.

In a joint statement just before Pam struck, IFRC Secretary General Elhadj As Sy, who was in Sendai, and Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said risks from climate change are “on the rise, jeopardizing hard-won development gains and posing formidable challenges”. Dr van Aalst said in Sendai that while scientists are cautious about associating intense storms such as Cyclone Pam with global warming, “a global rise in sea levels clearly brings more destructive storm surges”.<sup>7</sup>

In her own speech at the opening of a session on ecosystems, Princess Margriet of the Netherlands said that in a crucial year when Sendai, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate talks intersected, the world faced “a potentially lethal mix of global warming, unplanned urbanization, and degraded ecosystems”.

Community-level efforts like reforestation, she pointed out, was now at the core of Red Cross Red Crescent work, while games like those developed by the Climate Centre helped communities unpack how they were “connected through the landscape, and how they can work together for a safer future”.

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<sup>7</sup> This was something the Climate Centre found itself investigating again in early 2016 in connection with Cyclone Winston in Fiji.

## The UN global goals

In September, Mr Sy addressed the UN summit in New York that adopted the new Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the ‘global goals’. He pledged the support of National Societies, 17 million volunteers, and the IFRC secretariat in helping to deliver on the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At the three-day conference at UN headquarters attended by more than 150 world leaders, Dr van Aalst emphasized the linkages between the global agreements, and noted that resilience is a key feature of the post-2015 landscape, prominent in the first of the new goals on ending extreme poverty, and also in the second, on hunger, in Goal 11 on cities, and of course in Goal 13 on climate change.

With Climate Week running in parallel with that summit, Mr Sy noted that there were now an estimated 250 million people in the world affected by humanitarian crises, adding that: “We are seeing an increase in the intensity, frequency and unpredictability of disasters, often as a result of climate change and unplanned urbanization.” The Red Cross Red Crescent was uniquely well placed to drive “meaningful and sustainable changes at the community level by building and strengthening resilience”.



IFRC SECRETARY GENERAL ELHADJ AS SY MODERATES A SPECIAL SESSION ON TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS AT THE THIRD UN WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AT SENDAI, WHERE THE IFRC FORMALLY LAUNCHED THE ONE BILLION COALITION. ON HIS LEFT IS BORONOV KUBATBEK AYILCHIEVICH, KYRGYZTAN'S EMERGENCIES MINISTER. (PHOTO: UNISDR)

## 2.2 Development and Climate Days

Over 400 participants gathered during the middle weekend of COP 21 in Paris at Development & Climate Days ('D&C Days'), a landmark side-event now in its 13th year, organized by the Climate Centre in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), all UK-based agencies, and the Ottawa-based International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

The thematic focus this year, like last, was 'Zero Poverty, Zero Emissions: hard talk on poverty and climate'. Discussions centered on the need for bold action to tackle the challenges of climate impacts on the poor and seize opportunities presented by climate-compatible development.

The programme featured interactive formats to engage participants in dialogue on topics that included the future of energy, adaptation and finance in the developing world, and livestock systems in Africa.

One of the most popular sessions, 'Taste the change: An experiential approach to rethink our climate choices through food', was facilitated by the Climate Centre and participants were challenged to consider threats that climate change may pose to our diets. As Senegalese Chef Pierre Thiam prepared insect delicacies on stage, facilitator Pablo Suarez explored the role of food in climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In the closing high-level panel, the former Irish president, Mary Robinson, called for global solidarity to tackle climate impacts which fell disproportionately on the poorest people. She said the new UN global goals would not be meaningful without a "robust, binding climate agreement".

## 2.3 A milestone year II: The IFRC's One Billion Coalition and community resilience

The year 2015 was one in which the concept of resilience took hold as a key intersection of the global processes that came to fruition in Sendai, New York and Paris, and as a leitmotif for community-based work bridging the humanitarian, development and climate adaptation agendas. Two of our three major programmes now include the word 'resilience' in their titles (*see Section 1*).

The International Federation's own One Billion Coalition for Resilience was a key component of this new global effort. Flagged by the IFRC in late 2014 at the Fourth Community Resilience Forum in Cali, Colombia, the One Billion Coalition was formally launched in Sendai by IFRC President Tadateru Konoe, who said: "What we need today is a forward-looking plan to address the critical risks that compromise sustainable development, and enable communities to become stronger and more resilient."

In his own remarks at Sendai, Elhadj As Sy said loss of life from the impacts of Cyclone Pam had been minimal thanks to effective early warning and early action in making sure people were evacuated in good time. "We are committed to building knowledge amongst local communities and helping to increase their resilience by bridging traditional community support systems with science and technology," he said. "By working with national meteorological offices, we have been able to communicate and translate hazard warnings so that communities understand and act on them."

These key IFRC messages at Sendai chimed with Climate Centre thinking and input to the processes behind the One Billion Coalition, which the IFRC describes as "a dynamic vehicle to build community and business engagement and to inspire individuals of all ages".

Specifically on climate, it promises work to increase "public and private investment in risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and emergency preparedness and mitigation". The Pfr programme has already been adopted as a key cornerstone of the One Billion Coalition.

Another important event related to resilience that we took part in during the year was European Development Days in Brussels June, where more than 5,000 specialists gathered for Europe's leading forum on global development and cooperation. We joined colleagues from the Red Cross EU Office, the German Red Cross and (from PFR) the Netherlands Red Cross and Wetlands International. Our side-event on community resilience included senior figures from organizations like the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department, ECHO, and the World Bank.

In the same month we joined a new initiative announced by the Obama administration: Climate Services for Resilient Development, an international public-private partnership to help developing nations vulnerable to climate impacts boost their resilience. The American Red Cross – one of eight founding partners – and with it the global Red Cross Red Crescent planned to leverage existing assets in, initially, Bangladesh, Colombia and Ethiopia.

