



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**
Danida

HOW-TO NOTE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF "THE WORLD WE SHARE"

**CLIMATE ADAPTATION, NATURE AND
ENVIRONMENT**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

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This note is one of 12 notes developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark to ensure the implementation of the strategy for development cooperation “The World We Share”

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How-to-note for implementation of "The World We Share"

Climate adaptation, nature and environment

1. Purpose of the note

This note aims to provide specific guidelines on how to implement Denmark's strategy for development cooperation "The World We Share", the Government's Priorities for Danish Development Cooperation 2021-2025 and the four-year plans. The two overall purposes of the note are:

- **To create consistency** between strategy, policy, planning and budgeting as a shared framework of reference for the implementation of "The World We Share" and its objectives.
- **To set the framework** for prioritising, selecting and deselecting in adherence to the principles of 'Doing Development Differently', which call for taking a holistic and adaptive approach.

The main target group for this note is employees at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for implementing "The World We Share". Furthermore, it may serve to inform external partners. The note will be available on the Aid Management Guidelines site as an internal guidance document. Specifically, the note is intended as a reference document in programming (including in Programme Committee meetings and on the Council for Development Policy (UPR), as well as in the monitoring (e.g. in appraisals and reviews), in the dialogue with partners, and in the work with international norms and standards.

In principle, the note will remain valid for the duration of "The World We Share", and will be revised as required in response to changing contexts and priorities. The political priorities in the Finance Act will always have primacy to this note. The note complements the other thematic How-to-Notes and should therefore be read together with the other notes.

2. Definitions, objectives and scope

Global climate change is already increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, such as heat waves, storms, droughts, heavy rainfall and flooding, as well as long-term impacts, such as rising sea levels, altered conditions for crop cultivation and spread of tropical diseases. Even if the countries of the world live up to the Paris Agreement target of keeping the Earth's average temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius, there will be a vast need for adaptation to climate change. This is accompanied by an ongoing biodiversity crisis, interacting negatively with the climate crisis, as well as an overexploitation of nature that increases the risk of zoonoses (diseases transmitted from animals to humans). Poor and marginalised

groups in the least developed countries are hardest hit by climate change and environmental degradation. They are ill-equipped to resist, particularly in vulnerable and fragile countries. This is why Denmark's strategy for development cooperation "The World We Share" features the clear and prominent objective of strengthening efforts for climate adaptation and resilience.

Definitions

Climate adaptation is about preventing and limiting the consequences of actual as well as expected climate change. A closely related concept is climate resilience, which in this context refers to the capacity of humans or natural systems to adjust or transform in reaction to risk that are created or compounded by climate change. Resilience can be boosted by means of, for instance, efficient and sustainable resource management and measures to fight pollution and destruction of natural habitats. Mainstreaming of climate refers to incorporating climate objectives into strategies, programmes and projects, but without climate adaptation being the primary objective.

Environment refers to the quality of air, water and soil. It covers the issues of sustainable production and consumption, waste management, use of chemicals, and the influence on natural ecosystems, albeit always looking at humans as the determining factor.

Nature means physical ecosystems, habitats and species (and hence biodiversity). This issue encompasses management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems.

Biodiversity is the diversity of living organisms in all environments, both on land and in water, as well as the ecological interactions (ecosystems) in which the organisms are immersed.

Nature-based solutions are about protecting, restoring and using nature in a sustainable manner to overcome development challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, zoonoses, poverty and lack of access to clean water. Nature-based solutions include conservation and restoration of important ecosystems, such as forests, rivers, wetlands and coastal zones, and also promotion of food production and value chains that are sustainable and enhance biodiversity. The climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis are closely linked, and so are the solutions to both.

Objectives in the strategy for development cooperation

- To strengthen action to support climate change adaptation, nature, environment and resilience in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.
- To increase the mobilisation of finance and promote green Danish solutions within climate, nature and environment.
- To prioritise climate and the green agenda in all country strategies, relevant organisational strategies and as a cross-cutting concern in all Danish interventions."

