

NORHED - Sub-Programme: Natural Resources Management, Climate and Environment

(DRAFT March 20, 2012)



Higher education and research is an important area in Norwegian development policy. The underpinning argument for investing in higher education and research mainly in low and middle income countries (LMICs) is that a strong academic sector is a prerequisite for any country to be able to develop its own intellectual resources, produce a competent workforce and visionary leaders, and foster innovation and knowledge needed to inform policies, address challenges and enhance growth.

Rationale

Managing climate change and potential impacts on systems and people of the global community represents one of the major challenges of the future. On top of already-existing national resource management challenges, climate change at global, regional and local levels introduces altered risk profiles that have consequences for risk management strategies. Altered risk profiles result from more variable temperatures, more variable rainfall, and more extreme climate events such as heat waves, floods and droughts than have been experienced – and responded to – in the past. The importance of risk management strategies and their potential implications for countries, economies and people can be significant.

Improved forecasting and successful management of global natural resources coupled with sustaining the environment while addressing the development needs of a growing and migratory global population are considered to be collective responsibilities of governments, organisations and individuals in both North and South.

Policy Framework

Environment and development linked with climate are priorities of Norwegian development cooperation and foreign policies. The Political Platform of the Parliament (2009-2013); Report No. 13 to the Storting (2008-2009) on Climate, Conflict and Capital; Report No. 14 to the Storting (2010-11) on Green Development; Report No. 40 to the Storting (2008-09) on Norway's Humanitarian Policy; and Budget Resolution 1S to the Storting (2011-2012) reflect Norway's commitment and responsibilities to work for attainment of an environment and development that is sustainable.

Through its political, diplomatic and expert engagement, Norway has over the years been recognised as a committed stakeholder in, and champion for, sustainable environment and development for pre-sent and future generations. The NORHED programme is established as an additional mechanism to allow Norway to support generation of knowledge, improved education programmes and application of practical approaches and solutions addressing Southern needs in crucially important development areas.

Focus Areas of this Sub-Programme

The following thematic areas are prioritised this NORHED sub-programme:

1. Natural resources management and climate adaptation, mitigation and resilience strategies (with special focus on most vulnerable groups) in developing countries where livelihoods are dependent on productive primary sectors, such as agriculture, forestry, fishery and aquaculture, where food security and adequate nutrition, and best use of water, fish or land resources are specific objectives.
Geographic focus: Sub-Saharan Africa, South-Asia and South-East Asia.
2. REDD+, i.e. reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, notably going beyond deforestation and forest degradation to include conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
Geographic focus: Sub-Saharan Africa, South-Asia, South-East Asia and Latin-America.

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Local ownership of education and research interventions coupled with value-added contributions and support by Norwegian universities and research institutions are intended features of NORHED. Synergy of results from cooperation, creation of networks (South-South-North), and development of regional centres will be encouraged. Systematic learning from experiences and dissemination of information to wider audiences of potential users of NORHED “products” (research, studies, reports, approaches, etc.) will also be prioritised.



Women play a leading role in agriculture systems in most developing countries.
Photo: Ken Opprann