



# Climate Change and Environment Network Newsletter

## No. 10 April 2013

Since the publication of the last newsletter in December, several activities have taken place within SDC's Climate Change and Environment (CCE) Network.

In March Daniel Maselli officially became the new Focal Point of the Climate Change and Environment Network.

At a one-day workshop the incoming and outgoing Focal Point – together with the Core Group – elaborated a new work plan for 2013 and 2014. The work plan contains five action lines with corresponding activities. The action lines are: 1) policy dialogue and strategy development; 2) capacity building, training, learning and awareness raising; 3) cooperation with other networks and SDC entities; 4) communication; 5) network management and development.

The working modus of the network was also discussed, including the role of face-to-face (f2f) meetings. The Core Group agreed to follow a new approach, i.e. work more regionally through multi-regional meetings bringing together network members from several similar regions (instead of organising global network events). A first multi-regional f2f encounter is planned for network members from Central Asia, South Asia and East Asia in late 2013. The host country is yet to be determined and more information on this meeting will follow. [More](#) information on the work plan can be found on the Shareweb.

## SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

### South-South-North Partnership for Low Carbon Cement

Cement-based products are some of the most widely used construction materials. By 2050 the global demand is expected to have quadrupled from 1990 levels. China, India, Indonesia and Brazil account for the highest rates of production, but developing countries make up around 85 % of the world's cement production. Currently, cement-based products emit 5-8 % of the world's man-made CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The goal of this new SDC-funded project is to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of the cement sector by promoting the dissemination of low carbon cement production. It will do this by promoting a technology transfer from Cuba – where the low carbon cement production technology was developed – to India, and subsequently to other emerging countries. [More](#)

### Supporting Development and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the Forest Sector in the Andean Region

Chile is one of the first countries to develop and start implementing a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) plan for the forest sector. Through a project launched in February 2013, SDC is supporting this innovative process in Chile, e.g. the development of a national legislative framework for the NAMA, establishment of forest pilots to restore degraded forests and for afforestation, and the development of a national forest carbon credits system. It also encourages experience sharing and joint learning between Chile and other Andean countries. [More](#)

### Hazard Risk Management through Micro-insurance in Central America

In Central America governments are struggling with the increasing frequency and impact of hurricanes – one of the many visible consequences of climate change. Urbanisation, poverty and the fact that traditional coping mechanisms are disappearing, make dealing with natural disasters even more difficult. It is a known fact that the poor often live and work in vulnerable locations and do not have savings or other resources set aside to recover from catastrophic events. Consequently, when disasters strike, they are forced to sell their remaining assets at low prices and often take on new debt to re-build their lives and livelihoods. Hazard risk management through micro-insurance can break this vicious cycle threatening vulnerable households. However, a lack of data on the scope and impact of risks vulnerable households face, has so far prevented the development of insurance products for the poor. In this context, SDC has initiated a public private partnership for development with Swiss Re, and an insurance company called MiCRO to develop a catastrophic insurance market for vulnerable households in Central America. [More](#)

### Dam Safety Enhancement Programme in China (DaSEP)

Average temperatures in China have increased more than the global average and China's vulnerability to climate change is high. It is expected that the rise in temperature will increasingly affect rainfall patterns, i.e. extreme precipitation events and related flood risks are predicted for the southern provinces and Himalayan region, while the north will be affected by droughts. Also, a number of dams which were constructed in the 1950s-70s now need to be reviewed due to safety concerns. The DaSEP project was initiated in January 2013 and is one of three projects established through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Switzerland and China. Its aim is to reduce losses due to hazardous dams, e.g. by improving dam safety management, providing technical support and know how. [More](#)

### Strengthening Communities and Institutions in Adapting to Climate Change in India

Many rural communities in India are highly dependent on the annual monsoon to provide the necessary rain for their crops. Without irrigation, and in the context of increased monsoon variability due to climate change, millions of people face enormous challenges. The project supports rural communities by promoting livelihood resilience, adaptive capacities and risk reduction in the context of climate change and disasters. In this context a knowledge-embedded service to farmers was launched to provide crop and locale-specific agro-advisories based on three day weather forecasts and crop growth stage. More in the [project factsheet](#) and as [news](#) on the Shareweb.



