

Guidelines for the role of the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) as anchoring institution for Norwegian partners in the CCIAM programme

Background

In the spring of 2008, Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), in collaboration with the University of Dar-es-Salaam, Ardhi University (ARU) and the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA), were invited by the Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE) to draft a research and capacity building proposal for responding to the challenges of climate change under the framework of REDD. The proposal was developed and submitted to the Government of the Kingdom of Norway on 3 June 2008 requesting funding.

SUA requested the UMB Department of International Environment Studies/Noragric and me to participate in developing the programme. Later it was decided that UMB should be the anchoring institution in Norway. The coordinating role would be undertaken by Noragric. I have been the acting coordinator in the process of developing the programme. I am also likely to continue in this role in the years to come.

In the development of the proposal some guidelines were followed:

- a. Broad participation from Norway, including partners outside UMB with expertise in climate change research.
- b. Priority on core topics within the “REDD” initiative, i.e. Reduced Emission from forest Degradation and Deforestation.
- c. Priority on vulnerability studies and adaptation strategies for securing livelihoods in a changing climate.
- d. Priority on partnerships with both the public and private sectors. Norwegian partners with secured funding of projects outside the CCIAM programme will be prioritized in the selection process. The rationale being that they will bring their own resources to the CCIAM programme.

The Coordinating Role of UMB

At UMB, Noragric will facilitate the coordination of involvement from Norwegian partners. The most important responsibilities will be as follows:

1. Provide information on request to potential partners in Norway
2. Propose a draft allocation of funds earmarked for Norwegian partners for approval at the yearly *Steering Committee-* and *Annual Meetings* of CCIAM. The most important budget posts will be:
 - a) Payment to organizations for participation in *Research - and Strategic intervention projects*.
 - b) Allocation of support for student exchange.
 - c) Allocation of support for staff exchange.
3. Assist in staff exchange between Tanzanian and Norwegian institutions on a need basis. Normally many issues are sorted out within the framework of the project. However, the Norwegian coordinator may also provide extra help on issues like establishing contacts, secure that transport is available and assist in getting visa, study or research permits.

1. Provide information on request to potential collaborators in Norway

Partners in Norway will be identified through participation in research projects selected through a competitive process. Others will be identified through participation in Strategic Intervention projects according to the procedures set out by UMB. Examples are PhD- or MSc.-students and supervisors registered at Norwegian institutions doing research that is relevant for the programme. The involvement will be based on successful applications developed in partnership with researchers in any of the four collaborating Tanzanian organizations and with colleagues in Norway. It is important to note that a portion of the funds are earmarked for Norwegian organizations. Organizations in other countries may participate, but only as sub-contractors for a Norwegian partner.

A list of researchers with an interest in climate change research in general, and the REDD initiative in particular; will be made available together with a Call for research concept notes. The CCIAM coordination will facilitate the formation of research groups/teams.

A separate home-page for the CCIAM programme will be established on the UMB-Noragric website. The homepage will be linked to other relevant addresses in Norway and include updated information about:

- Calls for proposals.
- Workshops / scientific conferences to be hosted by the programme
- Information about the Annual Meeting and the Annual Steering Committee Meeting
- Copies of publications from- and information about programme activities
- Information to students/researchers travelling to Tanzania
- Approved research projects and participating researchers and students

Noragric has a responsibility to update this page and make the information available on request. However, Noragric is not responsible for sending out information beyond this or in other ways alerting organizations in Norway about opportunities in the programme.

2. *Give recommendation to the Steering Committee- and Annual Meetings on allocation of CCIAM funds earmarked for Norwegian partners.*

In the CCIAM programme, a collaborating researcher in Norway will normally be allocated funds for *a two-week-travel annually* based on UMB/Norwegian government rates and reasonable quality of accommodation. Also the working place of the researcher involved will be compensated *for one month of salary* for the identified individual plus *a fixed percentage* of overhead.

To be supported, staff at Norwegian institutions should normally be part of a team that has been granted either a research - or a strategic intervention project.

In addition, researchers should preferably be supervising a student registered at a university in Norway or an exchange student from one of the collaborating universities in Tanzania. If a researcher supervises more than one student, compensation for this extra workload will not be given.

Students interested in participation must fulfill the following conditions:

- a. For students registered in Norway, a study plan must be prepared for each student according to institutional regulations at each university. The study plan must be submitted to the Norwegian coordinator well in advance before departure to Tanzania. A similar plan must be made for Tanzanian registered students coming to Norway.
- b. The identified main supervisor at the participating Tanzanian institution and the coordinator of the CCIAM project which the student wishes to join must give their written consent. For Tanzanian registered students travelling to Norway, a main supervisor in Norway must also be identified and have accepted the responsibility.

Allocation of funds earmarked for Norwegian partners

a. PhD studies

The following levels of support are suggested for supervisors of PhD students at Norwegian institutions:

One month salary per annum and two-week travel is allocated to supervisors of PhD-students who:

- a) are registered at a Norwegian university, and
- b) are attached to a research- or strategic intervention project within the CCIAM programme.

Normally, salaries for students are secured from outside the programme, for example a Quota stipend or a stipend offered by the home university.

The scholarships must start in 2009, 2010 or 2011 and supervisors will be given support for the period that coincides with the lifespan of the programme.

In addition, running costs for research will be covered by the host project according to the guidelines developed for the CCIAM programme.

The university where the PhD student is registered has the formal responsibility for the individual student.

- b. *Support for supervisors of 1) MSc students registered at Norwegian universities; 2) “in depth study” at NVH; and 3) for organizations hosting Tanzanian registered students coming to Norway.*

One month salary per annum and two-week travel (budget) is allocated.

- c. *Student support*

PhD / MSc students at different universities and NVH students undertaking their “*in depth study*” under the CCIAM programme will receive the following support:

- a. For Norwegian citizens, “Statens Lånekasse” will cover the cost of the air ticket as well as the extra stipend and loan. This opportunity must be explored first.
- b. CCIAM provides a field stipend of NOK 5000 per month to Norwegian registered PhD- and MSc students. The minimum stay is 6 weeks and support normally does not exceed three months.
- c. Students not entitled to a grant under bullet point (a) will get support for their air ticket.
- d. If an article based on the work is accepted for presentation at the annual scientific conferences in either the PANTIL or CCIAM programmes, the participation cost may be covered if funds allow. The Norwegian coordinator will make this decision after consultation with the overall Programme Coordinator.

One must ensure that the forecasted commitments will be met within the budgetary allocation for Norwegian partners which is on average about 20% of the total grant.

If the project objectives are to be fulfilled, supervising students cannot be the only entry point for Norwegian researchers into the CCIAM programme. Obviously, researchers working at institutions without teaching responsibilities will not have students available. However, they are still welcomed into the programme. Similarly, few students can also be a problem in some focus areas for the CCIAM programme, for example forest management and preservation. Therefore, interested researchers should develop concept notes even without students’ involvement.

Other activities to be funded by CCIAM, Norwegian side

These activities will include programme coordination and impact assessment, attendance at annual meetings and support to the universities in Tanzania on a need-basis, for example library services, media- and communication strategies, computer facilities etc. Support to senior scientists willing to contribute to the programme may be facilitated according to the guidelines which are to be established by the Programme Management Team (PMT).

UMB, 24 February 2010

Lars Olav Eik