

GREEN CATALOGUE

KEY PRIORITIES AND APPROACHES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CONSIDERATIONS IN DANISH DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

**Developed by the working group on
development and climate under Global Focus**

GLOBAL FOCUS

- Danish CSOs for Development Cooperation

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INTRODUCTION

The world is facing three crucial and interlinked crises. The first is climate change where the clearing of the Earth's forests alone is the cause of at least 12% of global CO2 emissions. The second is the massive and irreversible loss of species and ecosystems. The UN states that 1 million animal and plant species are endangered. 70% of all species on land live in tropical forests that are being cleared at an undiminished speed. The third is the growing inequality and violations of Human Rights and towards civil society in many developing countries. These three crises affect the world's poorest and most vulnerable people the hardest by depriving them of their rights and destroying the conditions of their livelihoods.

We are at a critical moment in time and only have a few years to act if these three crises are to be averted. Given the interlinked nature of the crises, climate and green interventions in development cooperation cannot be limited to individual solutions but require a multifaceted approach. As such, it will not be sufficient to implement stand-alone interventions - climate and biodiversity concerns need to be integrated across development programming. Thus, it is important that Denmark's Official Development Assistance (ODA) is programmed wisely and applies approaches that address multiple crises simultaneously.

This document – a 'Green Catalogue' - provides recommendations on key considerations and integrated approaches at programmatic level that contribute to tackling the three interlinked crises of climate change, ecological degradation, and inequality. The document has been prepared by the Global Focus working group on Development and Climate, and aims to operationalise our paper on 'Climate and Green development policy asks' from September 2020 (['Fokus på klima og grønne tiltag i den nye udviklingspolitiske og humanitære strategi'](#)). References to the specific policy asks are included when relevant.

The catalogue targets development policy makers and programmers of Danish ODA, and recommends key considerations and approaches within three areas:

1. Development through a climate lens
2. Human Rights, conflict, migration, fragility, and climate
3. Civil society's role and public engagement in the climate agenda.

A range of different development, humanitarian and green CSOs have contributed to the development of this document. The recommendations are based on experiences from programming and implementation at field level.

For more information contact Sigrid Bjerre Andersen from Global Focus (sba@globaltfokus.dk).

1.

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH A CLIMATE LENS

1.1. Integrating climate adaptation in all aspects of Danish ODA¹

Adaptation to climate change is a long term and continual effort. In the Global South, climate adaptation needs are increasing and the ability to adapt and become climate resilient is increasingly crucial to enable and sustain local development. The longer adaptation efforts are put off, the more difficult and expensive it is likely to become to adapt. And while many vulnerable countries and communities are already taking steps to adapt to the changing climate, there is a need to significantly scale up global ambitions and investments to effectively manage climate risks now and in the future.

Three recommendations

1.1.1. Integration of climate change adaptation as a strategic focus for targeted interventions and a crosscutting commitment across Danish ODA interventions

Climate risks, vulnerabilities and adaptation options should be considered across all Danish official development interventions to ensure effective actions and protect development gains in the short and long term. Targeted adaptation interventions should be based on climate risk, vulnerability and adaptive capacity assessments and should be tailored to the unique contexts of a community, organisation, country, or region. It should further be ensured that the needs, interests, and capacities of vulnerable and disproportionately affected population groups are reflected in adaptation efforts. This includes recognizing the potential of women in leading adaptation efforts and ensuring gender responsive adaptation frameworks and actions.

Examples of intervention areas include:

- Managing climate risks and building response capacity, e.g. through early warning systems for extreme weather events, disaster risk management measures and anticipatory actions;
- Addressing drivers of vulnerabilities and building resilience in important climate sensitive sectors such as food production systems and supporting transformative changes, e.g. policy influencing or scaling up of successful actions.

Danish ODA should facilitate for interventions to be designed in a risk-informed and risk-responsive manner, allowing for flexible, adaptive management and contingency financing modalities to address expected and unexpected climate risks.

