



## 11<sup>th</sup> Newsletter of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, July 2013

### Innovative approaches for the CC&E Network

*A good network consists of meaningful relationships that provide added value for its members. The bases for this are common and shared interests, complementary competences and occasional direct encounters.*

Managing networks for better institutional learning purposes requires the capacity to explore novel forms of cooperation and to overcome all types of borders, barriers and obstacles. Out of this understanding, the CC&E Network has developed a new concept. We propose to organise **multi-regional and multi-network face-to-face (MRMN f2f) meetings** which gather people from connected contexts on closely related matters. The assumption is, that through the strong topical overlaps, the encounters will be more relevant and anchored in real life contexts as opposed to global f2f meetings with often a limited 'nice to have met you' effect. We expect that the intensity of the time spent together during a MRMN f2f will allow for a longer-term relationship and possibly lead to a regular exchange and even concrete cooperation.

In view of a sound content related preparatory process, we are planning **preliminary global e-discussions** to nurture the content of MRMN f2f meetings. We expect the initial insights to be further deepened during the meetings in order to obtain a more elaborated and contextualised analysis that can be fed back into the global network community. A **first MRMN f2f for Central, South and East Asia** is planned to take place in **Nepal 13-17 January 2014** jointly with the DRR Network. In order to strengthen the regional ownership of the CC&E Network we intend to mobilise a '**regional champion**' to help to initiate and coordinate activities, and become a Core Group member.

## SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

### Supporting Climate Change Action Research in Bolivia

Over the past ten years, the negative effects of climate change have become increasingly visible in the Bolivian highlands, threatening the livelihoods of populations living there. Almost 70 per cent of people in rural areas live in moderate to extreme poverty. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) will contribute to action research in climate change adaptation between 2013 – 2017 by supporting relevant projects of the Universities of La Paz and Cochabamba. Intended results are: high quality climate research based on the demands and needs of rural municipalities, strengthened scientific and management capacities of Bolivian researchers and universities, and the production of knowledge and know-how that is accessible for relevant rural actors. [More](#)

### Municipal Environmental Management in Bolivia

According to national statistics, the urban population in Bolivia has grown exponentially over the past years due to migration. The ratio of urban to rural population is 70:30 and still about 50 per cent of the urban population lives in poverty. In this context,

municipalities are struggling to manage the rapidly increasing volumes of wastewater and solid waste, as well as air pollution (e.g. caused by vehicles but also by greenhouse gasses from solid waste dump sites or brick kilns). The poorest populations in marginalised urban quarters are most affected by the absence of or deficiencies in such environmental management systems. The SDC-funded two-phase project launched in May 2013 aims to improve the quality of life of these populations by promoting sustainable and replicable municipal environmental management models which also contribute to climate change mitigation. [More](#)

### Regional Vulnerability Assessment and Analysis (VAA) Programme in Southern Africa

The livelihoods of millions of people in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) are highly vulnerable due to widespread poverty, high HIV/AIDS prevalence, food insecurity and chronic malnutrition. Erratic rainfalls, dry spells and floods have contributed to the recent rise in the number of vulnerable populations in countries like Lesotho, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In this context, governments face the challenge of evaluating the food security situation, predicting food insecurity and duration as well as identifying the most vulnerable populations and appropriate measures to support them. The VAA programme was designed as a tool to assist governments with this task. It is a regional programme, supported by many donors including SDC (with CHF 6.6 million in 2013-16). [More](#)

### Bolstering the Resilience of Communities in the Sahel to Environmental Changes (REPSAHEL)

REPSAHEL is a three year (2012-2015) regional project funded by SDC and implemented by the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS). Seven countries located in the Sahel region, i.e. Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Chad, are benefitting from the project, which builds on the methodological and technical results of previous OSS environmental-monitoring projects in the sub-region. REPSAHEL aims to strengthen environmental observation networks so that they can effectively meet the (knowledge) needs of policymakers, development practitioners and concerned communities in the Sahel. The outcome sought is to provide a knowledge base for informed decision-making that makes local populations more resilient to climatic and environmental changes. More in the [credit proposal](#) or on the [project website](#)



© Shepherd Boy in Niger (Jihed Ghannem)



© Noise barrier equipped with solar panels (SDC)

