



## **Commonwealth Capacity-Building for Planning: Work Package 1 Review of Planning Education across the Commonwealth**

CAP has developed a case and accompanying proposals for a major effort to build capacity for planning across the Commonwealth. Rapid urbanisation, climate change and the economic downturn mean that too often plans are out of date and there are too few planners with the right skills to deliver the kind of planning needed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

CAP will shortly be in a position to tender a research study for the first stage of this project. Work Package 1 is on planning education across the Commonwealth. CAP is an internationally acknowledged leader in thinking about how planning can be used in today's world. CAP was a key player in developing the paper "Re-inventing Planning" which was presented at the 2006 World Urban Forum and has done much to shift perceptions about the need for planning and the type of planning that is now needed. CAP also played a major role in producing the book *Making Planning Work: A Guide to Approaches and Skills* (Earthscan, 2006) which sets out a vision of the kind of skills planners need today, and provides some 25 short case studies to demonstrate them.

CAP is part of ComHabitat, which is a partnership of Commonwealth organisations concerned with Human Settlements (see [www.comhabitat.org](http://www.comhabitat.org)). ComHabitat is chaired by the Commonwealth Secretariat. One of the three objectives in ComHabitat's Strategic Plan is "To strengthen leadership and governance by Habitat Agenda partners in approaches to sustainable and equitable human settlements development". Building capacity for more sustainable and inclusive forms of urban planning is recognised to be central to this objective.

Several Commonwealth countries have annual urban growth rates of over 5%, and the urbanisation of poverty and the vulnerability of the poor to hazards (natural and man-made) demonstrate why the need to rediscover and re-invent urban planning is urgent. Better planning is needed because slum formation is outstripping slum upgrading, land use is intimately connected to climate change, and the surge of metropolitan growth poses new challenges for governance. Planners in both rich and poor Commonwealth countries need to take account of these realities. Are the systems for planning education and for Continuing Professional Development delivering relevant skills and knowledge? Where are the planning schools located? Is there mismatch between where the schools are and where the greatest need is?

There is interest in some countries in gaining a form of international accreditation, or for some international support to local systems of accreditation. Some of the larger planning institutes within the Commonwealth do indeed accredit courses from other countries. However, so far few schools have proceeded down this international route. The research will also explore these issues.

CAP is keen to strengthen its links with planning schools in Commonwealth countries, and to promote research (preferably collaborative research by teams from more than one Commonwealth country) that will inform the “re-inventing planning” agenda in the Commonwealth. This project should contribute to achieving these aims.

Not all planning education is provided in planning schools. Establishing just what provision exists will mean looking across disciplinary and professional boundaries to some extent. It is also important to recognise that full-time undergraduate or post-graduate study is not the only way that planning knowledge and skills is provided. In particular, the needs of practising professionals and community organisations should be considered.

#### The likely focus of the work

Some details still have to be discussed with the sponsor of this project, but it is anticipated that the research to be tendered will focus on two things. These are:

1. A study of training needs (both initial and mid-career), which will identify ways to develop and deliver learning appropriate to today’s imperatives. The study can draw on the findings from the work CAP and the RTPI and Lincoln Foundation did in 2008 on a Self-Diagnostic Tool, which attracted responses from planners in 33 of the 53 Commonwealth countries. This could be supplemented by polling of planners and others involved in human settlements (including NGOs and UN-Habitat) to develop guidelines for knowledge, attitudes and skills needed from planning education today.
2. Creation of an inventory and analysis of existing provision for planning education in the Commonwealth. This will include indigenous accreditation requirements, and a review of curricula (how adequately are key concerns such as climate change, gender, the urbanisation of poverty and equity addressed?). In addition there should be analysis of barriers to access for initial professional education as a planner, and ways to overcome these (e.g. accreditation of prior experiential learning as a method to aid recruitment of people who have been involved in NGOs, design and delivery of distance learning materials).

#### Likely time scale

It is hoped to tender the work during April 2009 with a view to work commencing in May 2009. It is anticipated that the study will run for about 6 months. CAP would then aim to publish the findings at least in electronic format on its own website, but hopefully in hard copy format also for circulation around relevant national, Commonwealth, UN and donor bodies.

### A closed tendering procedure

CAP will operate a closed tendering procedure, pre-selecting a small number of potential providers based on their Expression of Interest. CAP is particularly interested in receiving Expressions from teams made up of researchers from more than one Commonwealth country, where this arrangement can demonstrate added value .

Expressions of Interest should be completed on the form below and emailed to CAP's Administrator Annette O'Donnell ([Annette.Odonnell@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:Annette.Odonnell@rtpi.org.uk)) to reach her before midnight GMT at the end of Tuesday 24 March 2009. For further information email CAP's Secretary-General, Professor Cliff Hague, at [C.B.Hague@sbe.hw.ac.uk](mailto:C.B.Hague@sbe.hw.ac.uk).

## **1 ORGANISATION IDENTITY**

1.1 Name of the company/ University (Lead contractor) in whose name the tender would be submitted	
1.2 Contact name:	
1.3 Address:	
1.4 Telephone number:	
1.5 Facsimile number:	
1.6 E-mail address:	
1.7 Registered address if different from the above:	
1.8 VAT Registration number:	
1.9 Website address	

## **2. THE RESEARCH TEAM**

2.1 Likely members of the team :		
Name	Responsibility within the project	Relevant experience



**5. FORM COMPLETED BY:**

Signature	
Name	
Position	
Date	
Telephone number	
E-mail address	