STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

VISION

Oak Foundation envisions a world where people most affected by climate change enjoy a right to a clean, healthy and safe environment. To complement Oak Foundation’s work in mitigation, the Climate Justice Resilience Fund will invest in front line communities so that they can manage shocks, rebound and continue on a progressive pathway to sustainable development. Rooted in a social justice and human rights framework, the Climate Justice Resilience Fund will prioritise the contributions and demands of women, youth and indigenous peoples. It will help them advance their adaption and resilience to climate change and seek to influence key national and intergovernmental financing mechanisms in ways that support ‘bottom up’ community-led approaches. The Climate Justice Resilience Fund will also seek to increase philanthropic interest in and support for the field of climate justice.

ENTRY POINTS FOR SECURING JUSTICE

Based on scientific assessments and key funding trends in resilience and adaptation, the following inter-related entry points (water access; food security and sovereignty; sustainable livelihoods; and migration and location) were prioritised by the steering committee because of their clear connections to securing justice.

Through these four key entry points the Climate Justice Resilience Fund will support organisations that have the capacity to reach community-led efforts focused on women, youth and indigenous peoples. It will prioritise strategies to address the most profound injustices associated uniquely with climate change (i.e., unavoidable loss of land, water, culture and traditional livelihoods).

WATER ACCESS

Rationale: The effect felt through shortages of water will be the hardest hitting of the numerous challenges climate change presents to frontline communities. Access to safe water is recognised as one of the most crucial issues of our time, especially for women and girls.

Objective: To increase the quality and quantity of sustainable water supplies in close proximity to communities.
**FOOD SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY**

**Rationale:** Frontline communities – including smallholder farmers, hunters, fishers and pastoralists – often suffer high levels of hunger and food insecurity due to changes in: temperature, ice conditions, rainfall patterns, falling crop yields, livestock and migration of birds, fish and mammals. Indigenous peoples' right to land and natural resources are closely tied to their food sovereignty.

**Objective:** To increase communities' food security by ensuring access to wild foods and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

**SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS**

**Rationale:** People's ability to meet basic needs and move out of poverty can be limited by their capacity to respond to stresses due to climate change. The impacts of climate change may further entrench gender and age disparities around livelihood options and coping mechanisms.

**Objective:** To increase household resilience to climate change by supporting livelihood options that reduce vulnerabilities and enable communities to cope with climate-related shocks. For example, this support will help address immediate development priorities, as well as ecologically and socially just approaches to agriculture.

**MIGRATION & RELOCATION**

**Rationale:** Extreme storm events, droughts and sea level rise make certain areas uninhabitable and destroy livelihoods, homes, lands, infrastructure and social networks. The effects of climate change will lead many to relocate or migrate, either voluntarily or forced. Governments, who are primarily responsible for relocation, often do not adequately consult with or support communities.

**Objective:** To strengthen communities to take control of their own plans and actions in case of relocation or migration due to natural disasters or other effects of climate change and the risks it represents.
PILLARS OF WORK

The Climate Justice Resilience Fund will advance five key pillars of work:

Advocacy: To build the advocacy skills of the Climate Justice Resilience Fund target constituencies (i.e., women, youth and indigenous peoples) and secure their greater participation in climate change decision-making at the local, national and international levels. We aim to promote policies that support community adaptive solutions and their implementation; and foster greater transparency and accountability in resource allocation. The aim is to enable communities to take greater control over decisions that affect their lives.

Access to information: To improve access to information so that communities better understand how climate change impacts their natural resources and livelihoods as well as their cultural traditions and spiritual practices. The aim is to mobilise communities to secure their rights and access to information and resources to build their resilience and adaptive capacity.

Local initiatives: To support community-driven solutions, resilience and development approaches that are geared towards sustainability. The aim is to strengthen the ability of women, youth and indigenous peoples to claim and advance their rights to a safe, clean and healthy environment.

Movement infrastructure: To provide general operating support to community organisations in order to: facilitate networking among communities at the national, regional and global levels; share knowledge and experiences to strengthen movements; and engage diverse frontline communities. The aim is to build a solid civil society led infrastructure that can influence policy decisions and advance the resilience of the target constituents.

Leadership development: To increase the skills of emerging leaders among women, youth and indigenous communities so that they can enhance collective action and movement building around climate justice. The aim is to build a new cadre of next generation leaders that can advocate for both adaptation and mitigation solutions. The aim is to build a new cadre of leaders who will be inspiring movements and transformations needed to secure a safe and healthy environment for their communities.

OUTCOMES

Women, youth and indigenous peoples identify and implement approaches to climate change adaptation and resilience which can be scaled up and funded by climate change financing. These approaches will build community leadership, advocacy and local initiatives that recognise and encourage a legacy beyond the scope of Oak’s funding to:

- improve access to safe and sustainable water supply;
- promote food security and local sovereignty over resources through effective resource and eco system management; and
- secure effective and inclusive disaster relief planning and relocation.

The Climate Justice Resilience Fund will also aim to help leverage and align funding that will help serve the climate justice field beyond Oak’s investment.
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS AREAS AND RATIONALE

Building on the key constituents and entry points laid out in this strategy the following criteria was developed to narrow the geographic foci of potential investment. This was a challenging process, given the many regions of the world facing impacts of climate change worthy of attention and investment.

The criteria for selecting the geographic areas include:

- clear, unequivocal and scientifically-based evidence of climate change;
- opportunities to build on existing Oak programme presence and/or leverage staff;
- possibilities to measure impact in the medium term (i.e., 3-5 years);
- presence of effective intermediary organisations that can reach (and strengthen) local groups;
- identified co-funding prospects; and
- high potential to replicate and scale work.

It was felt that it was important to have geographies in both the ‘Global South’ and a highly marginalised region of the ‘Global North’ to demonstrate the universality of climate justice across regions and cultures.

Based on these criteria, the Climate Justice Resilience Fund will focus on East Africa, the Bay of Bengal and the Arctic. Oak commissioned expert reports to assess the relevancy of the entry points in these geographies and to learn more about the problems, possible solutions and potential partners. Special attention was paid to the presence of effective intermediary organisations, the potential for co-funding and the ability to leverage multinational financing.

In each of the geographies, the assessments looked at the particular challenges women, youth and indigenous face and recommended interventions that build on their unique assets and perspectives.

EAST AFRICA: BRIDGING THE DEVELOPMENT – CLIMATE RESILIENCE DIVIDE

**Geographies:** Kenya and Tanzania

**Constituency focus:** women, youth, and indigenous peoples

**Rationale:** East Africa is vulnerable to extreme climatic events such as drought and floods.

**Types of support:** movements to build youth action in Africa on climate change mitigation and adaptation; initiatives that build sustainable livelihoods; and organisations that empower grassroots women’s networks to influence local authorities and governments

**Outcomes:** advocacy to establish local climate funding mechanisms and youth-led initiative linked to a state development agenda in both Kenya and Tanzania; and pastoral ways of life as a livelihood option for indigenous peoples who live in the arid north of Kenya
BAY OF BENGAL: SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION

**Geographies:** India and Bangladesh

**Constituency focus:** women and youth

**Rationale:** The Bay of Bengal is vulnerable to cyclonic events, tidal surges, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

**Types of support:** support of local and gender-inclusive advocacy to influence climate-related policy and programmes; and support of evidenced-based research on disaster risk reduction

**Outcomes:** viable and inclusive climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies

ARCTIC: COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE IN A NEW ERA OF INDUSTRIALISATION

**Geographic focus:** Alaska, Canada and Greenland

**Constituency focus:** Indigenous people

**Rationale:** The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, creating profound consequences for the four million people who live there.

**Types of support:** projects that align with existing Arctic marine grants in Alaska, Arctic Canada and Greenland; amplify the voice of indigenous peoples in ways that enhance their food security and community relocation planning; and build their resilience to climate change

**Outcomes:** political advocacy, movement infrastructure and leadership development to enable indigenous peoples to maintain access to and co-management over traditional foods; and strengthened capacity to engage in decision-making to mitigate the impacts of large-scale industrialisation

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Potential partners could include non-governmental organisations and intermediary organisations selected that have: knowledge of the local context and long-standing engagement with women, youth and/or indigenous peoples; and alignment with the Climate Justice Resilience Fund. Some potential roles of the partners include:

- channel small grants to community-based organisations representing frontline communities;
- provide capacity-building support for community-led initiatives;
- liaise with donors and fulfill their requirements;
- provide knowledge of the issue and country context to donors;
- facilitate access for local communities to information and decision makers;
- network communities and movements;
- organise learning exchanges and convenings to share knowledge and experiences;
• amplify voices of communities at national and global platforms; and
• identify and train emerging leaders.