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Swiss Agency for Development
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Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter No. 14 March 2014

Dear Members,

2014 started with an interesting experiment – the first multi-regional multi-network (MRMN) face-to-face meeting in Nepal was held jointly with SDC's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Network. About 50 participants from Central, South and East Asia met in Nagarkot, exchanged experiences and discussed ways on how to better integrate climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction issues and approaches in the daily business of each and every one. Thanks to the very conducive atmosphere the meeting helped establish interesting contacts and foster personal opportunities for future cooperation. Content wise the face-to-face drew upon the preliminary e-discussions on 'forests' and 'floods' held in November-December 2013. More about the MRMN in this newsletter on page 4.

Right after the f2f meeting, a 5 day CEDRIG training was offered for those who wanted to deepen their practical know-how. The basic screening (Module 1) and the in depth project screening (Module 3) were applied using two case studies from Nepal – one from a road construction project, another from a coffee plantation project. The full day field visit allowed participants to gain insights into the real contexts of both projects and triggered more deep thinking and discussion. At the end of the training the group expressed its interest in creating a community of practice (CoP) for CEDRIG and in participating in the planned improvement of the tool towards an online, interactive and more customized assessment instrument. [More](#) on CEDRIG

I look forward to the next MRMN f2f in another region!

Daniel Maselli, Focal Point

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Strengthening Drought Resilience in the Lowlands of Ethiopia

The Horn of Africa is known for chronic food insecurity and for its drylands, which are mostly inhabited by (agro-) pastoralists. Agro-pastoralist areas in Ethiopia are strongly affected by recurrent droughts and their impact on livelihoods, i.e. making resources such as water and pasture land scarcer and increasing conflicts. Communal grazing lands have become more fragmented, degraded and less productive. Despite this reality, many interventions have focused on saving lives, rather than developing long term participatory natural resource management systems. After the most recent large scale drought in 2011, the Government of Ethiopia initiated a programme to strengthen communities' resilience to drought and their capacities in managing disaster risks. SDC will contribute to these efforts by supporting an ongoing programme implemented by the German Aid Agency GIZ. Swiss-funded operations will start in February 2015 and will focus on enhancing drought resilience and improving livelihoods and food security of vulnerable communities in the Somali region of Ethiopia. Their adaptive capacities to environmental and socio-economic change will also be strengthened. [More](#)

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for Climate Change Adaptation in China

The effects of climate change on China's food, water, energy and its overall ecosystems management are considerable. China is struggling to cope with the uneven distribution of precipitation and increase of heavy yearly floods related to climate change, especially as it is still in the process of industrialisation and urbanisation. The Changjiang (Yangtze) river drains one fifth of China's land area, and its shore is home to one third of the nation's population. Its river delta generates over 30% of China's food yield and Gross National Product. The Changjiang catchment is affected by the increased frequency of droughts and floods and the operation mode of infrastructures such as reservoirs may have to be adapted. An improved management of water and water risks is crucial for the economic, social and environmental development of the river basin. Contributing to these operational and other development needs is the aim of the SDC funded IWRM project, which began in February 2014. It complements three existing Swiss supported projects in China - on flood risk management, dealing with glacial lake outburst floods and dam safety - all of which are the result of a Memorandum of Understanding that the two countries signed in 2009. The long term objective of the new project is to establish an integrated, sustainable water management system that is responsive to the changing climate in the Jinsha River Basin of the Changjiang. [More](#)

Supporting the Development of a Seed Sector in Chad

As illustrated by its ranking at place 183 of 187 countries on the human development index of the United Nations Development Programme, Chad is one of the world's poorest countries. In rural areas, over half of the population cannot meet their basic nutritional needs. In this context, improvements in the agriculture sector hold great development potential, especially as agriculture already contributes 23% to the Gross National Product and employs two thirds of the economically active population. Current yields of the mostly family run farms remain low not only due to the impacts of climate change, soil degradation, weak infrastructures, the mismanagement of natural resources (including water), but also due to limited access to agricultural inputs, such as seeds. Farmers cannot meet the demands of the growing population by using traditional seeds. Intensifying the agriculture by improving seed policies and increasing the availability of quality cereal seeds, could lead to productivity increases of up to 30%. The objective of a new SDC-funded project starting in March 2014, is to support the Government of Chad to develop key elements of its seed policies, to operationalise the production of enough quality seeds to meet demand, and to strengthen small scale family farmers in their agricultural production. [More](#) (in French)