Objectives in the government's long-term strategy for global climate work

- The government wishes to use its position on the international stage as a green frontrunner to inspire and drive adaptation and resilience initiatives in the climate struggle both through development cooperation and export promotion.
- The government wants higher climate ambitions in Danish development cooperation with greater focus on adaptation and sustainable development in the poorest and most fragile developing countries, where more people should gain access to clean energy and clean water.
- The government will work for Danish solutions of prevention and adaptation being disseminated throughout the world assisted by export promotion.
- Denmark's climate diplomacy will build on our role as a champion of democracy and human rights. At the same time, we will advance popular participation and democratic accountability as drivers of climate action, particularly with young people.

Objectives derived from the reform of development aid and the four-year plan

- In keeping with the reform, at least 30% of aid for developing countries must be green by 2023, which includes:
 - Minimum 25% must be spent on climate interventions.
 - Minimum 5% must be spent on environment and biodiversity.
 - Minimum 60% of climate aid must be for adaptation in the poorest and most vulnerable countries.
 - Minimum 80% of the private-sector and business instruments must be green.
- The updated version of the minister's four-year plan presents some green objectives, including:
 - 5.8 million more Africans have gained access to clean water through Danish leadership and innovative financing.

3. Scope

Focus on the fragile, poorest and most vulnerable countries, especially in Africa. Fragile and poor countries, e.g. in Africa, have the fewest resources, the weakest institutions and the lowest capacity and resilience to adapt to the changes in climate and to the degradation of nature that is ruining their means of survival. In these places, a major part of the population is deeply dependent on nature and on healthy ecosystems, since they make a living from various types of agriculture or forestry, often in regions affected by climate change. Moreover, they tend to face significant financial and technological barriers to carrying out successful climate adaptation. It is also here, where resilience is at its lowest, that climate change may have the greatest impact on, for instance, political stability, displacement and migration. Accordingly, Denmark will focus its interventions within climate adaptation, nature and environmental management on the countries, especially in Africa, that have the greatest need for support to handle the consequences of climate change, ineffective and non-sustainable resource management, degradation of nature and worsening food insecurity. The geographical focus also springs from the fact that Denmark's expanded partnerships are concentrated in Africa. It further matches an organisational adjustment that was decided based on a political budget analysis, prioritising problems such as fragility, conflict and irregular migration,

including reinforcement of the environmental cooperation administered at the Danish embassies in Ouagadougou and Nairobi.

Stronger strategic focus. Climate adaptation and improved management of nature and environment are key elements in securing sustainable Danish development interventions that contribute to reducing poverty, particularly for the most vulnerable people. At the same time, climate adaptation must take centre stage in Danish climate diplomacy. This calls for sharpening the strategic focus by means of a long-term, realistic ambition for how and in which sectors Denmark may increase support for climate adaptation, nature and environment at the global, regional and national level. The thematic scope set out below thus underpins this strategic focus.

Thematic scope. Climate adaptation and environment can be addressed in a number of different sectors. Denmark will focus on the following thematic interventions:

