



---

# Project evaluation: Klimaforum09

## CONTENT

SUMMARY .....	3
1. INTRODUCTION .....	5
2. ORGANISATION.....	6
2.1 The network.....	6
2.2 The Danish board.....	6
2.3 The international advisory board .....	7
2.4 The secretariat.....	7
2.5 The political platform .....	7
2.6 Lessons learned .....	8
3. PROGRAMME .....	9
3.2 Registration process .....	10
4. PARTICIPATION .....	12
5.1 History.....	13
5.2 Lessons Learned.....	15
6. COMMUNICATION AND PRESS.....	18
6.5 Lessons learned .....	20
7. LOGISTICS.....	22
7.1 Venues .....	22
7.2 Accommodation .....	22
7.3 Food.....	23
7.4 Visa .....	23
8. VOLUNTEERS.....	25
8.1 Recruiting volunteers .....	26
8.2 Lessons learned .....	26

9. INTERPRETERS .....	28
9.1 Lessons learned .....	28
10. FINANCE.....	30
10.1 Solidarity funding.....	30
10.2 Fundraising, sponsorship and donations.....	31
10.3 People’s Climate Action (PCA) and the DKK 287.000 .....	32
11. COORPORATION PARTNERS .....	33
11.1 The ALBA-meeting .....	33
11.2 DGI .....	33
11.3 ClimateCollective .....	34
11. 4 Climate Solutions Meshwork.....	34
11.5 Ministry of Foreign Affairs.....	35
11.6 Municipality of Copenhagen.....	36
11.7 People’s Climate Action.....	36
11.8 Police .....	37
12. CONCLUSION .....	39
12.1 Successes and achievements.....	39
Appendix 1: Historic timeline (February 2008 - July 2009) .....	41
Appendix 2: Klimaforum09s network.....	44
Klimaforum09s Danish Network:.....	44
Klimaforum09s international network: .....	44
Appendix 3: The Danish and international board .....	47
The Danish board:.....	47
The international Advisory board:.....	47
Appendix 4: Organisation diagram .....	48
Appendix 5: Political platform .....	49

## SUMMARY

There never was any doubt that Klimaforum09 would play an extremely important role in December, as the stage was set for a closed COP15 with highly restricted access.

Klimaforum09 not only added to the seriousness of the climate discussion in Copenhagen 2009, but also played an important part as a logistic partner to the official conference and was a fruitful platform for people, grassroots movements and organizations from all over the world

Klimaforum09, which took place in the centre of Copenhagen, demonstrated the art of the possible and surprised many who had not recognized or understood the need for an open space where all were welcome.

The peoples' climate forum was organized by a wide array of Danish (31) and international grassroots (63) and opened and closed with the COP15. The 12 days of the alternative summit featured 202 debates, 70 exhibitions, 43 films, 16 concerts and 11 plays from all over the world. The registration process was wide open and only limited by time. Present were all from Europe's most sophisticated band Ojos de Brujo to the five professors and their seminal Synthesis Report to the Greenland sealers that no longer can count on the ice.

But most important for Klimaforum09 were people from the global south and their accounts of what it means to live under extreme conditions such as long droughts and the impending peril of ocean acidification. The diversity of narratives was overwhelming and amazed widely. But the simple fact that there existed a space in Copenhagen where these narratives were heard and listened to became, as days passed, the most

important factor. At Klimaforum09, doors were wide open every day from 10:00 to midnight and all activities were free.

Because of a grotesquely low budget (DKK 8.5 million), Klimaforum09's secretariat was set up in April 2009 with only one person employed fulltime. By June 2009 three more people were employed. However, it was not until the final phase that the secretariat could afford to top with 12 full-time and 3 part-time employees. Only with help from internships and volunteers, the secretariat grew and consisted in the end of 32 dedicated women and men. In addition one must not forget to mention the working Danish board, an international advisory board, the Declaration team and the 400 volunteers, who worked really hard during the conference and helped to make Klimaforum09 a unique experience free of commercial interests. Without these altruistic volunteers and a flat structure, the ship would have sunk.

Klimaforum09 became the place where people could follow the COP15 process, find expert answers and discover alternative solutions. In addition to this a Peoples' Declaration was written as a joint statement to be adopted by the participating organisations. 500 organisations have so far signed it and the work lives on. The openness offered by Klimaforum09 provided a much needed sense of democratic organization.

The lesson to be learned from Klimaforum09's budget is that you cannot buy quality. Klimaforum09 brought people together and gave participants the opportunity to be part of it all. Not a single door was closed and tens of thousands of committed people were let in and out.

Klimaforum09's experience concerns the entire UN system and is about dialogue and openness. Popular involvement is about the opportunity to be heard and listened to. The alternative is failure to understand the severity of the crises that people everywhere are facing.

Klimaforum09's basic experience, in particular regarding the importance of having a place where everyone is welcome, is fundamental for further work. The UN should recognize this.

It is far from enough to have what are called side-events under the same roof as the official negotiations, as was the case at the Bella Center.

The popular understanding of the climate crisis must be lifted to a much higher level, and this can only be done with total transparency.

Klimaforum09 has shown a path that needs to be followed!

**Published by:**

Foreningen Civilsamfundets Klimaforum  
Kuturstaldene, Onkel Dannys Plads 1  
1711 Copenhagen V.

Denmark

**Web:**

[www.klimaforum09.org](http://www.klimaforum09.org)

**Phone:**

+45 25 92 15 67

**Written by:**

Safania Eriksen, HansHenrik Samuelsen,  
Ronack Monabay, & Malte Timpte

**Graphic Design:**

[u-no.org](http://u-no.org) / Safania Eriksen, HansHenrik  
Samuelsen & Jeppe Jensen.

**Photos:**

Din M. Shibly, Bimbache Global Initiative,  
Sonya Gardner, Dave Cubby, Andras  
Mølgaard, Christian Gade Bjerrum,  
Nicolaas G. Pierson Foundation, Firas  
Afeef, Bente Dam Sørensen, Poul Erik  
Pedersen, Tommy von Pein, Rosalía Soley.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The initiative to arrange Klimaforum09 – the peoples’ climate summit – was taken in the early spring of 2008. Ideas grew steadily and were recognized amongst Danish grassroots organisations. In the winter of 2009 an independent association was established with the purpose of organizing the alternative summit in relation to United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen December 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2009.

The idea behind Klimaforum09 has been to create a platform, where people, grassroots movements and organizations from all over the world – in particular from those regions already affected by climate change – could meet, discuss and give their perspectives on human-made climate change, its consequences and solutions.

Organized around a diversity of activities (such as, workshops, talks, exhibitions, film, music and theatre) Klimaforum09 has been an open space where people could let their voices be heard, ask essential questions, exchange experiences, and find common ground.

The purpose of this evaluation report is primarily to collect, reflect and draw on the experience of Klimaforum09 in order to inspire and help bring forward the useful experiences and the ideas of an open peoples’ climate forum , as the alternative voice in the future UNFCCC COP process.

It is imperative to recognize that Klimaforum09 played an important role in Copenhagen and managed to give civil society a focus, purpose and a voice that COP15 could not provide. As George Monbiot wrote in The Guardian 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009:

*"I have spent most of my time at the Klimaforum: the alternative conference set up by just four paid staff, which 50,000 people attended without a hitch. (I know which team I would put in charge of saving the planet.)"*

Thus it is of utmost importance to continue mobilizing civil society and to articulate alternative visions and practices in order to let the world know that change is not only needed but indeed possible.

**SYSTEM CHANGE NOT CLIMATE CHANGE!**

On behalf of the Danish organisers of  
Klimaforum09

## 2. ORGANISATION

Formally the independent association Civil Society's Climate Forum (Klimaforum09) was established at the founding meeting in January 2009. Organizationally the association consisted of (see figure 1 and appendix 4):

- a Danish and international network
- a Danish board
- an international advisory board
- a secretariat

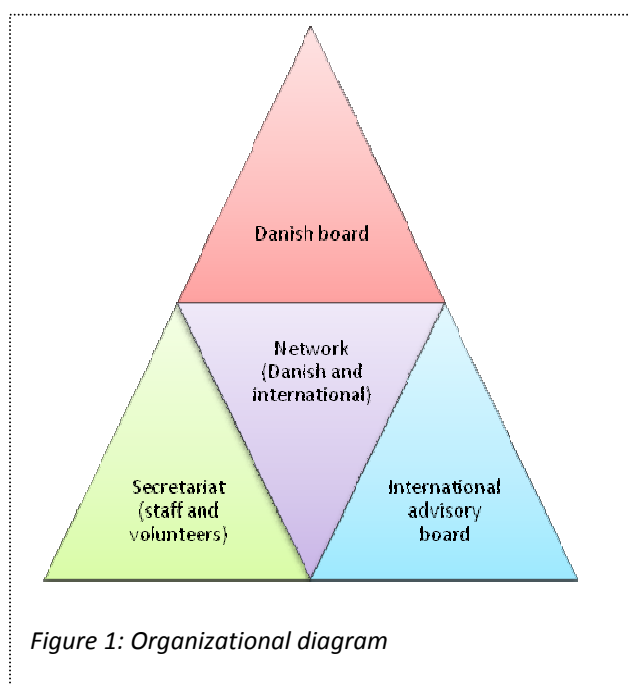


Figure 1: Organizational diagram

### 2.1 The network

Klimaforum09 is a network-cooperation that consists of a number of organizations with different traditions and political perspectives uniting on common ground – climate change. Klimaforum09 was anchored in a local and global network. In order to become part of the network, the organizations constituting both the Danish and international network had to agree to the political platform (see section 2.5).

The Danish network consists of 31 (see appendix 2) grassroots organizations, environmental and social movements, who have met at monthly network meetings during 2009. Their advice has been sought and recommendations have been taken into account.

The international network consists of 63 (see appendix 2) grassroots organizations, environmental and social movements. The international network organisations were mainly European based (see figure 2 below).

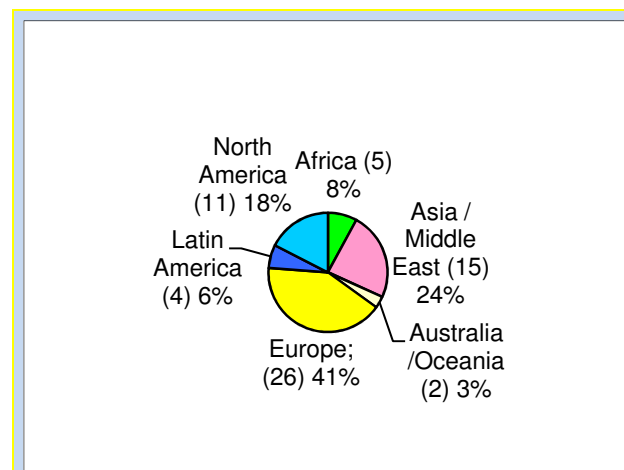


Figure 2: International Network of Klimaforum09

Only one international network meeting has been held. Communication has mostly gone through a sporadic newsletter. Overall the active involvement of the international network in the planning was very much delayed due to lack of resources and time during the spring and summer of 2009. This was very unfortunate and one of the things that should be improved in the future.

### 2.2 The Danish board

The Danish board consisted of representatives from seven of the grassroots organizations, environmental and social movements constituting the Danish network (see appendix 3).

It was a working board, and it was viewed as the main decision making body. As no central project manager was assigned to Klimaforum09, the board had to pay special attention to its role as decision makers, bringing the project forward and being involved and responsible for ensuring the framework of the project.

The board closely followed the development of Klimaforum09 and the secretariat's work. The board assisted the secretariat (and vice versa), as essential sparring partners in important decisions and met on a weekly basis throughout most of 2009. Decisions in the board were, in the vast majority of cases, made with consensus.

The members of the board were assigned to specific fields of the secretarial tasks such as finance, programme, press, declaration etc. In order to make decision making faster and to keep parties updated.