Update on SDC-funded Climate Change Initiatives

Contribution to IUCN to Support Seed Bank in Cuba

In 2012 SDC made a programme contribution of over CHF 9 million to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). IUCN used part of this money to support an agro-pecuarian innovation project that maintains extraordinary seed banks. More on these [seed banks](#) in the article by Lorena Aguilar and on [SDC's programme contribution](#) to the IUCN in the 9th CCE newsletter

Climate Change Adaptation and Glaciers in China

In 2010, SDC started supporting a project on monitoring and early warning on glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF) in China. Key expected outcomes were: improving the safety of populations and their livelihoods, and gaining a better understanding on how to adapt to climate change induced glacier change processes. Part of the knowledge gained through the project is summarised in a recently published article on hazard assessment of glacial lake outburst floods. More in the [publication](#) on the website of the International Glaciology Society and more on the GLOF project in [the 9th CCE Newsletter](#)

Policy Processes

Stories to Watch for in 2014

At the beginning of this year, the World Resources Institute (WRI) shared its predictions of global developments that will impact people and the planet in 2014. It highlighted seven areas where key decisions will be made in 2014 that will have a lasting impact on the world. First, 2014 will be the year of the **cities**. With 65% of global GDP growth happening in cities, they are the drivers of the economy. They also emit 70% of global greenhouse gases. In this context, decisions on the design of cities made by city leaders will determine the future of the planet. Second, the attempt of leaders to address climate change while creating jobs and income, may provide them with the momentum they need to act in the area of **restoration of degraded land**. Lost forests and degraded land equivalent to twice the size of China could be turned to forests, agricultural fields and other productive uses, if leaders meet (and increase) their commitments at the IUCN sponsored Bonn Challenge Ministerial Roundtable in June. Third, in 2014 more commitments of companies towards deforestation-free **palm oil** production are expected. This is crucial, as palm oil has become one of the most frequent ingredients of consumer goods. Fourth, first results of the implementation of **China's anti-pollution plan** will be observable in 2014, which may lead to more policy decisions. Fifth, the implementation of President Obama's comprehensive **Climate Action Plan for the US** will start. The national target is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 17% below 2005 levels by 2020. The sixth and seventh areas are about keeping the momentum in negotiations to reach a **global climate deal** by December 2015 and decisions made in this year's **elections** in Brazil, India and Indonesia – three of the world's four largest democracies. [More](#) in the video below or on the website of WRI



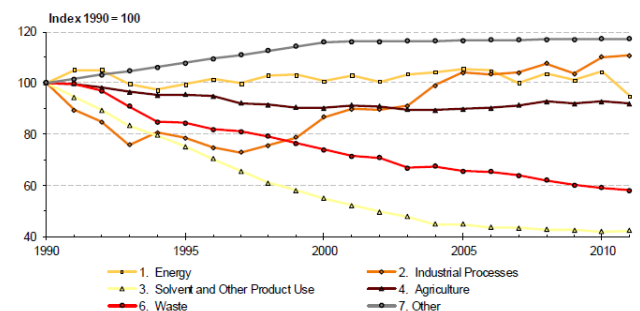
Video of the Presentation of the CEO of WRI (© WRI)

Switzerland's 6th National Communication (NC6) and 1st Biennial Report to the UNFCCC

This 300+ page report published in January 2014, describes the Swiss climate regime and the results of its efforts to meet the commitments it made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto

Protocol. During the first commitment period, Switzerland worked towards meeting the target of keeping national GHG at 8% below the 1990 emissions. During the second period (2012-2020) the target is to be 20% below the 1990 levels. The report provides interesting facts, such as those in the figure below on emission trends by source. Based on current statistics, Switzerland is on track to meet its commitments. The NC6 also describes the different national policies and mechanisms used to implement these commitments, e.g. the national CO₂ Act, Swiss Energy Act and Strategy to 2050, the Ordinance on Chemical Risk Reduction, the Forest Act, as well as the development of a national adaptation strategy and other important changes in agriculture, transport and waste management policies. The increase of the share of climate funding within Switzerland's official development assistance is also emphasised in the report. [More](#)

Fig. 60 > Relative emission trends by main source categories (base year 1990 = 100%)



Switzerland's Performance in International Development Cooperation: Results of a Peer Review

In February the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) published the results of its peer review on the quality and effectiveness of Swiss cooperation efforts. According to the report, Switzerland is on track to meet aid targets. In 2012 it invested USD 3 billion in Official Development Assistance, which represents 0.45% of its Gross National Income. The DAC welcomed this progress in providing more resources to fight poverty. Switzerland was also praised for its efforts towards making poverty reduction more sustainable and for improving coordination among Swiss bodies working on the issue, in particular regarding fragile contexts. Also, the DAC encourages Switzerland to draw more on its pioneering role in humanitarian work and to be a stronger leader in development cooperation, especially regarding gaining access to private financing for development projects, and influencing global policy in areas like conflict, fragility, food security and climate change. [More](#) in the report on OECD's website

The 2014 Environmental Performance Index (EPI)

Each year, the EPI publishes a ranking of over 170 countries based on their performance in high priority environmental issues. It covers their performance in the policy areas of the protection of human health and ecosystems from environmental harm. The ranking is based on the assessment of 20 indicators in the following 9 issue areas: health impacts, air quality, water and sanitation, water resources, agriculture, forests, fisheries, biodiversity and habitat, climate and energy. The performance of countries is measured by determining how close countries are to meeting internationally agreed targets. In the absence of such targets, countries are compared to the achievements of other countries. In 2014, Switzerland was ranked as the top performer. It gained particularly high marks in the areas of biodiversity and habitat protection and climate and energy. [More](#) on the performance of Switzerland and other countries on EPI's website

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants

The special newsletter on the 19th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC mentioned that Switzerland is part of the CCAC and was represented at the side event on this issue at the UNFCCC. As the video below illustrates, the CCAC is advocating for reductions in short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) to slow down global warming. For example the SDC-funded project promoting energy efficiency for artisanal brick producers (EELA) is contributing to the goals of the CCAC, especially regarding the mitigation of black carbon and other pollutants in brick production. [More](#) in the video on the website of CCAC



Video on the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (© [CCAC](#))

Climate Day at the World Economic Forum (WEF)

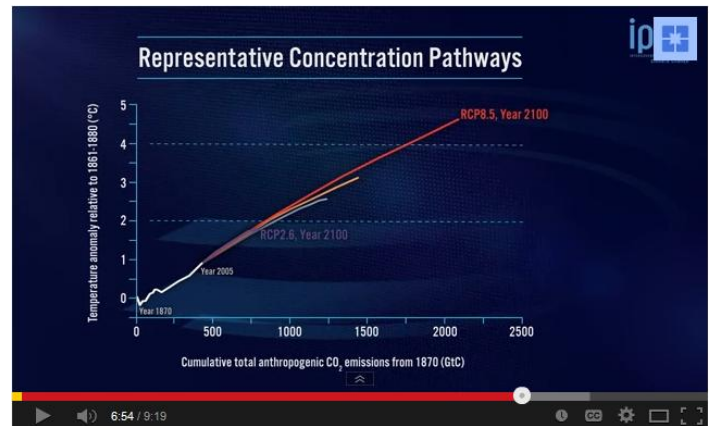
On 21 January 2014, the first WEF climate day was held in Davos, Switzerland. The organisers of the WEF met the request of the UN to include climate change in the WEF, which is not surprising, considering the strong pressure on global leaders to reach an international climate deal within UNFCCC by 2015. High level discussions at the WEF were an excellent opportunity to bring leaders of the private sector together with key government actors. Organised a few months after the Warsaw climate conference in December 2013, this climate day helped maintain the sense of urgency for world leaders to work towards achieving a new climate pact. It also provided a space for leaders to initiate concrete partnerships on issues of common concern, e.g. combatting deforestation in supply chains, and spurring green private investments in developing countries. Positive remarks made by the media included the observation that the existence of climate change was no longer denied, that many companies have started making their businesses more climate-resilient, and many are adapting to a low-carbon economy. More in the annual meeting [report](#) of the WEF, the specific [report on climate adaptation](#) and in the blog of the [World Resources Institute](#)