- *Water management and access to water.* Access to clean water is a human right. Improved water-resource management and access to clean drinking water are prerequisites for better living conditions, food security and health in the context of a changing climate. The main priority is to enhance access to climate-proof, clean drinking water for households in Africa. Moreover, it is necessary to focus on environmental management in a wider sense, including water-resource management, also across borders, water for production and crops, sanitation, hygiene and wastewater treatment.
- *Nature-based solutions and biodiversity.* Nature-based solutions seek to overcome development challenges, such as poverty, food insecurity, zoonoses, lack of access to clean water, climate change, natural disasters and biodiversity loss, by conserving and restoring important ecosystems. The emphasis can be on nature and forest conservation as well as restoration of important ecosystems, such as forests, protection of rivers, wetlands and coastal zones, in addition to more sustainable food production. Nature-based solutions are effective when they are locally driven and rights-based. Indigenous peoples play a significant role in this regard. Nature-based solutions are particularly relevant to the large share of the population in developing countries who depend directly on seas and rivers for fishing, and on the land for agriculture, stockbreeding and forestry. Apart from often being the most cost-effective method to advance climate adaptation for vulnerable population groups, nature-based solutions also provide a series of ‘co-benefits’, e.g. improved biodiversity, health, environment and reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions. Nature-based solutions must be built into all types of adaptation interventions, while biodiversity interventions will mainly take place in highly biodiverse countries, i.e. Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Indonesia and Bangladesh.
- *Health, hygiene and sanitation.* Climate concerns must be integrated into health systems and sanitation facilities and should be more widely considered in interventions for water management, wastewater treatment, sewage, waste management and food production. Limited access to clean water, and hence insufficient hygiene, may complicate access to basic healthcare, exacerbate existing health problems and increase the risk of disease. Health features as a secondary priority in environmental and adaptation interventions.

- *Food systems and climate-smart agriculture.* Agriculture and food production are the primary source of employment for the vast majority of the population in developing countries. Climate change undermines the livelihood of those who live on and make their living from rural lands, but also of the urban population, who may be affected by food insecurity. Ensuring resilience, improving food security and creating employment calls for climate-adaptive agriculture, sustainable food systems, prevention of food waste and loss, promotion of agroecological cultivation methods and strengthening of green value chains. It requires efforts to make agricultural production in developing countries sustainable, efficient and safe for health, including local food processing. This also means avoiding deforestation, which causes problems to climate, environment, biodiversity and social conditions in producer countries. This work offers significant synergy with emission-reducing objectives.
- *Urban areas and physical planning.* Climate adaptation in towns and cities includes, in particular, improved and climate-proof infrastructure for water supply and sanitation, as well as the use of green infrastructure and integrated wastewater and surface-water solutions. Land-use planning and coastal protection should be promoted especially through government-to-government cooperation.

4. Approach

Bilateral engagement

Countries with an expanded partnership. The bilateral work will take centre stage in ensuring a stronger approach in favour of climate adaptation, nature and environmental management in partner countries. In countries with an expanded partnership, climate adaptation should be a primary objective in at least one separate engagement under each country programme. In addition, climate adaptation, nature and environment should be mainstreamed into all country programmes. Danish embassies will play a crucial role in promoting a programmatic and transformative approach that also fosters national ownership, local solutions and capacity development. This may take the shape of support for national and local governments, and in fragile contexts also for civilian and private actors, aimed at building capacity within climate adaptation and improving environmental management.

Countries with targeted partnerships. In these countries, there will be a narrower engagement focused on specific issues within special Danish interests and competences. Here, projects with specific themes within climate adaptation, environmental management or nature-based solutions can be an option.

Strategic Sector Cooperation. Authorities from Denmark working with authorities from a developing country is intended to develop conditions conducive to green and sustainable development and a consistent regulatory framework for nature and environmental management, climate adaptation and CO₂ emissions reductions in the developing country. Danish authorities have vast experience of designing institutional setups for sustainable resource management and climate adaptation. This may serve to build capacity among relevant authorities in partner countries in the fields of environmental protection, sustainable consumption and production, circular economy, water, agriculture, food production, health,

physical planning and other key areas. Through government-to-government cooperation, Denmark may support partner countries and their institutions in drawing up and implementing ambitious frameworks and adaptation plans that are integrated into relevant national and local development plans. Government-to-government cooperation can also help promote exports of Danish green solutions. At the same time, the technical aspects of this cooperation should be fed into the policy dialogues on climate and environmental ambitions in partner countries. There is potential for government-to-government cooperation to incorporate governance issue more broadly by addressing anticorruption and rights in relation to climate adaptation.

