Poor people already live on the front lines of poverty, environmental degradation and natural disaster. Their livelihoods and food security depend directly on agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Their economies will suffer most from the heightened frequency of extreme droughts, floods and storms associated with climate change. There is a real risk that climate change could undermine efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We must not let that happen. Nor, on the other hand, should we pursue the goals in a way that exacerbates climate change.

- Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations

(Source: The Climate Group, British Council project NorthSouthEastWest)

At the crossroads of poverty reduction and climate change

new challenges, new opportunities

Dr. Charles Ehrhart
CARE International
Poverty-Climate Change Coordinator


People in the poor, vulnerable communities where we work tell us their climate is changing
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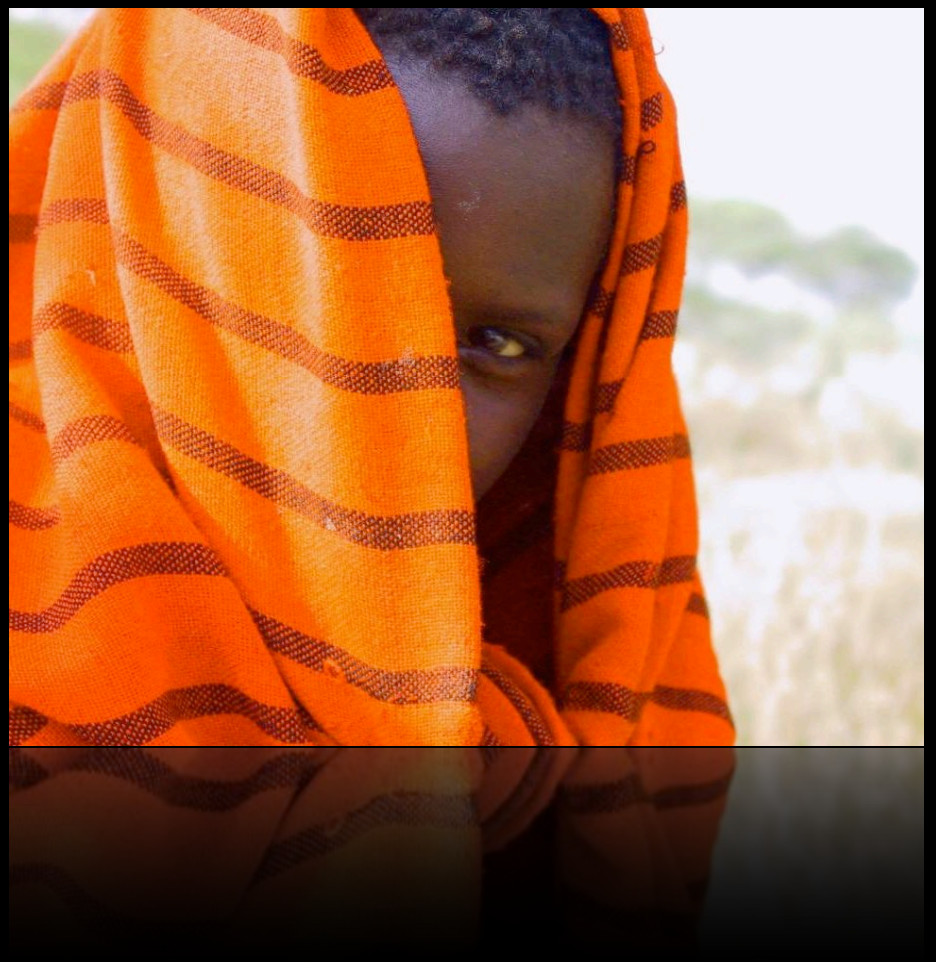
They note changes in :

- Temperature (averages and dangerous extremes)
- Total rainfall
- Seasonality (especially when the rains come, how long they last and overall predictability)
- The intensity and frequency of storms, floods and droughts



CARE staff report changing climatic conditions affecting:

- Food security
- The availability of water
- Health
- The productivity & viability of natural resource-based livelihoods
- The range of people's livelihood opportunities
- The frequency & intensity of natural resource conflicts.

