



Appendix 1

Annual Report Form

Annual Reporting Form for Platforms under the Building Stronger Universities programme.

For the year:

1	Project	
	Name of Platform	Growth and Employment Platform
2	Institution	
	Name	University of Copenhagen, Department of Food and Resource Economics, Faculty of Science
3	Project Coordinator	
	Name	Carl Erik Schou Larsen
	Address	25 Rolighedsvej, 1958 Frederiksberg C, Denmark
	E-mail	kesl@ifro.ku.dk
4	Time Frame	
	Project period (approved start and end date)	August 1 st 2011 – July 31 st 2013
	Extension of project period, if any	NA
5	Annual Expenditure	
	Original Annual Budget	12,000,000 DKK
	Actual annual expenses (must correspond with the Annual Accounts)	?
	Explanation of deviations from the original budget.	<p>Actual level of implementation has been lower than planned for the following reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All modalities and templates had to be negotiated, agreed and developed; It took considerable time to create bank accounts at the partner universities in Africa. As a result African partners were unable to implement activities for the first three months of the current reporting period; Lack of clarity about division of responsibility between African and Danish researchers resulted in "no action" in a number of situations; Confusion about objectives and incentive structures among African and Danish researchers resulted in "no action" in a number of situations ; At times, slow and inadequate South-North communication mainly due to c) and d).
6	Progress of the Project during the Year	
a	Describe the progress made towards the fulfilment of the approved objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Growth and employment relevant PhD programmes strengthened at UG, KNUST, UDSM and SUA</i> In the current reporting period only a few of the planned PhD courses has been implemented, yet preparations have been on-going for actual implementation of courses in first half of 2013 The challenge in moving from producing outputs to reaching the objective of institutionalisation/accreditation of the courses. In regard to capacitating faculty staff in PhD supervision, it remains to be seen whether a system will evolve that ensure that the local trainers trained through GEP can convey

		<p>their insights to peers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>Increased number of academic staff at UG, KNUST, UDSM and SUA with PhD qualifications in growth and employment relevant topics</i> Progressing according to plans. The only issue has been a six months delay for most PhD students due to the issues raised in item 5 as well as difficulties in finding qualified candidates. 3. <i>Growth and employment relevant research activities and research collaboration strengthened</i> Projects representing 50 % of the budget allocated for activities under this heading were approved by end of 2012, remaining funds will be committed early 2013. These activities are seen as a strong instrument to create new relationships and partnerships between African and Danish partners. 4. <i>Platform research results and findings effectively disseminated to stakeholders</i> As only a fraction of what GEP is doing can be defined as research it would be more correct to delete the word 'research' from this objective. GEP has used newsletters, an updated homepage and emailing lists to keep relevant university staff updated at partner universities in Africa and Denmark. No effort was used in 2012 to address external stakeholders. 5. <i>Platform activities effectively and efficiently governed/managed</i> The Danish secretariat in collaboration with the coordinators and Danish platform chairmen and the project leader in Universities Denmark constantly work on these issues.
b	Describe the progress made in reaching the outputs/results	<p>WP1 Strengthening PhD education</p> <p>This work package contains two groups of activities: Development and implementation of PhD courses (24 courses in total) and faculty staff upgrading in PhD supervision (4 courses in total jointly for KNUST/UG and SUA/UDSM).</p> <p><u>PhD Courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD course instructors (both Danish and African) for all the 24 PhD courses under the programmes have been appointed in 2012. • The teams have in most cases started jointly to develop the curricula and course instruction manuals. Communication mainly through email. • At some courses South – North communication has been slow or none existing. • The following PhD courses have been fully developed and implemented by joint teams of African and Danish facilitators: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adaptive Management Course 22-24/10/12 (KNUST) 2. Research Methodologies 22/10-2/11/12 (KNUST) 3. Scientific Writing, first module 14/11–6/11 20 participants (SUA) <p><u>PhD Supervision ToT courses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 staff upgrading courses in PhD supervision (ToT), first module <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ghana 1st–5th October (total 43 participants from GEP 8 from KNUST 7 from UG) 2. Tanzania 5th–7th November (total 32 participants from GEP 8 from SUA 8 from UDSM) <p>This was executed as a cross-platform activity jointly planned and developed with the Environment & Climate platform and the Human Health platform. All BSU partners in Tanzania/Zanzibar and Ghana respectively sent participants to this event. The facilitators were from Denmark, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania.</p> <p>WP2 PhD Scholarships</p> <p>This work package contains 16 PhD scholarships for local PhD with up to 10 months study stay in Denmark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection and appointment of 16 PhD candidates and refinement of their research proposal. • African PhD Supervisors and Danish Co-supervisors have been appointed after series of calls for Expression of Interest (Eoi). • All PhD candidates have been linked with their local and Danish co-