Multilateral support and partnerships

Global climate and environmental funds. Denmark will enhance its climate-adaptation engagements within the dedicated multilateral climate and environmental funds and programmes (e.g. GCF, GEF, LDCF, UNEP and NDF). Here, Denmark will keep a special focus on climate-adaptation projects that benefit the most vulnerable and marginalised groups in the least developed countries and in small-island developing states (SIDS). Cooperation with multilateral and international partner organisations gives Denmark an opportunity to gather experience of normative and operational work that can be applied in bilateral development cooperation. It also enables a wider geographical spread in the support for climate adaptation, including in SIDS where Denmark does not have its own representations. Denmark may also usefully build its work upon the evidence and best practices that multilateral organisations and other international partners and networks present regarding climate adaptation. This will contribute to better linkage between multilateral and bilateral interventions. Denmark will join in a small number of global/regional initiatives aimed at facilitating methodological development, exchange of experiences, technical support, as well as mobilisation of private finance for climate adaptation, nature and environmental interventions.

The multilateral development banks. In particular, the African Development Bank and the World Bank play a key role as regards: i) climate-adaptation finance in the poorest and most fragile developing countries, including mobilisation of funds, and ii) integration of climate adaptation and environmental concerns into national planning and budgeting processes and tax systems. Denmark will provide substantial support for this through solid core contributions, active board work and donations to thematic funds of relevance to adaptation and environment. Continued strong Danish engagement in the development banks is a prerequisite for scaling up delivery on Danish priorities. In this sense, Denmark will work for raising and fleshing out the development banks' level of green ambitions, and be on the lookout for opportunities to bring our green core competencies and solutions to the table.

Cooperation with the EU. Denmark must help ensure that the EU, as the world's number one aid donor, lives up to its ambitious goals for development cooperation in the field of environment and climate. This will take place through active Danish engagement in Brussels, Danish missions and embassies. The new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) for 2021-2027 contains close to EUR 80 billion. Its overall allocations and objectives are set out in the NDICI agreement, which stipulates, for instance, that minimum 30% must be climate spending. The

exact amounts should be laid down in the programming and implementation stages. Denmark should proactively influence the distribution as well as the actual rollout of the green funds during programming, in management committees and other relevant entities. This is to take place both in Brussels and through interventions in partner countries. There is ample scope for advancing climate and environmental causes close to Denmark's heart, particularly in those African countries with which we have an expanded partnership, but also in countries with a targeted partnership. The same aims will be pursued within the working groups with Danish participation. Finally, Denmark should seek to take part in Team Europe cooperation with EU institutions and with other EU member countries whenever possible and relevant.

Cooperation with civil-society organisations. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and civil society have formed a green partnership, which helps implement the green track in Denmark's strategy for development policy. This is intended to raise green ambitions and improve green competencies nationally and internationally. It is a case of cooperation among equals on policy development, capacity building and knowledge sharing for the benefit of civil society as well as authorities. The green partnership will suggest innovative and sustainable green solutions in specific interventions that contribute towards climate, nature and environmental goals, while also ensuring that poverty reduction, rights, equality and local needs are integrated into all environmental interventions. The Strategic Partnership Agreements with Danish NGOs for 2022-2025 sharpen the green focus and introduce thematic partnerships regarding climate and green solutions. Moreover, climate and green solutions will be key concerns for all strategic partners, who are expected to make efforts towards greater resilience and adaptation to the effects of climate change, and to incorporate climate, nature, environment and biodiversity concerns into relevant programmes. Through the Civil Society Fund administered by the umbrella organisation Civil Society in Development (CISU), small Danish civil-society organisations may also access funds for climate adaptation, nature and environment.

Synergy between interventions and modalities

Climate adaptation as primary objective and across interventions. Denmark must take on the task of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the targets of the Paris Agreement by setting high green ambitions for Danish development cooperation. Climate adaptation and nature-based solutions should, to a greater extent make up the primary objective of selected programmes in development work, and also be integrated into the design, implementation and monitoring of both multilateral support and bilateral projects/programmes.