Photo credits: Baku-Ceyhan Campaign/DigitalVision

Climate change is an "*underlying cause of poverty*" in that triggers, or worsens, a wide range of immediate and intermediate causes of poverty.

Defending dignity, fighting poverty

Photo credits: C. Ehrhart

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Help especially poor and vulnerable communities ADAPT to climate change.

Help reduce atmospheric GHGs and, in so doing, MITIGATE dangerous climate change.

A hotter, wilder climate

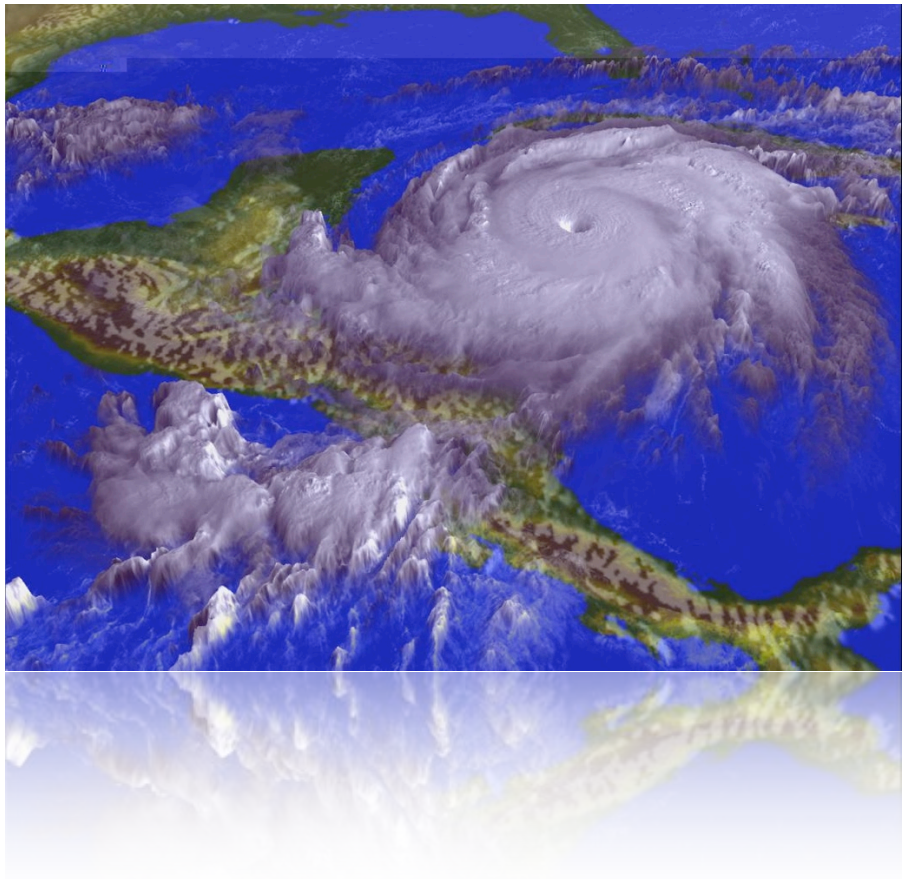
and other NGOs already have the critical skills, experience and relationships to make a difference...

We can:

Provide POLICY SUPPORT to public and private sector institutions so that they can contribute more effectively to mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Addressing the *challenge* of climate change

- Integrating climate change considerations into all aspects of programming
- Community-based adaptation to climate change



