

Terms of Reference

Overview of Danish research projects on themes of relevance for climate change in developing countries

1. Background

In recent years we have seen an increased focus on climate change issues, mitigation of climate change and adaptation to climate change. In April 2007 the 4th assessment report from the Working Group 2 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) clearly demonstrated that the most vulnerable regions with regard to climate change are: Africa South of Sahara, large coastal cities, mega deltas in Asia, small island states, polar areas and areas covered by permafrost.

Climate change is also an issue closely related to poverty and the IPCC report states that besides the above mentioned regions, which are among the poorest and most vulnerable globally, the poorest in other poor regions will be the most affected by climate change.

Adaptation to climate change is closely linked to better water management, water supply and sanitation (e.g. changes in the hydrological cycle and water balance, sea level rise and increased water temperatures and changed water quality). But the same effects of climate change and the increased instability and risk of drought and floods also have severe consequences for the environment, for agriculture and for health issues. Thus climate change is closely related to issues of sustainable development and is a serious threat in terms of meeting the MDG's in the developing countries. Danish partner countries are among the poorest countries in the world and strategies to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development are vital parts of support to these countries.

Profound knowledge of the consequences of climate change in the developing countries is vital for assistance to developing countries in overcoming the negative effects of climate change. This knowledge is also important in order to secure the most needed and efficient adaptation to climate change.

In order to facilitate the access of policy-makers to Danish based research and facilitate networking and joint research proposals within climate change, the research networks: Danish Development Research Network (DDRN), Danish Water Forum (DWF), and the Danish Research Network for International Health (SUNNET) have decided to jointly develop a mapping of Danish research competences with regard to climate change and its implications for developing countries. The mapping must cover past and ongoing research on areas related to climate change with relevance for developing countries. The focus will be on recent research since 2003, but earlier highly relevant work may be included.

The mapping, which is expected to be presented at Danida Development Days June 9-11, 2008, aims to make the Danish competences accessible to research partners in developing and other countries, to facilitate the development of research proposals, and to inform developing practices and policies within the areas covered by the networks.

2. Tasks

The consultant will be responsible for compiling a report including:

- An overview of past (mainly since 2003) and current research projects and publications by Danish research institutions that address climate change, climate impacts and adaptation to climate change in developing countries - with a specific focus on Danish

partner countries. The research to be covered by the overview will include research undertaken by individual researchers, research groups, institutes and universities.

- A mapping of the Danish resource base with experiences in the above mentioned areas and of the institutions and universities that they are linked to. The mapping should serve as a useful tool in identifying partners and supporting the development of future joint research projects.

3. Methodology and staffing

The consultancy will be carried out as a desk study in close collaboration with the secretariats of the three research networks. The references to be consulted for the overview of the Danish resource base will include, but not necessarily be limited to, research data bases provided by Danish universities, member data bases of DDRN, DWF and SUNNET, and documentation (overviews, reports, abstracts) provided by Danida's research unit and by the research networks.

The format of the mapping should include an edited introduction and summary of results on the specific areas of the research networks as well as on cross-thematic areas, followed by relevant annexes.

4. Outputs and Reporting

The consultant will submit a:

- first draft of the mapping no later than May 15, 2008
- final draft of the mapping no later than May 30, 2008
- final report to be sent to Danida on June 2, 2008

The consultant will be expected to attend Danida Development Days on June 9–11, 2008, in order to answer questions on the report, which will be presented at the conference.

5. Duration

The contract will last 5 weeks within the period April 21 – June 11, 2008.

6. Qualifications

The mapping can be compiled by a researcher within one of the mentioned research fields or by a person holding at least a Master's degree in one of the research fields and with documented relevant working experience. Knowledge of the Danish resource base within the areas to be covered is important.

Expressions of interest with curriculum vitae and proposed budget should be submitted by email no later than April 11, 2008 to:

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