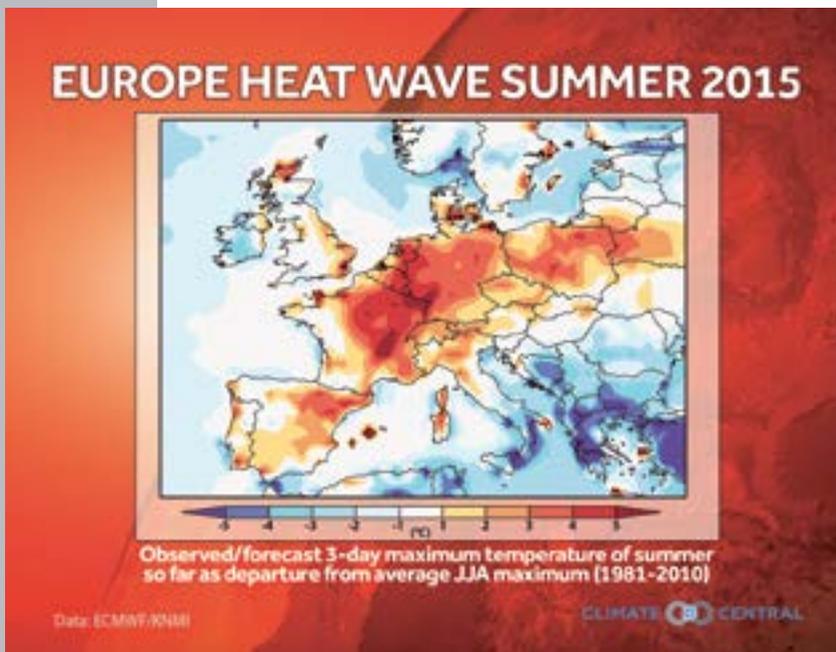
We worked with the American Red Cross to network communities, civil society, and government agencies, helping to scale up tools and educational games that enhance decision-making in hard-to-reach locations.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS FROM THE MYANMAR RED CROSS EVACUATING FAMILIES AND PROVIDING RELIEF AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY SEVERE MONSOON FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES. ASIA WAS BY FAR THE WORST-AFFECTED CONTINENT IN TERMS OF CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTER IMPACTS IN 2015. (PHOTO: PATRICK FULLER/IFRC)

In July we took our key message that climate science provides an essential ingredient in work on resilience to a major international scientific conference on climate at UNESCO headquarters in Paris – the largest of its kind ahead of COP 21. We also argued, in a key plenary session, that with tighter focus on risk – including exposure and vulnerability, bridging timescales, and better matches with decision-making – it could go even further.

By helping to place messages like these squarely at centre stage, the Climate Centre played an important part in building the new global resilience agenda in 2015; our major programmes can now also play their part in delivering on this exciting agenda.



AN OBSERVED AND FORECAST TEMPERATURE CHART FOR EUROPE SHOWS THE 2015 SUMMER HEATWAVE THAT CAUSED HUMANITARIAN CONCERN ACROSS THE CONTINENT. IT WAS "VIRTUALLY CERTAIN" THAT CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASED ITS LIKELIHOOD, ACCORDING TO A TEAM OF INTERNATIONAL SCIENTISTS THAT INCLUDED THE CLIMATE CENTRE, AS PART OF THE WORLD WEATHER ATTRIBUTION PROGRAMME THAT GOT UNDERWAY LAST YEAR. (SOURCE: CLIMATE CENTRAL)

## 2.4 World Weather Attribution: raising awareness of changing extremes

The science of the *attribution* of extreme events is rapidly advancing and there is increasing capacity to assess whether a specific event is more or less likely today than in a world without climate change. These methods are becoming increasingly robust through the use of observational data and climate models. We are now able to carry out such analyses more quickly, often within days of an extreme event.

In the World Weather Attribution (WWA) partnership, the Climate Centre is working with Princeton-based Climate Central, Melbourne and Oxford Universities, and the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute to do real-time analyses and communicate results to relevant stakeholders. This leading global effort is overseen by a scientific steering body and brings in local partners appropriate to the event being studied.

In 2015, the WWA team carried out a real-time analysis of the European summer heatwave that generated humanitarian concern, saying publicly they were “virtually certain” that climate change increased its likelihood – the first time such robust information was made available *during* a weather-related emergency.

The WWA team also analysed the severe drought in south-east Brazil, finding, by contrast, that human-induced climate change did not play a major role in the drought. Instead, a growing population and increasing water consumption were the likely culprits.

At the end of 2015 when Storm Desmond hit the UK, causing some deaths and large-scale damage and disruption, the WWA team said they were confident that the risk of such storms had increased with climate change, an increase that could range from fairly small to almost double in the UK.

The Climate Centre plays a key role in supporting research on how to communicate information from these attribution studies, further contributing to IFRC Secretary General As Sy’s commitment at the 2014 Climate Summit to “systematically communicate about the role of climate change in major disasters”.

## 3. Lessons, research, games

THIS HAS BEEN, by some margin, a record year in terms of our production of case studies, briefs, academic papers and games, which are now easily accessible on the newly relaunched [www.climatecentre.org](http://www.climatecentre.org).

### 3.1 Case studies

In the context of all the projects the Climate Centre ran in 2015, we produced a wealth of case studies – all available at the Publications area of our website – highlighting experience in improving practice, including writeshops and field trips as part of major programmes like PfR, for example. In Kenya and Uganda a compendium of PfR case studies was produced as a book.

While the Climate Centre organized and facilitated more than ten writeshops within PfR overall, it also adapted the methodology for the BRACED programme, organizing two writeshops in London and the Niger capital, Niamey, for more than 40 participants. These produced case studies aimed at improving decision-making on gender, social equity, technology and innovation.

In Guatemala, the PfR team went on to hold not one but two writeshops that helped them document experience effectively, producing powerful language to influence policy processes. A Guatemalan Red Cross study focused on a climate change round-table in Quiche department, detailing how the National Society had been instrumental in raising awareness on DRR.

### 3.2 Working papers and briefs

With the Sendai framework in place, the DRR community faces increasing pressure to scale up, helping local development actors move forward. Policy-makers seek guidance from practitioners on reaching standards for adaptation that is crucial to national planning.

At the Climate Centre we have been aware for several years of the need for simple climate-smart criteria to support community-based DRR programming and resilience-building, and to address this demand in July we brought out a new working paper on the Minimum Standards, detailing how they can help action on climate change post-2015.

The following month, a report entitled *Forecast-based action* was published in collaboration with Reading University in the UK, covering priorities for research on FbF, as part of a programme called Science for Humanitarian Emergencies and Resilience. The report examines the interdisciplinary challenges in moving towards robust frameworks for forecast-based action in the humanitarian sector, critical in the light of changing risks worldwide, and focusing primarily on the most common natural disaster: floods.

A 2015 paper, *Introducing humanitarians and environmentalists to 'decision science' insights and applications (And lose a day off if you don't read this!)*, described how people tend to make predictable errors when linking information and decisions. It took as its principal case study a “highly interactive two-day retreat that included experiential activities, games, stories, brainstorming” and a self-assessment.

Another research paper centred on FbF, *Managing the risk of extreme events in a changing climate, Trends and opportunities in the disaster-related funding landscape*, looked at “systematic action based on forecasts of (temporarily) increased likelihood of hazard occurrence, such as rainfall forecasts for the coming days, weeks, or months.” Such actions, it argued, are different from long-term risk reduction in that they can only be justified once the probability of a hazard has significantly increased. Then, by deploying resources rapidly, effectiveness and efficiency can be substantially enhanced compared to waiting for the disaster to happen before any funding is released.