## **2.3 The international advisory board**

The international advisory board was initiated in October 2009, which was too late. Ideally the advisory board should have been constituted several months earlier.

The international advisory board was set up as an unofficial body to help and support the Danish organizers in the final undertaking of Klimaforum09, as well as a means to share knowledge, give practical assistance and advice. The Danish board nominated 8 organizations from the international network to constitute the advisory board (see appendix 3).

The advisory board was intended to play a more formal role, but due to disagreements, it remained an informal partner.

The international advisory board has been a significant help to the secretariat's programme team, especially in relation to plan the morning

briefings that aimed to provide daily updates on the UN negotiations as they proceeded during December 7-18, 2009. The international advisory board was also involved in planning the closing ceremony on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **2.4 The secretariat**

The secretariat was set up in April 2009 with one person employed fulltime. By June 2009 an additional three people were employed. The number of staff increased during the final phase and topped with 12 full-time and 3 part-time employees during the Klimaforum09 – not counting the 20 volunteers, who also worked in the secretariat. Thus Klimaforum09's secretariat relied to a great extent on unpaid and voluntary staff.

The main tasks of the secretariat were connected to the following areas of responsibility:

- The programme and activities
- Declaration
- Communication and press
- Logistics
- Volunteers
- Finance

As mentioned, Klimaforum09 was based on a form of decentralized leadership. Each of the five working areas had a responsible person, who also participated in the weekly board meetings, when the area dealt with was on the agenda. Likewise, each board member was made responsible for at least one of the working areas. The secretariat raised concerns and joined in problem solving on equal terms with the board. However, the final decision making lay with the board.

## **2.5 The political platform**

The basis for Klimaforum09 was a political platform (see appendix 5). The Danish and international network, as well as and activities, such as the Declaration and the programme were



built on and kept within the frame of the platform.

The primary purpose of the platform was to ensure that the forum did not become a place of agitation for false (and market based) solutions and technical fixes such as nuclear power, agrofuels, GMOs and carbon capture and storage.

The political platform managed to make links between environmental and social networks.

At no time was it required that the participants of Klimaforum09 agreed with the platform. However, with reference to the platform, the Danish organizers held it as their right to reject activities registered at Klimaforum09 advocating what was considered as false solutions. This did not become necessary.

## **2.6 Lessons learned**

Certainly there have been advantages regarding klimaforum09s attempt to maintain a decentralised management form in the organisation.

Firstly, decentralisation means shared responsibilities, which contributed to a constructive togetherness and a community spirit within the secretariat and its relation to the board. As a starting point staff was accountable for the tasks they took on. This kind of ownership added to the vigour that each staff member put into the tasks.

When this is said, it has to be mentioned that within the decentralised structure of the Klimaforum09 secretariat smaller conflicts occurred over division of tasks and responsibilities. Also it occurred that sometimes tasks were not taken and thus simply not carried out or the same task was carried out twice.

Klimaforum09 was an organizational success due to the political platform and the structure that was a combination of decentralization by democratic decision-making while maintaining vertical decision making if necessary.

As mentioned, we should have involved the international network earlier. Likewise, we could have made an attempt to involve the trade unions. It is quite a shame that the World of Work Pavilion, organised by the International Trade Union Confederation in the framework of the COP15, had not a single link with Klimaforum09, as it could have been a great opportunity to strengthen the links between social and environmental organisations and to try to expand the global climate justice movement.

### 3. PROGRAMME

Klimaforum09's programme offered around 340 events from all over the world. A diversity of climate related activities from inspiring talks, exhibitions, films and documentaries along with different artistic and cultural performances such as world music and theatre:

- Talks: 201
- Exhibitions: 70
- Film: 43
- Music/concerts: 16
- Theatre: 11

See figure 3 for an outline of the daily programme structure.

In general, the feedback Klimaforum09 have received from participants and visitors are positive, with reference to the programme as being very impressive.

All in all, the Klimaforum09 was well visited (see chapter 4). However, we have the impression that relatively very few "ordinary" Danes attended – not including the Danish network.

Perhaps if the evenings had been filled with more talks (maybe even in Danish) it would have attracted more Danes. The evenings were mainly reserved for the cultural programme (music and theatre). However, the cultural programme received much less attention – except for bigger music events and concerts (often mixed with some political content), which were a great success and were able to attract more Danes than the general programme.

Overall the programme planning lacked internal communication not only within the programme group itself, but also with the press and volunteer groups. The cancellations of programme activities

during Klimaforum09 were not communicated in a proper way within the organisation.

#### **Morning 9h/10h-12h**

- Meditation
- Plenary Sessions / Briefings
- Seminars & Debates

#### **Break 12h-13h**

#### **Afternoon 13h- 18h**

- Seminars & Debates

#### **Break 18h-19h**

#### **Evening 19h-24h**

- Briefings
- Seminars & Debates
- Film Programme
- Theatre Programme
- Music / Concerts

*Figure 3:  
General programme structure*

A paper version of the programme was produced and printed in 20,000 copies. Due to lack of time and staff there were some errors regarding venue and time in the printed programme, which caused a lot of extra work and challenges during the conference. To the above story of the lack of Danish participation, it should also be mentioned that the programme was not printed in Danish and that Klimaforum09 did not advertise in Danish (nor international) newspapers – both generally due to lack of money.

It was a great help that the workshops were self-organized. It contributed to the feeling of togetherness and eased the tasks assigned to the staff and volunteers. We experienced few mistakes with venues and the like (e.g. assigning a small room for an event that attracted more people than the room could hold). However, we should have calculated with more space in the programme – longer breaks in between activities would have been preferable. It was not enough with 15 minutes for people to leave the room and new people to enter, as well as to take down and set up new technical equipment etc.

In recognition of its importance, Klimaforum09 planned early on to have a break in the programme on the Global Day of Action on December 12<sup>th</sup>. But as demand for further workshops kept coming, Klimaforum09 opened the day for activities as any other day.

With 100.000 people demonstrating in the streets of Copenhagen, it is now evident that the day should have been kept clear, so that all including the Klimaforum09 volunteers and staff would have had a chance to participate in the demonstration. It should also be noted that the talks on the day during the demonstration were not very well visited – talks during the morning had a good audience.

Regarding demonstrations, Klimaforum09 did receive the critique that there was too much of a division between people attending the forum and people taking part in the demonstrations. Given that the political discourse was practically the same there was a clear lack of integration between the two ways of political action. Thus the mobilisation of civil society to some extent suffered from the split between people debating inside Klimaforum09 and people taking the debate to the streets. Of course people need to be both informed and to take action, and as such many were engaged in both.

A final lesson to the programme process is that Klimaforum09 would have benefitted from involving the international network as well as the Advisory Board earlier in the programme process. One way this could have been initiated was by setting up a series of international meetings in order to discuss the planning of the forum.

### **3.2 Registration process**

The leasing contract between the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (funding body) and DGI-byen (the conference venue) was not signed before the end of June 2009, i.e. very late in the planning process (see chapter 11). This caused delays. For instance it meant that Klimaforum09's registration process was postponed due to the uncertainties caused by not knowing whether a venue was available or not.

The online programme activity registration process via Klimaforum09's website started early July and ran until September 1<sup>st</sup>. However, because of the summer break, the registration of activities was rather slow at the beginning. Not much happened until the end of August and it was decided to prolong the online registration until September 15<sup>th</sup>.

As the existence of an open and free forum was known, it was obvious that there was great demand for registering activities. Therefore a number of additional activities were scheduled following the online deadline in September – note that those activities that were registered in time were prioritized and scheduled first.

However, it may have been a mistake that a maximum number, of scheduled activities was not set. Especially since the demand was so high. This meant for instance that the small venues, originally reserved as meeting spaces, were booked with activities such as talks. One demand was met, but another was neglected.

Klimaforum09 had planned a merging process that should have integrated related talks into fewer activities. But, as it turned out, it never worked properly. The main reason for this was lack of time and resources within the secretariat. Such a process would have taken a lot of correspondence and could most likely have simplified the overall programme.

Early June a new web-site design process was started (see chapter 6). As it turned out, we had to wait two months before the new site was operational. This was problematic;

- Firstly, the registration process suffered under this, as people could not find proper information about Klimaforum09 in this period.
- Secondly, when the new website was launched, and when it became clear that the database was not sufficiently

effective, it seemed too late to implement a better system.

In the online registration form, the “description of activities” section should have been limited to a maximum of 70 words. Also an option, where people could choose preferred venue size, should have been included.

The registration process was open to all and no charge/fee was taken for any of the activities (workshop, talk, exhibition or cultural event). As a participant of the Klimaforum09 registration was not required, though it was possible to register as an individual or group. The registration was helpful, as it gave an estimate of how many participants we could expect.

In December the final programme was made available online, as a Google Calendar, which worked well and was easy to update.

## 4. PARTICIPATION

When Klimaforum09 started on December 7<sup>th</sup> at least 255 organisations and approximately 7,000 people from about 95 countries had registered for Klimaforum09. During Klimaforum09 over 300 individuals registered at the website. See figure 5 below for an overview of registered participants' country of origin. On the closing day, we concluded that about 50,000 people had visited Klimaforum09.



Figure 5: Registered Klimaforum09 participants: Country overview

For so many people to come from all over the world, though mainly Europe (see figure 6), to support the Peoples' Climate Forum was amazing.

Even though Klimaforum09 was attended by people from many countries, it is worth noting, that very few people participated from the arctic region, north and southern Africa, the Middle East, central Asia, many parts of Eastern Europe and China.

We should not overlook the fact that Klimaforum09 could have been an opportunity for a much larger mobilisation;

- Climate change is not a marginal topic and millions of people are already affected negatively by its consequences.
- Early on it was clear that COP15 would be a major public event.

As such, there could have been at least 10,000 to 20,000 more people in Copenhagen for Klimaforum09, even though it would have exceeded our financial and organisational capacity under the given circumstances.

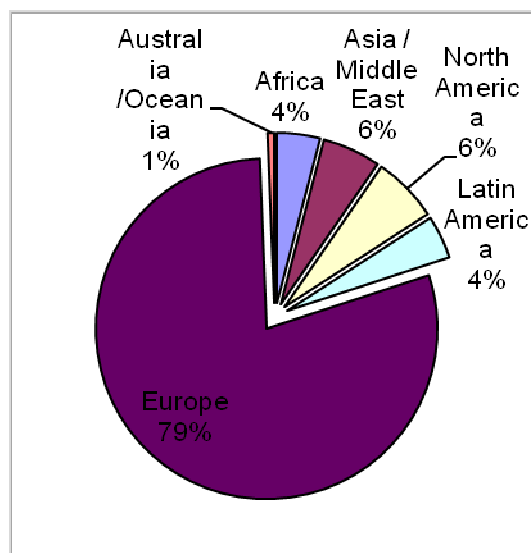


Figure 6: Klimaforum09 Registration (total 6690)

Nevertheless, against this background, it was after all politically significant that so many grassroots and social movements from the global south participated in Klimaforum09.

The "spirit" or the atmosphere of Klimaforum09, which is referred to in the sections below, was something that all participants talked about during the conference, and has often been underlined by participants in evaluating comments.

## 5. DECLARATION

One of the central outcomes of Klimaforum09 was a global climate Declaration expressing the demands, visions, hopes, ideas, and promises of citizen groups active within environment, climate, economy, civil rights indigenous peoples, agriculture and fishery etc. and social movements from all over the World.

The Declaration process began months before Klimaforum09 opened its doors in December. The Declaration is first of all a call for how a fair and just climate deal can be put together. The text was finalized during the first four days of the forum, thus giving everybody the possibility to influence the process.

