

Environment for Development - making a difference with research

Poor management of natural resources and environmental degradation are serious constraints to poverty reduction and efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals. Application of environmental economics has the potential to improve management of the scarce natural resources upon which a majority of the poor depend. By giving value to environmental goods not traded on markets or providing policy instruments to manage scarce natural resources, environmental economists can make a difference. Unfortunately, domestic academic capacity is not fully tapped when national development plans, poverty reduction strategies and tenure reforms are designed.

The Environment for Development (EfD) initiative builds on 15 years of Sida-supported capacity building in environmental economics. EfD signals environment as an important resource for development rather than as a constraint. It aims to tap the potential of environmental economics by supporting research, training and policy advice in six centers:

- **Environmental Economics Program**, Peking University, China
- **Environmental Economics Policy Forum for Ethiopia**, EDRI/AAU, Ethiopia
- **SEBSA**, CATIE, Costa Rica
- **Center for Environmental Economics Policy in Kenya**, KIPPRA/Nairobi University, Kenya
- **Environmental Policy Research Unit**, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Environment for Development Tanzania**, University of Dar-es-Salaam/NEMC, Tanzania

These centers are characterized by i) a good environment for applied research in environment and poverty-related issues; ii) strong connections to institutions with influence on national policy processes; iii) involvement in national and regional Master and PhD programs.

The long-term goal of the initiative is to improve policy making in developing countries. A major activity will be international research collaboration in areas such as design of policy instruments, non-market valuation, management of natural resource, behavioral and experimental economics with applications to equity, governance and social capital.

In brief the initiative seeks to:

- Increase domestic capacity for high quality research in environmental economics.
- Increase the quality and quantity of national graduate programs in environmental economics.
- Increase the extent and quality of policy-relevant advice based on environmental research.
- Increase the domestic impact of international initiatives through involvement of local expertise in international policy processes.

The EfD initiative is managed by the Environmental Economics Unit at Göteborg University. The project is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida, and builds on Sida's Environmental Economics Capacity Building program.

For more information, please see listed contacts on next page.



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