

# Practical impact of our science – Government, Business and Society

*“Our research is not only underpinned by scientific excellence, but also has a real impact on policy and practice within government, business and society”*

Nigel Arnell, Walker Institute Director

## Key messages

- Policy relevant research, not policy-prescriptive
- Working with Willis Reinsurance
- Strategic alliance with Deloitte LLP
- Providing support for adaptation strategies and institutional transformation mechanisms
- Influencing the decision making process
- Communicating our science

## Climate impacts on your business

We have a strategic alliance with Deloitte LLP, the business advisory firm, to provide scientific research and analysis of the implications of climate change and weather extremes for business.

Together we offer a one-stop solution to assess the business performance implications of climate change and devise strategies to respond.

**Deloitte**

## Reassuring the Re-insurers

The insurance and financial sectors are already taking seriously the impacts of climate change on losses and investment returns.

We are working with the Willis Reinsurance within the Willis Research Network, the largest partnership between academia and the insurance industry. Their focus is evaluating the frequency, severity and impact of extreme events and helping society manage these risks and share the costs of major catastrophe via public and private sector approaches. We are contributing to this through the development of high-resolution global climate models which are able to simulate regional climate and extreme weather, such as storms, more accurately.



**Willis**

## Advising the Queensland Government

Our scientists are working with the Queensland Climate Change Centre of Excellence to improve climate forecasts – for anything from months to many decades ahead - and to develop the ability to cope with the impacts on agriculture, water resources and business sectors, like insurance.



## Avoiding dangerous climate change

We are involved in a major programme to provide advice to the UK Government on how to avoid dangerous climate change. The programme will provide key input to the international climate negotiations in Copenhagen and beyond.

The AVOID programme is led by the Met Office, in a consortium with the Walker Institute, the Tyndall Centre and the Grantham Institute at Imperial College. The programme is now an accredited LVEC programme and is funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs.



## Adapting and transforming societies



We work to support practical decision-making tools and mechanisms for developing countries to adapt to climate change, through evidence from co-partnered research projects on successful rural livelihood adaptation, agricultural innovation and institutional transformation. For example, we support initiative for national food security, environmental management practices and conflict negotiation.

The Livelihoods Research Group works with international and local NGOs, research institutes, governments, the media and local communities to promote social learning and institutional governance that will be able to manage uncertainty and develop policy options.

Contact: **Henny Osbahr** (h.osbahr@reading.ac.uk)

## Communicating our research

As well as carrying out the highest quality research, we consider it vital to communicate our science in a way that is tailored to stakeholder needs.

We engage with external stakeholders, such as government departments and business, at an early stage and throughout our research projects.

We also actively seek outlets for our scientific research through local and national media, websites and magazines.

Other activities include talks and demonstrations to the general public (school children and local community groups for example).

## Find out more...

Contact: **Maria Noguera**, m.noguera@reading.ac.uk