Finally, *Loss and damage in a changing climate, Games for learning and dialogue that link HFA and UNFCCC* examined the role of games for improving communication, learning, and decision-making about climate-risk management amongst stakeholders, beginning with challenges associated with communicating climate-related loss and damage.

### **3.3 Academic engagement**

Our programme ‘Young scholars for humanitarian work’ recruited ten university students who carried out humanitarian work as part of their courses through both fieldwork and desk study. Graduate programmes that consolidated such support for our work included courses at University College London, Northeastern University in Boston, Columbia University New York, and the University of Colorado-Boulder.

The Game Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology posted materials for a course on digital game design that incorporated a set of challenges defined by the Climate Centre. The online platform for the game *Snap!* that emerged from that collaboration, is now frequently used at conferences and training sessions worldwide.

At least 40 workshops and talks featured Climate Centre personnel in academic settings, ranging from a course on the global environment at Harvard University School of Public Health and another in risk management and natural hazards at University College Amsterdam to sessions convened jointly by IFRC and the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.

Maarten van Aalst taught at the Swiss Climate Summer School on Extreme Events and Climate in Ascona, convened by ETH Zurich for a select group of international PhD students. He also taught at Wageningen University and University of Amsterdam.

Our Manager, Climate Science, Erin Coughlan de Perez, co-taught a seminar course at Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Columbia University. Pablo Suarez led a group of masters students for their semester of applied research on FbF at the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Public Policy at University College London

Pablo Suarez sits on the editorial board of the journals *Climate and Development*, *Urban Climate* and the *Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management*; Maarten van Aalst sits on the editorial board of the journal *Earth Perspectives*.



NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT MINISTER LIJANNE PLOUMEN FLIES OVER THE NIGER DELTA DURING A VISIT TO NIGERIA. LAST YEAR AT COP 21 IN PARIS SHE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FOR A NEW FIVE-YEAR ALLIANCE WITH THE PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE, WHILE THE NETHERLANDS BECAME THE SECOND GOVERNMENT AFTER GERMANY TO BACK THE GROUND-BREAKING NEW HUMANITARIAN CONCEPT OF FORECAST-BASED FINANCING. (PHOTO: MARTEN VAN DIJL)

The list of peer-reviewed journal articles emerging from academic collaborations (all published in 2015) includes:

- Suarez, P. 'Rethinking engagement: Innovations in how humanitarians explore geoinformation' in *ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information*, 4 (3): 1729-1749.
- Carr, E.R., Abrahams, D., De la Poterie, A.T., Suarez, P. and Koelle, B. 'Vulnerability assessments, identity and spatial scale challenges in disaster-risk reduction' in *Jamba: Journal of Disaster Risk Studies*, 7:(1) Art. #201, 17 pages.
- Jones, L., Dougill, A., Jones, R., Steynor, A., Watkiss, P., Kane, C., Koelle, B., Moufouma-Okia, W., Padgham, J., Ranger, N., Roux, J.P., Suarez, P., Tanner, T. and Vincent, K. 'Ensuring climate information guides long-term development' in *Nature Climate Change*, 5: 812-814.
- Harteveld, C. and Suarez, P. 'Guest editorial: games for learning and dialogue on humanitarian work' in *Journal of Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Management*, 5 (1): 61-72.
- Coughlan de Perez, E., Van den Hurk, B., Van Aalst, M., Jongman, B., Klose, T. and Suarez, P. 'Forecast-based financing: an approach for catalyzing humanitarian action based on extreme weather and climate forecasts' in *Natural Hazards and Earth System Science*, 15 (4): 895-904.
- Jongman, B., Winsemius, H. C., Aerts, J. C. J. H., Coughlan de Perez, E., Van Aalst, M., Kron, W., and Ward, P. J. 'Declining vulnerability to river floods and the global benefits of adaptation' in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the USA*, 1–10. <http://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1414439112>.
- Ward, P. J., Jongman, B., Salamon, P., Simpson, A., Bates, P., De Groeve, T., Winsemius, H. C. 'Usefulness and limitations of global flood risk models' in *Nature Climate Change*, 5(8), 712–715. <http://doi.org/10.1038/nclimate2742>.
- Coughlan de Perez, E., Nerlander, L., Monasso, F., Van Aalst, M., Mantilla, G., Muli, E., Rumbaitis Del Rio, C. 'Managing health risks in a changing climate: Red Cross operations in East Africa and Southeast Asia' in *Climate and Development*, 7(3), 197–207. <http://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2014.951012>.

- Otto, F. E. L., Coelho, C. A. S., King, A., Coughlan de Perez, E., Wada, Y., van Oldenborgh, G. J., Cullen, H. 'Factors other than climate change, main drivers of 2014/15 water shortage in southeast Brazil' in *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. <http://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-15-00120.1>.
- Jongman, B., Coughlan de Perez, E., Nguyen, T.-B., and Mawanda, S. 'Towards forecast-based humanitarian action for floods in Uganda. Unravelling the Drivers of Flood Risk Across Spatial Scales', VU University Amsterdam.

### 3.4 Educational games

The year included at least 75 distinct games and training sessions, many run for National Societies and multilateral and donor agencies such as the World Bank and the German, Netherlands and UK development ministries. We cooperated closely with the French Red Cross on games during side-events at COP 21.

During the International Forum on Climate Change in Buenos Aires, the Climate Centre facilitated a game for 2,500 participants, our largest single session to date.



ABOUT 2500 PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN A CLIMATE GAME AS PART OF THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE ORGANIZED BY THE ARGENTINE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE – THE LARGEST SINGLE GAME SESSION EVER FACILITATED BY THE CLIMATE CENTRE. MAURICIO SALDIVAR, ADVISER ON METEOROLOGY TO THE ARGENTINE RED CROSS, PABLO SUAREZ, AND CAROLINA VERA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES FACILITATED WHILE PLAYERS IN THE ROLE OF FARMERS HAD TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO PLAN FOR NORMAL WEATHER CONDITIONS OR INVEST IN PROTECTION AGAINST EXCESSIVE RAIN. (PHOTO: ALBA FERRERO/MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERIA Y PESCA)

Participants from the US\$ 1.2 billion Climate Investment Funds (CIF) programme for climate resilience gathered last year to experience Climate Centre games at a meeting of pilot-country representatives. The CIF commissioned the Climate Centre to design a game to highlight the complexities of delivering climate services, and later reported: “Games are a wonderful communications tool. Interacting beats informing. The core conundrum of climate communications is how to convey complexity or scale in ways that don’t feel overwhelming or disempowering.”

