



PRESS RELEASE

UN Climate Change Secretariat Teams up With *Vampire Diaries* Star Ian Somerhalder to Produce Uplifting Climate Action Documentary

(Bonn, Germany, 26 September 2014) – An inspiring new documentary released today highlights the growing global momentum towards tackling climate change, amplifying the positive messages coming out of this week’s United Nations Climate Summit in New York City.

The 22-minute documentary, [Climate Heroes: Stories of Change](#), takes the viewer on a trip around the world to see on-the-ground action on climate change, in communities large and small. The documentary is narrated by Ian Somerhalder, an actor best known for his work on the international hit TV series *The Vampire Diaries* and on the critically acclaimed drama *Lost*. Mr. Somerhalder is also a UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador who is passionate about tackling climate change.

“Action on climate change is not some far-off event,” explains Mr. Somerhalder in the film’s opening minutes. “There is an enormous groundswell of action already underway to fight climate change. It’s happening right now, all over the world.”

The documentary was produced by the United Nations Climate Change secretariat’s [Momentum for Change](#) initiative, which shines light on some of the best examples of climate solutions – to inspire increased climate action around the world. Momentum for Change is distributing the documentary to public TV stations around the world, free of charge.

“Our documentary is both inspiring and important because it shows, without a doubt, that action on climate change is generating green jobs, inspiring entrepreneurship and improving lives,” said Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Climate Change secretariat. “These examples can help build confidence and inspire nations towards a meaningful new universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015.”

The nine stories of climate action featured in the film are:

- **India:** [Pollinate Energy](#), bringing solar energy to Bangalore’s slums while creating green jobs
- **Ghana:** [Bamboo Bikes Initiative](#), women leading on climate change by building high-quality bamboo bicycles
- **Australia:** [1 Million Women](#), building a movement to get one million women to take small steps in their everyday lives to cut pollution and lead change
- **Bangladesh:** [Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction](#), a women-centered initiative to address extreme weather conditions in vulnerable communities
- **Kenya:** [The BOMA Project](#), enabling vulnerable women to adapt to climate change by building small businesses
- **Ghana:** [Recnowa Initiative](#), empowering disadvantaged people to turn recyclable waste into a low-carbon business opportunity
- **Mexico:** [EcoCasa](#), unlocking financing to build low-carbon housing and increase the number of green mortgages
- **Philippines:** [Sustainable Energy Finance Program](#), an innovative financing scheme to bolster resources needed to address climate change
- **China:** [China CDM Fund](#), supporting low-carbon growth and climate resilience through levies on clean development mechanism projects



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The above initiatives were selected as [2013 Lighthouse Activities](#) by Momentum for Change, which is implemented with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation, and operates in partnership with the World Economic Forum and the Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI).

The UN Climate Change secretariat's partnership with GeSI was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013 to underscore the critical role Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays in tackling climate change. The 2014 Lighthouse Activities will be announced in November and will feature inspiring, innovative and successful activities from Momentum for Change's four focus areas: [Urban Poor](#), [Women for Results](#), [Financing for Climate Friendly Investment](#) and [ICT Solutions](#).

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Note: TV stations, film distributors and others wishing to broadcast *Climate Heroes: Stories of Change*, please contact Sarah Marchildon directly for a broadcast-ready version of the film.

Download:

Climate Heroes: Stories of Change (full documentary):
<http://vimeo.com/m4c/climateheroes>

Climate Heroes: Stories of Change (trailer):
<http://vimeo.com/103803420>

High-resolution images of the projects featured in the film:
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/md77sbijzm5f3jz/metZ3E8kvO>

Momentum for Change 2013 Annual Report:
<http://unfccc.int/mfc2013/>

Momentum for Change Podcast:
http://unfccc.int/secretariat/momentum_for_change/items/8401.php

Learn more:

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[Ian Somerhalder Foundation](#)

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