### 5.1 History

The initial idea was that the peoples' voice at Klimaforum09 should be manifested in a written paper - a Peoples Declaration. In February 2009, a small working group was assigned to the task of drafting a proposal for the process involving both the international and national network in the making. The intention was to frame a paper, deeply rooted in civil society with three main goals:

1. criticize global climate policy and false solutions especially in relation to the negotiations before and during COP15, and giving facts about the differentiated responsibility for human-made climate change,
2. listing concrete, alternative solutions to making a globally just and sustainable future.
3. creating an accepted, clear voice in the public to enable citizens to act in sustainable ways.

Such a declaration should take existing "people's declarations" (such as the PMCC's Protocol, the

Italian De-growth manifesto, different smaller declarations from Climate Justice Now!, the World Social Forum etc.) into consideration, as inspiration and reflection. A climate focus was important without isolating it from social, economic, political and ideological issues. A proposal for themes in relation to the Declaration was elaborated in coordination with Klimaforum09's programme group.

Due to technical and capacity problems the Declaration process was stuck during May and

#### List of themes:

1. The climate crisis and the environmental consequences
2. Just/sustainable deal
3. Climate justice
4. Sustainable energy technology and energy systems
5. Sustainable consumption of resources and food
6. Sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery
7. Alternative economics and sustainable development
8. Sustainable ways of life
9. Education

*Figure 7: Themes*

June. Further, the translation of the existing document into Spanish took some time. Finally by the end of July a letter of invitation in English and Spanish was sent to the international network containing a proposal for the process and the proposed themes. About ninety people replied that they were interested in being involved in the process.

An online discussion forum was launched on the website. Here people could discuss the Declaration content under the nine themes (see figure 7) with subthemes. To gain access to the forum, people had to endorse the political platform. By the middle of August working groups on themes 1-4 and 6 were formed. About 50 people were interested in active participation, hereof; 13 were from Africa, 6 from Asia, 1 from Canada, 3 from USA, 1 from Mesoamerica, 10 from Europe and 8 from South America.

Due to alterations in the Danish working group, the launch of the process into practice was further delayed. By the beginning of October about 100 persons from all over the World (representing 58 different movements) had shown interest in participating. Seven facilitators from Africa, Asia, South America, Mesoamerica and a single facilitator from Europe were active.

As a reaction to the demand for more international involvement, Klimaforum09 invited the International Network and other relevant partners to a meeting in Copenhagen in October 2009. Among other things the Declaration process was presented and discussed. A proposal for structuring the Declaration and a proposal for constructing an editorial board was agreed upon.

The editorial board consisted of three of the facilitators, four representatives from the international network and two representatives from the Danish Declaration group. Drawing on the contributions from the thematic groups the editorial board worked on a draft (1) and a draft (2).

The first draft of the Declaration was 8 pages long and was published on the website in English and Spanish in November. At the same time it was sent out electronically to all participants involved for comments and suggestions. Based on the

incoming comments and proposals, the editorial board launched a 10 pages draft (2) in the beginning of December (prior to Klimaforum09) together with a schedule for a process during the conference.

During the first day of Klimaforum09, the members of the editorial board met to discuss and prepare the following days. The Declaration process was announced in the online and printed programme and at the opening ceremony on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

The second draft was presented as basis for further discussions in an open plenary session on December 8<sup>th</sup>, thus giving everybody the possibility to influence the content within the framework of the existing draft. The plenary session was translated simultaneously from English into Spanish and French and took place in one of the big venues with room for about 370 people. After the plenary, participants had the possibility to join an open workshop to discuss further details of the Declaration. This process was continued the next day. The inputs from the workshops and the plenary were used for the third draft made by the editorial board.

The third draft was presented in plenary on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Comments were integrated as far as possible and a full rewriting was performed by the editorial board.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the final version of the Declaration (7 pages) was published during the last plenary session. The content of the draft was presented on screen and read out loud to the over 100 people present. The draft was discussed sentence by sentence and live edited in order for the participants to follow the process on the spot and signal agreement to each chapter by stamping their feet. The process became a little too rushed due to a delayed start. The editorial

board worked on minor adjustments and linguistic corrections, and late night the text was handed over to the printers.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the final edition of the Declaration was published and opened for signing at the website and at the Klimaforum09 conference venue. The final version of the Declaration was translated into Spanish and French. Between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, 339 organizations and groups from all over the World signed the Declaration, as well as 1385 individuals. Today (February 2010), over 500 organisations have signed the Declaration.

The Declaration was handed over to the UNFCCC high level plenary, at the COP15 venue (Bella Center) on December 17<sup>th</sup>, by a member of the editorial board and the coordinator of the Declaration process from the Danish group. They were allowed a two minutes speech. The signing process is open until March 2010.

The Declaration is the foundation of our efforts to continue together after Klimaforum09 in supporting the Mesoamerican participants to prepare "Klimaforum10" parallel to COP 16. Those who want to continue deepening the work on more concrete solutions could do so. A good way to continue is to through the Meshwork (<http://www.klimaforum09.org/Meshwork>), this system has great potential.

## 5.2 Lessons Learned

The following is based on feedback from all over the World.

It is important to acknowledge the fact that even though quite a lot of people took part in the Declaration process during Klimaforum09, the beginning of the process involved a rather small group. (Only 90 people constituted the Declaration mailing list, as they responded to the

invitation sent out to the general list consisting of about 800 email addresses). If it had been possible to involve the international network at an earlier stage, the process of agreeing on the final text might have been easier. As a result a lot of important organisations have not contributed to the Declaration. As such the editorial board was not to the extent as it could have been represented by the diversity of the social and environmental organisations involved in climate justice issues.

An earlier start of the whole process would have enabled contributions to a wider range of the subthemes and maybe also resulted in the catalogue of solutions that we wished to add to the Declaration. It is noteworthy that no one from the Danish network took part, neither in the facilitation nor in the thematic groups. All in all very few people from the global north participated in the work.

Some of the feedback we have received focuses on the fact that the process appeared to be too complicated and too long in proportion to the resources people were able to put into it. For instance, we learned that people were really anxious when they first realised that the Declaration was supposed to be about 20 pages (the initial proposal of the Danish group). We were recommended to aim for a shorter text.

Additionally, some people felt that the process methodology was settled months earlier by the Danish group without any possibilities for others to influence it. Moreover, during Klimaforum09 three full days were indeed needed to follow the process properly, which was a long time for organizations that had many other tasks.

If the creation of a similar declaration is planned in the future, the resources and time should allow the process to be much more inclusive,



consistent with direct democracy and collective decision making and allow for broader communication. It should also be kept in mind for the future that an internet forum is hard to handle and to keep alive with a large audience especially if most of the discussions are in English and that working groups work at different speed. Also it is worth mentioning again that also in this process the involvement of the international network right from the beginning would have been preferable.

The Declaration title, “A People’s Declaration from Klimaforum09, System change – not climate change”, worked very well and strengthened the ties between ecological and social issues. A good example is the big demonstration on December 12<sup>th</sup>, where social and environmental movements united in the call for “System Change not Climate Change”. It was a clear and strong statement, which also linked Klimaforum09 to other networks advocating for climate justice, such as Climate Justice Action and Climate Justice Now!

As a result, people involved in the climate justice networks are now showing interest in discussing how to make use of the Declaration even if they were not part of the process.

A flyer about Klimaforum09 and the main statements of the Declaration was printed in great numbers and handed out during the Global Day of Action on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

We have also received comments that the Declaration was a pioneering work for several reasons. Firstly, it was critical of neoliberal capitalism and it makes suggestions for transitions towards sustainable societies: abandonment of fossil fuels and reorientation of research towards renewable energy, democratic control and re-localisation of the economy. Secondly, the Declaration emphasises the

necessity of unions between local producers (peasants, fisher folks etc.) as a way to ensure food sovereignty. Additionally, the Declaration insists on the crucial necessity of a greater international cooperation accompanied by a reform and a democratisation of the United Nations and the end of the hegemony of international institutions such as the World Trade Organisation, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

To conclude, we hope the Declaration will become a political platform (cornerstone) and be used as a base to build and strengthen worldwide cooperation for climate justice uniting the grassroots engaged with environment, climate, human rights, indigenous people, social welfare, education etc. beyond Copenhagen that will work actively for a sustainable future.

The Declaration was the only agreement signed in Copenhagen. Considering the poor result of the COP15, the renewed vigour committed to the struggle for system change, which the Declaration definitely expresses, will not be wasted.

On the other hand, it is important to acknowledge that the Declaration lacked the description of practical alternatives to move us forward in constructive transformation, as we call for “System Change not Climate Change”. In the early stages of Klimaforum09, we talked about creating a Catalogue of Solutions together with the Declaration. As the Declaration announces, the solutions are there – we just have to gather them.

Of course, a three day collective process has its limits, especially for such an ambitious Declaration, which aims at changing the mainstream paradigm. However, this should not

be seen as the end, but as the beginning of an ongoing process.

## 6. COMMUNICATION AND PRESS

The communication strategy indicated how Klimaforum09, in the period prior to and during the conference, communicated with various external stakeholders, particularly potential participants, but also the politicians, the media and the general public.

The strategy outlined four key concepts:

1. The target group (who is the communication addressed to?)
2. The purpose (what should be communicated?)
3. The resources (through what channels should we communicate?)
4. The message (what is the story?)

**The target group:** People from the global south were an important target group, particularly people involved with environmental work and especially peasant groups, agricultural workers, fisher folks, women and indigenous peoples etc. This target group also counted many active members of Klimaforum09's international network. This target group became a powerful tool while the conference was on as Klimaforum09 could promote "authentic voices" – those already living with the realities of climate change to the global press.

Another important target group can be referred to as the "green segment" – referring to people already involved in climate related issues. It was also considered important to attract "ordinary" Danes not active in the climate context. And also young people (between 15-40 years), since they represent an important driver of social movements.

Finally Klimaforum09 was seen as a global event, and thus had an aim to communicate globally, for example to and through the international media.

**The purpose** of the communication strategy was twofold:

- 1) To create an inspiring story about a political event that people would like to participate in.
- 2) To establish Klimaforum09 as an actor, whose opinions and views on climate issues should be taken seriously.

The recipients of the first objective were the future and potential participants of Klimaforum09. The recipients of the second were politicians, opinion makers and the media itself.

The second objective was rather sensitive, as Klimaforum09 was a large network embracing many different opinions. To avoid misunderstandings, it was decided that Klimaforum09 could only speak on behalf of the Danish organisers of Klimaforum09 and within the frames of the political platform.

**The resources:** Three means of communication were chosen:

1. A network campaign
2. A press campaign
3. An Internet campaign (in the form of "viral marketing")

*The network campaign* was part of the overall communication and aimed at those already engaged in Klimaforum09's international and Danish network as well as other related but not yet engaged groups. Communication with the

network went through an email list and a newsletter. However, despite the attempts the communication with the network should have been prioritised to a much higher degree.

*The press campaign* was the cornerstone of Klimaforum09's communication strategy. The press campaign was about seeking out selected media in order to achieve positive publicity, while minimizing (and preferably eliminating) negative publicity. In order to appear in the media, as the Danish organizers of Klimaforum09, a group of spokespersons were selected.

*The Internet Campaign* was aimed at being experimental. The idea was to produce content for social media in the form of a number of small films that in their design had the potential for viral spread within the target group, especially among young people, via their network (social platforms, email, etc.). The requirements were that the short films would amuse surprise and/or fascinate the recipients.

The viral video campaign, the Elements, was not the great success we wished it would be – partly due to the fact that it was released too late and that it was too abstract and not relevant to the core Klimaforum09 message.

*The website* was not considered, as a means of communication, however it definitely became a place to get information and positive stories across.

The website was an important informative and practical tool, especially regarding the programme registration process and the registration of volunteers, but also concerning the Declaration work and its signing process. At [www.klimaforum09.org](http://www.klimaforum09.org) you could find information on: News, Programme, Practical, Declaration, Press and About Klimaforum09.