The Climate Centre has been supporting the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in its 35-country Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme, which provides add-on grants to existing projects. IFAD’s programme is the largest single source of global finance supporting adaptation by smallholders; it includes improved use of weather forecasts and provides input to national policy-makers. IFAD workshops that covered climate risk used our games to facilitate dialogue in Bangladesh, Djibouti and Laos.

In partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Engagement Lab, the Climate Centre developed educational games for children in Ghana. Through stories, songs and games, they learnt about why, how and when they should wash their hands with soap, in an exercise involving hundreds of children and the Ghanaian government and Red Cross and the organization Right to Play.

In partnership with Plan International and the Engagement Lab, the Climate Centre also developed an educational game for children and young people in South-East Asia that has now been rolled out across that region. It strengthens understanding of local climate impacts and engages players in exploring ideas on what they and their community can do to reduce climate risks, adapt and become more resilient.

Together with the British, Danish and Hungarian Red Cross, the Climate Centre developed a game for urban-flood preparedness, highlighting the importance of planning and cooperation.

Our work on games for risk management is gaining recognition in the academic world, and as noted in Section 3 the Climate Centre has published extensively on the subject, including peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports.

## 4. Mobilizing resources

MOBILIZING RESOURCES INCLUDES financial resources that assist Movement components position as key players and partners for strategic dialogues and practical implementation of climate-smart programmes, as well as for our own programmes, and recruiting the brainpower – the *human* resources – to help the Movement deliver on its commitments, especially through our academic partnerships.

### 4.1 Supporting National Societies

The Climate Centre supported many National Societies with their efforts to mobilize funds for climate-smart DRR and resilience. For instance, the German Red Cross expanded its climate work by securing additional funding from their government for the FbF pilots described in this report.

An example of good strategic collaboration to promote climate risk-management to key external partners were several sessions with National Societies for their corporate partners, involving presentations and climate games facilitated by Dr van Aalst.

The Swedish Red Cross hosted representatives from ministries and donor agencies as well as private-sector CEOs at a private event at Stockholm's Modern Museum. The British Red Cross invited its key corporate collaborators to a session hosted at law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. And the Netherlands Red Cross invited its corporate contacts for a day in Geneva with both ICRC and IFRC staff, again involving a game session and discussion facilitated by the Climate Centre (later followed by a session at Philips in Eindhoven).

The Climate Centre is often asked to provide technical input to proposals by National Societies or be their technical partners, and an example last year was a proposal to involve the Nepal and Finnish Red Cross and the Finnish Meteorological Institute in capacity building for the Nepalese Department of Hydrology and Meteorology that links early warning to preparedness in flood-prone communities in 2016–18.

Another was support to the Maldives Red Crescent Society to analyse adaptation options for local programming. And with the British, Danish and Hungarian Red Cross, we took part in the Community Resilience in Urban Areas project with game development and training for local disaster preparedness in flood-prone areas.

## 4.2 Mobilizing human resources

In 2015, the Climate Centre continued its successful internship programme with a range of universities and we recruited several volunteers from our academic network to support the Red Cross Red Crescent.

Over the years, several former junior researchers have either joined Movement components or moved into relevant positions in partner institutions.

Former interns have also joined our own team. Sanne Hogesteeger, for example, a masters student from the University of Groningen, who did her internship with the Climate Centre while based at the Nairobi office of the IFRC Africa zone, is now PFR project coordinator.

Bridgitte Rudram joined the Climate Centre as an intern researching the role of games in empowering children as agents of adaptation in Indonesia. As a junior programme officer she now leads on the development of an impact evaluation framework for our games.



THE PRESIDENT OF THE VANUATU RED CROSS, ATI GEORGE SOKOMANU, HOLDS A BUSH VINE WHICH LOCAL PEOPLE WERE FORCED TO COOK AND EAT DUE TO THE EL NIÑO-RELATED DROUGHT THAT HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON FOOD PRODUCTION ON NORTH TANNA. (PHOTO: VANUATU RED CROSS)

### 4.3 Financial resources<sup>8</sup>

Besides important support for the PfR programmes and FbF detailed above, another major grant was agreed for Climate Centre participation in World Weather Attribution.

Donor support was also won for our work in the Philippines with the 'FloodTags' consortium of five partners that connects social-media content with academic input for end-users through the Climate Centre.

We joined partners in Southern Africa to apply for the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) Future Climate for Africa initiative, focusing on improved decision-making in Africa for the near future (five to 40 years); we were also supported to take on a major role in the Adaptation at Scale in Semi-Arid Regions project, co-funded by DFID, that promotes research on vulnerability and adaptation in semi-arid regions of Africa and South Asia.



ILUTA LUCE, HEAD OF THE RIGA-BASED RESOURCE CENTER FOR WOMEN, SPEAKS AT AN 'EDD15' EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS SIDE-EVENT ON EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CENTRAL ASIA. ANOTHER PANEL, MODERATED BY THE CLIMATE CENTRE, HEARD THAT WOMEN ARE CRITICAL TO BUILDING RESILIENCE WORLDWIDE. (PHOTO: EUROPEAN COMMISSION)

<sup>8</sup> Included here are efforts for resource mobilization over the past year that include some new initiatives beginning in 2016 or even later.

# 5. External communications

A KEY COMMUNICATIONS milestone was the launch on 8 April, after many weeks of planning, design and drafting, of our revamped website.

With the expansion of our engagement with social media – Twitter, not Facebook – we have also moved significantly closer to our long-term strategic goal of becoming a one-stop-shop for all in the professional community of interest – but principally the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement – concerned with the humanitarian impacts of climate.

## 5.1 The new website

In 2015 the Climate Centre relaunched its website to make it intuitively browsable. The overarching objective has been to make the most important topics and projects *browsable* from the main menu and the associated dropdown items.

Seasonal forecasts, for example, an important tool for decision-making on the ground, are now much more prominent on the home page via a button that opens a subscription dialogue for a new country-specific email notification service provided by IRI (*see below*). (The global chart which is updated monthly and on which seasonal forecasts are based remains available both directly from the home page and via the dropdown menu at the IFRC-IRI ‘map room’.)

The Climate Centre’s games now have their own landing page, where games on specific topics can be easily found and used by anyone.

Reflecting our new intensified engagement with social media, there is now a rolling Twitter window on our home page showing our two most recent tweets.

We’re especially proud of the publications section, where case studies and working papers and also the IFRC’s own climate-related publications can be downloaded.

The website is now also suitable for smartphones, so that information available on our website can be consulted at any moment anywhere.