### Promoting Renewable Energy in Southeast Poland and Slovenia

By 2020, member states of the EU intend to cover 20 per cent of their energy requirements with renewable energy. For some member states this is a challenge, e.g. almost 90 per cent of Poland's energy demands are covered by coal. As part of the EU enlargement contribution, Switzerland is promoting the use of renewable (solar) energy in Southeast Poland. With Swiss funds and know-how, the government of Poland is setting up solar heaters and panels in private households and public buildings for hot water and electricity production. Improved environmental protection and the promotion of renewable energy is also the objective of Swiss-supported activities in Slovenia. Thanks to this support, Slovenia is expanding its production of green energy from hydroelectric installations to other sources of renewable energy. One innovative example that is being tested is equipping a noise barrier along a motorway with solar panels. In addition, the project will convert oil-based heating of public buildings to biomass heating. More in the video on [Poland](#) and on [Slovenia](#)

## Policy Processes

### South African Carbon Tax from 2015 Onwards

The Government of South Africa has recently published a paper on how it intends to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure the transition to a green economy. The paper is online and available for public comment until 2 August 2013. This is the final round of comments on carbon tax policy, before the government proceeds with the publication of a draft legislation introducing the levying of carbon taxes from 1 January 2015 onwards. A carbon tax rate of R120 (12 CHF) per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions increasing at a rate of 10 per cent per annum will be implemented during the first phase. When the tax-free threshold and additional relief are accounted for, the effective tax rate ranges between R12 and R48 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This will make South Africa the second BRICS nation after India and the first African one to introduce a tax aimed at reducing the emission of gases causing climate change. [More](#)

### Dangers of Shale Gas Exploitation in the European Union

In a recent position paper, WWF explains that there is no convincing science-based evidence that the exploitation of shale gas in the EU is compatible with the goal of EU member states to decarbonise EU's energy supply. Exploiting shale gas would go against the commitment of moving towards a decarbonised and sustainable energy system by 2050. Also, WWF argues that the economic benefits of shale gas are overrated and the organisation expresses its concern about the negative impacts of shale gas exploitation on people and the environment. Documented serious local environmental risks of shale gas exploitation include lowering freshwater availability, contamination of surface and groundwater, environmental contamination due to disposal of flow back fluids and air pollution. [More](#)

### Learning from Past Climate Policies to Shape Future Ones

The most recent edition of the Policy Climate focuses on countries and region that represent the majority of global greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time are very diverse in terms of economic development, political system and climate policy: Brazil, China, India, Europe and the United States of America. This diversity offers interesting lessons to policy makers. The report gives an overview of the policies implemented so far and analyses what has worked well and what hasn't with these climate change policies. A brief overview of global climate negotiations is followed by insights on the regional and national level. Key findings are that climate policy today is national (rather than global) and that its design is pluralistic and administered by various stakeholders. Global negotiators need to find better ways to work with this cacophony of policies. Also, climate policy is first about policy and second about climate, i.e. local contexts drive the policy design, which is illustrated for example by the fact that Chinese policy is characterised by administrative controls rather than market mechanisms. Another finding is that the scale at which climate policy is implemented matters, e.g. while in Brazil policies targeted at large-scale deforestation have been successful, they have to be modified to address problems caused by smaller players. The main finding is that the climate problem must be considered as an integral part of the broader development challenge. [More](#)

### The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Bonn Conference

In early June, all three UNFCCC bodies – the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform (ADP) – met in Bonn, Germany. The mandate of the SBI is to give advice to UNFCCC's decision-making body on the implementation of the Convention (e.g. on financial assistance to developing country governments for adaptation and green growth). The SBSTA supports the work of UNFCCC's decision-making body by providing information and advice on scientific and technological matters regarding the Convention (e.g. on emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries). The ADP is a subsidiary body established in Doha to develop another legal instrument under the UNFCCC. As governments have already used up one third of the time between expressing their commitment in Durban in 2011 to produce a new treaty and the 2015 deadline for agreeing on it, they were expected to make a lot of progress in Bonn and move from debates to drafting concrete proposals. Unfortunately, the SBI did not do any substantial work due to a disagreement between Belarus, the Russian Federation and the Ukraine and the other state parties (the former wanted to include procedural and legal issues concerning decision-making in the agenda of the SBI). For the ADP and SBSTA, Bonn was more successful, but no major breakthrough was achieved. More on the [UNFCCC website](#) and in the [iisd summary](#) of the event

