



Helping People and
The Planet Thrive



Why CARE & World Wildlife Fund Are Advocating Together for Responsible US Climate Change Policy

CARE & WWF Advocating Together

SELEMANE HUSSEIN, AGE 32, AND HIS FAMILY LIVE IN HORDA, A SMALL SUBURB OF ANGOCHE, CLOSE TO THE SEA IN MOZAMBIQUE. FOR GENERATIONS, SELEMANE'S FAMILY HAS DEPENDED ON THE OCEAN FOR THEIR FOOD AND INCOME. "I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT NATURE, BECAUSE WE DEPEND ON IT. IT'S SIMPLE; IF WE DON'T CATCH ENOUGH FISH, WE WILL HAVE NOTHING TO EAT, NOR WILL WE HAVE MONEY TO BUY FOOD."

Climate change is a global problem that threatens us all, but the heaviest burden falls on people living in extreme poverty — the majority of whom are women and girls — and the species and natural areas on which these communities rely for their sustenance and livelihoods. People in poverty already live on the edge of crisis. Climate change threatens to push them over that edge, deepening poverty and exacerbating pressures on natural systems.

The threat of climate change to the most vulnerable and marginalized people demands more than a "business-as-usual" approach from governments and development and conservation programs. Infrastructure, resources and initiatives pledged today will have ramifications for years and decades to come. Without properly addressing climate change, we threaten to undermine decades of development and conservation progress, render current resources and activities ineffective and leave people in extreme poverty.



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Consider northern Mozambique, where WWF has worked with fishermen to protect coral reefs and CARE has specialized in developing economic opportunities for poor families, especially women. As partners, CARE and WWF have helped turn traditional fishing associations into hubs of training and innovation for a sustainable future. Overburdened women are learning conservation agriculture techniques that allow them to farm land closer to home, producing more cassava (a food crop) with less effort. Artisanal fishermen have formed patrols to monitor no-fishing zones, understanding that the protected area enables fish to reproduce and grow, hence increasing the amount, size, and variety of fish caught outside the no-fishing zone. But climate change, predicted to increase drought in the region and hasten the bleaching of the reef, threatens to undue all these hard-fought gains and create a downward spiral of ecological and economic decline. That's why CARE and WWF — in a united voice that speaks for the planet and its people — are committed to pushing for responsible U.S. climate change policy.

CARE and WWF are specifically advocating that the US:

1. Provide robust funding to meet its short-term international climate finance commitments and contribute its fair share to long-term financial needs;
2. Support an integrated adaptation approach in developing countries that is pro-poor and pro-ecosystem;
3. Support efforts to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in a way that ensures social and environmental integrity;
4. Promote comprehensive food security strategies that take climate change into account and integrate environmental sustainability and women's empowerment; and
5. Recognize the implications of the poverty/climate change link in the need for reducing domestic greenhouse gas pollutants and in generating its foreign policy.

Our organizations are drawing on our respective platforms and combined 100+ years of experience working in developing countries to articulate the importance of the poverty-environment nexus and raise the profile of climate change impacts on international development and conservation efforts.



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We are on the frontlines with the people facing poverty and the worst consequences of a changing climate. Together we support their efforts to prepare for and mitigate climate change in the most effective and sustainable way possible.