Synthesis is an important tool for summarizing and disseminating the results of research, making them available in other disciplines and to other interested parties.

DEFINITION

Syntheses produced within the CEC are to combine information from various sources, our own, as well as others’, to elucidate specific issues including robust findings and key uncertainties. A synthesis is not simply a review or a summary providing all the information available on a specific topic (for example, all the papers published on the subject). Rather, it presents well-founded conclusions based on a representative selection of the scientific material available.

THE BASIS FOR SYNTHESSES AT CEC

Syntheses for which the CEC provides funding must:

- be on, or related to, the areas of research pursued by the CEC,
- be on a topical scientific issue or the knowledge available on an important social issue (for example, issues related to specific sectors, government reports, etc.),
- have a specific target group,
- be based on research at the CEC, but may include other information,
- lead to quantitative or qualitative conclusions, or conclusions that identify a specific problem or form the basis for discussion, and
- contain a complete list of references, such that all sources can easily be retrieved.

At least one of the contributors must be engaged in the CEC or its affiliated areas of research.

FUNDING

During 2015, up to SEK 500 thousand will be allocated for research syntheses. Various means of collaboration should be exploited, including visiting researchers, temporary employment of a scientist from another department and seminars.

An example of the way in which resources can be used for syntheses is given below:

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salary costs</td>
<td>80-160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>equivalent to 1-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>man-months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layout etc.</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer review</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>SEK 125-195 thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE PROCESS

Information on the funding of syntheses will be distributed internally within CEC, to its associated research environments and via the Climate Initiative. Proposals for syntheses can be submitted at any time, as long as funds are available for this purpose. The executive committee of the CEC can also initiate syntheses.
Decisions on the allocation of resources will be made by the executive committee at its first meeting after a proposal has been received. If the proposal is accepted, the synthesis must be completed and ready for distribution within 6 months. Each synthesis will be evaluated by two experts, for which reimbursement may be available.

A short summary of the synthesis is also to be provided, which may be published as a “Policy Brief” or “Issue Brief” by the CEC or via the Climate Initiative.

A template is to be used, ensuring that all syntheses have the same structure and appearance. Syntheses will be distributed through the CEC’s website, and directly to recipients suggested by the authors. The language used will depend on the target group. The authors of the synthesis are responsible for the conclusions presented.

**EVALUATION**

All syntheses are to be followed up, and experiences summarized annually. This will form the basis for any decisions regarding changes in routines or the allocation of funds.

**EXAMPLES**

Examples of syntheses for which the CEC may provide funding:

- SMHI Klimatologi nr 4 (http://www.smhi.se/publikationer/uppdatering-av-den-vetenskapliga-grunden-for-klimatarbetet-1.17827)

Other sources of inspiration include:

- IPCC’s Assessment Reports and Special Reports (www.ipcc.ch)
- SBU’s (Statens beredning för medicinsk utvärdering) reports (http://www.sbu.se/)

**APPLICATION**

Applications for funding should include the following:

- Aims
- Approximate scope and synopsis
- Timetable
- Contributors
- Intended target group
- Budget
- Name and contact details of the applicant

Applications are to be submitted to the CEC’s Head of Administration, Eivor Terne, CEC, internal mailstop 50, Eivor.Terne@cec.lu.se, or Lund University, Centre for Environmental and Climate Research, Att. Eivor Terne, Sölvegatan 37, SE-223 62 Lund, Sweden