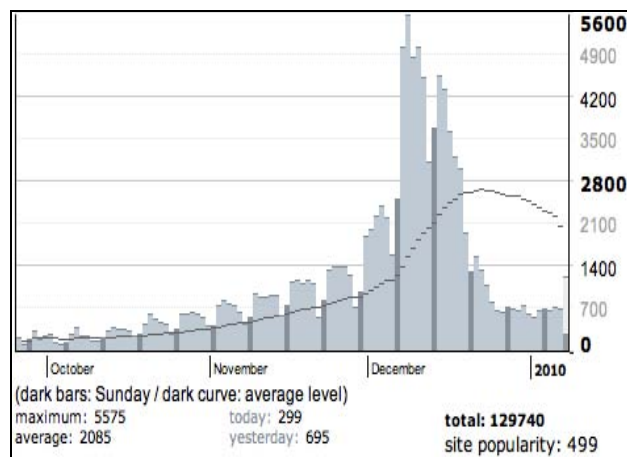


Figure 8: Website visits / Oct 2009 to Jan 2010

The graph (figure 8) indicates the number of website visitors, which culminated in December 2009 during Klimaforum09.

At the start of October if one put in 'Klimaforum 2009' into Google, the number of results was around 5,000. By the start of the conference in December that had grown to 60,000 results. In February 2010 there are now over 400,000 results and it is still growing.

Regarding **the message** that Klimaforum09 wished to communicate there were some internal disagreements regarding the political profile vis-à-vis the COP15. Particularly, the board disagreed on whether COP15 could reach an agreement or not and whether the way out of crisis could be found within capitalism or required what is referred to as system change. A compromise was sought between the different views. Klimaforum09 was promoted as a global political climate related event. While the COP15 brought together the heads of states and represented the economic and political power, Klimaforum09 was the meeting space for civil society and sought to represent the democratic power. The aim was to communicate an image of a conflict between the false desire to maintain the rich countries' interests (COP15) and the genuine desire to save humanity from the

destructive impacts of global warming (Klimaforum09).

Klimaforum09 was promoted as “the peoples’ climate summit”.

## 6.5 Lessons learned

On the whole, the main focus of the communication strategy was to facilitate the press contact to Klimaforum09 – especially international press. Over 100 countries contacted the press office during the conference and stories appeared in all media forms from newspaper, radio, TV and internet. Even global media broadcasters like CNN and Al Jazeera reported on Klimaforum09 and countries as far away as New Zealand, Indonesia and Taiwan made stories. With this in mind the strategy can be considered to have been a success.

However, not all parts of the communication strategy were equally pursued. The communication and press group prioritised the press over the internal and external communication. This was in part due to the fact that the Danish board was not clear on what it expected of the communication and press group. Differences of opinion in the board also caused some of these problems. In addition the board was not aware of the problems and lack of overall communication.

The international press work went really well, but the press result in the Danish media was not satisfactory. In the future, it is important not to rely only on the media (and not only the English speaking ones), but also on other types of communication. For example, we should have made use of a grassroots communication strategy as a supplement to the big mainstream media.

It was decided in October 2009 in conjunction with the international advisory board that Klimaforum09 could not make political statements. Klimaforum09 could only speak on behalf of the Danish organizers on practical issues and topics within the political platform. We could have involved the network more in the political statements.

We missed the opportunity to communicate with the network, we had an international newsletter for the international network and monthly meetings with the national, but it was not enough. All in all, Klimaforum09 could have serviced its network a lot better. For instance, a press team (even a small team) could have helped the Danish and international network with their press work.

It should also be mentioned that the lack of interest in general communication also counted total abandonment of Klimaforum09’s printed programme. This work was initiated very late. The same can be said about internal and external communication during the conference. Nothing was set up by the communication and press team. It took about 4-5 days into the conference before Klimaforum09 had a sufficient communication level and was able to communicate to the participants (on e.g. programme changes).

Early fall 2009, Klimaforum09 invited a number of political spokespersons from various parties in the Danish Parliament (Socialistisk Folkeparti (F), Konservative (C), Venstre (V), Enhedslisten (Ø)), to participate in a meeting. The idea was to introduce Klimaforum09 to the politicians so as to make them aware of what was going on – especially since we had heard that the funding would be withdrawn if Klimaforum09 supported the push for civil disobedience.

It should be noted that problems arose due to the way we handled Klimaforum09's relation to the global network Climate Justice Action (CJA). CJA was planning an action day of civil disobedience on December 16th, Reclaim Power. The action created some disagreements within the board, which resulted in a number of contradictory statements from the board and the press team.

In this regard, it is also important to emphasize the intimidation campaign against civil society activities and the inability of the COP15-hosts to support the right to free speech for everyone, while focusing solely on possible problems in connection with civil disobedience actions. The intimidation campaign affected Klimaforum09, as it made it difficult for us to enter into broad dialogue with activists, who wanted to express themselves in other ways, because even the dialogue seemed suspicious.

The result was that many of the important discussions and demands from civil society, and many of those voices that do not have power in the nations they come from were given poor conditions to express themselves. The alternative voice was declared as generally wanting to sabotage the COP 15. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs – in lack of confidence – did nothing to alter the picture despite the fact that they had approved of granting Klimaforum09 DKK 8.5 million (see chapter 10 on finance).

Note that the same claim can equally be addressed against Klimaforum09, as we took part in the intimidation campaign against CJA, helped by state funding.

## 7. LOGISTICS

The main physical frame (DGI-byen) of the Klimaforum09 was not settled before early July 2009 which of course complicated every aspect of the conference preparation. Also the contract for the venue, Øksnehallen (for 2.500 people) was problematic, as it was not settled until two weeks before the conference started.

Overall the logistical tasks were severely understaffed. The amount of resources available to run Klimaforum09 was not clear from the beginning. So we relied, because of lack of finance, to a large extent on volunteers. However, a number of staff should have been hired well in advance. In this way the essential routines could have been planned in more detail, instead of the “learning by doing” method that we had to practice.

### 7.1 Venues

Logistically Klimaforum09 was anchored in Vesterbro (western part of Copenhagen) close to the central train station. The localities formed the forum in following way:

**DGI-byen:** used as main conference space for the scheduled activities; workshops/talks, exhibitions, films, theatre and music. An info-point was set up in the entrance hall.

**Øksnehallen:** used for meetings (e.g. after demonstrations), socializing and food. On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> the venue turned out to be an important space for the observer organization representatives that were no longer allowed to enter the COP15 in the Bella Center. TV links to the Bella Center were available at this venue.

**Vesterbros Kulturstalde:** used as volunteer office, financial office, info-point, meeting space and secretariat. Kulturstaldene hosted the secretariat from April 2009 until February 2010. At the square Onkel Dannys Plads the people’s kitchens and a large unheated eating tent were set up.

### 7.2 Accommodation

Early on accommodation for all the Klimaforum09 visitors was considered a huge issue. We learned that the UN delegates occupied most hotels and hostels in greater Copenhagen and provinces including Malmö, Sweden.

Klimaforum09 cooperated with three housing projects with online booking tools:

**Private accommodation:** New Life Copenhagen opened about 5,000 Danish homes for the climate guests that came to Copenhagen for Klimaforum09.

**Hotel ship:** Accommodation in a hotel ship docked in the centre of Copenhagen.

**Low cost alternatives:** Peoples Climate Action (PCA) organised (in cooperation with the Municipality of Copenhagen) housing for people in groups in shared accommodation facilities like gymnasiums etc. PCA offered accommodation for groups who registered before November 15, 2009. This created some problems for people, who had not registered in time and still needed accommodation.

Klimaforum09 organised accommodation for the 87 people that received solidarity funding.

### 7.3 Food

Klimaforum09 offered food vouchers to staff, volunteers, interpreters and the funded participants. The vouchers could be used at the three people's kitchens that served organic, vegetarian (and vegan) food. Other visitors were also encouraged to use these kitchens though they were placed away from the main venue (DGI-byen) at Onkel Dannys Plads. Cost of food was approximately DKK 20.

Organic food was also served at the venues DGI-byen and Øksnehallen. A kitchen run by DGI-byen delivered the food at a cost of DKK 20-40.

### 7.4 Visa

Klimaforum09 sent out 587 visa invitation letters, but we do not have any record of how many actually received visas, because we did not register people when they arrived. However, it is estimated that the vast majority of those who applied were granted a visa. But there may have been people, who received a visa invitation letter and never applied, because they did not obtain funding.

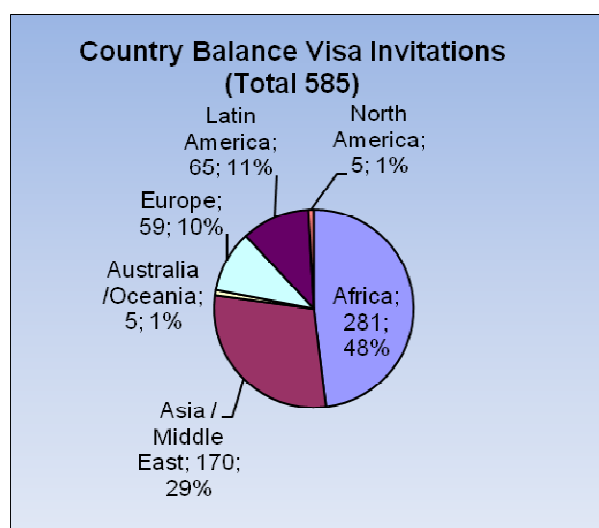


Figure 9: Country Balance Visa Invitations

There are also some, who received visas, but cancelled their journey for various reasons. It is our impression that all, who were genuinely

involved in climate related issues, and wished to visit Klimaforum09, had the opportunity to come to Denmark.

For an overview of the distribution of visa invitation letters according to country see figure 9. Note that this figure does not give an accurate picture of how many people from the global south participated in Klimaforum09, as some people from southern countries are not required to acquire visa, others had COP15 visas, and some were invited by their Danish partner organizations.

The first visa invitation letters were sent out in mid-October 2009, which was very late. Hereafter invitations were sent out on regular basis. The deadline for applying for visa for Klimaforum09 was set for November 6<sup>th</sup>, but we received many inquiries after that date. Invitations were sent out until 2 weeks before and a few days up to Klimaforum09.

The last 1-2 weeks before Klimaforum09 started and the first week into the conference, Klimaforum09 staff focused primarily on emergency assistance to people, who had not been granted visas. This was mainly because they had applied too late, and partly because they had applied without valid invitation letters from Klimaforum09.

The main problem in regard to getting a visa was the requirement to prove that the applicant had sufficient financial means for their stay. However, some embassies lowered their standard requirements, because Klimaforum09 could promise that Peoples Climate Action provided low-cost accommodation. Most problems were solved in cooperation with embassies and the Immigration Agencies. In any case Klimaforum09 did not hear from anyone, who were rejected on the basis of not meeting the requirements (except those who had filed false statements).



### **7.4.1 Lessons learned**

Klimaforum09 had a good relationship to official institutions for visa, which eased the job a great deal.

A good advice is to make an appointment with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Immigration Services in advance, so that the participants of the peoples' climate summit are treated equally with the COP participants regarding visa. We did this so that embassies could deal with most applications as 'bona fide' without having to send them to the Immigration Service in Copenhagen. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent a letter to all embassies about this, so that the embassies were generally helpful when participants applied.

However, Klimaforum09 participants should pay for their visas, which was not the case for COP15

participants. Perhaps this could have been avoided if it had been part of an early agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but it was not possible when we started. Future organizers should of course try to get free visas.

Thus it is important to have a direct line of communication with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Immigration Services. It proved to be very helpful both regarding general issues and solving specific problems.

It is also important to make it very clear to participants when they register that they must submit their data and get the visa invitation letter well in advance – even if the travel dates, financing, etc., have not yet been decided. If the invitations are not sent out in the last minute, the staff will have more time to service those in need of a visa. Klimaforum09 spent the equivalent of two full-time staff in 2.5 months on visa issues.