Integration: Strategic level

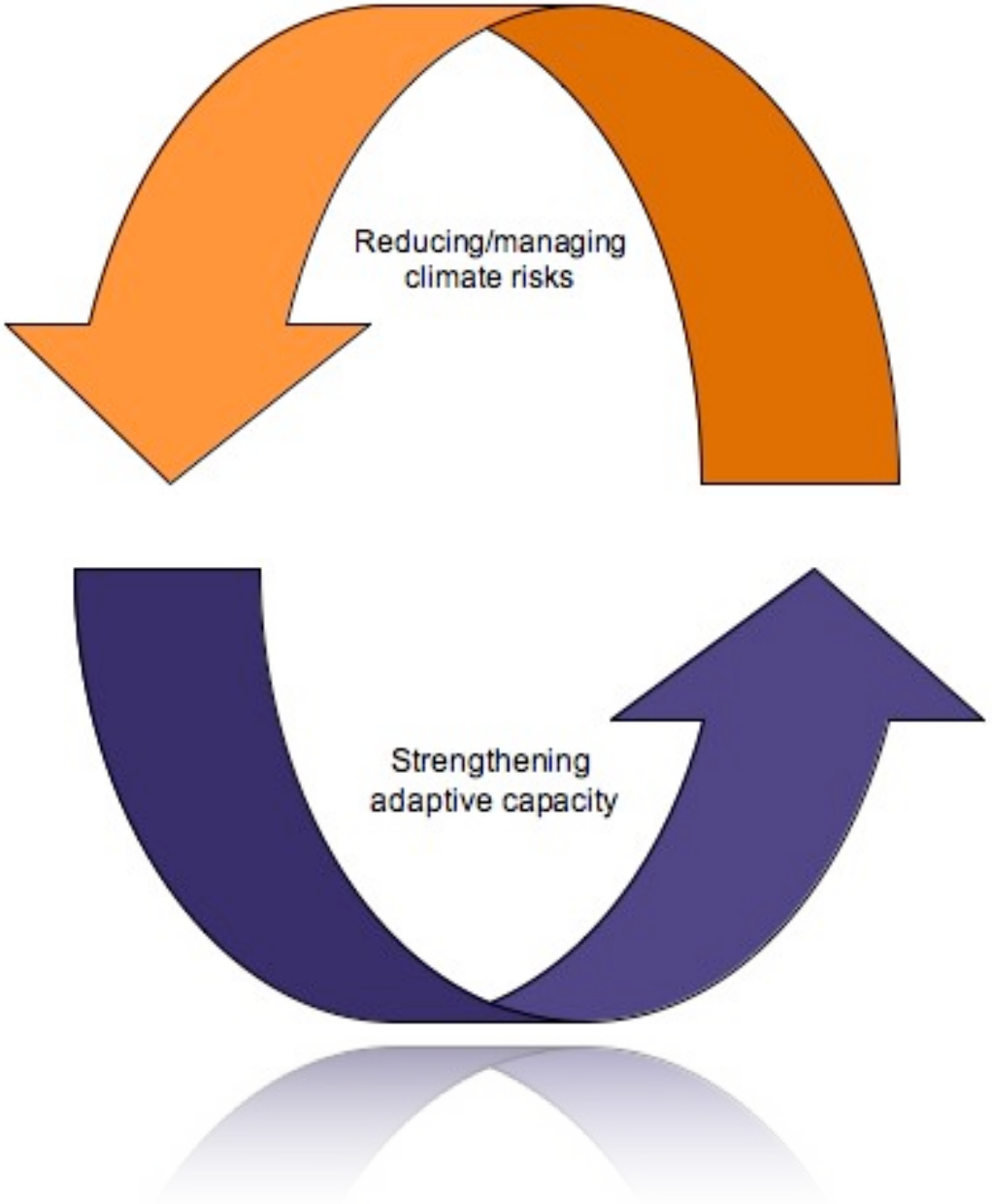
- Calibrating *what* we do and *where* in light of emerging climate change realities

- Integrating climate change projections into scenario-based disaster preparedness planning

Integration: Project level

- Climate proofing
- Intelligent recovery from disasters
- Going ‘climate neutral’?

Community-based adaptation to climate change



Reducing climate risks

- Reforestation and replanting of mangroves
- Water harvesting
- Adopting new crops and agricultural techniques
- Use of bed nets where such precautions hadn't been needed in the past

Strengthening adaptive capacity

- Building social capital
- Identifying and promoting appropriate indigenous knowledge
- Diversifying livelihoods