Doing Development Differently. To ensure maximum overall impact, the formulation and implementation of Danish interventions should maintain the ongoing focus on opportunities for synergy and complementarity. To improve monitoring and country-level measurement of the results of contributions channelled through multilateral organisations, while also generating mutual learning between multilateral and bilateral work, selected embassies (e.g. Burkina Faso and Kenya) will follow the interventions of certain green international organisations and funds (e.g. UNEP, GCF, GEF, LDCF) and relevant programmes under the aegis of the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' so-called contact groups for multilateral partnership must help ensure that

experiences and lessons learned from multilaterally sponsored work in relevant countries are shared and used by the Danish embassies in those places, and also transmitted to relevant Danish NGOs and commercial actors.

The normative track

Climate adaptation features prominently in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and has done so since it was passed in Rio in 1992. The UNFCCC has played an important role in developing a framework for the work with climate adaptation as well as loss and damage (see below). Most of the poorest and most fragile developing countries have submitted, or are in the process of developing, national adaptation plans (NAPs) and strategies. The NAPs indicate how individual countries intend to integrate climate adaptation into its national development plans, relevant sector plans and, in some cases, local plans. Furthermore, many of the countries have integrated their adaptation priorities into reports on their nationally-determined contributions (NDCs) and other reports to the UNFCCC. These documents will, whenever relevant, be important in substantiating the design of Denmark's adaptation support. In similar fashion, the Convention on Biodiversity and a number of conventions on chemicals and waste underpin interventions that combine nature, environment and health.

Synergy between humanitarian, development and peace interventions

Migration, security and fragility. There is a need for paying more attention to adaptation and sustainable development in the poorest and most fragile developing countries. These contexts call for combining climate adaptation with fragility concerns and stabilisation. Climate change and degradation of nature exacerbate poverty, gender inequality, fragility and risk of conflict, for example over access to water, land and food, which may lead to displacement and irregular migration. In this regard, good governance and management of natural and water resources are also essential, including water management across national borders. This calls for a special focus on climate adaptation in areas characterised by fragility or conflict, with the aim of finding synergy between the climate adaptation and peacebuilding, stabilisation, development work and humanitarian interventions. Thus, climate adaptation may generally help pursue foreign-policy interests in stability, security, as well as prevention of displacement and of irregular migration. Targeted and integrated climate and security undertakings will be prioritised. The emphasis will be on activities that aim to overcome challenges with both climate and conflict, for instance through the Sahel Climate Change, Conflict, Forced Displacement and Irregular Migration Programme (Sahel CCDMP).

Loss and damage. Climate adaptation is closely related to loss and damage. This covers those effects of climate change that are so severe that they cannot – or only with great difficulty – be adapted to. The issue of climate-induced loss and damage is an item on the humanitarian agenda. For years, Denmark has been engaged in this, including without direct reference to the concept of loss and damage. Since the Paris Agreement, there has been greater focus on loss and damage. However, developing countries have

criticised the near-absence of actual action. This was clearly expressed at the COP26 in Glasgow, where developing countries pushed for separate interventions and greater attention to loss and damage and this theme will be a central agenda item during COP27 in Egypt. Many developing countries associate this with liability and compensation, which is why the topic is shrouded in taboo. Denmark is prepared to build bridges to developing countries regarding loss and damage by inviting to a dialogue and by engaging in specific undertakings. This will take place along three tracks. Firstly, Denmark will reduce the risk of loss and damage as an integral element in future climate-adaptation interventions. Secondly, Denmark will focus more on loss and damage in humanitarian interventions. And thirdly, Denmark will embark on separate loss-and-damage projects. In all three tracks, cooperation with Danish NGOs and multilateral organisations will play a part.