## 8. VOLUNTEERS

It was roughly estimated that 600 volunteers were needed in order to help run Klimaforum09 during the 12 crucial days in December 2009. Not including the volunteers needed in the secretariat and as interpreters.

A volunteer coordinator was hired mid-September 2009 to organize the volunteer recruiting-strategy and make the necessary contacts in order to locate and mobilise the volunteers. The strategy was ready for implementation by the end of September 2009 and described three volunteer tasks:

**The secretariat** – volunteers for the secretariat, able to work both before and during the summit.

**Supervisors** – volunteers, interested in coordination and organization work during Klimaforum09. This group was committed to work at least 40 hours during the conference and was divided in five sub-groups;

- Venue Coordinators
- Info-point crew
- Action Crew
- Technical Crew
- Interpreters Group

During the summit the supervisors, who were in charge of the different groups, received a number of volunteers from “the Force” (see below), to carry out the practical work like setting up chairs and such.

**“The Force”** consisted of volunteers with interest in the all-round practical work during the conference period. This group committed to work approximately 20 hours during the 12 days. It was estimated that Klimaforum09 required 600 volunteers for “the Force”. It was advised (from organizers of similar events) that we should

expect that 25% of the registered volunteers would never show up – thus Klimaforum09 officially aimed at 800 volunteers for “the Force”. The tasks included:

- Practical preparation of Klimaforum09, such as setting up signs, information stand, exhibition walls, technical equipment etc.
- Run the info-points at Klimaforum09, as well as info-points at the Central Station and the Airport, where arriving visitors could obtain practical information.
- Help to carry out the programme activities
- Help cater and clean up
- count participants at the venue entrances, in order to ensure that safety regulations were kept

Orange Klimaforum09 T-shirts were handed out and organic food (breakfast, lunch and dinner) was provided to all volunteers at the café at the volunteers’ office. Unfortunately we did not have the capacity to offer accommodation for the volunteers.

An important objective was for all volunteers to share the common vision and feeling of what Klimaforum09 was about – namely bringing people together. To start with this was a difficult task to fulfil, but once the forum started the spirit of togetherness was manifested.

As already mentioned one of the challenges in the overall organization of Klimaforum09 was lack of time, which also reflected on the organization of the volunteers especially regarding internal communication. This created a number of difficulties.

The fact that we did not have sufficient time resulted in a lack of proper preparation. At the beginning of the conference we still needed to define a number of specific tasks for the volunteers, for example in relation to the programme. The tasks were known at the administrative level, but were not communicated.

As the days passed during Klimaforum09, the list of duties grew, but with it also a better general view and the volunteers became more or less self-administrating groups. Without the “spirit” or constant belief that Klimaforum09 would succeed, this would not have been possible.

As mentioned earlier the high level of self-service mindset from e.g. workshop holders also helped to create a pleasant atmosphere throughout the conference.

## 8.1 Recruiting volunteers

No one in Klimaforum09’s Danish network, board or secretariat had experience with recruiting the huge numbers of volunteers needed. Therefore, contact was made to persons and organisations with such experience that were willing to advise us free of charge. Initially the aim was to recruit volunteers from:

- databases from other volunteer-operators
- the Danish network and other climate-related groups
- senior groups in Copenhagen
- the Universities in Denmark

During September and October, it became clear that the main groups of volunteers, who signed up for Klimaforum09 generally were:

- Danish, newly educated young people without employment
- unemployed foreigners living in Copenhagen

- international students from all over Scandinavia

What came as a real surprise was that the participants at Klimaforum09 actually also offered to volunteer for two-three days or more.

The website was the main communication tool in recruiting volunteers supplemented by social network sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Also three newsletters were sent out prior to Klimaforum09 – the first was by mid October the third by the beginning of December.

What made the challenge of recruiting volunteers even greater was the competition with many other actors in need of volunteers during the COP15.

## 8.2 Lessons learned

It worked well that it was prioritized early in the process to recruit volunteers for the secretariat – and that people were assigned to tasks that fitted their personal interests and skills. Overall the volunteers were taken good care of and felt welcome.

Internal communication was a problem, especially when the organization grew in numbers. With busy and focussed people everywhere, we neglected the need for continuous general information about developments and challenges. Some frustration could have been avoided with better communication and more planning, carried out by a greater number of waged people.

The Action Crew assisted the volunteer’s office with wide spread tasks like putting up poster/signs, garbage collection to personal assistant to visitors. The idea of having a team ready for any emerging challenge turned out to be a brilliant idea.

The info-point became a “learning by doing” experience. The scope of the task was not clear from the beginning, as it was difficult to know exactly who and how many visitors would actually show up. The fact that few Danes participated in Klimaforum09 affected the type of the questions received.

In the beginning the info-point also experienced some technical problems. For example there was no printer installed, which could have been very useful.

It would have been an advantage for the info-point to have had more information about the workshops (cancellations, changes etc.) and at some point even direct contact to the workshop holders. The lack of information falls back on the programme and activities’ team, who were extremely understaffed.

Thinking ahead and making time schedules in advance in order to keep track of who was assigned to what and when would have been helpful. A database or online schedule would also have helped a lot.

The planning of the time schedule was initiated too late in the process. This was partly due to external advice not to initiate the time schedule process with the volunteers too early, as the changes that would come later would be heavy burden. Consequently, we started too late, which gave us a lot of trouble in the days up to the start of Klimaforum09.

A general problem was that a relatively high percentage of the volunteers, who in advance had expressed their interest in helping out, never showed up. In order to compensate the “volunteer for a day” approach was introduced at the venue. This initiative helped and we were able to run Klimaforum09 satisfactorily.

It should be noted that the Klimaforum09 volunteer team was astonished by how many non-Danish volunteers actually turned up to help at the conference.

The number of volunteers was approximately 400. We may have had fewer volunteers than we expected, but the spirit was good.

## 9. INTERPRETERS

We focused primarily on interpretation to/from Danish, English, French and Spanish. Overall practical information regarding interpretation:

- **Number of rooms with conference interpretation:** 2
- **Number of languages:** 4
- **Number of booths:** 8 (4 booths in each room)
- **Number of technicians:** 1 to cover both rooms
- **Number of headsets:** 1500 (estimated peak number of participants)
- **Practical need:** Storage room for headsets
- **Number of interpreters:** 65 including one interpretation coordinator
- **Practical need:** Room for interpreters with internet connection
- **Practical need:** Internet connection also in booths
- **Other:** Consecutive interpretation in other rooms (estimated 10-15 sessions).
- **Other:** Interpretation also between Portuguese and English

We encouraged first and foremost Danish interpreters and secondly Scandinavian and other European interpreters to come to Copenhagen (it was purely from a CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction view). We worked closely together with Babels - an international network of volunteer interpreters (for more information go to: [www.babels.org](http://www.babels.org)).

The interpreters worked as volunteers, Klimaforum09 covered travel costs and accommodation. Regarding tickets, it was suggested that the interpreters bought their own

tickets, and Klimaforum09 organized reimbursement.

We were budgeting with about 200 Euros for travels from Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Germany and 335 Euros per ticket from other countries. This amount had to include all expenses.

Regarding accommodation, the interpreters were encouraged to make use of private housing. Regarding food, Klimaforum09 provided 3 meals a day at the peoples kitchens associated to Klimaforum09.

Klimaforum09 engaged with a company that delivered interpretation equipment, headsets and booths for the interpretation.

### 9.1 Lessons learned

Early on a group arranging the interpretation was established. All in all it worked well with professional equipment and technician. Headsets were handed out efficiently and all were returned.

The elaborate schedule and detailed contact list were helpful, and it was important that we sent work schedules out early in the process. In this way the interpreters could see what they were committing themselves to and that they would work for an event that was developing continuously.

The interpreters had their own room with internet connection and water, coffee and snacks were provided in booths. In general we managed to create a happy and heterogeneous team of interpreters.

As it turned out we lacked a qualified coordinator for the interpreters who could contribute to a cheerful atmosphere and facilitate communication with Klimaforum09. Decision on which languages to interpret between should be made earlier in the process, which meant that we had too little time to find enough qualified Danish volunteer interpreters.

Communication related to programme changes were not always efficient. It is important to know all interpretation needs in advance.

As it turned out some workshop holders brought their own interpreters, which should have been communicated to Klimaforum09 and then to the interpreters.

In general we lacked written material on the different talks in advance.

Communication between venue coordinators and interpreters in the booths could also have

been better. Workshop moderators should continuously have:

- mentioned the interpreters
- reminded the speakers to speak slowly and clearly into the microphone.
- asked the speakers to give their presentations/scripts/ drafts beforehand. (Having the material even 5 minutes before the start of the meeting was of great value for the interpreters).
- told the audience at every workshop beginning that they could acquire headsets if they needed interpretation.

## 10. FINANCE

The association Civil Society’s Climate Forum received DKK 8.5 million from the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs via the People’s Climate Action (PCA) – about half of it was a venue contract (DKK 4 million). The venue contract was solely negotiated by the Ministry and the venue holders DGI-byen and included technical equipment as well as DGI venue staff.

The other half was spent primarily on wages, office equipment, communication (website design, flyers etc.), interpretation equipment (incl. equipment), solidarity funding, Declaration and programme (including concerts) (see figure 10 below).

<b>Funding from Foreign Ministry:</b>	<b>8.500.000</b>	<b>DDK</b>
<b>Klimaforum09 expenses:</b>		
Contract with DGI-byen	4.000.000	DDK
Extra technical equipment	300.000	DDK
Solidarity funding 86 participants	1.200.000	DDK
Interpretation equipment	250.000	DDK
Interpreter: Travel and allowance	140.000	DDK
Wages Secretariat	1.300.000	DDK
Cultural programme	600.000	DDK
Office equipment etc.	400.000	DDK
Holding etc.	310.000	DDK
<b>Expenditure in total:</b>	<b>8.500.000</b>	<b>DDK</b>

Figure 10: Klimaforum09 expenses

Overall Klimaforum09 had a very tight budget that caused some confusion in the preparatory stages. It was never really clear how much

Klimaforum09 actually had to use on technical equipment necessary to run a conference with anything from beamers to simple microphones. Also clarifications concerning the venue and the number of conference rooms were dragged out and were not solved until at the conference start.

### 10.1 Solidarity funding

Special effort was made to invite people from regions in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Oceania and the arctic region, who already live and suffer with the reality of climate change.

In order to grant solidarity funding the following principles were formulated:

- Only for people from the global south planning an activity at Klimaforum09
- Regional balance (representatives from Asia, Africa, North and South America, Europe etc.)
- Gender balance
- Organizational diversity (people from different grass roots organizations)

86 people received solidarity funding (4 did not show up). For an overview of number of funded divided on regions and countries see figure 11 below.

Klimaforum09 paid on average DKK 9.800 for the air fares for each participant. All guests received a place to sleep two meal tickets pr day and per diem allowances during their stay.

Regions / number of funded	Countries
Asia: 19	Bangladesh, Maldives, South Korea, India, China, Philippines, East Timor, Indonesia, Nepal
Oceania: 4	Kiribati, New Zealand
Africa: 20	Togo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ghana, Malawi, Eritrea, South Africa, DR Congo, Nigeria
Middle East: 4	Jordan, Egypt
North America: 5	USA, Canada
South America: 27	Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, Peru, Uruguay, Ecuador, Chile, Columbia, Paraguay, Mexico, Bolivia, Panama
Europe: 7	Poland, Russia, Greenland

Figure 11: Number of funded: Regions/countries

## 10.2 Fundraising, sponsorship and donations

From the beginning, it was evident that Klimaforum09 had to find additional funding in order to create a satisfactory conference. Therefore approximately 35 applications for funding were sent out during the summer of 2009. Nine of the applications came back with positive affirmation. They are as follows:

- Isvara Foundation
- Roskilde Fonden
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung
- City of Copenhagen
- World Music Denmark (WMD)
- Plums Økologifond
- Dansk Musikforbund (DMF)
- Vesterbros Lokaludvalg

Besides funding the following organisations donated money to Klimaforum09:

- European Greens
- Merkur Bank
- + smaller private donations

More effort could have been put into further fundraising and donations. Again the Secretariats lack of human resources and the late start caused

problems in this respect, because of the often long processing time associated with fundraising.