### Action Agenda for Sustainable Development

In June, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) issued a report outlining an action agenda for sustainable development. The report uses the Rio+20 definition of sustainable development, i.e. a holistic understanding of development which addresses four key dimensions of society: economic development, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance. The aim of the report is to support global efforts to achieve sustainable development before 2030. To this end it identifies ten interconnected priority challenges to tackle. A number of these priority challenges relate to climate change and the environment: 1) curbing human-induced climate change and ensuring sustainable energy; 2) securing ecosystem services and biodiversity; 3) ensuring good management of water and other natural resources; 4) improving agriculture systems and raising rural prosperity; and 5) empowering inclusive, productive and resilient cities. [More](#)



© Woman Farmer (<http://www.climatesmartagriculture.org>)

### Guidance on Climate Smart Agriculture

According to estimates by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the world's population will increase by one third until 2050 and if current income and consumption growth trends continue, agricultural production will have to increase by 60 per cent to satisfy the expected demands for food and feed. The consequences of climate change will make meeting these demands even more difficult. We must transform agriculture in order to face the challenges ahead and achieve food security, adapt to climate change, and lower greenhouse gas emissions. Agricultural production must become more productive, efficient in terms of use of inputs, and resilient to climate variability. Climate smart agriculture is an approach to achieving these goals, as it integrates three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental). Climate smart agriculture aims at increasing agricultural productivity and income in a sustainable manner, adapting and building resilience to climate change, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Experience has shown that the approach requires context specific application of technologies and practices, tackling the multiple challenges faced by agriculture and food systems in a holistic way. More information on the concept of climate smart agriculture and guidance for policy-makers and practitioners can be found in the [sourcebook](#).

### Ensuring that Men and Women Have Access to and Benefit from Climate Information Services

The starting point of the most recent paper of the Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security Research Programme (CCAFS) is that while access to relevant climate change related information is crucial for farmers to adapt to climate change, women farmers are often excluded from many communication channels. The paper examines such instances and how to overcome these gaps in communication. An important finding is that women often rely on traditional methods of communication and networks (especially other women), e.g. to access agricultural information. Women in low income countries are much less likely to own a mobile phone than men, and often cultural barriers prevent women from using laptops or going online in public internet cafes. Consequently, women have less access to information through information and communication technologies (ICTs). Development practitioners should take these and other barriers women face into consideration and ensure that the information provision they promote is accessible and relevant to women, i.e. that they are able to receive, process and utilise the information in order to develop better adaptive strategies to climate change. This can be done through the hybridisation of both traditional and modern methods of communication. [More](#)

### Creating Gender-Responsive Climate Adaptation Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa

This working paper claims that there is a broad consensus on the need for targeted policies to protect vulnerable men and women whose livelihoods depend on climate-sensitive natural resources. The issue practitioners often struggle with is to understand the different roles that women and men play to achieve food security when facing climate change. The common understanding is often based on erroneous assumptions and stereotypes portraying women as weak, poor and isolated, rather than on context specific knowledge and the recognition of social complexity. Also the reliance on current work roles of women and men to determine policies is very problematic, as it slows down empowerment and change, i.e. does not acknowledge that gender relations are dynamic and variable (and that women and men in reality are heterogeneous social groups with multiple identities). This paper reviews broad gender and development policy approaches and presents alternative starting points for gender-responsive climate adaptation policy. [More](#) on how to design policies that offer opportunities for women as active agents of change, especially in adapting to climate change.

### Promoting Gender Equality in the Climate Regime

At the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 18) held in Doha at the end of 2012, a decision was taken to promote gender balance and improve the participation of women in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations and in bodies of the Convention. Although this decision reaffirmed earlier ones, the participation of women in UNFCCC bodies and delegations remains low. Some activities planned in 2013 towards changing this are: a side event in June at the Bonn Climate Change Conference, gender submissions from state parties in September, and a gender day at the COP 19 in November. In 2016 the COP 22 will review progress towards the goal of gender balance. [More](#)

## Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

### Fighting Desertification to Reverse Climate Change

The areas that are not green in the image below are confronted with desertification – they make up two thirds of the Earth. In this video, Allan Savory explains why degradation and desertification of grassland ecosystems is not linked to overgrazing (as is commonly assumed), but to the mismanagement of land, livestock and wildlife. He presents the advantages of holistic management and how this methodology can even contribute to mitigating climate change. To watch the video [click here](#) or on the image below