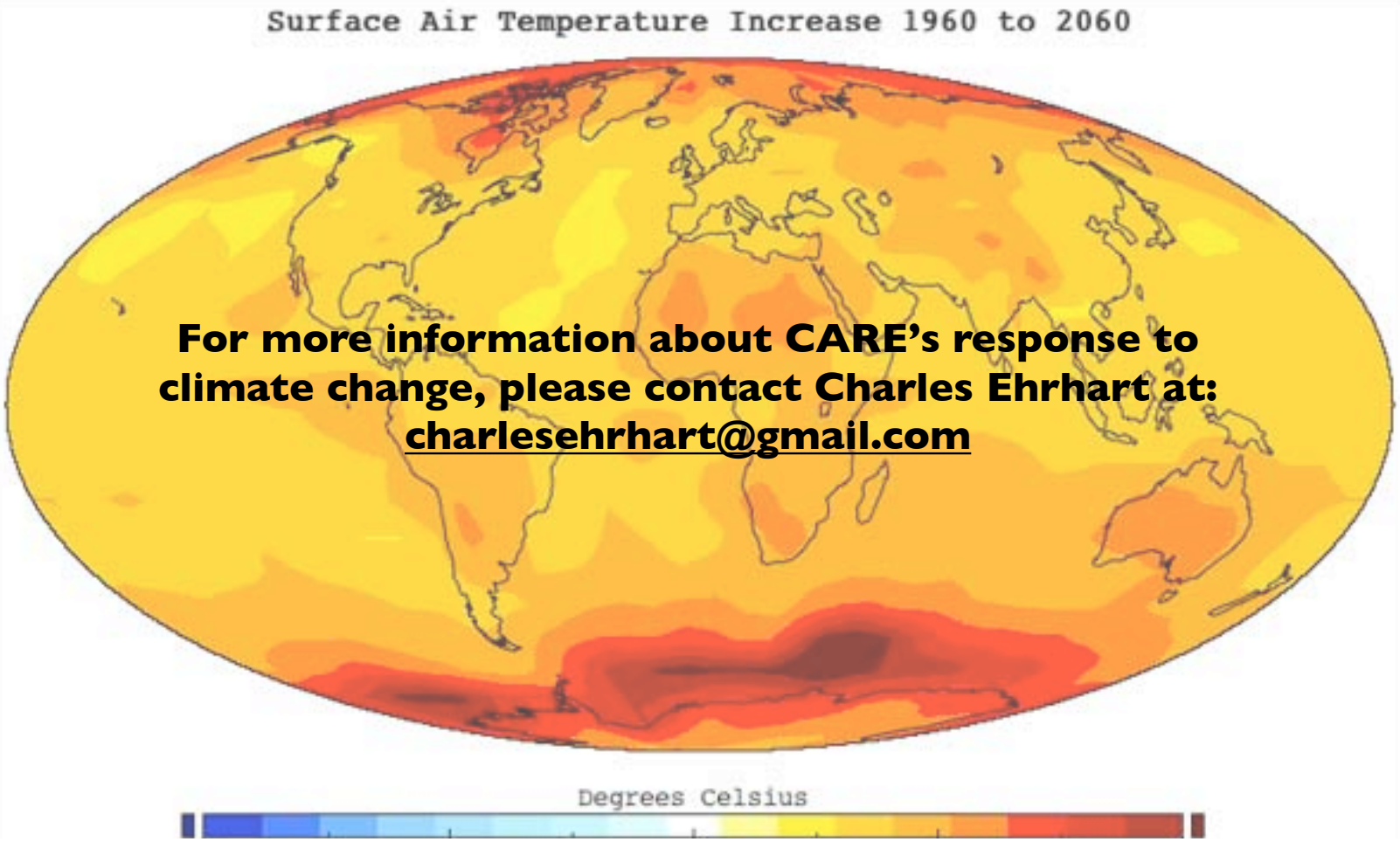
Addressing climate change *opportunities*

Tapping carbon markets to finance land use and technology changes that:

- Reduce erosion and improve soil quality
- Reduce rates of evapo-transpiration
- Enhance on-farm bio-diversity and provide NTFPs alongside traditional crops
- Reduce women's workload and exposure to health hazards

Policy support

- Assist public and private sector policy makers
- Monitor and provide feedback on policy implementation



For more information about CARE's response to climate change, please contact Charles Ehrhart at: charlesehrhart@gmail.com

Source: NASA

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