

# Development and Climate Project

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## The Challenge

Governments and policy-makers increasingly recognize that actions to limit climate change should support the broader aims of sustainable development, including the alleviation of poverty.

In many developing countries today, however, a number of more immediate issues overshadow climate change: poverty, food security, health, natural resource management, energy access, and urban transport. At the same time, there are many good examples of development initiatives that also produce positive climate outcomes – often without any consideration for climate change.

In China, for example, the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 15% from 1996-2000 (when the economy grew by 35%) was accomplished using price reform, environmental improvements and energy sector restructuring. These measures were undertaken for their economic and environmental benefits and without explicitly considering the implications for climate change mitigation or adaptation.

The Chinese example illustrates the potential for policies and actions to *simultaneously* drive development and address climate change. However, research on the links between sustainable development and climate change is only just emerging and mostly conceptual. Expanding this research as a basis for developing policies and actions that strengthen the relationships between development and climate change is the rationale for the *Development and Climate Project*.

## Project Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of the *Development and Climate Project* is to identify development paths and actions linked to positive climate outcomes. The Project is aimed at national and international stakeholders from the political, developmental, and environmental communities.

The objectives of the Project are to:

- explore national development strategies and policies that both meet the development priorities of individual countries and address climate change;



- identify promising policy options and projects that assist in the transition to long-term sustainable development, including policies addressing climate change;
- establish a partnership between centres of excellence in developing and industrialized countries to promote discussions and share experiences about integrated development and greenhouse gas reduction policies; and
- distil the lessons and experience from international cooperation towards a global regime addressing climate change.

## Project Activities

The Project is focused on two priority areas of sustainable development for developing countries:

- (1) energy supply for development and access to electricity;
- (2) food security/fresh water availability and the interrelated aspects of land use and forest management.

### International Support

*Partner institutions from developing countries are BCAS (Bangladesh), COPPE (Brazil), ERI (China), IIMA (India), EDRC (South Africa), and ENDA (Senegal).*

*Partner institutions from industrialised countries are PIK (Germany), CIRED/CNRS (France), IISD (Canada), Stanford University (USA), UCCEE (Denmark), RIVM (The Netherlands), and IIED (UK)*

*International organisations supporting the initiative include UNEP, OECD, IEA, and the FCCC Secretariat.*

*The Development and Climate Projects is coordinated by UCCEE, RIVM, and IIED.*

*Initial funding is from the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and from the governments of Germany, the Netherlands, and Canada.*

Within this focus, the Project will also maintain a strong link between the two areas. The Project will operate over two years and in two phases.

#### *Phase 1*

The first phase will run until July 2003 with two main activities: developing a common analytical framework, and analysing specific case studies.

The case studies are focused on development projects in Bangladesh, Brazil, China, India, South Africa and West Africa and include:

- assessments of long-term development objectives and development trends;
- reviews of current plans;
- identification of stakeholders and expertise to support the Project; and
- identification of development policies that support climate change objectives.

The analysis of case studies will vary to account for the unique development situation in each country. Case studies will try to answer questions such as:

- What is the impact of climate change policies on the development of coal resources?
- What is the impact on food production and what adaptive measures can help?
- How can a regime of regional cooperation help development, including the competitiveness of regional industry in global markets, and food/energy security?
- How can energy services be supplied to the poorest 50% of the population?
- What is the impact of land-use changes?

#### *Phase 2*

The second phase of the Project will run from 2003-2005 with a general focus on policy analysis and expanding the institutional capacity to address issues of development and climate change. This will be done in a continuous

*"Contributions by developing countries to the management of the risks of climate change should be seen not as a burden of legal commitments to be avoided, but as a side-benefit of sound and internationally-supported development."*

- Sustainable Development and Climate Change Workshop, Paris, Oct 2001  
(available at [www.developmentfirst.org](http://www.developmentfirst.org))

interaction between policy stakeholders and experts at the national and international level.

More specifically, Phase 2 activities include:

- analysing in detail national strategies that meet both development goals (including energy and food security) and address climate change;
- integrating development trends and climate strategies at the national level and in different economic sectors;
- identifying key initiatives at the policy and project level crucial for the necessary transitions towards a sustainable development path;
- implementing a programme with local research partner institutions to build the capacity of countries to incorporate results from the Project;
- forming specific recommendations for global co-operation to address climate change.

Phase 2 funding is being sought from organizations that can benefit from the Project.

*"It is critical to help developing countries target "win-win" opportunities that simultaneously address sustainable development and climate change".*

- UN Foundation

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