## 5.2 Support to IFRC communications, web news, video

Our excellent working relations with the IFRC communications department continued to expand and generate dividends in both Geneva and The Hague last year, with periodic ‘cross-promotion’ by one of news stories or opinion pieces generated by the other.

On our website, for example, we ran the 16 March account by IFRC Asia-Pacific Communications Manager Patrick Fuller of the formal announcement in Sendai of its One Billion Coalition for Resilience.

The IFRC later carried our 3 July story about WWA scientists saying it was “virtually certain” climate change increased the likelihood of the European summer heatwave that gave rise to humanitarian concern in several countries.

This was one of two major WWA analyses in 2015 that were picked up by the commercial media – initially Reuters global wire and thereafter by scores of newspapers and broadcast outlets, including at least ten in the Netherlands alone: *De Telegraaf*, RTL, NOS, NPO Radio 1, *NRC*, *Nieuws.nl*, *Zeeburg Nieuws*, *Z24*, *Welingelichte Kringen* and *wereldnieuws.blog.nl*.

The other WWA media event of the year centred on the disastrous, and in places unprecedented, floods in the UK; the timely analysis we contributed was mentioned by many British media reporting on this particular extreme-weather event, including the *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, *Mirror* and *Oxford Mail*, as well as *ITV News*, *bt.com* and *blueandgreentomorrow.com*.

We carried just under 100 web stories, a record, in 2015, some re-runs of other agencies’ relevant stories.

We continued to work with the IFRC secretariat, at its request, on occasional opinion pieces centred on climate for submission to comment editors in the name of the Secretary General – the article that was published on *ifrc.org* on 30 October under the headline, *Building community resilience bridges humanitarian and development goals*, for example.

We also made photographs of French Red Cross participation in the UN climate talks in Paris available to the IFRC and FRC.

Among other events for which we provided multimedia content was the June IFRC workshop in Togo on climate and weather information in early warning, preparedness and response, when staff from 12 French-speaking National Societies came together for the first training workshop of its kind in West Africa.

At the very end of the year, the new email notification system for seasonal climate forecasts was launched by the IFRC and IRI, providing three-month precipitation forecasts for the country or countries of subscribers' choosing, updated monthly, as well as the latest on El Niño/La Niña.

This service – available to Movement disaster managers, staff and volunteers and the product of a three-way collaboration between IFRC, IRI and the Climate Centre – replaced the earlier monthly narrative seasonal forecast posted on our website as a PDF.

As part of our new website we have regrouped our videos onto vimeo.com, initially into *two* Vimeo channels: one for material we generate ourselves and a second for material created by stakeholders and others of interest in our sector.<sup>9</sup> Vimeo does not have quite the reach of YouTube, but the overall look is more professional/corporate and we are able to accurately select 'grabs' to illustrate individual videos.

We arranged for a Ugandan freelance camera operator and producer, Denis Onyodi, to shoot what turned out to be first-class material of the launch of forecast-based financing in Uganda in November, and this coverage will be the centrepiece of a forthcoming production on FbF globally.

Among the detailed media-related briefings we provided in the year was one to the British Red Cross who were trying to raise awareness about drought in the Sahel, centring on support for the Senegal Red Cross.

We also responded to a request from a specialist correspondent with the Associated Press canvassing scientists on what they thought were the five events since the 1997 Kyoto Protocol with the clearest fingerprints of man-made warming.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> In early 2016 we have started to develop a third channel dedicated to FbF.

<sup>10</sup> Our (very provisional) list was: the European heatwaves in 2003 and 2006 jointly; Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy; Cyclone Nargis and Typhoon Haiyan.

### 5.3 Social media

The Climate Centre now spontaneously gathers a handful of new Twitter followers every day, partly through our more systematic use of hashtags and at least five-days-a-week posting. We do not engage on Facebook. (Although we are not pursuing numbers for their own sake on Twitter, and devote no more than one staff hour per day to social media, we became the most followed IFRC reference centre in 2016, which is arguably appropriate given the scope and increasing importance of our mandate.<sup>11</sup>)

We believe we are now reaching a significant cross-section of the professional community of interest on Twitter, including numerous National Societies at headquarters and branch level, as well as (not surprisingly) youth wings, and all major humanitarian donors. We are also included in many relevant user-lists. Last year, broadly speaking, is seen as the year in which we broke through on social media, vindicating the initial decision to engage with it.



NICARAGUAN DELEGATES AT THE PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE GLOBAL CONFERENCE AT KOORENHUIS, THE HAGUE, IN OCTOBER. "WE WANT TO MOVE FROM FINDING, PILOTING AND DEVELOPING NEW APPROACHES, AND FUNDING THESE ACTIVITIES, TO SCALING UP AND INTEGRATING YOUR EXPERIENCES INTO POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES," NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, KEES RADE, TOLD ITS CLOSING SESSION. (PHOTO: CLIMATE CENTRE)

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<sup>11</sup> We had more than 1,900 Twitter followers in mid-July 2016.

# 6. Following the future

AS AN IFRC reference centre, the Climate Centre has an important role in monitoring and shaping emerging discussions relevant to our field. In 2015, such areas included algorithms that learn for early warning of floods, anticipatory social protection, and art and culture for humanitarianism, as well as continued work in geo-engineering, volcanoes and climate, and other innovations.

## 6.1 Algorithms that learn for early warning

In June 2014 the Climate Centre engaged for the first time in the emerging field of human computation, which aims to leverage the strengths of both machines and computers in combined systems that exceeds the best that either can do alone. The year 2015 offered remarkable opportunities for humanitarian engagement in this field, particularly in support of FbF for disaster preparedness for locations where data scarcity makes it impossible to use conventional forecasting approaches.

In collaboration with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), through its 'Code for Resilience' initiative, the Climate Centre has developed a vision for blending the distributed presence of volunteers with the learning capabilities of algorithms that can interpret the past to assess future flood risks through an innovative mathematical approach named 'FUNES' for *functional estimation*.

As a result, volunteers will collect rainfall data on the Mono river basin upstream of the Nangbeto dam, and a specially designed hydrological model will forecast the volume of water expected to reach the reservoir with a few days of anticipation. This forecast will in turn enable dam operators to plan releases, including any that can be expected to cause flooding downstream. When these signals indicate that flood impacts are likely, the Togo Red Cross and their partners will be able to activate standard operating procedures for disaster preparedness under the FbF pilot.

