

--- On Thu, 11/15/07, Lubell, Mark <mnlubell@ucdavis.edu> wrote:

From: Lubell, Mark <mnlubell@ucdavis.edu>
Subject: RE: Global Warming in the Islamic World Project
To: "Moji Agha" <mojiagha@yahoo.com>
Date: Thursday, November 15, 2007, 5:20 PM

Hi Moji:

It was nice meeting you. Thanks for describing your project, which does indeed sound interesting. As I said, I would be willing to join initial discussions on moving the project forward at UC Davis, but I cannot commit to being the primary faculty leader. I also think you need a stronger commitment from the UC administration in addition to a faculty leader plus groups.

Here are my suggestions for possible projects.

1. Reframe your project in terms of impact, education, mitigation, and adaptation. By impact, I mean looking at how much Islamic countries contribute to global warming, and the consequences (ecological, economic, political etc) of global warming for those countries. A lot of environmental scientists will come in there. Education is focused on what you told me. Mitigation covers the participation side, but focuses on behavioral and policy changes that are targeting prevention. Adaptation means policies, behaviors etc. that influence dealing with damages.
2. For me, the most immediate project would be a cross-cultural survey on citizen perceptions of climate change issues. Some of this stuff has recently been done, but I would want something more focused on citizen collective action, beliefs etc. Part of this could be used to evaluate education campaigns.
3. At the national and subnational level, you want to know what policies are being passed to mitigate and adapt. This is similar to the work that I did with Sammy Zahran on participation in Kyoto. But this type of project would really look at policies that encourage alternative fuel vehicles etc—policies that affect the economic behavior of firms and citizens within the county.
4. At the international relations level, you want to look at the consequences of international relations for global warming politics. What are the participation rates of Islamic countries in international agreements. How do the ongoing international conflicts over other issues have an impact on decision making with respect to climate change?

The first point is a suggestion for organizing the project. The other three points are research projects that could be done.

Hope this helps.
Mark Lubell