

## **TOOL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Sida's External Expert Advice for Environmental Assessment (Helpdesk) at the Swedish University for Agricultural Science (SLU) is commissioned by Sida to develop a web based Screening Tool (hereafter; the Tool) to facilitate integration of environmental concerns, including climate change, ecosystem services and disaster risk reduction, in Swedish development cooperation. The full name is Sida's Tool for Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Screening with the purpose to serve programme officers with brief, concrete and easy-to-use information.

### **Why?**

The programme officer at Sida and the partners in cooperation need to find measures to maximise the positive impact of projects/programmes, and to identify what should be avoided to ensure a sustainable development. Sida's regulation for environmental assessment states that all supported activities shall be subject to an environmental assessment carried out by the Sida partner.

In many cases a full scale EIA is not needed. However, a brief environmental assessment must always be performed. This Tool will help Sida programme officers and other actors working with development cooperation to screen a project/programme to ensure that the perspective of environmental sustainability is adequately addressed in the contribution. If not, the Tool

provides support to identify to what extent an EIA/SEA shall be performed, and what issues should be included.

### **How?**

The Tool is web based and guides the user step by step, when there is an application at hand. With a few clicks the issues of concern related to environment and climate change are presented for the specific sector and/or country that is being processed.

A brief introduction to environmental integration, Sida perspectives and procedures on EA is presented, as well as why environment is a central component of poverty reduction, and roles and responsibility of Sida and the partner in cooperation respectively.

The Tool provides guidance on both the potential environmental risks/opportunities and the potentially impeding effects of climate change on the project/programme. In connection to each country/sector, in-depth information will be provided, such as relevant Sida policies, environmental and climate change policy briefs, fact sheets etc.

### **When?**

The Tool for EA will be launched in 2010. A test period will be ongoing until March 2010. After launch, the Tool will be available for anyone at our web site, where you can find more information about us at Sida's Expert Advice for EA: <http://mkb.slu.se/helpdesk>