© Alan Savory on Ted Talk (Desertified areas of the Earth) <http://www.ted.com>

## Turn down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts, and the Case for Resilience

In mid June the World Bank published a report which builds on the 2012 report on why we must avoid a 4°C warmer world. The most recent report examines the risks of climate change to development in Sub-Saharan Africa, South East Asia and South Asia. It presents the likely impacts of global warming of 2°C and 4°C on agriculture, water resources and the vulnerability of coastal areas and populations. A main finding is that climate impacts are already being felt in some regions and that climate change is making the eradication of poverty increasingly difficult. [More](#)

## Improving Food Security through Water Harvesting

Water security is a prerequisite to achieving food security. Water harvesting offers underexploited opportunities for dry lands and the predominantly rain-fed farming systems of the developing world. The principle is simple: capture potentially damaging rainfall runoff and translate this into plant growth or water supply. These guidelines introduce the concepts behind water harvesting and an assessment of suitability, adoption and up-scaling of practices. Four water harvesting types are presented (floodwater harvesting, macro- and microcatchment water harvesting, rooftop and courtyard water harvesting) and, for each, a selection of good practices in the form of case studies is given. [More](#)

## Farmers' Perceptions of Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa

This study analysed existing literature on farmers' perceptions and adaptation to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa and found that most farmers are aware that the continent is getting warmer and precipitation patterns are changing. In response, farmers are adapting their agricultural management practices to the changed rainfall patterns and diversifying their crops. However, farmers are struggling with certain barriers to adaptation. For example, they perceive a lack of access to information about climate change and adaptation technologies, as well as affordable credit. Another important barrier is insecure property rights, land disputes and land fragmentation. [More](#)

## Events and Training

### Past Event: 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The meeting organised by the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in Geneva in May was a milestone towards a post-2015 Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) for global disaster risk reduction. The HFA, which was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2005, is a ten year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards. The meeting concluded with a call for addressing the drivers of risk by making disaster risk management part of the post-2015 development agenda, the future sustainable development goals and climate

change adaptation and mitigation actions. Participants also stressed the importance of developing a post-Hyogo framework which includes targets and indicators to monitor progress in risk reduction. [More](#)

### Upcoming Events

Below is a list of upcoming events and trainings:

- Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management and Pacific Climate Change Roundtable, Fiji, 8-11 July 2013 [More](#)
- UNFCCC Workshop for Anglophone Least Developed Countries in Africa on Adaptation to Climate Change, Rwanda, 29 July - 2 August 2013 [More](#)

## Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- [Platform](#) for world-wide exchange of knowledge about hidden hunger
- latest [news](#) on Swiss Development Cooperation in Peru
- recent [climate change publications](#) of OECD's Climate Change Expert Group
- [Developing Financeable NAMAs – A Practitioner's Guide](#) is a must-read publication of the International Institute for Sustainable Development
- [Report](#) of the World Health Organisation on the health costs caused by climate change
- Article by Oxfam on the [Post Hyogo framework](#)
- [Rights-based Climate Litigation in Indian Courts](#): Centre for Policy Research Climate Initiative
- A study commissioned by CFOR on [key issues in REDD+ verification](#)
- Report on [Redrawing the Energy Climate Map](#) by the International Energy Agency
- [Integrating Disaster Risk Management into Climate Change Adaptation](#) – a Practitioner's Handbook
- [Mapping Carbon Pricing Initiatives - Developments and Prospects 2013](#) is a report that maps existing and emerging carbon pricing initiatives around the world
- [National Consultations](#) on post 2015 development goals and water

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

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- Isabelle Providoli on water harvesting
- Patricia Gorin on the Global Platform for DRR
- Kaspar Schmidt on fighting desertification

**Please send your climate change related news for the next newsletter to:** [daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch](mailto:daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch)

This newsletter in English is directed at an audience that is interested in receiving the latest news on activities related to climate change and development cooperation carried out by Swiss actors, key international actors and the most extraordinary innovators. It is one of the instruments of the **Global Programme Climate Change** and the **Climate Change and Environment Network** of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation to facilitate the access to information in the area of climate change and development as well as encourage dialogue, mutual understanding and trust between all political, administrative and operational actors involved in this crucial crosscutting issue.

The newsletter caters to both the needs of quick readers who are 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 on 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. **Please also send climate change and environment relevant news you consider essential for the SDC to [daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch](mailto:daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch)** (CCE Network Focal Point) **for the next newsletter!** However, please note that in order not to exceed 4 pages, we need to screen the news and make a selection. Help us in the pre-selection by already translating your articles to English, shortening, possibly simplifying text, and adding links - that way you will have a greater chance of finding your news in the next newsletter.