		<p>supervisors and their research is on-going.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local seminars have been organized for PhD students for their research proposals to be critiqued and also to monitor their progress of work. <p>WP3 Strengthening research collaboration</p> <p>This work package contains 22 partnerships on pilot research collaboration and strengthening as well as 4 staff upgrading courses in fundraising/proposal writing (ToT).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The call for proposal for funding joint proposal development and collaborative exploratory research was announced twice: September and November 2012. 15 proposals were approved for funding in November 2012; remaining funds will be committed in early 2013 as a result of the November 2012 call. The TOT course on "Fund raising and writing grant winning proposals" was organised in Tanzania: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12th-15th November 2012 (UDSM with 16 participants) 19th-22nd November 2012 (SUA with 11 participants). The course will run in Ghana in 2013. <p>WP4 Communication</p> <p>This work package contains 4 staff upgrading courses in research dissemination. As well as general information dissemination activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A joint BSU portal has been developed with individual homepages for each platform. This has given BSU a unified communication image. GEP's partners in Ghana and Tanzania have used their respective university homepages extensively for information dissemination. A joint BSU assignment holder meeting was conducted at University of Copenhagen in November 2012 for all interested BSU assignment holders from Danish universities. <p>WP5 Platform Governance and Management</p> <p>This work package relates to all managerial and administrative issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the period under review, formal contracts with all African partners were signed for the project to take off. Platform Working Groups (PWG), also serving as a backup to the local secretariat, has been constituted at each African partner university. It constitutes of four members from the South Partner University (including chair) and 3 – 4 members from Danish universities. Offices from which platform activities are coordinated have been established at each South partner university. A Platform Coordinator was appointed at each South Partner university after an interview session organized by the local GEP PWG members, except for UG where the function is being performed by a staff of the Office of Research, Innovation and Development. Three members from SUA (two researchers and one accountant) attended a workshop organised by BSU at KCMC on financial management and reporting from 1st to 3rd February 2012. Meetings were organized locally by the GEP Platform Working Group as well as the BSU Steering Committee to discuss the progress of GEP/EC activities. In Denmark regular meetings have been held by the Danish Platform Steering Committee, by the four platforms and DKUNI as well as among the Danish coordinators. In August 2012 a Joint Stakeholder Workshop for representatives from all four platforms and from all South partner universities was organised by DKUNI. In conjunction with the Joint Stakeholder Workshop GEP and EC organised a joint roundtrip to all seven Danish universities.
c	Describe the progress in terms of institutional and research	It is premature to judge outcome/impact based on the activities implemented in 2012. Below is a few positive statements picked from the partners narrative

