

**DFID-DSA Policy Forum - "International Development in the Face of Climate Change: Beyond Mainstreaming?"**

**Monday 2nd June 2008, Maritime Greenwich Campus, University of Greenwich.**

**Presentation – DFID’s Approach to Meeting the Climate Change Challenge**

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**1. Introduction**

- DFID is very pleased to support the DSA and values the opportunity forums such as this provide us with.
  - Key points of presentation:
    - DFID is playing a key role in ensuring that development is central to the UK government’s response to climate change.
    - Climate change requires a shift in our thinking and a balance of efforts between establishing a fair and equitable global deal on climate change alongside helping developing countries to grow in a low-carbon and climate resilient way.
    - We are continuing to develop our thinking and policies and need to strengthen even further the link with partners on research and delivery for climate change
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**2. DFID’s evolving role on Climate Change**

- Helping to deliver the UK government’s international climate change objectives – ensuring that the response supports growth and poverty reduction in developing countries.
    - Secretary of State defined climate change as “a defining global social justice issue for our generation. If we do not take the necessary action, we risk condemning the world’s poorest people to generations of poverty.”
  - Our work has expanded dramatically since the 2006 White Paper laid out our conceptual framework for thinking about climate change:
    - One of the key strands to DFID’s work.
    - Assigning increasing resources to climate change.
  - Climate change requires a shift in the way we think about development – supporting a low-carbon and climate-resilient approach.
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### **3. DFID's approach to climate change – meeting three core challenges:**

#### **A Global Deal**

- Securing the best international deal in 2009 will be critical for the future of developing countries as this is the only way for these countries to avoid dangerous climate change.
- The deal must set a global goal, and trajectory, to put us on a path to stop dangerous climate change. DFID's objectives in achieving this deal are:
  - An ambitious goal with credible near-term targets;
  - A way of sharing greenhouse gas emissions that is fair and equitable, with deeper absolute reductions by developed countries and measurable action by developing countries;
  - A reformed carbon market to increase the reach and impact of carbon finance for poor countries;
  - Support for technology development and transfer to benefit developing countries; and
  - Support for developing countries to build their resilience and adapt to climate change.

#### **Low-Carbon Development**

- We need a new model of development which does not aspire simply to replicate the path to prosperity taken by the industrialised world. We will not be able to avoid dangerous climate change without developing countries being enabled to grow in a low-carbon way.
  - The McKinsey Global Institute estimates that developing countries will generate nearly 80% of growth in world energy demand between now and just 2020.
  - Deforestation, most of which occurs in developing countries, is responsible for about 18% of global greenhouse emissions.
- We need to build a global low-carbon economy that enables sustainable long-term growth in both developed and also developing countries.
  - We need a global carbon market that will increase the flow of finance to the least developed countries. A fair and effective global deal could potentially deliver up to \$40bn a year for low-carbon and climate-resilient development.
  - We need to create the market conditions so that saving carbon can be valued more than chopping down trees – e.g. £15 million to support the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.
- DFID is working to reduce poverty by supporting key middle-income countries to adopt a low-carbon development path and helping low-income countries to grow their economies in a way that is compatible with a carbon constrained future.
  - helping build the political consensus necessary for the adoption of low-carbon development paths,
  - identifying the policies and regulatory frameworks to strengthen demand (for low-carbon technologies and better forest management) and facilitate investment flows,
  - building technological and institutional capacity in developing countries,
  - working with our international partners to facilitate a transition from reliance on fossil fuels to low-carbon alternatives.
- DFID provided over £50 million to drive the development of the Clean Energy Investment Frameworks at the World Bank and Regional Development Banks - to help developing countries take advantage of technology and clean energy.
- We are working to inform the post-2012 landscape by demonstrating, with funding from the £800m International Environmental Transformation Fund, how adaptation and low-carbon development can be made to work in practice (through adaptation and mitigation pilots).

## **Adaptation**

- Development, as a mechanism for reducing poverty, is the most effective way of building resilience to climate change – but it needs to be built on and adjusted to take account of climate risks.
    - The poorest and most vulnerable developing countries are already and will increasingly be the most affected by the impacts of climate change.
    - Developing countries can best protect their citizens in the long-term by building economies and societies that are able to deal with the risks of climate change impacts. That means putting climate change at the heart of national planning and integrating adaptation into development, and not treating adaptation as a set of stand alone ‘special initiatives’.
  - DFID’s objectives are to:
    - To build capacity to integrate adaptation into stronger development plans and budgets.
    - To strengthen climate information and knowledge.
    - To establish adequate finance and institutional support.
    - To ensure a coherent, coordinated, integrated international response.
  - DFID is helping developing countries prepare for climate change through:
    - A £20m contribution to UN funds for developing adaptation strategies and piloting adaptation projects.
    - Part of the £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund will also help countries to adapt.
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## **4. Working with the research / development community**

- Research is making a significant contribution to policy development in this field as efforts scale up to provide answers on low-carbon development and adaptation. It is important that we strengthen that link further between research and policy development.
- We don’t have all the answers and are investing heavily in research - £100m over 5 years – a ten fold increase over the last five year period. Our aim is to improve our understanding of what climate change means for developing countries; identifying the impacts and how we can respond.

## **5. Future research priorities and examples**

- Our climate change research priorities over the coming 5 years include:
  - improving accessibility of climate science, scenarios, and impacts and vulnerabilities at regional, sub-regional, and national level, particularly in Africa;
  - embedding climate change in international, regional and national policy frameworks, including support for a new global deal on climate change;
  - expanding work on adaptation to strengthen decision making around adaptation options;
  - investigating mitigation options and low-carbon growth pathways through research in three main areas: policy frameworks, technologies and land use practices, and realising co-benefits.
- We need to work with you - the research and development community - to achieve these objectives and to ensure our research is integrated into wider research activity.