© WOTR (Weather Station in India)

## Adaptation to Climate Change in Nicaragua: Water Harvesting and Small Scale Irrigation

In Nicaragua relying on rain fed agriculture is becoming more risky because rainfalls are becoming more erratic and floods more frequent. Low income smallholders are particularly affected by these effects of climate change. An SDC funded project that started in February 2013 aims at supporting smallholder farming families in a majority of Nicaragua's departments in increasing their resilience to the effects of climate change. By introducing specific irrigation systems (ponds and cost-effective water distribution through PVC tubes and furrows), the project intends to help farmers increase their agricultural productivity, production and sales. Also, it is expected that a pond construction market will be developed during the eight year duration of the project. Apart from ensuring access to infrastructure for rainwater collection, the market will provide farmers with access to irrigation and production technology and related financial services, e.g. private, public or community based organisations will sustainably offer services for the design, construction, and maintenance of small scale water retention and irrigation systems. [More](#)

## Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP)

Climate change poses a serious threat to social and economic development in India and in particular to the Indian Himalayan Region. Scientific capacities to understand changes in this region are critical. Current evidence suggests instability in the Himalayan ecosystem as a result of climate impacts and increased uncertainty. Vulnerability is also increasing as a result of cascading effects of changes in composition and distribution of natural resources. In response, the SDC-funded IHCAP focuses on three pillars: a) science capacity building through collaboration between Indian and Swiss scientific institutions in glaciology and related areas; b) institutional strengthening on adaptation planning and implementation in the Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh; and c) facilitating dialogue between Indian Himalayan States to link science and community level action to informed adaptation policies. It will be implemented in coordination with a consortium of four Swiss universities led by University of Geneva, Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and Himachal Pradesh Centre on Climate Change. [More](#) on the website of IHCAP.

## Update on SDC funded Climate Change Initiatives

The projects below were presented in previous newsletters and have submitted updates:

### Climate Change Adaptation Programme in Peru (PACC)

The SDC-funded PACC has just entered into a second phase. During the first phase (2009 – 2012), over 1200 rural households of 21 communities in 2 watersheds adopted adaptive practices in agricultural production, sustainable natural resource management, food security and rural well-being. Two regional governments defined strategies to adapt to climate change together with a diverse network of local private and public actors, and over a 1000 farmer leaders and technical staff trained in adaptation management. More on the [Shareweb](#) and the [PACC website](#)

### South Africa: Call Centres and Energy Efficiency Skills

One of South Africa's major challenges is the shortage of low cost housing. The recent massive roll out of houses and buildings has led to poor quality houses with little consideration for energy efficiency. SDC is addressing this issue through various initiatives since 2010 that are achieving interesting results. [More](#)

## Indo- Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP)

This SDC-funded project aims at reducing energy consumption in new buildings and disseminating best practices to promote the design of energy efficient buildings. One important component is promoting integrated design charettes (workshops with all stakeholders) for large commercial building projects. [More](#)

## Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal Sector

About 90 per cent of all energy consumed in Tanzania comes from biomass and charcoal alone accounts for more than 1 million tons of solid wood used in a year. In this context, the aim of the SDC funded project initiated in 2011 is twofold: to establish commercially viable value chains for sustainably sourced charcoal and to work with high level decision and policy makers towards the design of biomass-friendly policies. [More](#) on how villagers are benefitting from the charcoal project and more background in the [project factsheet](#).

## Policy Processes

### Doha or the Bridge from the Old Climate Deal to a New One

As those who have been following the UN climate change negotiations over the past years can confirm, the latter were often characterised as nerve wracking events with negotiators often achieving compromises only at the very last moment. In the run up to the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen in December 2009, expectations were raised that a legally binding agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol would be produced. Disillusionment followed: there was no agreement on the architecture of a new climate change framework and the divergent positions of developing and developed nations became very clear. One year later at the COP 16 in Cancun, no major breakthrough was achieved and many difficult questions were postponed again. In terms of climate finance, one success of Cancun was the creation of a Green Climate Fund (thematic funding for developing countries). At the next COP in Durban in 2011 a small breakthrough was achieved as states parties laid the foundations for a new inclusive climate regime with their consensus to elaborate a legally binding agreement by 2015. More background on previous COPs on the [website of UNFCCC](#) or in previous newsletters, i.e. [CCE Newsletter no. 2 on Copenhagen](#), [Newsletter no. 3 on Cancun](#), [Newsletter no. 6 on Durban](#), and the [Special Newsletter on Doha](#) preparations and the Swiss position during the event.

The most recent meeting, i.e. the COP 18 in Doha in December 2012, can be seen as bridge-builder between the old and new (yet to be defined) climate regimes. It consolidated the gains of the last three years of negotiations and opened the gateway to the much needed greater ambition and action. A second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol was agreed, covering the period 2013 – 2020. Consequently, the only legally-binding, rules-based international commitment to limit greenhouse gas emissions was preserved – even though only in a status quo manner as ambitions in emission reduction targets were not increased. As expected, important polluters like China, the USA and India are not included in the deal. The only agreement reached was that after 2020, the Kyoto Protocol must be replaced by a single legally binding agreement, requiring all states to make commitments in line with their level of development. To achieve this, states parties defined a timetable stating that a deal must be adopted by COP 21 in 2015. Also, negotiations were streamlined in Doha. The work under the Bali Action Plan (implemented through various working groups) was completed. A new package of deals called the "Doha Climate Gateway" was adopted and it was agreed that the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) would propose how to move from the agreement into reality. The ADP will have a first meeting in spring 2013 in

Bonn, Germany. Progress was also made regarding new infrastructure to channel technology and finance to developing nations. The latter has been a key area of dispute during negotiations over the past years. Despite the agreement in Doha, the divide between developing and developed nations continues on the issue of how poorer countries should deal with global warming and fund the conversion to planet-friendlier energy production. Tough negotiations still lie ahead. More on the [Doha Climate Gateway](#), on [climate funds](#), and on the Swiss position on the website of the Federal Office for the Environment ([FOEN](#)). Click on the video below for a summary.



© The History of Climate Change Negotiations in 83 seconds

### Stocktaking on New Climate Mitigation Market Mechanisms

At the COP 18 in Doha two new regulatory frameworks were also discussed in more detail: the Framework for Various Approaches (FVA) and the New Market Mechanism (NMM). The underlying idea of the former was the establishment of common guidelines or rules for mitigation schemes to ensure the quality and promote the fungibility of emission reduction units of national and regional programmes under the UNFCCC. The latter was introduced at the COP 17 in Durban to enable more streamlined and standardised approaches in setting baselines and dealing with additionality in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The CDM - the main source of income for the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund - allows emission reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction credits which they can trade or sell to industrialised countries that use them to meet a part of their emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol. The paper published by INFRAS summarises the main issues discussed at the COP 18 regarding these two regulatory frameworks. A key finding is that both FVA and NMM are based on a set of principles similar to those of the Kyoto Protocol. Also, the difference between the FVA and the NMM is not clear and there are overlaps in terms of the issues the different frameworks are supposed to address. While the FVA may be a lighter mechanism allowing for a more de-centralised approach, the NMM is more top down. Many issues remain to be developed further under both frameworks, e.g. the nature of the pledges of countries, centralised and comprehensive versus decentralised regulatory design of NMM and FVA, double counting, etc. [More](#)

### Climate Change, Migration and Development Cooperation

This report puts controversial media statements into perspective and claims that scientific evidence indicates that Switzerland won't have to deal with climate refugees. Environmental or climatic changes rarely trigger migration, i.e. scientific evidence does not support the concept of climate refugees. Also, when migration is triggered (among other things) by climatic changes, the movements of populations tend to take place over smaller distances, i.e. within a region. In terms of policy, this means that Switzerland should focus on providing support to people affected by climate change in their home countries and regions, e.g. through development cooperation. More in the report in [German](#) or [French](#).

### Adaptation to Climate Change in Switzerland – Goals, Challenges and Fields of Action

Switzerland is also experiencing the consequences of climate change and in its strategy the Federal Council outlines how it intends to lead the country in adapting to these changes. The adaptation strategy of the Federal Council is divided into two parts – a first part which describes the goals, challenges and fields of action in adapting to climate change and a second part consisting of a joint plan of action. While the first part is available, the second part is still being developed. [More](#)

### Adapting to Climate Change: The Role of Local Institutions

Based on the experience of Mali and Ethiopia (both extremely vulnerable countries in terms of climate variability), this Oxfam report analyses the diverse roles of local social institutions in climate change adaptation processes over the past decades. One key finding is that the role of local social institutions is often underestimated (practitioners often focus on technical issues) even though they are crucial to climate change adaptation, in mediating people's adaptive processes, production practices, land and water governance, gendered household dynamics, the use of weather and climate information, etc. Another key finding is that it is preferable to work with existing institutions rather than establish new ones. The report also includes findings around the subthemes of production strategies, land and water governance institutions, social-support systems, adaptive capacity dynamics and climate information. [More](#)

## Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

### Combining Modern and Indigenous Knowledge: Experience from Bolivia

As indigenous peoples depend heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods, they are disproportionately affected by climate change. Aware of this dependence, they have been observing their environment very closely over generations and have developed unique knowledge of the environment around them, e.g. applying own methods for weather forecasting. However, indigenous peoples in Bolivia are troubled because due to climate change traditional climatic indicators are less reliable for predicting weather than in the past. Also traditional knowledge (e.g. how to construct terrace fields, artificial ponds and canals as protection from extreme weather) is disappearing because fewer people learn these practices and their value for climate science is not properly recognised. Realising the potential of combining indigenous knowledge with scientific know-how to help vulnerable populations adapt to climate change, indigenous communities and scientists have started working together in Bolivia. [More](#) on first experiences and lessons learnt.

### Cassava as Adaptation to Climate Change

The video below is an example of how valuable scientific research on adapting to climate change produced by Southern nations can be made accessible to rural communities. [More](#)



Video on Cassava © <http://community.eldis.org/cbax/.59b70e85/.5b7d3fc4>

## Events and Training

### Past Event: CEDRIG Training of Trainers

The training course took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia at the beginning of March 2013 and brought together participants from SDC and partner organisations from the region. It showed that the Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) is a valuable and easy to apply tool to conduct better and more systematic risk analyses when designing and planning a project or programme. It helps identify and manage disaster risk caused by climate change, climate variability, environmental degradation and natural hazards that might hinder achieving the goals of development work. [More](#)

### Past Event: Disaster Risk Management in the Context of Food Security and Food Sovereignty

This was the topic of the second f2f event of the Swiss NGO Disaster Risk Reduction Platform which took place in November 2012. The primary objective of the two-day workshop was to provide participants (representing NGOs, IOs, government, research institutions and the private sector) with enhanced understanding of the linkages and connectedness between the interventions of Disaster Risk Management and the dynamics of food (in-)security and food sovereignty. [More](#)

### Past Event: Policy Dialogue on Up Scaling Energy Efficiency in Metal Casting in Southern India

Foundry or metal casting is one the most energy intensive manufacturing processes, in the small-scale sector in India. A regional level policy dialogue to deliberate on strategies to upscale energy efficient technologies and practices in the metal casting sector was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in association with The Institute of Indian Foundrymen Chennai Chapter in February 2013. The event was supported by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership Program and SDC. Senior representatives from SDC, industry, government, financial and academic institutions participated in the event which included panel discussions and other plenary sessions. Participants decided to undertake a few more stakeholder consultations in other regions in India before coming out with a national level strategy paper to upscale energy efficiency in the Indian metal casting sector. [More](#)