Another problem was the lack of official recognition of Klimaforum09 as an “open and free for all” forum. Klimaforum09’s alliance with activist groups was never properly explained to the Danish media and continued to be a “black and white” issue focused mainly on violence versus non-violence.

Fundraising could also have been directed towards corporations. Especially in the last weeks leading up to the conference, Klimaforum09 was approached by larger companies looking for a platform, but the offers were turned down by the Secretariat’s programme team, as it easily could have been a mechanism to green wash corporations.

The importance of avoiding corporate interest has to be emphasized, as Klimaforum09 received wide recognition and astonishment amongst participants for this. It should be stressed that avoiding corporations also added to Klimaforum09’s integrity and thus it should be a conduct that should be preserved at future Klimaforum09 inspired conferences.



### **10.3 People's Climate Action (PCA) and the DKK 287.000**

Because of the tight budget Klimaforum09 attempted to save money in connection to a set of *options* attached to the DKK 4 mill venue contract between the DGI-byen and the Foreign Ministry. A DKK 200.000 video-link to the Bella Center (where the COP15 was held) was taken out of the budget, and the security guard budget was also thoroughly scrutinized in corporation with the Police and consultation with the Head of Security at Tivoli Gardens. This saved approximately DKK 87.000.

All in all DKK 287.000 – money that we needed to cover the costs of obtaining necessary items that were missing in the contract between DGI-byen and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regrettably all the money saved was transferred by the Foreign Ministry to People's Climate Action (PCA). Klimaforum09 received DKK 15.000 – the rest was used internally at the PCA.

What is more, late summer 2009, Klimaforum09 invited political spokespersons from various parties in the Danish Parliament to a meeting (see chapter 6.5). Encouraged by Ejvind Vesselbo (V) an unexpected outcome of the meeting was an application for DKK 1 million addressed to the Ministry of Energy and Climate. Ejvind Vesselbo promised to personally hand over the application to the minister Connie Hedegaard the following day.

Two days later the application ended at PCAs desk, and the outcome was obvious - there were no additional funding to be had.

## 11. COOPERATION PARTNERS

Klimaforum09 has had a number of central (and some rather controversial) collaborators;

- The ALBA-meeting
- The DGI-byen
- The ClimateCollective
- The Climate Solutions Meshwork
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The Municipality of Copenhagen
- The People's Climate Action (PCA)
- The Police

The relation between these actors and Klimaforum09 will be described in more detail below.

### 11.1 The ALBA-meeting

The ALBA-meeting arranged at Valbyhallen on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December was the biggest Klimaforum09 event outside the DGI-byen. 4,000 people attended the meeting, which was established in collaboration with 22 organisations.

Bolivian President Evo Morales, Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez, Cuban Vicepresident Estaban Lazo and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Samuel Santos spoke at the meeting, which was transmitted live to all of Latin America. With its political significance the ALBA-meeting showed how governments can work with the worlds grassroots in order to face the climate crisis together.

At an early stage, the meeting was planned to take place at Øksnehallen close to the DGI-byen. However because of the lack of funding and the high price of technical equipment needed at Øksnehallen, Klimaforum09 and its collaborator The Danish-Cuban Association had to give up the idea. In retrospect it would have been possible to

have held the meeting at Øksnehallen, as the space was offered to Klimaforum09 by the Municipality of Copenhagen, but there was no way that we could have known this at the time when the meeting was being planned.

The ALBA meeting was encouraging in many ways, as it brought environmental organisations, solidarity organisations, political parties and trade unions together and showed how this international unity can contribute to a continuous struggle to overcome the climate crisis.

### 11.2 DGI

There was never any doubt about where we wished to host Klimaforum09, as DGI-byen from the beginning was considered the perfect venue space. Early on (in 2008) the founders of Klimaforum09 had preliminarily negotiated a very advantageous contract with the DGI-byen pending on the expected funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

However, the collaboration with the DGI-byen suffered from the fact that Klimaforum09 was not allowed to participate in working out the (DKK 4 million) venue contract. It was solely negotiated behind closed doors by the Foreign Ministry and the DGI-byen.

The contract, which was signed only 6 months prior to Klimaforum09, in early July 2009, contained; the venue space itself, DGI-staff, but also technical equipment and other physical necessities. Technical equipment described in the contract was later taken out in cooperation with the Klimaforum09 staff and replaced by other more important necessities in order to run the conference.

Both before and during Klimaforum09, weekly meetings with the DGI-staff had a pleasant informality about them – even at executive level. As the conference started the professionalism of the DGI-staff became apparent. Fortunately the good spirit rubbed off onto everybody, including the DGI’s technical staff, and turned out to work in favour of us all. In other words the “Spirit of togetherness” was established quite early and was felt by the DGI-staff as well.

The DGI-byen took care of the physically conversion of the venue (from a sport centre to a professional conference centre) and technical challenges like Internet, light, sound, projector etc. In general everything went smoothly and the service provided by the DGI-staff was impeccable.

During the conference, Klimaforum09 received help from about 400 volunteers. In general DGI-byen was satisfied with the volunteers’ performance.

### **11.3 ClimateCollective**

We have had an excellent cooperation with the logistic group of the ClimateCollective. The ClimateCollective is a coordinating network consisting of various groups and initiatives working to prevent catastrophic climate change. Our collaboration with the logistic group covered mainly issues related to food and info-point.

Regarding food the ClimateCollective helped arrange the set up of a rather large people’s kitchen on Onkel Dannys Plads (see chapter 7.3). The ClimateCollective also set up an info point in Råhuset at Onkel Dannys Plads that functioned as a space with information on various practical matters including; food and accommodation, geography of Copenhagen (maps), legal rights, trauma and medics. The info-point also offered

internet services, warm drinks and a free shop (with warm clothes, etc.).

The people’s kitchen and the info-point created a vibrant atmosphere at the square, Onkel Dannys Plads.

Considering Klimaforum09s fruitful collaboration with the ClimateCollective, it is quite a pity that we did not manage to work closer regarding the mobilization around the COP15.

### **11.4 Climate Solutions Meshwork**

To support the coherency within Klimaforum09 it was seen as essential that the solutions that already existed amongst participating organisations were made visible and scalable. In order to do so cooperation with the 2020 Climate Solutions Meshwork was established, as a unique way for people and organisations to systematize their knowledge and thus help everyone see which piece of the puzzle they had in the bigger climate change context.

In other words the purpose of the Meshwork was to support Klimaforum09's initiative and maximise the potential of all participants - by connecting them to the organisations and climate change solutions they needed to know about.

Prior to the 7<sup>th</sup> of December invitations were sent out to thousands of people registered with Klimaforum09 to join the online Climate Solutions Meshwork. This was an opportunity to make everyone visible to everyone else before coming to Copenhagen. Thus participants were able to find people:

- working in the same area as themselves
- with similar profiles,
- who live nearby,
- who work in the same sector,
- or people who are different but still complementary to each other.

At Klimaforum09s purple hall nine tables was placed, each with a different theme (figure x). Participants were invited to different facilitated sessions and know-how and best practices were exchanged with support from Meshwork staff and an online collaboration system.

1. Communication of the environmental challenge
2. A just/sustainable climate deal
3. Equity
4. Sustainable energy technology and energy systems
5. Sustainable utilisation of resources and food
6. Sustainable agriculture, forestry and fishery
7. Alternative economics and sustainable development
8. Sustainable lifestyles
9. Education

*Figure 12:  
The nine action Meshwork themes*

In addition to this computers were set up for participants to register.

The nine tables were designed to facilitate conversations that matter around the key action areas arising in and from the Peoples' Summit, and to transform those conversations into actions that make a difference.

Teams of Meshwork staff moved through the conference as a whole, talking to people, helping them connect to the meshwork, see which particular role they played in the whole, and helped find connections to others in the Meshwork who would benefit from their experience and insight.

Before the invitations were sent out there were 407 people registered in the Meshwork system (mainly from from Brazil 2020 Meshwork). On the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 658 had interred the system and on the 4<sup>th</sup> of January it was 1218. Current figure is 1329.

The collaboration with the 2020 Climate Solutions Meshwork was in every way very constructive.

*"As the 2020 Climate Solutions Meshwork, we received tremendous support from the Klimaforum team both before and during the event itself. A combination of professionalism, commitment and friendliness created the conditions for a very successful event. Congratulations to all involved!" Peter Merry of the 2020 Climate Solution Meshwork.*

### **11.5 Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Central Klimaforum09 representatives have since early spring 2008 been in close contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to obtain funding to finance the people's climate forum. It has been a long and difficult task guided by much suspicion and mistrust.

In November 2008, after months of negotiations (see appendix 1), DKK 20 million from the annual state budget was granted to support climate related civil society projects – funds that were distributed directly and indirectly by the Ministry through the People's Climate Action (PCA) (see section 11.5) and of which Klimaforum09 received DKK 8.5 million (see chapter 10).

As mentioned above, Klimaforum09's relation to the Ministry has been difficult. It is partly due to; changing negotiating parties; an unclear decision making structure between PCA and the Ministry; an incredibly slow management of issues.

Whatever the cause one has to mention the misjudgement on the Ministry's side regarding the importance of civil society's work and

involvement in the UNFCCC COP process. The selected structure with the large, well known and established organizations as intermediaries in the PCA reflects that the Ministry's knowledge of civil society is limited to their own cooperation partners among the NGO's.

### **11.6 Municipality of Copenhagen**

The Municipality of Copenhagen granted DKK 2 million to support the framework for civil society activities and to improve accommodation options in Copenhagen during the COP15. This was coordinated by the Municipality's Department of Finance and in close cooperation with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Department of Finance proposed that the City of Copenhagen contributed to Klimaforum09 with Kulturstaldene, the social gathering space (Øksnehallen), and provided extra toilets and waste management (for more information see chapter 7.1). This was granted to our satisfaction and was a great help. Throughout the process we have had a good relation with the Department of Finance.

At an early stage Klimaforum09 also cooperated with the activities at the City's town square. It made a lot of sense to begin with, as the two events were situated close to each other and could collaborate on many things, e.g. the cultural programme. But after it was decided to turn the activity into Copenhagen Live, that counted sponsors like Coca Cola, Vattenfall etc., Klimaforum09 could no longer see the significance.

### **11.7 People's Climate Action**

Klimaform09 has a very turbulent history not only in relation to the Foreign Ministry, but also to the People's Climate Action (PCA).

The PCA was set up in November 2008, to coordinate and support the many civil society

activities before and during the COP15. The PCA was established by a number of generally mainstream Danish NGO's and the Danish Government's Climate Conference Committee via the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Ministry donated DKK 20 million, through PCA, to projects, which enhanced awareness on climate change. Funds were granted to a number of Danish projects (including Klimaforum09), in accordance with recommendations from the review board and after receiving approval from the Government's Climate Conference Committee.

When Klimaforum09 finally received funding in the summer of 2009, it was under the condition that Klimaforum09 not only shared the venue (DGI-byen), but also coordinated activities with PCA. Klimaforum09 never accepted these conditions, but found it outrageous that despite applying PCA for funding on the same terms as others, Klimaforum09 were the only project faced with such conditions. However, Klimaforum09 insisted on keeping its autonomy and succeeded because of its determination, professionalism and diplomacy of its well established secretariat.