1.1.2. Local actors play a key role in development of tailored and effective adaptation solutions

Local communities and stakeholders in vulnerable countries are on the frontline of responding to climate changes, but adaptation finance and decision making rarely reaches the local level. However, locally-led adaptation actions can be more cost-effective and faster implemented than top-down adaptation interventions, because local stakeholders intimately know the nuanced context in which they operate. The devolvement of power and financing to local actors increase their awareness, ownership, and own investments in adaptation, which contribute to more sustainable, effective adaptation outcomes.

Civil society has in-depth knowledge of local conditions and needs, which makes civil society a key partner when developing adaptation solutions tailored to the most vulnerable, engaging local communities and local authorities, and ensuring local ownership of solutions. This points to the following priorities when designing and assessing adaptation interventions financed by Danish ODA:

- **Devolving more decision-making power to the local levels, as appropriate:** This entails involvement of local actors and institutions in decision making over how adaptation actions are decided, prioritized, designed, implemented, and evaluated and enhancing direct access to finance at local levels. It is important to ensure increased transparency in decision making on finance, design of interventions and implementation and downward accountability to local stakeholders.
- **Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy:** This entails long term and patient engagement in local governance processes and capacity strengthening of local institutions to ensure they understand and manage climate risks, generate solutions, and facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project-based donor funding.

1.1.3. Successful adaptation is dependent on synergies with ecosystems- and mitigation efforts

It is recommended to promote synergies and integrate adaptation efforts with the protection and restoration of vital ecosystems, e.g. through Nature-based Solutions (see section ["1.3.2."](#)). At the same time, there are clear benefits to synergize mitigation and adaptation efforts, supporting a low carbon, climate resilient transition of all sectors in society.

1.2. Applying holistic approaches to mitigation

The Danish Government's long-term strategy for global climate action is highly focused on mitigation. It is very positive that Denmark collaborates with emerging economies through Green Strategic Partnerships on renewable energy, energy efficiency and other large-scale mitigation investments to speed up the global green transition. While quick and decisive mitigation action is needed to avert the worst impacts of climate change, Danish mitigation infrastructure investments often do not sufficiently take into account the social and environmental risks and safeguards, namely in terms of negative impacts on local ecosystems, opportunities for local

job-creation, ensuring tailored and affordable services for local end users, engagement of civil society and ensuring gender responsive interventions.

Three recommendations

1.2.1. Broaden the understanding of mitigation

In order to also reach out to the most vulnerable and poor populations, there is a need to broaden the scope of mitigation efforts in the Danish ODA. Large scale mitigation projects in emerging economies are important but cannot stand alone. To make sure we leave no one behind, there is a need to also prioritize mitigation investments that reach the most vulnerable and poor. Overall, the Danish ODA mitigation focus should be expanded to include:

- Access to sustainable, affordable energy, also for the most vulnerable and poor. This relates to the choice of technical solutions, such as on-grid and off-grid electricity solutions as well as widened geographic and target group focus.
- Energy and resource use efficiencies provide a significant mitigation contribution. A widened target group for interventions would contribute to the principle of leaving no one behind, e.g. by supporting energy efficient production processes both among small- and large-scale energy users (see section ["1.4.2."](#)).
- Land based mitigation strategies. Protection and restoration of forests and other carbon rich ecosystems provides a very substantial, quick mitigation opportunity within the next decade. The land sector makes up around 1/3 of the global mitigation solutions (see section ["1.3.1."](#)).
- Ensure adaptation and gender synergies. Whenever Danish ODA is invested in climate mitigation, it is recommended to address adaptation synergies explicitly, ensure gender responsive interventions and consider how best to support local economies and societies e.g. by ensuring local job opportunities, skills development and affordable services (see section ["1.1.1."](#)).

1.2.2. Ensure meaningful civil society participation in mitigation projects

Through the Green Frontline Missions, Denmark is collaborating with countries bilaterally on strengthened, updated NDC processes (see section ["1.3.1."](#)) and mitigation processes. In doing so, it will be key to ensure meaningful civil society participation so that the needs and aspirations of a wide part of the population are reflected (see section ["3.3."](#)). Where Danish ODA investments are involved, local and international CSOs are well aware of the situation on the ground, and provide valuable insights in the screening of project proposals at an early stage and the monitoring and evaluation of project implementation. Local and international CSOs can further help to ensure that Danish ODA investments in both small and large mitigation projects live up to the objectives of the Danish ODA; namely by maintaining a focus on poverty alleviation and the principles of leaving no one behind, synergizing mitigation interventions with climate adaptation and ensuring respect of Human Rights.

1.2.3. Guarantee Business- and Human Rights due diligence in mitigation projects

When designing and approving large scale mitigation infrastructure projects financed by Danish ODA it is key to ensure Business and Human Rights due diligence as well as adequate social and environmental safeguards systems. Similarly, for construction and infrastructure projects,

mitigation considerations should be mainstreamed, e.g. in terms of resource and energy efficiency and sustainability considerations. Climate related risks should also be considered in the infrastructure design stage, to ensure climate resilient infrastructure.

1.3. Climate action that supports development and biodiversity²

With the anticipated mid-century climate breakdown, which the 1.5-degree temperature goal is intended to avert, net greenhouse gas emissions must be slashed and then reversed, starting immediately. This cannot be achieved without radical investment in the fastest-acting and most potent mitigation efforts, including the preservation of all remaining high carbon-density ecosystems, such as tropical forests. This is a field where the track-record of Danish institutions is particularly strong. Investment in nature-based climate mitigation efforts can at the same time deliver development outcomes, including climate resilience and deliver biodiversity co-benefits.

Three recommendations

1.3.1. Ensure sustainable carbon sequestration and emission reduction in NDCs

The sustainability impact and long-term effect of carbon sequestration and emission reduction means in partner country NDCs should be enhanced through targeted bilateral government collaboration (myndighedssamarbejde) and international diplomacy.

In a world where more countries are aiming at increasing their level of ambition in the green area, there is a growing demand for green Danish expertise and advice. Despite growing ambitions, the NDC Emission Gap is high (UNEP Emission Gap Report 2020). Conservation of carbon rich ecosystems can contribute substantially to closing the NDC emissions gap. Through climate diplomacy, Denmark can play a significant role in enhancing nature in the NDCs by increasing the inclusion of climate mitigation efforts in carbon rich ecosystems.

The article 5 on mitigation in the Paris Agreement calls for governments to incentivize the so-called non-carbon benefits (NCB). NCBs is a term referring to the factors and contributions of mitigation and adaptation efforts that go beyond mere carbon storage and carbon sequestration in forests. NCBs are generally understood as positive social, environmental and governance outcomes of mitigation and adaptation activities, and include ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, medicine plants, economic productions and activities related to sustainable livelihoods and governance. There is a need to ensure the mainstreaming of local non-carbon benefits into national climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Danish policy and diplomatic efforts should set as a demand that all mitigation investments be compared and selected rationally on the basis of which deliver most carbon savings most quickly with most co-benefits on all SDGs including adaptation, water, biodiversity and human security and rights (see section ["1.2."](#)).

1.3.2. Make use of Nature-based Solutions for climate, development, and biodiversity co-benefits

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can address multiple major societal challenges, including food security, climate change, water security, human health, disaster risk, social and economic

development, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss (see section ["1.1.3."](#)). NbS take a starting point in and are designed to achieve multiple societal co-benefits. NbS are applied as ecosystem conservation, management and/or restoration interventions, which are intentionally planned to deliver measurable positive climate adaptation and/or mitigation impacts, that have direct positive implications for human development and biodiversity. When ecosystems are healthy and functioning, they play a critical role in e.g. mitigating droughts, floods and landslides. As such, through restoring ecosystems and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources, communities' immediate and future vulnerability to climate related natural disasters can be addressed, and longer-term resilience through a thriving and sustainable natural resource base for food security and livelihoods can be built.

Nature-based Solutions for example include participatory forest and water resource management focused on regeneration of forests, increase of water security, diversification of livelihoods, community climate resilience, climate mitigation and creation of green jobs. Another example is protection and regeneration of coastal ecosystems, such as mangrove forests, which contributes to increased carbon storage, food security and biodiversity as well as storm and flood protection of the local communities and their crops.

1.3.3. Ensure rights-based protection of carbon-rich ecosystems

Full and rights-based involvement demonstrably increases the effect and sustainability of climate action (see section ["3.3."](#)), as recognized by both the IPCC (Special Report on Land 2019) and IPBES documents in the Global Assessment that carbon rich ecosystems protected through indigenous peoples' territorial rights have proven to be best protected (2019). Over-exploitation of natural resources is the root of many of the global challenges we face, from climate change and the global loss of biodiversity to rural poverty.

Deforestation is one of the main causes of climate change in conjunction with the loss of biodiversity and the lack of access to ecosystem services by rural populations. Hence, the strengthening of territoriality and indigenous models of governance to mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and improve access to food, based on sound management of natural resources will deliver on key SDG goals, including climate, biodiversity, health, and food security. This points to the following priorities:

- Support strategies of ecosystem-based and community-based conservation in high carbon-density ecosystems for mitigation and adaptation purposes; and
- Support governmental, intergovernmental, and non-governmental institutions, platforms and networks that are dedicated to promoting the conservation of high carbon-density and biodiversity-rich ecosystems that also sustain distinctive and/or abundant human livelihoods and lifeways (see section ["2.1."](#)).

1.4. Promoting green and deforestation-free value chains

Approaches focused on promoting green value chains hold great potential for both development of green and climate resilient jobs, protection of biodiversity, and climate mitigation.

Two recommendations

1.4.1. Develop green value chains for creation of green and climate resilient jobs

Developing green value chains for jobs is key. Nature-based value chains, such as timber production, offer immense opportunities to create immediate “no harm” jobs, while supporting transition to a greener and job-rich economy. Establishing the right conditions for green jobs and enterprises can enable more women and youth to become engaged in green jobs and benefit from diversified nature-based livelihoods (see section ["1.3.2."](#)).

1.4.2. Promote deforestation-free value chains related to Danish imports

There is great potential for reducing Denmark’s footprint on biodiversity and carbon emissions by promoting deforestation-free value chains related to Danish imports and investments across all relevant product groups (soy, coffee, cocoa, palm oil, timber, rubber, charcoal, cotton, etc.). If Denmark were to seize the opportunity of becoming a global deforestation front runner, it would be greatly beneficial for the climate (see section ["1.3.1."](#)). Denmark’s contribution to the fight against global deforestation can be raised to a transformative level, also beyond our own footprint. Denmark has a unique resource base in globally anchored companies and civil society organizations, based on work across supply chains and in producer countries, complemented by the Danish ministries’ international initiatives and tradition of involving stakeholders, as well as scientific and industry organizations with large capacity and commitment.

Central to this approach is to support deforestation-free production locally and create incentives for the conservation of forests and natural areas by promoting and rewarding deforestation-free production. Efforts should address both deforestation and conversion of other natural vegetation, as we have repeatedly seen production shift from expansion on forest areas to other important nature.

2.

HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT, MIGRATION, FRAGILITY & CLIMATE

Danish ODA should maintain its focus on leaving no one behind in relation to climate and environmental programming. In the context of increasing climate change and environmental degradation, this entails protection of the most marginalized, inclusion of the most excluded groups in programming and ensuring that vulnerable groups are not left alone to tackle the growing burden of climate and environmental hazards. ODA should prioritise both emergency responses to climate disasters, disaster risk reduction and integration of a long-term climate resilience building perspective such as regenerative practises to support vulnerable groups to cope, adapt to, and rehabilitate from increasing climate and environmental hazards.

2.1. Integrating human rights in climate and green initiatives^{3,4}

A rights-based approach to development and climate programming must be applied at all levels, not only to reduce risks and prevent harmful impact, but also to increase the sustainability of green transition investments and ODA.

Three recommendations

2.1.1. Protect and champion Human Rights in international climate negotiations

In international climate negotiations, Denmark must proactively champion the position that 'climate finance' only counts as climate finance if effective safeguard mechanisms are in place to ensure initiatives do not violate human rights. A current example regards the Article 6 negotiations at the UNFCCC during which some states attempt to block any reference to human rights. Denmark is in a unique position to gather momentum among friendly states (both EU and non-EU states) to demand, as a red line, reference to human rights. In doing so, Denmark will enjoy further influence by continuing to strengthen its support to civil society and indigenous peoples. These are change agents with capacity and means to effectively lobby their own governments and raise strong voices at the international negotiations, as well as ensure better quality of climate change interventions (see section ["3.3."](#)). Denmark can further strengthen its human rights positions by building diplomatic dialogue between states, civil society, and indigenous peoples. There is successful precedence for this as seen in the process leading up to the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

2.1.2. Protect and champion Human Rights and international finance mechanisms

In international finance mechanisms, Denmark should proactively support the development and operationalisation of effective rights safeguarding mechanisms. A key component of rights safeguarding is ensuring proper consultation of all affected populations including adhering to the principle of ‘free, prior and informed consent’ of indigenous peoples. The implementation of green projects should always consider how rights are affected – ensuring that all human rights are protected at all stages of the projects and in a non-discriminatory way, based on the principle of leaving no-one behind. Pressure to achieve spending targets must never compromise the safeguarding of human rights in climate action. As a board member in the Green Climate Fund, Denmark can work to ensure strengthened social and environmental safeguards requirements by supporting the independent redress mechanism, the operationalisation of the Indigenous Peoples’ Policy, and other similar initiatives.

2.1.3. Protect and champion human rights in bilateral and multilateral programming

Denmark must lead by example by striving to ensure that their entire portfolio uphold and protect human rights and the principle of non-discrimination. This requires a cross-ministerial commitment and sensitisation.

2.2. Coupling climate and environment with loss and damage, conflict and migration ⁵

When adaptation is not enough, climate-vulnerable people and communities may suffer loss and damages. Climate change can thus become a driver of displacement, forcing people to leave their homes, as well as a threat multiplier exacerbating conflict dynamics and fragility. Vulnerable groups, including refugees and displaced persons, are often hit the hardest by climate change. Hence, approaches that combine climate, conflict, and migration by increasing adaptation and loss and damage efforts, will increasingly ensure that rights and the protection of the most vulnerable target groups are considered in the programming of Danish ODA.

Two recommendations

2.2.1. Integrate climate and environmental considerations in the programming cycle

When addressing conflict, fragility and migration, Danish ODA should integrate climate and environment considerations throughout the programming cycle - and across the Humanitarian, Development and Peace nexus. Factoring climate change and environmental risks into programming will aid in the prevention of conflict and displacement and enable efficient response and recovery from climate induced disasters. At the same time, Disaster Risk Reduction measures and climate adaptation interventions can be an effective strategy for mitigating conflict, reducing risks of displacement, and building long term stable, resilient societies. Therefore, environmental and climate sustainability solutions - such as NbS (see section ["1.3.2."](#)), Environmental-based-Solutions, or regenerative practices - and adaptation efforts should be integrated systematically in humanitarian response operations, programming, and financing modalities to support long term resilience building for most vulnerable groups and avoid conflicts and displacement due to resource scarcity or ecosystem degradation.

2.2.2. Adjust financing modalities

Danish ODA should contribute to coupling climate and environment with conflict and migration by ensuring flexible long-term funding modalities in the humanitarian sector. This could e.g. be multi-year funding, as well as anticipatory and contingency funding to respond quickly to climate risks and deliver pre-crisis interventions to lessen potential negative impacts. It could take the form of investments in Disaster Risk Reduction and prevention to avoid loss and damage, and piloting of modalities for effective, timely pre- and post-disaster response. By providing locally integrated climate change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction solutions in both humanitarian- and development actions, CSOs strengthen the adaptive capacity of the people affected by climate change, thus decreasing forced migration, and the protection of those already forcibly displaced.

3.

CIVIL SOCIETY'S ROLE & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN THE CLIMATE AGENDA

The position of Denmark as a “global leader” with regards to climate change builds upon a strong civil society engagement, specifically through the engagement of Danish youth. Mobilising civil society through public engagement is a key element in actively promoting and acting on the climate agenda, not only within Danish borders but through Danish foreign affairs efforts as well. This is a field where the Danish Government already plays a significant role as facilitator, but there is room for further strengthening.^{6,7}

Three recommendations

3.1. Support youths as facilitators of change

The youth are key climate change agents in advocating for urgent and ambitious action, in leading the way, and in developing and implementing innovative solutions from novel energy technologies development to implementing ecological restoration projects.

Denmark should therefore support, teach and engage the youth on the climate agenda. While the teaching of environmental and climate issues is increasingly commonplace in the urban areas of partner countries, it has not been translated to the young people from remote- or secondary urban spaces.

By teaching the youth about climate change and supporting them in their efforts to organise, engage and mobilise, further transformative action can take place. By bridging the rural-urban gap, the group of youths engaged in the climate agenda will grow. This would ensure broad and just engagement, by e.g. cooperating with youth on arranging debates with members of Parliament and connecting climate activists in Denmark with activists in Africa, Asia or the Americas.

3.2. Support Non-state coalitions in the Global South to promote enhanced NDC ambition and implementation

Non-state actors in the Global South play a key role in enhancing NDC ambition and implementation (see section ["1.2.2."](#) and ["1.3.1."](#)), yet they have limited capacity and engagement to do so. Hence, it is important to support coalition building and strengthening of non-state actors in this regard. Danish CSOs have experience with supporting coalition building of non-state actors which has successfully driven higher ambition and climate action.

An important part of this approach is to support mobilisation of coalitions in key countries for these to be able to nationally voice and advocate for a stronger government commitment to NDC ambitions, scale-up of successful solutions and ensure transparency and progress on

implementation. A next step is then to provide technical support to ensure that the national level commitments are trickled down, integrated, and sufficiently funded at sub-national levels.

3.3. Facilitate participatory processes

Participatory processes can be effective tools for allowing communities and marginalized groups to better understand the impacts of climate change they are experiencing, and how to address them. Furthermore, integrating and engaging local communities and indigenous peoples fully, also making sure that marginalized people are being heard in decision making processes, can reinforce the fulfilment of human rights and improve climate change interventions. Communities' voices should therefore be represented in sub-national, national, and international debates of importance to environmental protection and climate change.

Denmark should support the creation of alliances of civil society organisations that ensure that the voices and arguments of all marginalized groups, including women and girls, indigenous peoples, and youth are being heard – hereby fulfilling their rights of assembly, association, and expression. Denmark should furthermore pay particular attention to supporting 'safe spaces' for organisations and locals to raise their voices.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Strategien skal integrere klimatilpasning i alle dele af dansk bistand
- 2 Strategien skal aktivt fremme klimaforebyggelses og biodiversitets co-benefits
- 3 Strategien skal bygge på en menneskerettighedsbaseret tilgang til udvikling - også i strategiens grønne indsatser
- 4 Strategien skal fastslå, at Danmark tager lederskab på at sammenkoble klima og menneskerettigheder på det multilaterale niveau
- 5 Strategien skal sammenkoble klima, konflikt og migration
- 6 Strategien skal inddrage lokalbefolkningen i alle sine grønne indsatser
- 7 Strategi skal styrke civilsamfundet og det folkelige engagement i klimakampen