THE CLIMATE CENTRE FACILITATED A TRIAL SESSION OF THE NEW GAME ACT TO ADAPT IN A SIDE-EVENT AT THE WCDDRR CONFERENCE IN SENDAI. DEVELOPED WITH PLAN INTERNATIONAL AND THE ENGAGEMENT GAME LAB, THE GAME ENABLES PLAYERS TO INHABIT COMPLEX REALITIES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND TEST YOUTH-LED STRATEGIES FOR ADAPTATION. (PHOTO: PLAN INTERNATIONAL)



The first prototype of FUNES is now functional, and is expected to be tested and deployed during 2016. Current explorations for better tailoring this approach to Red Cross FbF needs include conversations with developers of technologies that allow for programmable money transactions and smart contracts to trigger disbursements.

## **6.2 Social protection**

Social protection helps individuals and societies manage risk and volatility and protects them from poverty and destitution through safety nets like cash transfers and food-for-work programmes. They offer rich opportunities for embedding climate-smart dimensions into their operations, and could become an important channel for international climate finance, delivered at scale to the most vulnerable. However, until now social protection schemes have seldom explicitly integrated climate and disaster risk management.

During 2015, the Climate Centre invested in understanding and promoting the full consideration of the potential for integrating climate-smart dimensions into social protection to improve resilience – linking climate science by enabling safety nets to respond faster or even anticipate needs before extreme events materialize.

By generating knowledge and evidence, as well as innovative tools and approaches for learning, design and evaluation, the Climate Centre supports the humanitarian sector in initiatives aimed at integrating climate-risk management into social protection.

In August 2015 we led the design and facilitation of an interactive workshop on adaptive social protection hosted by the World Bank. The main channels for advancing this work include BRACED, PfR, and collaborations with policy research partners.

## **6.3 Geoengineering**

The scientific and policy realm continues to pay increasing attention to geoengineering, and the Climate Centre is seen as a key player in the humanitarian dimension of the debate, which is now propelled by the COP 21 agreement.

In 2015 Pablo Suarez engaged in various geoengineering initiatives, including the European Transdisciplinary Assessment of Climate Engineering, which published its final report for the research community and policy-makers; he also took part in discussions by the Solar Radiation Management Governance Initiative and the Forum for Climate Engineering Assessment.

The Climate Centre has also explored ways to address the potential humanitarian consequences of volcanic eruptions that can change regional climates by blocking sunlight, developing a concept note aimed at understanding potential regional impacts, and suggesting a task force of experts, donors, humanitarian agencies and others who could help plan measures to manage it.

## 6.4 Humanitarians and the arts

In the past the Climate Centre has engaged in exploratory conversations with various entities from the world of the arts interested in helping influence culture to raise awareness about changing climate risks. The year 2015 has seen a step change in such collaborations.

An article entitled *Climate Risks, Art, and Red Cross Red Crescent Action: Towards a Humanitarian Role for Museums?* examines three questions. How can the Red Cross Red Crescent promote inspiration, reflection and debate on climate issues working together with museums and civic institutes where art is used for public benefit? How can we help accelerate action by influencing culture? Can we mobilize the power of humanity to address climate risks through innovative uses of art? It synthesizes recent collaborations between the Climate Centre and talented artists from music, film and sculpture.

Promising collaborations include the partnership with the Applied Improvisation Network, which takes techniques from improvisational theatre and jazz to help the humanitarian and development sector be better prepared to deliver in the face of the unknown, the collaboration with culinary artists like Pierre Thiam through events like Taste the Change at COP 21 in Paris, Tomas Saraceno's AEROCENE at COP 20 in Lima, and climate-infused experiences at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

BENEFICIARIES OF THE PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE PROGRAMME IN INDONESIA. THE COUNTRY WAS THE FIFTH MOST DISASTER-AFFECTED IN 2015, ACCORDING TO DATA FROM THE BRUSSELS-BASED CENTRE FOR RESEARCH ON THE EPIDEMIOLOGY OF DISASTERS. (PHOTO: YUS RUSILA NOOR/WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL)



# 7. Finance and administration

## 7.1 Income

The Climate Centre received the bulk of its income in 2015 from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DFID and the German and Norwegian Red Cross.

National Societies that have contributed financially either to core costs or specific activities are:

- American Red Cross
- British Red Cross
- Danish Red Cross
- French Red Cross
- German Red Cross
- Netherlands Red Cross
- Norwegian Red Cross
- Swiss Red Cross

The other financial contributors to Climate Centre programmes came from ASSAR, the European Commission, IDRC, IFAD, the Norwegian University of Life Sciences, PLACARD, Plan International, UNICEF, WMO, and the World Bank.

We thank all of them warmly for the generous collaboration.

Our budget for 2016 shows €3,354,000 in expected income against costs amounting to €3,330,000, which gives a balance of €24,000.

## 7.2 Organization

The Climate Centre is an independent foundation under Dutch law and has three board members responsible for management. One is nominated by the NLRC, one by the IFRC, and the third sits as an independent chair selected jointly by the NLRC and IFRC.

The Climate Centre remains grateful to its hosts, the Netherlands Red Cross in The Hague. Each year the Centre receives support from many different departments of the NLRC and benefits from the expertise of its human resources, legal and financial departments.

### **7.3 Governing board**

The board of the Climate Centre now comprises:

- E.H.T.M. Nijpels, Chair of NL Ingenieurs (Dutch association of consulting engineers), former Netherlands Minister of the Environment
- Walter Cotte, Under Secretary General, IFRC; now succeeded by Garry Conille, both as Under Secretary General of the IFRC and on the board of the Climate Centre
- Gijs de Vries, Treasurer and Director General, NLRC.

The board convened in June and December 2015.

### **7.4 Management and team**

The Climate Centre's office is located in The Hague, Netherlands. Many of its team members are based around the world, facilitating regional or in-country support to IFRC offices, National Societies and partners. We have a strong network of counterparts in a range of IFRC offices, National Societies, and partner institutions, as well as several expert consultants.

In 2015, the Climate Centre welcomed 12 new members to the team from all over the world, bringing a variety of expertise and helping to bridge policy, science, and practice across our programmes.

The Climate Centre's director is Dr Maarten van Aalst, who combines a background in atmospheric science with extensive experience in the management of climate risk in policy and practice; he is also a Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

The management team of the Climate Centre comprises:

- Maarten van Aalst, Director
- Pablo Suarez, Associate Director of Research and Innovation
- Fleur Monasso, Manager, Capacity Building and Partnerships
- Carina Bachofen, Manager, Policy and Partnerships
- Erin Coughlan de Perez, Manager, Climate Science.

# 8. Annual accounts 2015

## Balance sheet as at 31 December 2015 (in euros)

### After appropriation of the result

Assets	12/31/15	12/31/14	Liabilities	12/31/15	12/31/14
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets (1)	7,368	4,637	Unrestricted reserves		
Current assets			– going concern reserve (4)	552,346	602,188
Accounts receivable and prepayments (2)	787,019	385,901	Restricted funds		
Cash and cash equivalents (3)	432,044	480,027	– donor restricted funds (5)	22,566	23,916
			Total equity	574,912	626,104
			Short-term liabilities (6)	651,519	244,461
	<b>1,226,431</b>	<b>870,565</b>		<b>1,226,431</b>	<b>870,565</b>

## Statement of income and expenditure for 2015 (in euros)

<b>Income</b>	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2014</b>
<b>Income from own fund-raising</b>			
Gifts and donations (7)	552,595	489,440	477,485
Government grants (8)	1,304,529	899,710	767,772
Other income and expenditures	10,308	-	3,517
<b>Total available for Climate Centre's objectives</b>	<b>1,867,432</b>	<b>1,389,150</b>	<b>1,248,774</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>Climate Centre operations</b>			
– own activities (9)	1,793,277	1,394,150	1,142,334
– general operating costs (10)	125,348	9,659	97,969
<b>Total expenditure for Climate Centre's objectives</b>	<b>1,918,625</b>	<b>1,384,491</b>	<b>1,240,303</b>
<b>Balance for the year</b>	<b>-51,192</b>	<b>4,659</b>	<b>8,471</b>
<b>Appropriation of balance for the year</b>			
– donor restricted funds	-1,350	-	-3,226
– going concern reserve	-49,842	4,659	11,697
	<b>-51,192</b>	<b>4,659</b>	<b>8,471</b>

This year the Climate Centre incurred a small deficit, but this is being offset against previous annual surpluses; and we have made significant investments this year from reserves to strengthen our expanding structures.

**Brief summary**

	Actual 2015	Budget 2015	Actual 2014
<b>Donor restricted funds</b>			
- Income	-	-	-
- Expenditure	1,350	-	3,226
	<u>-1 350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-3 226</u>
<b>Going concern reserve</b>			
- Income	1,867,432	1,389,150	1,248,774
- Expenditure	1,917,275	1,384,491	1,237,077
	<u>-49,842</u>	<u>4,659</u>	<u>11,697</u>
	<b>-51,192</b>	<b>4,659</b>	<b>8,471</b>

## Notes

The 2015 financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the guidelines for annual reporting C1 “small not-for-profit organizations” (*Richtlijn Verslaggeving Organisaties zonder winststreven*) edition 2015. They aim to give an understanding of income and expenditure and the overall financial position of the Climate Centre.

## Principles of valuation and presentation

### General

The financial statements have been drawn up on the historic costs. Unless stated otherwise, the assets and liabilities are posted at nominal value. Balance-sheet items in foreign currencies are converted at the rate on the date of the balance sheet, and the ensuing gains or losses in exchange are recorded in the statement of income and expenditure under the heading “investment revenues”. Unless stated otherwise, all amounts are given in euros.

The Climate Centre is statutory based in The Hague, The Netherlands and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under number 27267681.

### Changes in accounting policies

By applying the guidelines for annual reporting C1 “Small not-for-profit organisations”, edition 2015, income and expenses will be recognized in the statement of income and expenses based on the matching principle.

The cumulative effect of the change in accounting policies on the equity as per 31 December 2014 is a decrease of the equity with €24,435.

The cumulative effect of the change in accounting policies on the result of book year 2014 is €118,938.

Comparative figures 2014 are changed as a consequence of book 2, article 363, sub 5 of the Dutch Civil Code.

Short-term debts as per 31 December 2014 increased as a consequence of this change to the amount of €24,435.

### **Financial instruments**

Financial instruments of the entity include receivables, cash items and also trade creditors and other payables. Financial instruments are initially stated at fair value, including discount of premium and directly attributable transaction costs. After initial recognition financial instruments are valued in the manner as described below.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

These are stated at acquisition cost less cumulative depreciation. Depreciation is calculated as a percentage of the acquisition cost, according to the straight-line method on the basis of useful life.

### **Accounts receivable**

Receivables are carried at amortised costs using the effective interest method (for the entity equalling the nominal value) less any bad debt provision deemed necessary.

### **Trade creditors and other payables**

Trade creditors and other payables are carried at amortised costs using the effective interest method (for the entity equalling the nominal value).

### **Principles for determination of the result**

Costs and revenues are allocated to the period to which they relate. The entity pension plan is a defined contribution pension plan. Obligations for the contribution to this plan are recognised as an expense in the statement of income and expense as incurred.

### **Government grants**

Grants that the provider has made dependent upon the costs of a project are included in the statement of income and expenditure for the year in which the subsidized expenditure was incurred.

## **Salaries**

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre follows the Netherlands Red Cross collective agreement (CAO).

The Netherlands Red Cross has its own CAO that is concluded with trade union FNV Abvakabo since 2006. Regarding the remuneration of employees the following is set: The starting point for determining the salary scale function is the function. To this end, all the functions arranged into a number of groups, called functional groups. Each function contains a number of features that are approximately equivalent. The severity of a function is determined by a job description. For each function there is a certain salary scale with a minimum and maximum salary. These salary ranges are part of the collective agreement.

## Notes to the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015 (in euros)

<b>Tangible fixed assets (1)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Acquisition cost at 1 January	4,637	2,954
Investments (computers)	6,673	3,737
Disinvestments	-833	-
Depreciation charged for year (33.33%)	-3,109	-2,054
<b>Book value at 31 December</b>	<b>7,368</b>	<b>4,637</b>
<b>Accounts receivable and prepayments (2)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Receivables re activities	769,199	383,578
Accrued interest and other receivables	17,820	2,323
<b>Total</b>	<b>787,019</b>	<b>385,901</b>
Almost all receivables have a remaining term of less than 1 year.		
<b>Cash and cash equivalents (3)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Current accounts	432,044	480,027
<b>Total</b>	<b>432,044</b>	<b>480,027</b>

## Equity

In accordance with the aforementioned guidelines, the Climate Centre's equity is broken down into restricted funds and unrestricted reserves. Restricted, earmarked funds are that part of equity to which a third party has dictated a specific use, and the Climate Centre can only use these funds for that purpose. The remaining equity is reported as unrestricted. The going-concern reserve will be allocated as unrestricted funding to carry out activities according to the mandate of the Climate Centre, as described in the articles of association.

<b>Going concern reserve (4)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Balance at 1 January	602,188	590,491
Appropriation of balance for the year	<u>-49,842</u>	<u>11,697</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>552,346</b>	<b>602,188</b>

<b>Restricted funds (5)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Balance at 1 January	48,351	27,142
Changes in accounting policies	<u>-24,435</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at 1 January after changes in accounting policies	23,916	27,142
Appropriation of balance for the year	<u>-1,350</u>	<u>-3,226</u>
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>22,566</b>	<b>23,916</b>

	<b>Balance 1-Jan</b>	<b>Appropriation of balance</b>		<b>Balance 31-Dec</b>
		<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	
IASC	18,452	-	-	18,452
Audiovisuals	5,464	-	1,350-	4,114
	<b>23,916</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,350-</b>	<b>22,566</b>

The donor-restricted funds include the portion of equity that may be used only for certain purposes, either because a third-party (donor) has stipulated the restriction or because the money was collected for a specific purpose. Allocations to the donor-restricted funds are determined according to the specific purposes for which gifts and donations are given.

The Climate Centre's policy is to spend the restricted funds within three years of the stipulation being made.

<b>Short-term debts (6)</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
Accounts payable	177,106	77,576
Taxes and social security premiums	14,784	9,314
Pension	30,498	-
Other creditors	283,601	133,136
Project related funds	145,530	24, 435
<b>Total</b>	<b>651,519</b>	<b>244,461</b>

<b>Project related Funds</b>	<b>Balance 1-Jan</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Balance 31-Dec</b>
GFCS	2,679	26,728	29,407-	-
Plan Games	6,308	12,415	18,094-	629
IDAMS (European Commission)	12,838	6,335	17,618-	1,556
Climate Training Kit (Canadian Red Cross)	2,610	2,940-	330	-
Norwegian University of Live Sciences	-	24,044	10,069-	13,975
Norway Core Advocacy	-	154,678	154,089-	589
IFAD	-	64,429	22,256-	42,173
UNICEF	-	51,817	49,194-	2,623
PLACARD	-	29,469	1,148-	28,321
Ireland Resilience	-	37,147	18,864-	18,283
FCFAI	-	32,552	7,104-	25,448
FbF Dar Es Salaam	-	12,017	4,014-	8,003
Amcross Heatwave Nairobi	-	26,128	22,197-	3,931
	<b>24,435</b>	<b>474,819</b>	<b>353,724-</b>	<b>145,530</b>

## **Assets and liabilities not recognised in balance sheet**

Liabilities not recognised:

At the time of issuing the financial statements an (internal) investigation is ongoing to verify whether the Foundation is an entrepreneur for the VAT.

The outcome of this investigation is still pending.

## Notes to the statement of income and expenditure for 2015 (in euros)

<b>Gifts and donations (7)</b>	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2014</b>
PNSs: Netherlands Red Cross	28,665	180,000	25,000
German Red Cross	65,884		53,564
Danish Red Cross	34,667		-
American Red Cross	34,093		46,529
Swiss Red Cross	13,960		12,236
British Red Cross	34,784		6,061
Norwegian Red Cross	154,089		118,184
French Red Cross	1,621		
Other contributions	-		66,543
	<b>367,763</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>328,117</b>
IIED		-	-
Global Environment Facility		-	-
Norwegian University of Live Sciences	10,069	43,000	43,274
IDAMS (European Commission)	17,618	27,000	3,975
ACCRA	-	-	14,644
World Bank	12,024	-	15,833
Research Forecast Thresholds (GDPC)	-	-	21,814
IFAD	22,256	62,740	26,457
Global Framework for Climate Services (WMO/IFRC)	29,407	26,500	18,884
Plan international	18,094	22,200	4,487
UNICEF	49,194	98,000	-
ASSAR	14,378	-	-
PLACARD	1,148	-	-
Proud of my Purok NPL	3,540	30,000	-
FCFA	7,104	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>552,595</b>	<b>489,440</b>	<b>477,485</b>

<b>Government grants (8)</b>	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2014</b>
Partners for Resilience (Dutch Government / MFS II)	476,103	370,000	451,473
CDKN (Department for International Development)	115,323	180,000	207,325
Forecast Based Financing (MoFa)	332,160	-	-
ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)	5,988	-	-
USAID Zambia	-	-	68,093
Strengthening community resilience Ethiopia (Dutch Government; Chronic Crisis)	75,884	130,000	16,764
DFID / BRACED	299,071	219,710	24,117
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,304,529</b>	<b>899,710</b>	<b>767,772</b>

#### **Climate Centre operations (9)**

<b>Own activities</b>	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2014</b>
Salaries attributed to projects	978,704	922,000	471,859
Other employment expenses	135,306	472,150	113,535
Consultants/volunteers	512,772		520,357
Office and housings costs	152,831		38,677
Campaign materials	14,064		-
Other direct costs	400		2,094
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,793,277</b>	<b>1,394,150</b>	<b>1,142,334</b>

<b>Climate Centre Operations (10)</b>			
General operating costs	<b>Actual 2015</b>	<b>Budget 2015</b>	<b>Actual 2014</b>
<b>Employment expenses</b>			
Salaries	245,844	374,129	165,611
Salaries foreign staff	208,339	317,055	202,879
Long term consultants	444,206		
Social security charges	36,386	55,373	24,594
Pension contributions	34,685	52,784	23,382
Attributed to projects	978,704-	922,000-	471,859-
	<b>9 244-</b>	<b>122,659-</b>	<b>55,393-</b>
Other employment expenses	25,089	} 113,000	15,065
Consultants/volunteers	69,178		49,717
Office and housings costs	37,377		40,878
Other general costs	2,948		47,702
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,348</b>	<b>9,659-</b>	<b>97,969</b>

During the financial year, the average number of (part-time) employees was eight (2014, six) of whom three were employed outside the Netherlands (2014, three).

No board member has received a salary, loans or guarantees.

The Hague, 30th of June 2016

Board of Governors

Mr E.H.T.M. Nijpels

*Chairman*

Mr G. De Vries

*Treasurer*

Mr W. Cotte

*Member of the board*

# Other information

## **Independent auditor's report**

To the board of governors of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre:

## **Report on the financial statements**

We have audited the 2015 financial statements of the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, based in The Hague, comprising the balance sheet as at 31 December 2015, the statement of income and expenditure for the year ending then, and including a summary of accounting policies and other explanatory information.

## **Management's responsibility**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements and for the preparation of the management board report in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting C1 "small not-for-profit organizations". Furthermore management is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## **Auditor's responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Dutch law, including the Dutch Standards on Auditing. This requires that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depends on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error. In making such risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre on 31 December 2015, and of its result for the year ended on that day in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting C1 “small not-for-profit-organizations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board.

## **Report on management board report**

We have no deficiencies to report as a result of our examination whether the management board report, to the extent we can assess, has been prepared in accordance with the Guideline for annual reporting C1 “small not-for-profit organizations” of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. Further, we report that the management board report, to the extent we can assess, is consistent with the financial statements.

The Hague, 30th of June 2016

MDM accountants B. V.

w.s. R. Munnikhof AA

## **Colophon**

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