



Kingdom of the Netherlands

## VOICES FOR CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2021 ART & CLIMATE JUSTICE RESEARCH

#### Background

The mean global temperature has increased by +1.1 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial baseline with increasingly frequent and extreme climatic events, threatening to drive another 100 million people into poverty by 2030. COVID-19 may greatly exacerbate these impacts, resulting in significant backsliding against the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate change affects the enjoyment of indivisible, interdependent and interrelated human rights, hitting the most vulnerable, the hardest and threatening to increase existing inequalities. We are at a critical juncture, not only in our fight against the climate crisis, but also in addressing the economic and social challenges to transform our societies in a sustainable, just and inclusive manner. Civil society needs to engage and have a voice to influence climate change policies. Business as usual will no longer suffice and is no longer appropriate.

In response, an alliance of 6 organizations - the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Netherlands, SouthSouthNorth (SSN), Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA), Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Fundación Avina and Hivos - have joined hands to create the “**Voices for Climate Action**” (VCA) Programme, a lobby and advocacy initiative supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the “Power of Voices” framework, which is being implemented in seven countries of the Global South: Bolivia, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, Paraguay, Tunisia and Zambia. **The VCA Programme aims to ensure that by 2025, local civil society and underrepresented groups will have taken on a central role as creators, facilitators and advocates of innovative and inclusive climate solutions.** Their inclusion is crucial for effective and lasting climate responses. It is also crucial, and because the climate crisis is also a societal challenge with ethical and human rights aspects occurring alongside a number of inequalities based on gender, socioeconomic class, race, ethnicity, nationality, ability, sexual orientation, and age.

The overall approach of the Programme is to work with civil society to build widespread societal support for locally-shaped climate solutions through an inclusive and rights-based approach. This includes building a broad-based climate alliance at country level, bridging divides (urban-rural, gender, youth) that amplifies voices in new unusual ways. In addition, it will influence national and global policies and financial flows (e.g. climate finance, private sector investments) in support of these locally-shaped solutions.

#### ***Climate Justice approach***

Climate change is essentially a human rights issue because of its devastating effect on human life - and on human rights. It exacerbates existing inequalities between rich and poor, sexes, generations, ethnic groups and communities. It undermines democracy and threatens the economy and sustainable development at large. Likewise, by far the greatest burden falls on those already in poverty and on marginalised groups such as Indigenous peoples and traditional communities, the rural and urban poor, women and youth, although they are the least responsible

for climate change. Through a climate justice approach, the Programme intends to foster an expanded civic space where civil society voices, in particular those of vulnerable people are heard on climate action.

In this sense, women, youth and other marginalised groups often have critical perspectives on power structures and alternative approaches to the climate crisis. The alliance formed under the “**Voices for Climate Action**” Programme believes in the perspective of visibility of protagonism, in the inclusion of diversity, in alternative approaches and in female leadership as the key to ensuring that the voices of marginalised groups are heard. Climate transitions are intrinsically political - which means that civil society must navigate in a new emerging civic space, often creative and digital, and be open to innovation and the co-construction of solutions with new actors and movements. In addition, the programme will influence policies and financial flows (climate finance, private sector investments) in support of these locally-shaped solutions.

We believe that part of these solutions will come through partnerships/coalitions between formal and/or informal organizations.

### **About Hivos**

**Hivos** is an international development organisation guided by humanist values. Together with citizens and their organisations, we aim to contribute towards just, inclusive and life-sustaining societies where people have equal access to opportunities, rights and resources. We work in partnership with others in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America on three impact areas: Civic Rights; Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Climate Justice. Our approach is solution-driven, and we build wider movements for change by amplifying and connecting voices.

### **Art and Climate Justice**

In recent times, climate change is reflected more and more in the arts. This has resulted in the art is being used increasingly as an advocacy tool to lobby for policy change and communicate key messages within the civic space. Artists such as John Akomfrah from Ghana who uses film as a medium to communicate action-oriented climate movements across a wide variety of ecological landscapes are quickly gaining popularity and changing the climate justice narrative through their work. Other grassroots movements like 350 Africa have launched the “Just Recovery Art Challenge” which engages artists using various mediums (Music, Videos Drawings and sculptures) to share their vision of the future of South Africa through a climate justice lens. Recently, African Crossroads, a community of future-oriented African thinkers and doers who critically reflects on the most cutting-edge entrepreneurial, scientific, artistic, and technological developments used art to communicate key climate justice messages and spur creative conversation virtually across there African continent.

Art can serve as a form of recognition and representation of history, lack of justice and impact especially in the case of art created by and for marginalized communities who are denied space in the public sphere. In 2021, Brazilian artist Mundano has used ash from the burned Amazon rainforest to create a street mural in Sao Paulo of a firefighter standing amid deforestation, fires and dead animals. He has also used this medium to communicate key messages about the destruction of the amazon at COP 26, the world largest climate conference.

In Climate justice, the communities impacted most, often do not have access to the mainstream climate change conversations, such as COP 26 and are often excluded from sharing their challenges and perspectives. These initiatives, among others, are having significant impact in involv-

ing youth, women and marginalised groups in climate justice conversations and enabling them to share their perspectives far and wide.

On the other hand, some artists express their feelings and messages through artistic mediums unintentionally touching on climate justice issues but ultimately contributing to the conversation. Vidushi Yadav, a feminist and activist from India whose work focuses on gender justice has recently incorporated climate activism in her work. The intersectionality of Gender and Climate is now more obvious than ever before which means that many gender issues are exacerbated by climate injustice. Vidushi's most recent piece showcases a woman cradling a burning world in her lap. The imagery through a feminist lens speaks volumes about the plight of women in today's world but also speaks volumes about climate justice issues.

Art is a medium that enables anyone, regardless of whatever language they speak, their age, gender, nationality or social economic background be able to express, explore and participate in the climate justice conversation. This allows these communities to be able to share their indigenous knowledge and traditions which could be a key part of fighting climate change.

Currently mainstream decision making does not always consider local solutions and indigenous knowledge. In addition, indigenous communities do not have the know how to effectively communicate their climate justice issues or challenges in the language policy makers are used to. Art provides a good middle ground to convey the challenges faced by various local communities to the policy makers such as in the case of Mundano.

Art is a vital tool in mobilising and strengthening movements around the world as it enables people to quickly and powerfully communicate innovative ideas and issues for positive change. Various mediums including visual art, music, film, poetry and sculpture among others have a strong appeal to different people which enables further reach of advocacy efforts.

Developments in the digital world have also further amplified the reach of creatives via social media and other digital spaces. We see new forms of artists such as crypto-artists who develop art through blockchain Non Fungible Tokens's (NFT's). Nigerian Osinachi, Africa's premier crypto-artist has stated that NFT's have given him great "visibility". This visibility could be useful in communicating climate justice messages globally even though blockchain technology is already being questioned for its massive carbon footprint.

## Research Study

Hivos is looking for a research institution or individual to map the existing climate justice advocacy work which integrates art in it. We would like to identify artists, initiatives, collectives, and communities who are integrating art as a medium for advocacy and their impact on the climate justice conversation. We are looking to learn from these initiatives and determine which patterns, successes and failures exist in these conversations and their impact in moving the climate justice conversation forward.

From this research we will determine key outcomes, and successful elements of these art campaigns to develop recommendations for VCA partners and the wider Hivos community. We would like to learn to what level the campaigns were successful and what impact they have versus other advocacy methods.

**Locations:** Global - (Preferred Kenya, Zambia, Tunisia, Brazil, Indonesia, Bolivia, Paraguay )

## Application procedure

Proposals must be presented in containing the following:

1. **Name of the entity and representative** with name and contact of the responsible person that will sign the consultancy agreement
2. **Research experience** specifically relevant to this consultancy
3. **Proposed methodology** to mapping the artists, collectives and communities including desktop research and field visits.
4. **Proposed outcomes** of your activities; and the change you aim to achieve
5. **Work Plan** that briefly outlines proposed activities, including a simple schedule, time frame for activities for a period of 3 months
6. **Budget** of all planned activities including travel

Proposals sent after the deadline will be considered **invalid**.

Send your application as a single PDF document to [wmuchiri@hivos.org](mailto:wmuchiri@hivos.org) by **November 30th 2021**. In the subject, please indicate “**VCA Art & Climate Justice Research Proposal**”