### Past: Strengthening Capacities against Glacier Retreat

Under the auspices of the Glaciers 513 Project which promotes institution building to strengthen technical capacities of the Glaciology and Water Resources Unit of the Peruvian National Water Authority, an internship programme was developed. Staff of the latter participated in a training at the University of Zürich in March 2013. [More](#)

### Upcoming Events

Below is a list of upcoming events and trainings:

- Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Switzerland 19 - 23 May. [More](#)
- Forum on Glaciers, Peru 1 - 4 July. [More](#)
- Africa Climate Conference, Tanzania 15 - 18 October. [More](#)

## Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- SDC's Global Programme Climate Change [Factsheet](#) with data, partners, objectives and priorities for 2013
- SDC's [Global Brief](#) on how trees could come to the rescue of climate and development
- SDC's Agriculture and Food Security Network Brief on [Climate Change: Farmers' Perceptions and Strategies](#)
- [SDC's Latin America Brief](#) (February 2013) reviewing the Swiss Engagement in Peru between 1964 and 2011
- [Turn Down the Heat – Why a 4°C Warmer World Must be Avoided](#) by the World Bank states that if the collective ambitions of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases remains this low, temperature rise will reach an alarming 4°C (rather than the 2°C target)
- According to the World Economic Forum's [Global Risks 2013](#) report, rising greenhouse gas emissions are one of the five major risks the global economy faces
- [World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#) for development practitioners and policy makers collects information, data and reports on climate change
- [The Emissions Gap Report 2012](#) of United Nations Environment Programme analyses the gap in 2020 between emission levels consistent with the 2°C climate target and emissions levels projected if country reduction pledges are fulfilled
- [Demography of Adaptation to Climate Change](#) points to the vital role that an understanding of population dynamics and data has in developing pre-emptive and effective adaptation policies and practices
- The [Synthesis report Avoiding Future Famines](#) analyses how the ecological foundation of food security can be strengthened through sustainable food systems
- The [Green Investment Report](#) published by the World Economic Forum highlights that governments need to strategically target their public finance to attract private capital into green investment and presents first findings of such behavior

### Special thanks go to the contributors of articles and / or information to this edition of the CCE newsletter:

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- Anele Moyo on green call centres in South Africa
- Melissa Monzón Urbina on the glacier internships
- Rupa Mukerji on avoiding future famines

**Please send your climate change related news for the next newsletter to: [nara.weigel@helvetas.org](mailto:nara.weigel@helvetas.org)**

This newsletter in English is directed at an audience interested in receiving the latest news on climate change and environment related activities connected to development cooperation carried out by Swiss actors, key international actors and the most extraordinary innovators. It is an instrument of the **Global Programme Climate Change and the Climate Change and Environment Network** of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to facilitate the access to information in the area of climate change and environment as well as to encourage dialogue, learning and trust building among political, administrative and technical actors involved in this crucial crosscutting issue.

The CCE Newsletter caters to both the needs of quick readers interested in getting the latest news in a minute and those who want to get more in depth information. The latter group can do so by clicking on the links that take them straight to the relevant background documentation. Do not hesitate to ask the [Global Programme Climate Change \(GPCC\)](#) for articles you do not have access to or to **subscribe to the distribution list**.

We appreciate your [feedback](#) on how to improve this newsletter as well as your inputs. **Please send us succinct climate change and environment relevant news (if possible with links to further information) you consider essential for the SDC to [daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch](mailto:daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch) (CCE Network Focal Point) or to [nara.weigel@helvetas.org](mailto:nara.weigel@helvetas.org) (Newsletter Editor)! Please note that in order not to exceed 4 pages, we will screen the news and make a selection.**