	<p>capacity building</p> <p><i>Suggest this is rephrased so it corresponds with the objective of BSU(suggestion below):</i></p> <p><i>Describe the progress in terms of strengthening the enabling environment for institutional capacity within research, education and outreach</i></p>	<p>reports:</p> <p>PhD and PhD Supervision training courses have been very well attended, and in most cases, oversubscribed. This reflects the importance of the content of these courses to our PhD students and academic faculty.</p> <p>Four PhD scholarships have been awarded to assistant Lecturers and teaching assistants, which will raise the faculty profile of their various faculties once they have completed. The scholarships support through the initiative helps to ensure that all academic staff has a PhD.</p> <p>A TOT course on fund raising and writing grant winning proposals has been conducted to members of academic staff. Through collaborative research activities under WP3, researchers have forged new research networks with researchers from GEP partner universities in Africa and Denmark.</p> <p>Research collaboration under WP3 has provided seed funds to researchers to initiate joint research projects, which will raise the research profile of both the researchers and the institution.</p>
d	Describe the status of the project management and partnership	<p><u>Management:</u></p> <p>Project management of GEP in Denmark has been streamlined as much as possible under the given structure of BSU. At African partner universities the project management functions satisfactory with a division of labour between the project officer and the PWG Chairman.</p> <p>Especially at SUA and KNUST coordination between the Environment and Climate Platform and GEP is well organised.</p> <p><u>Partnership:</u></p> <p>In terms of partnership the South – North relationships is gradually being expanded as activities are being implemented.</p>
e	Describe the progress made of the communication activities during the year	See point 6b WP4 Communication
7	Substantive Changes	
	Have any of the responsible persons been changed? If so, please list the changes, the actions taken and consequences.	At UDSM Dr Adolf Mkenda from the Department of Economics (PWG member) has been replaced by Dr. Godious Kahyarara from the same department due to his new appointment as the Chair of PPF Board of Directors
	List any new factors possibly affecting the achievement of the objectives in the future and describe how the project will address them.	<p><u>DK:</u></p> <p>Issues such as incentive structures (in North and South), co-financing, activity fragmentation, South-North communication have been discussed at length during 2012, and also addressed in the review of BSU Phase one carried out in early 2013.</p> <p><u>KNUST:</u></p> <p>A clear cut policy on how to motivate KNUST supervisors of the BSU PhD candidates seems to be a challenge. Perhaps the decision to motivate each BSU PhD candidate's local supervisor could be a solution to this challenge in the future.</p> <p><u>SUA:</u></p> <p>Communication breakdown between North and South assignment holders/partners, especially for PhD courses. This problem will be addressed by communicating to partners asking them to copy their correspondences to BSU secretariat, which will serve as link in case of a communication breakdown.</p> <p><u>UDSM:</u></p> <p>Key assumptions for future implementation and risks at UDSM:</p>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All work packages will be funded with sufficient budget 2. Availability and timely disbursement of funds 3. Commitment of UDSM and staff of Danish universities to pursue the activities in time 4. Internal and external incentive packages will be available to motivate the implementers 5. Smooth communication between South-North partners 6. Timely completion of ongoing activities, including the PhD studies <p><u>UG:</u> The University of Ghana has introduced changes to the PhD programme. The PhD programme is no longer a research-only study, but includes a year of coursework. Consequently, students will take four years (instead of three) to complete their PhD programmes. While the bulk of new applicants have been required to start in either January or August 2013, the platform obtained special dispensation from the Vice-Chancellor to enable the scholarship recipients to be enrolled in August 2012. It is as yet unclear how the new curriculum will affect the completion of the BSU/GEP candidates' PhD programmes. However, the four year programme allows students complete their courses in a minimum of 3 years. GEP is working closely with the School of Graduate Studies to ensure that the BSU/GEP students are allowed to function on the previous 3-year system that was used in the developing the project. Any new developments will be communicated with the Danish Platform Chair and Coordinator</p>
8	Statements and Permits	
	Affirm that the required research permits, approvals and authorizations were in place before the start of the activities. List any new approvals/ authorizations obtained during the year and explain the status for any documents still not obtained.	All GEP partner universities have permit to carry out research.
9	Lessons learnt	
	Describe lessons learnt, including positive experiences or solutions of interest for other projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of GEP in 2012 has initially been at a slower pace than planned, but has gradually gained pace. It is expected that progress in 2013 and beyond will be faster. This stresses the importance of gaining trust and developing partnerships. • A general "lessons learnt" from 2012 is that GEP activities have been too small and scattered. It will be important in Phase II of GEP to make activities more coherent, including having fewer and consequently larger activities. • Related to the above, the very broad scientific/technical scope of the platform – growth and employment – remains a challenge and adds to the tendency of small and scattered activities. Hence, there is a strong need for focus and priority setting. These priorities obviously should be made based on the needs of SUA, UDSM, UG and KNUST.

Attachments:

1. List of publications, proceedings etc. produced by the project during the year, with possible links. <http://bsuge.org/>
2. Overview of the progress of the PhD educations within the project

The Project Coordinator and the institution herewith confirm that the information given in the annual report is correct:

Date: 3/5-13 **Printed name:** Carl Erik Schou Larsen
(Project coordinator)

Signature:

Date: _____ **Printed name:** Christian Pilegaard Hansen
(Chairperson of Steering Committee)

Signature: