The Collaborative Program in Climate Change and Development Economics (3CDE)

“We the consequences of climate change are vast, uncertain, and unequal as the world’s most vulnerable people are the hardest hit. Climate change stands out from other societal problems because it spans generations and international borders. Solutions require long planning horizons and complex coordination on a truly global scale.”

3CDE Team

We are the Environment for Development Initiative (EfD)

The 3CDE program will be designed and managed by the Environment for Development (EfD) Initiative. The EfD supports poverty alleviation and sustainable development by creating and spreading knowledge in environmental economics.

We are a network of researchers, teachers, and policy advisors who have been working together since 2007, at universities and research centers throughout the world. We have established strong policy dialogues with major domestic stakeholders in many sectors, including energy, natural resources, forestry, and agriculture. EfD has 12 centers: in Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Sweden, South Africa, Tanzania, Vietnam, and the USA. The coordinating hub is at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

The team

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Our mission is to empower leaders and educators, from developing and developed countries, by creating world-class training in: climate science, economic tools to tackle climate challenges, and collaborative leadership skills. Our ultimate goal is a world in which climate solutions are anchored in science and go hand-in-hand with economic development.

3CDE is an ambitious education program that will train and support future leaders – the policymakers, researchers, international negotiators, senior managers, and advisors – that will form solutions to local and global climate-related problems. The program recruits top students in economics, social sciences, ecology, engineering, and similar fields coming primarily from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. Two developed-country sites in the US and northern Europe will enhance opportunities for exchanging experiences and perspectives in a global network. A top emphasis will be on students to develop skills for working collaboratively with people from a vast range of contexts.

The three pieces of 3CDE:

- **Action-oriented global Master’s program**: A program that provides the backbone for climate-related policy planning and execution.
- **Global Ph.D. program in Climate Change and Development Economics**: A program that secures local leadership in research, teaching and policy advice.
- **On-the-job training program**: A program that quickly equips leading civil servants with the capacity to reform current policies. Climate action cannot wait.

The Knowledge “Gap”

There is probably no academic discipline better equipped than economics, to tackle such diverse elements of social decision-making. Yet current educational programs in economics are not used to dealing with a global, inter-generational problem like climate change.

The deficit of expertise in developing countries is especially dire. They are on the front lines of climate change impacts, and are highly dependent on natural resources for economic growth that is lifting hundreds of millions of people out of the deepest poverty. Policymakers and other decision-makers need to be well versed in tools of resource management, valuation of public goods, and policy design, for growth to be sustainable.

What makes 3CDE different?

1. **3CDE creates the first “global classroom” in climate change problem solving.** Innovative “blended learning” techniques allow students to learn through content delivered via digital and online media, and also by direct contact with local professors, and fellow classmates. Continuous interaction between students, trough cross-nationally class-rooms, exercises, and a cross site exchange program to promote community of practice and networking.

2. **Curriculum and course activities will be shared globally, while integration to the local context is a cornerstone of the program.**
   - World-class distinguished professors create about half of the curriculum.
   - Local instructors co-design courses, ensuring that material reflects the local context.
   - Well-evaluated course content is shared between program sites in a spirit of continuous program development and global collective learning among teachers and students.

3. **The program is specifically designed to provide our graduates with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively contribute towards development under a changing climate; we start by defining the desired outcome, and then work backwards to design the curriculum (see Figure).**

4. **Each course is constructed modularly, with building blocks (videos, seminars, courses, reading materials, case studies, exercises, group activities, and teaching manuals) arranged and organized to fit the needs of each education program (PhD, MSc, and On-the-job training) at each site.**

5. **3CDE graduates will be equipped with strong leadership skills, and a critical mindset.** They will be adept at collaborating locally and globally with professionals in government, industry, academia, and non-profit sectors, and will be equipped to become trainers-of-trainers.

6. **Shared global and local ownership, in a global network of recognized academic institutions covering Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America, and Europe.** 3CDE will be managed by the EfD Initiative, an organization with unique social capital and extraordinarily strong ties throughout the world.