The context determines the intervention

Programmatic approach to climate adaptation. Given the resources available, a programmatic, long-term approach is a prerequisite for bringing about transformative changes for climate adaptation. It is essential that partnerships and alliances be forged with other donors, civil-society organisations, the private sector and knowledge institutions at the local, national and regional level to arrive at a common understanding of the political-economic context and to ensure that interventions generate added value. Denmark's strategic country frameworks lay the groundwork for a programmatic approach, one of whose aims is to bring more support instruments and modalities into play. This draws on Denmark's comparative advantages and generates synergy.

National ownership. It is critical that climate-adaptation interventions and projects in the field of nature and environment match national priorities as described in the NAPs, the NDCs and other national and regional climate-adaptation plans. The preparation of NAPs is prescribed by the UNFCCC and is recognised in the Paris Agreement. The process aims to build resilience and integrate climate concerns into policies and programmes. The NAPs are all about a country-driven, participatory and transparent process. There is clear evidence that national ownership raises the effectiveness of adaptation work. In very fragile states, however, the NAPs tend to lack ownership, be of insufficient quality, be obsolete or altogether non-existing. In these cases, cooperation with private actors and social-society actors will be necessary to achieve results. Denmark will support the development and implementation of NDCs and NAPs, including through the development banks and paying special attention to countries that have yet to formulate these documents.

Locally-led climate adaptation. Climate adaptation is always context-specific, since both geographical, social and economic factors play a part. Therefore, it needs to be anchored locally both to create local ownership and to secure access to climate adaptation for vulnerable population groups and communities, ensuring that solutions take account of the local geographical context and make the most of existing local knowledge about the climate and about the adaptation that has already been gradually taking place. Locally-led climate adaptation also focuses on boosting capacity in, for instance, natural-resource management in local communities, among indigenous peoples and population groups, including young people. These groups should also be involved in decision-making, which bolsters the sustainability of the measures.

Doing Development Differently. In keeping with the principles behind Doing Development Differently, the context will define Denmark's manner of implementation. Ideally, Denmark will cooperate directly with national or local governments and authorities when there is national ownership and progressive forces that can be supported. The current water programme in Burkina Faso is an example of long-term capacity support for national water authorities. In countries with particular political challenges, or where the climate-adaptation agenda is under the control of vested interests, it will be necessary to work with non-state actors, e.g. climate activists and civil-society organisations, or with financing and capacity-development support for small and medium-sized enterprises engaged in climate adaptation.

Cross-cutting concerns

Greening. The purpose of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs' greening project is to promote the integration of climate, nature and environment into development aid, and to contribute towards the general greening of Danish foreign policy, so that Danish development cooperation achieves more sustainable results and is in line with the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The greening project will help secure more effective development aid, leading to more sustainable results with special attention to those population groups who are most vulnerable to climate change. It must also ensure that Denmark delivers 30% 'green aid' every year, which should be possible to report as such by living up to the OECD-DAC standards and international conventions. Within the multilateral development banks, there is an ongoing greening of investment policies and streamlining to match the Paris Agreement. Denmark is already hard at work pushing the development banks in a greener direction with a view to ensuring that investment streams go towards endeavours such as climate adaptation, renewable energy and nature-based solutions.

Nature-based solutions. Interventions in favour of nature-based solutions will be implemented according to the IUCN's global standard and with an emphasis on protecting, restoring and sustainably managing ecosystems and areas with high-value nature and biodiversity. More knowledge is required about the value of ecosystems for development, climate and biodiversity, and a solid results framework needs to be developed to measure the effects of these interventions. One way of doing this is by mapping out and analysing the current Danish development portfolio regarding nature-based solutions, as well as operational experiences of the UNEP, IUCN, relevant Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) holders in Denmark (e.g. WWF, CARE, DanChurchAid) and of the Green Partnership with civil society with a view to establishing options and pipelines for new interventions and devising specific criteria and guidelines for identification, approval and monitoring.