As Klimaforum09 gained full control over the venue and the peoples' conference, it also gained wide recognition for its true intentions of being an open forum.

Along with Klimaforum09's registration process, the PCA also insisted on accumulating projects that had an interest in participating in Klimaforum09. In this regard, the PCA approximately contributed with 15 projects for Klimaforum09, mostly exhibitions.

Over all the relationship with the PCA can be described as based on mutual mistrust. However, it should be noted that the two secretariats tried to bury the hatchet.

## 11.8 Police

Klimaforum09's secretariat made contact to the Police in Copenhagen in June, 2009. An informal meeting with the police's Head of Communication and Klimaforum09 was set up and the idea of Klimaforum09 as an open conference was introduced. The purpose was mainly to explain who and what Klimaforum09 was and brush aside any misunderstandings before they developed.

After the first meeting Klimaforum09 was put in direct contact with the Superintendent in charge of the police's "extremist division" – a title that covered every activity that was "alternative" to the official body of COP15. The Superintendent was invited to the secretariat in order to discuss needs and develop further understanding of each other's agenda.

After two more meetings another Superintendent was especially assigned to Klimaforum09 in October 2009.

Early on, Klimaforum09 and the police agreed that working police officers had very little business at Klimaforum09. Besides being a conference, which in itself does not require police presence, the argument was based on the reaction a police presence would create in some groups of people expected to participate in Klimaforum09, mainly from the global south.

But in spite of that, it was, after various meetings, decided that two police officers would be assigned to the DGI-byen venue throughout the conference. The argument was that it would help Klimaforum09 to deal with the drug addicts and general theft connected to the closely situated central train station, and the risk such clientele could have on the conference and participants. As it turned out, the two police officers became an asset to Klimaforum09 in ways not expected.

With 50.000 visitors, it was clear from the beginning that Klimaforum09 was a central place for many different groups of people and, being that, a place where groups would gather at any time of the day. All were welcome – nobody was excluded.

Though there was a clear understanding between the police and Klimaforum09 about not accepting the presence of additional police inside the venue, spontaneous gatherings caused some confusion within the police force itself. This became a problem at more than one occasion, as misinformed bypassing police units stopped at the venue to investigate the activities.

The problem was not bypassing police units, who were curious to know what was going on inside the venue, but the fact that Klimaforum09's staff and DGI-staff could not talk to them about their presence. One combat dressed police officer argued that he had as much right to participate in the climate debate as anybody at the forum. True as it might be, the statement indicates the absurdity of the argument, disrespect and underlying provocation from a misguided police officer. The police have acknowledged this problem verbally.

Next to DGI-byen is situated the newly opened CPH Conference. It is run by the same company as DGI-byen. Against Klimaforum09's recommendation two international meetings, which included high security profiles such as the Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper and Governor of California, Arnold Schwarzenegger took place on December 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The meetings caused a heavy presence of large groups of combat ready police. Some of Klimaforum09's visitors saw this as a provocation, as the DGI-byen remained a low security zone throughout the conference period.

In the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup>, 17 people were arrested, as they supposedly tried to make their way inside the CPH Conference. Later that day an additional 23 people engaged in a 'sit in' inside the CPH Conference were arrested.

During the demonstration on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, Klimaforum09 sought to convince the police to lead demonstrators (coming from the Bella Center) to Øksnehallen instead of (the cold) Aksel Square. Though supported by the two Klimaforum09 related Police officers, the "mission" failed, because of the police's lack of confidence in their own personnel. The reason why the demonstrators could not walk directly to Øksnehallen was the CPH conference and the visitor's need for high level security. It should be underlined here that Øksnehallen is a separate building with many alternative entrances. Thus the lack of consent from the police chief to allow the demonstrators access, should be connected to two officers' relatively low rank. Despite the fact that they saw the same possibilities as Klimaforum09 did, they did not succeed in convincing their superiors.

Many spontaneous initiatives took place at Klimaforum09 that the two assigned police officers were aware of. If they had had, or for the time being had received a higher rank during the conference more spontaneous actions would have been possible, thus adding to the integrity of the Klimaforum09.

Seen from inside Klimaforum09, it appears as if the police suffered from a lack of internal communication. Thus many decisions involving Klimaforum09 activities were made without thorough knowledge. In this connection, it is still difficult for Klimaforum09's staff to understand why we had to argue with combat ready police officers. All police should from the beginning

have been informed about Klimaforum09's important function as a free and open space.

Throughout Klimaforum09 the two police officers did a tremendous job and became a great asset and helped in many different areas – from theft to close corporation with the security team assigned to the venue. But never did any of us suspect that the greatest asset of having two police officers as part of a peoples' climate forum would be controlling the police force itself (and their misdirected combat dressed police officers). It should be noted that the two officers also caught the 'spirit of Klimaforum09'.

**One final remark** from Klimaforum09 concerns the police's exaggerated approach towards demonstrators. Around two thousand people were arrested, but less than 2 percent were actually charged. This reality along with the fact that the police preventatively arrested activists, who were in the process of organizing demonstrations says something quite worrying about Danish civil rights and freedom of speech.

As such Klimaforum09 had to deal with thousands of frustrated visitors, without any meaningful answers to give.

Note that when the frustration was at the highest (15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> December) the two police officers did not leave the DGI-venue office.

## 12. CONCLUSION

With its openness and compliance to cooperate, Klimaforum09 united civil society on common ground, added a new dimension to the international democratic discourse and even helped facilitate the COP15, when it failed to accommodate its accredited guests.

The purpose of this evaluation rapport has primarily been to collect, reflect and draw on the experiences of Klimaforum09 in order to inspire and help bring forward likeminded conferences.

### 12.1 Successes and achievements

There never was any doubt amongst the Danish organisers of Klimaforum09 that the peoples' climate forum would play an important role in Copenhagen. The stage was set for a closed COP15 conference with highly restricted access, which left many people and organisations (with alternative agenda's) outside. There obviously was a need for an open forum.

When the UNFCCC demanded accreditation and relied on heavy administration, Klimaforum09 demonstrated the art of the possible and surprised many who had not recognized or understood the need for an open space where all were welcome.

Large international gatherings, such as the COP15, cannot stand alone in contemporary societies. Looking back at the overall set up in Copenhagen under the COP15, Klimaforum09 has to be mentioned in many different connections. The need for a space where people feel welcome, can raise their voice and are listened to is important not only for climate justice, but also for democracy. Especially as the UN-system in itself is not a guaranty for social equality, as many ethnic groups are excluded from the government

level. Also we must not allow governments to exclude civil society and the people from decision-making processes.

Not only did Klimaforum09 add to the seriousness of the climate discussion. Emphasis was also put on the importance of civil society to come together and take action on climate change issues. Thus solidarity between civil society, environmental organisations and people's movements was increased.

**Collaboration** - When it became clear towards the end that COP15 was going to turn away NGOs, freelance journalists, and others that had been accredited, Klimaforum09 was contacted by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The request was for the UNFCCC to use Øksnehallen (see logistics) to receive thousands of excluded NGOs. As Klimaforum09's idea was to use Øksnehallen for events with unusually high attendance, for spontaneous meetings and as a kind of safety valve for whatever would arise out of bubbling Copenhagen, the request was obliged.

Klimaforum09 received neither money, nor written acknowledgement, for its unquestioning openness in receiving the extremely frustrated NGOs, who, according to themselves, were about to burst out in anger.

Bearing in mind the logistic problems COP15 faced, this kind of corporation should have been considered much earlier.

**The success** - Klimaforum09 was the biggest event on climate change in a Danish environmental context. Considering the economy (DKK 8.5 mill) Klimaforum09 did the impossible. 202 debates, 70 exhibitions, 43 films, 16 concerts



and 11 plays were featured over twelve days and the doors were wide open every day from 10:00 to midnight. All activities were free for all 50,000 participants to attend.

Many spoke of the atmosphere or the even the “spirit” of Klimaforum09 – a phenomenon that was never anticipated by the Danish organisers. Nevertheless, the success of Klimaforum09 lies with each participant and the ‘spirit’ belong to them.

Klimaforum09 also managed to set up the framework for creating a People’s Declaration calling for “system change – not climate change”, which 500 organizations have signed so far.

The Declaration was another achievement that clearly shows that Klimaforum09 brought civil society organisations and social movements together, which not only has strengthened them, but also added to their confidence in working together. Thus there has been created common ground on which to build further alliances.

However, Klimaforum09 would not have succeeded without the true commitment of all the volunteers. There are no words strong enough to express how thankful we are. Klimaforum09s success is definitely a collective one.

**Forward** - The experiences from Copenhagen tell us that, it is far from enough to have NGO side-events under the same roof as the official UNFCCC negotiations. The popular understanding of the climate crisis must be lifted to a much higher level, and this can only be done with the openness that Klimaforum09 offered.

*Thus one aspect* of what Klimaforum09 can bring forward centres on the contributions the organizers can give to the civil society and grassroots movements who are organizing and mobilising themselves in connection to COP16 in Mexico.

The success of Klimaforum09 points towards a Klimaforum10, but it must be stressed, that though the Klimaforum09 secretariat are ready to support such an idea, it is important that it becomes a local initiative. Klimaforum09s basic experience, particularly regarding the importance of having a place where everyone feels welcome, is fundamental for further work. The UN should recognize this.

As indicated, the Danish organisers of Klimaforum09 are ready to accommodate the Mexican civil society in arranging a Klimaforum10 in any sensible way. Gathering civil society is no easy task, but the Peoples' World Conference on Climate Change and Mother Earth Rights in Bolivia in April 2009, could be a first step.

*Another aspect regards* Klimaforum09s Danish network and the maintenance of the fruitful cooperation between the 31 grassroots movements. In a Danish context Klimaforum09 have managed to build up credibility on the outside (to the authorities) and trust on the inside (in the Danish network). It is important to expand and further develop cooperation in Denmark between the grassroots organisations. We should therefore preserve the Danish network, as a rallying point for the Danish grassroots.

## Appendix 1: Historic timeline (February 2008 - July 2009)

The historic timeline indicates the steps, which have defined the political and financial preconditions within which Klimaforum09 has been realized. In other words, it is a short history of the most important political and organizational steps from February 2008 to July 2009.

### February 2008:

- First application (sent to the authorities) for an event in the DGI-byen during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen 2009.

### April 2008:

- Grassroots meeting in the DGI-byen about a civil society's climate forum (Klimaforum09).

### May 2008:

- Meeting between a wide range of Danish originations to discuss the possibility of organizing a climate forum. The 92-group reports that it, as such, has no mandate or intention to engage in a climate forum.
- The initiative "Civil Society's Climate Forum" (CSCF) was formed as well as a temporary working group. The initiative is supported by small Danish grassroots organizations.
- The proposal for a climate forum is presented to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The foreign ministry asks for a project plan.

### June 2008:

- First project plan is delivered to the foreign ministry. Nothing happens.

### August 2008:

- The CSCF working group sends letters to the political parties in Parliament to create awareness on the need for a civil society's climate forum. The press starts to respond.

### September 2008:

- The CSCF working group sends letters to the different relevant Danish ministries. It is mentioned in the press that several parties in parliament are positive about supporting an alternative civil society forum in connection with COP15.
- A proposal for an organizational platform that embraces all initiatives related to COP15 is presented. A civil society secretariat is proposed. The proposal is coming from the big NGO's.
- The foreign ministry asks the CSCF working group to prepare another project presentation. If the outcome is positive, the foreign ministry will pay the working group to make a thorough project description.
- A week later the second project plan is delivered to the foreign ministry

**October 2008:**

- Memo published on a so-called Civil Society's Climate Change Secretariat.
- The COP15-CAMP is held, where the climate secretariat is officially established and at the same time renamed the People's Climate Action (PCA).

**November 2008:**

- The foreign Ministry decides to grant funding to develop a fully worked out proposal for a Civil Society's Climate Forum.
- PCAs founding meeting. CSCF is given two seats on the board.

**December 2008:**

The third project plan is delivered to the foreign ministry.

**January 2009:**

- The PCA is assigned DKK 20 million from the annual state budget. The money is to be granted (through 3 application rounds) to both the large civil society projects (including the climate forum) and the smaller activities planned before and during COP15.
- CSCF applies at PCAs 1<sup>st</sup> application round for DKK 11.6 million to organize the climate forum.
- CSCFs founding meeting, 18 organizations participate.

**February 2009:**

- PCA allocates DKK 100,000 for further concept development of the climate forum. In addition 7 million DKK are earmarked for the forum on a series of conditions.
- CSCF does not accept the conditions imposed by the PCA.
- CSCF applies for PCA's 2<sup>nd</sup> application round in order to obtain additional financing.

**March 2009:**

- CSCF receives PCAs comments on the application from the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. PCA is granting DKK 7.3 million on the condition that PCA is in charge of leasing contracts and agreements related to logistics. The DKK 100.000 is granted for further concept development. It is also stressed that there must be a cooperative agreement between CSCF and PCA before the foreign ministry can approve the grant.
- CSCF receives a letter from the PCA regarding a framework for a climate forum that PCA could vouch for. What is notable is: "It is the board of PCA's clear decision that we cannot as PCA take responsibility for implementation of a parallel NGO Forum, unless the PCA Secretariat has the overall management and can ensure themselves against any of the actors problematic behaviour, style or opinions."
- CSCF sends a letter to the PCA and the foreign ministry that the new design in no way is acceptable.
- CSCF meets with PCA and come to a first draft of a cooperation agreement which clarifies the two parts respective right to the premises of the climate forum and the allocation of funds.

**April 2009:**

- The 100.000 kr. from the 1<sup>st</sup> application round is paid to CSCF and the first staff is employed (3 part time and 1 full time employee)

**May 2009:**

- CSCF signs the cooperation agreement
- The 350.000 kr. from the 2<sup>st</sup> application round is paid to CSCF

**June 2009:**

- 4 full time staff are employed

**July 2009:**

- The foreign ministry signs the contract with DGI-byen

## Appendix 2: Klimaforum09s network

### **Klimaforum09s Danish Network:**

Agenda 21 Center Nørrebro  
Agendacentre (Vesterbro)  
Anima  
Afrika Kontakt  
Attac  
Brahma Kumaris Åndelige Verdensuniversitet  
Budskab fra Græsrodderne  
Byhavenetværket  
Danmarks Naturkomite  
Dansk Cubansk Forening  
Dansk Vegetarforening  
De Obligatoriske Lege  
Det Økologiske Inspirationshus  
Flydende By  
Frie Bønder - Levende Land  
Foreningen Frit Tibet  
Foreningen Nordens Ungdom  
Internationalt Forum Danmark  
Klimabevægelsen i Danmark  
Kultur Vesterbro  
Københavns Miljø- og Energikontor (KMEK)  
Landsforeningen for Økosamsund (LØS)  
Landsforeningen Økologisk Byggeri (LØB)  
Levende Hav  
Miljøbevægelsen NOAH  
New Life Copenhagen  
Natur og Ungdom  
Permakultur Danmark  
Rådet for Bæredygtig Trafik  
VesterGror  
Øko-net

### **Klimaforum09s international network:**

Acción Ecológica Ecuador  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Regenwald und Artenschutz  
Attac-France  
Attac-Finland  
Black Womens Roundtable (NCBCP)  
British Russian Eco-cultural Network (BREN)

BUKO Agrar Koordination  
Campaign against Climate Change  
CENSAT Agua Viva, Friends of the Earth Colombia  
Centre for Organisation Research and Education (CORE)  
Civil Society Forum on Climate Change  
Collectif Urgence Climatique et Justice Sociale (UCJS)  
Ecologistas en Acción (Spain)  
Environmental Justice & Climate Change Initiative  
Federation of Community Forest Users, Nepal (FECOFUN)  
FERN  
Focus on the Global South  
Föreningen Fjärde världen  
Friends of the Earth International  
Friends of the Earth U.S.  
Girls' Power Initiative (GPI), Nigeria  
Georgia Coalition for Peoples' Agenda  
GLOBAL 2000/Friends of the Earth Austria  
Global Forest Coalition  
Global Justice Ecology Project  
Human Rights Defenders Network (HURIDEN)  
Indigenous Environmental Network  
Indonesian Civil Society Forum on Climate Justice  
IndyACT  
International Campaign on Climate Refugees' Rights  
International Forum on Globalization  
International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)  
International Network of Engineers and Scientist for Global Responsibility (INES)  
IPAM (Initiative Pour un Autre Monde) France  
Jubilee South - Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development  
KAIROS (Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives)  
KFEM – Friends of the Earth South Korea  
Klimataktion  
Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Center (LHAHRDEV), Nigeria  
Oilwatch International  
Pacific Calling Partnership  
Pakistan Fisherfolk Forum  
Peoples' Movement on Climate Change (PMCC)  
Permaculture International  
PLATFORM  
Rainforest Action Network  
Rule of Law Institute, Russia  
Sustainable Energy & Economy Network  
The Zero Carbon Caravan

The Nordic Youth Association  
The Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture (ReSCOPE) Programme  
The Veg Climate Alliance  
Third World Network  
Tibet Third Pole  
Transnational Institute  
Via Campesina  
WEED, World Economy, Ecology and Development, Germany  
Women for peace and ecology - Germany  
Women's International League for Peace and Ecology  
World March of Women  
World Rainforest Movement  
Young Friends of the Earth Europe  
350.org

## **Appendix 3: The Danish and international board**

### **The Danish board:**

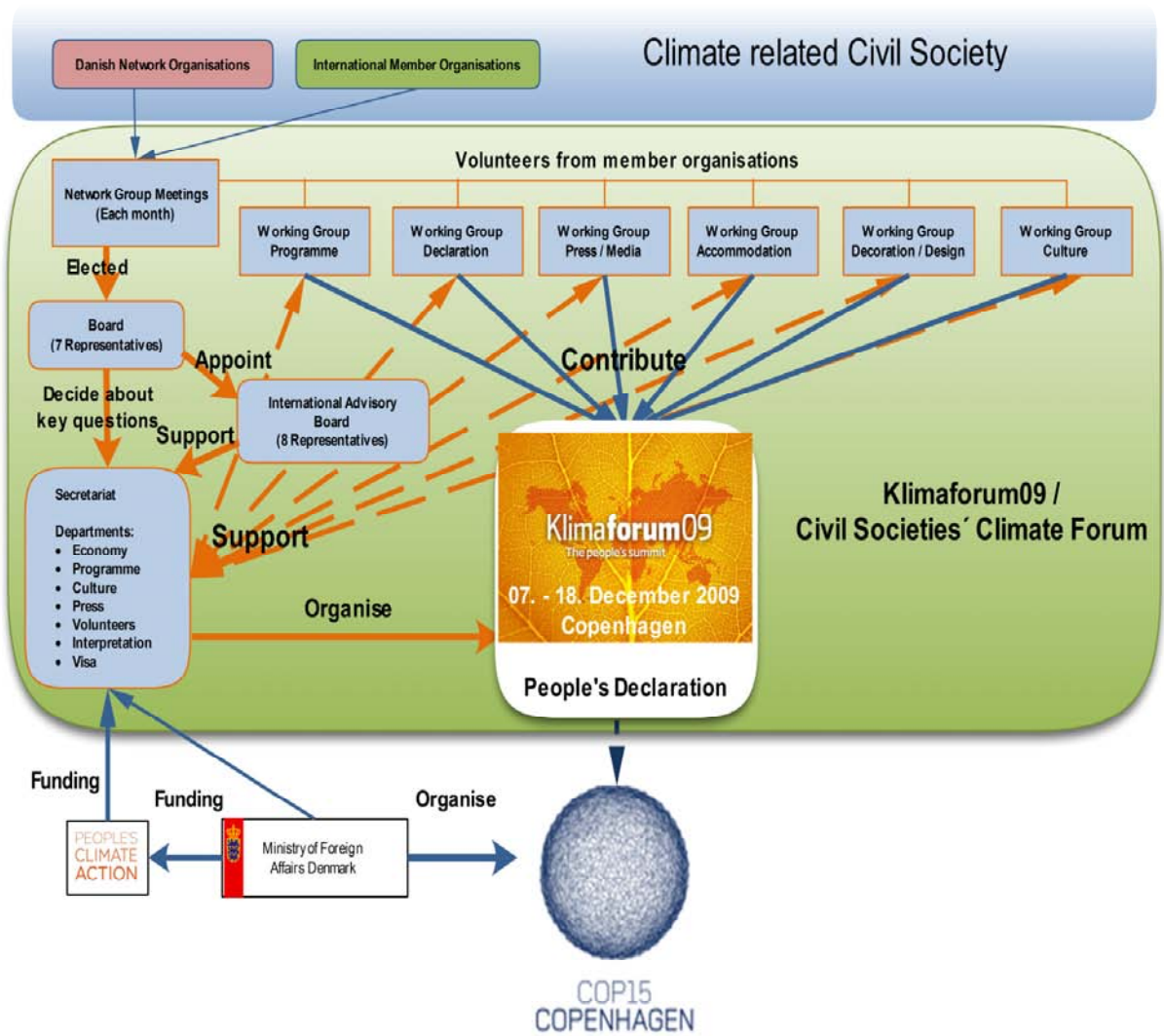
ATTAC Danmark  
Frie Bønder  
Klimabevægelsen  
Levende Hav  
NOAH, Friends of the Earth Denmark  
Permakultur Danmark  
Permakultur International

### **The international Advisory board:**

ATTAC France  
Focus on the Global South  
Friends of the Earth International  
International Campaign on Climate Refugees' Rights  
Jubilee South  
La Via Campesina  
People's Movement on Climate Change  
The Regional Schools and Colleges Permaculture (ReSCOPE) Programme



## Appendix 4: Organisation diagram



## Appendix 5: Political platform

### Political platform

In preparation for COP15 – UN’s climate summit in Copenhagen in December 2009 – a group of movements, unions, organisations, and individuals have joined forces in order to organize a concurrent event; Civil Society’s Climate Forum.

The basis for Civil Society’s Climate Forum is the realisation that there is no technological fix to the mounting climate crisis. No technology per se – such as i.e. nuclear power, agrofuels, GMO’s, carbon capture and storage – can lead us out of the climate crisis. Such solutions will typically lead to far larger problems than they solve. In contrast, sustainable societies require a diversity of locally based solutions – which again require significant mobilisation of civil society.

Civil Society’s Climate Forum believes that what is needed is building a finely balanced relation to nature, thus reducing consumption and production, rather than uncritically exploiting nature and believing in economic growth as is the case in global society today. To attain such change we need new ways of thinking, new cultural values, and new means of organising society.

With this starting point, Civil Society’s Climate Forum wishes to promote and debate true, renewable and environmentally sustainable solutions to the climatic changes we are facing. In other words, solutions that:

1. prioritise energy saving and energy effectiveness
2. promote the use of safe, clean, renewable energy
3. reduce greenhouse gas emissions and as such do not promote or cement the use of fossil fuels
4. are built on agricultural methods that fix carbon in the soil and reduce the use of fertilisers and which do not create a threat towards ecosystems, the climate and biodiversity
5. secure sustainable use of as well as equal and just access to Earth’s resources
6. remain critical to the blind focus on consumption which dominates the global society today

Our wish is that the above list of focus areas for the Civil Society’s Climate Forum will provide a positive platform for constructive debate and exchange of ideas. Civil Society’s Climate Forum aims at constituting a cohesive framework for a palette of conferences, workshops, exhibitions etc., to which grass roots and organisations from all over the world will contribute during the COP15 conference in Copenhagen.