



Call for Applications

Anglophone African Regional Writeshop to Support Developing Country Publications on Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change

7-11 February 2011, Accra, Ghana

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) and the UN University (UNU) are calling for applications from young scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and others from Africa who are working in the field of climate change and disaster risk reduction to participate in a writeshop from 7-11 February 2011 in Accra, Ghana. The writeshop will be hosted by the UNU's Institute for National Resources in Africa. Through the writeshop, participants will produce a peer-review quality publishable article and they will gain enhanced awareness of the process of writing papers for academic journals. These skills will allow their work to be incorporated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other high-level scientific bodies and consequently inform policy making on key issues of risk and climate.

The writeshop will involve one-on-one work with mentors to provide supplemental training on academic writing and argumentation, in order to help new authors reach a standard of writing suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Sixteen participants will be selected.

Please note that the writeshop is one of two that will be held in Africa in 2011, and will be run in English. The second writeshop, scheduled for a later date in 2011, will be run in French. We encourage French-speakers to apply to the second writeshop, unless your English is absolutely fluent and you would prefer to work and write in English.

How it works

Participants' papers are selected based on quality and relevance to the writeshop's chosen focus areas. After having been selected, participants are paired up with a facilitator with whom they will work to improve the paper. Prior to the writeshop, there will be some communication between the participant and the facilitators to ensure that each participant is at a good stage in the writing of the paper before coming to the writeshop. At the writeshop, the participants will work closely on various aspects of the paper. Finally, some follow-up work between the participants and mentors will be necessary to get the paper finalised.

Writeshops run for 5 days. This includes plenary sessions on the first day, and small group discussions and independent work on the second day. The third day is only half a day to give participants time to refresh their minds and take a break. On the fourth and fifth day, new versions of the papers are drafted in collaboration with facilitators and during plenary and independent sessions.

Participation requirements

Participants must be committed to completing the paper. If mentors do not consider the paper to be of sufficient quality to be submitted to a peer-review journal, they will assist participants in ensuring that the output is at least at a level where it can be submitted to a magazine or a non-peer review publication. Participants must also recognise that involvement in the programme does not guarantee publication – this will be determined by the peer-review process, which can sometimes be harsh.

Selection Criteria and Applications

Applications in Word or pdf formats should be emailed to Nipa Laithong (nipa.laithong@sei.se) by 31 December 2010. Please read the selection criteria carefully, as we cannot consider any exceptions. Only applications with the materials requested will be considered. Please note that all travel costs and lodging will be covered by the organisers, including visa costs.

Participants will be selected based on the following criteria:

- You are carrying out or have carried out action research or project implementation that has provided you with new insights on adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- You are an early-career researcher, academic or practitioner in the fields of disaster risk reduction, climate change or other relevant topic, and expect to continue working in this field.
- You live and work in Africa, and are of an African nationality.
- You speak sufficient English to be able to write a first draft of a paper in English.
- You are committed to working with a mentor before and after the writeshop, to completing a paper, and to seeing it through the publication process.
- You can provide the organisers with a first draft of your paper by 31 January 2011.

The application should include:

- A brief biographical statement, explaining your background, current career hopes and rationale for wanting to be part of the programme, maximum 500 words. Please include nationality, country of residence and gender.
- An extended abstract or summary of their paper, including a brief description of the methodologies applied, the results of the work, whether the work was the result of research or project implementation, maximum 2 pages and minimum 500 words.
- **Please do not** include any other supporting material, such as diplomas, training certificates, etc. as you will not be evaluated on those and the files sizes are very large.

Please note that in submitting your application, you guarantee that your level of English is sufficient for you to write a peer-review quality paper (your personal assessment of this is sufficient). While the programme will support you in all aspects of paper writing, we cannot help train you in English.

Writeshop themes

The writeshop will address topics that are relevant to climate change adaptation and the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR). Papers selected for the writeshop can therefore focus on any of the following themes, but are not limited to them:

Enabling Environments

- How can policies in trade and productive sector development increase resilience and adaptive capacity, particularly for small and vulnerable economies, such as SIDS and land-locked countries?
- How can trade and productive sector development policies increase these countries' resilience to disasters and the harmful impacts of climate change?
- How can existing social assistance and poverty alleviation programmes be improved to increase communities' resilience to disaster loss?
- How can employment policy and programmes, such as rural employment guarantee programmes, increase communities' resilience to disaster loss?
- What are the mechanisms and enabling conditions that allow innovative practices at the community and local levels to be scaled up to district and national level implementation?
- How can investment of large quantities of adaptation and risk reduction funding respond to local needs and mobilizes local resources?

Governance

- How do decentralisation processes empower local and city governments and facilitate local risk reduction and community-based adaptation?
- How can innovative institutional and legislative arrangements for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation facilitate implementation? How have some governments succeeded in integrating the arrangements for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and in moving the centre of gravity from traditional emergency management organizations to central ministries for planning and finance, including the integration of risk reduction into national development plans and budgets?
- How have risk reduction considerations been incorporated into planning and regulation, for example using cost-benefit analysis? What regulatory frameworks (e.g., building codes and land use planning policies) have been used and how effective have they been at reducing disaster risk?
- How have market-based mechanisms, such as parametric insurance, catastrophe bonds, micro-finance and others increased resilience and adaptive capacity at the national, local and household levels? How have risk-reduction incentives been successfully integrated into market-based mechanisms? What are the practical steps and economic and social considerations required to develop targeted and transparent instruments? What institutional and governance arrangements required?

Ecosystem services

- What are the benefits of different approaches to managing, enhancing, protecting and restoring ecosystem services as a strategy for reducing disaster risk and strengthening adaptive capacity? Where have these approaches been employed most effectively? And what are the factors (political, economic, regulatory, etc.) that allow for these approaches to be implemented?