Democracy, rights and good governance. The rights-based approach along with democracy and good governance are the foundation of our climate-adaptation efforts. The main principles are transparency, accountability, non-discrimination and popular participation. This could concern, for instance, mechanisms of transparency and anticorruption in major climate-proof infrastructure projects, or ethical standards in green calls for tenders. Rights and participation can also be strengthened by empowering local citizens (including indigenous peoples) to have a say in the management of natural resources.

Children are particularly exposed and vulnerable to the climate crisis and the environmental crisis. Their plight needs to be an integral part of all interventions. Likewise, it should be acknowledged that climate change and degradation of nature often affect women and girls disproportionately, because they carry the heaviest workload when it comes to fetching water, obtaining energy and producing food. Climate change and its derived consequences not only bring to the fore the existing inequalities between men and women, but also reinforce power structures and practices that hinder progress towards gender equality in line with the general role of climate change as an amplifier of structural inequalities. Gender issues need to be built into interventions regarding climate adaptation and environmental management. The role of women and girls in planning and implementing such interventions is essential to bring about sustainable results. At the same time, targeted activities that take on gender issues and advance gender equality may be prioritised as part of the work. Interventions need to be *gender-responsive*, i.e. not just treat men and women as equals in their own activities, but also work actively to reduce gender inequality in general.

Employment and green transition. Climate adaptation holds significant potential for creating green jobs for young people in a range of sectors. It involves the use of new technology and digitisation, e.g. for climate-smart food production. The transition to green energy and in the expansion of access to clean energy also provides ample scope for co-benefits, such as improved health, better food production and water supply, job creation, entrepreneurship, income generation, upskilling in relevant fields, education and girls' and women's rights. This makes it important to look at how adaptation efforts may contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive green transition with emphasis on job creation and upskilling.

Pro-poor orientation

Poverty, inequality and hunger are compounded by climate change, fragility and conflict. The hundreds of millions of poor people who are affected by climate change and degradation of nature already today, and who will be even more so in the years ahead, are bound to have less resilience and to struggle more to preserve their livelihood than well-off people. Therefore, it is a fundamental principle that Danish development cooperation must fight poverty and inequality and advance democracy, sustainable development, gender equality, peace and stability with a special emphasis on fragile countries and regions. The biodiversity crisis, the climate crisis and poverty are too closely related to be addressed separately. Thus, Denmark will take a pro-poor approach both in the programmatic and in the diplomatic sphere, for instance in terms of geographical and thematic priorities, in the choice of target groups and in relation to climate negotiations, where alliances will be sought with the poorest and most exposed developing countries. Denmark takes a rights-based approach to ensure that vulnerable groups, including indigenous peoples, are consulted, and that climate interventions do not violate any rights. We will make use of safeguards, such as the do-no-harm/do-good principles, so that Danish-sponsored climate interventions do not harm poor and vulnerable groups, neither directly nor indirectly, but rather benefit them specifically.

Concrete partnerships

Partnerships and export promotion. Danish authorities, utilities, civil-society organisations, businesses, knowledge and research institutions have great expertise in the field of climate adaptation.

This calls for stepping up the dissemination of Danish solutions across the world regarding climate adaptation and particularly water, environment and food production. This can take place, for instance, through new export-promotion initiatives, Danida Sustainable Infrastructure Finance (DSIF), Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G), and climate development partnerships. Possible partners encompass authorities at the country level, where businesses in cooperation with other actors may provide green and sustainable solutions to developing countries. Moreover, it creates opportunities for Danish green exports, especially in transition economies. It may also happen through trilateral partnerships, e.g. between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Danish private sector and civil society, or between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Danish private sector and multilateral actors, as in the case of the engagement being planned on a pilot basis in Burkina Faso, aimed at improving access to water for households and farming in cooperation with the World Food Programme and the Poul Due Jensen Foundation.

Private investment. It is a major challenge to mobilise private financing for climate adaptation, including for nature-based solutions, water access and food production. Denmark will seek to mobilise finance, on top of development aid, for climate adaptation and environment from private investors and pension funds. This will take place, for instance, through the IFU and the multilateral development banks, and by advancing public-private partnerships or guarantees. As far as the development banks are concerned, Denmark will work for them to increasingly develop portfolios with bankable projects in which risks, returns and effects are more in line with the profiles that are in demand, particularly among institutional investors like pension funds and insurance firms.

The private sector is a crucial agent of change to bring about more sustainable production. It can procure much of the necessary investment, which is also highlighted in the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development. For this potential to be realised, however, it is vital that the local sector be involved in climate adaptation in order to implement the solutions with the greatest possible impact. Accordingly, Denmark will seek to have the private sector participate in the dialogue with authorities and directly as a partner in implementation, wherever relevant. The point is to involve the private sector in producing more sustainably and, at the same time, support its integration into global value chains. This approach is in keeping with the Danish tradition of involving stakeholders, and it should take place in government-to-government cooperation, through multilateral programmes and via the relevant holders of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Strategic Partnership Agreements for 2022-2025.

Danish strengths. Denmark possesses a number of strong suits in the areas of climate adaptation, including sustainable management of water resources (planning and mapping of water resources, water catchment, wastewater treatment, water supply and management), physical planning, coast protection, climate and meteorological data, production and local processing of food, environment, circular economy, energy-efficient buildings, waste management, health protection in food production, health and sanitation. Through its humanitarian-crisis responses, carried out both multilaterally and via Danish civil-society organisations, Denmark has also gained knowledge about innovation and best practices in relation to flooding, drought and building resilience in fragile contexts. Finally, Denmark has a long tradition of supporting rights, democracy and good governance. This is a good point of departure for boosting these aspects in climate-adaptation work.

Learning and the adaptive approach to programming

To add to the available evidence and knowledge about climate adaptation, it is necessary to join in relevant networks and forums (e.g. the OECD, UNEP and international coalitions on climate adaptation, biodiversity and green food systems), as well as to strengthen research in certain fields related to climate adaptation, nature and environment. In this, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research plays a significant role through its research into food, agriculture and ecosystems, including climate-smart farming. The Danish engagement with CGIAR is set to be expanded. In 2022, the Consultative Research Committee on Development Research (FFU) will specifically invite applications for research projects in the areas of climate adaptation, including within agriculture, food production, water, biodiversity and nature-based solutions. Learning about climate adaptation from evaluation studies, e.g. about nature-based climate-adaptation solutions and about the water sector, will be followed up and used in programming.

Programming in the field of climate adaptation, nature and environment will need to be adaptive, especially in fragile countries that receive significant bilateral development aid, and in the nexus between development and humanitarian interventions. Systematising learning from such interventions and pilot projects requires a stronger focus on monitoring. Accordingly, resources will be allocated to this in the various undertakings.

Approach to institutional capacity building of partners and representation of interests

Capacity building of partners will take place, partly indirectly, namely by contributing to other international partners who implement activities in the areas of climate adaptation, nature and environment, and partly directly, by means of various instruments, such as the Danida Fellowship Centre, in relation to bilateral work in each country, and in government-to-government cooperation, in which Danish authorities contribute directly to building the capacity of their national partners. These partnerships will, in turn, generate and transmit knowledge back to Denmark. Complementarity with activities in this area carried out by other actors will be looked into. In addition, a specific intervention for capacity building of climate negotiators from LDCs and SIDSs will be supported. Secondments to key partners, such as the GCF, GEF, LDCF, IUCN and UNEP will be increasingly prioritised, not least to gather learning from these important actors and to promote Danish priorities in funds and programmes that are receiving growing amounts of development funds from Denmark.

Note: Several Danish-supported activities in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso and Mali are currently put on hold due to the political crisis in the countries.