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Climate Change 2013 – the Physical Science Basis

Every six years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) releases a report with overarching conclusions of the science related to climate change. In October 2014, the complete 5th assessment report (AR5) focusing on climate change factors that materially affect people's lives and on irreversible aspects of climate change will be published. AR5 is composed of reports written by 3 different Working Groups and a synthesis report. "Climate Change 2013 – the Physical Science Basis" is the report of Working Group 1. The key messages of the report are that warming in the climate system and the human influence on it are indisputable, and that

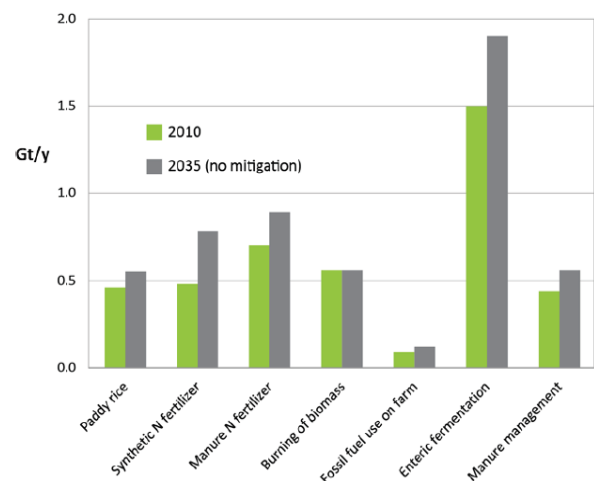
continued GHG emissions are causing further changes in the climate. Consequently, limiting climate change requires substantial and sustained reductions in GHG emissions. The illustration below is part of the video summarising the report and depicts the pathways of global warming and the related choices world leaders have. More in the [report](#) on the website of the IPCC and in the [video](#) summarising key findings



Video summary of "Climate Change 2013 – the Physical Science Base" (© [IPCC](#))

Agriculture and Climate Change Mitigation in Developing Countries

This recently published working paper of CGIAR's Research Programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security calculates the contribution of agricultural activities in the developing world to climate change and examines appropriate measures in response. According to the authors, agricultural activities (excluding other elements of the food system such as processing, transport, etc.) in the developing world account for quarter of all greenhouse gas emissions. In light of these facts, climate change mitigation efforts in agriculture in the global south are a crucial investment. The figure below compares the 2010 greenhouse gas emissions (in gigatonnes per year) to projected emissions in 2035 without mitigation efforts in this part of the world. Based on such calculations, the authors of the report examine the socially acceptable mitigation potential of agriculture management practices. [More](#)



Understanding the Water-Energy-Climate Change Nexus in Asia

This paper was published in December 2013 by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. Through research in Thailand and India, the authors examined the water-energy nexus at the national level to identify key issues and knowledge gaps. They conclude that climate-change related water scarcity will have a negative impact on long-term energy supplies, which could lead to serious conflicts. In South Asia, the energy sector depends heavily on water, e.g. for thermal technologies such as coal and

natural gas. However, while governments monitor water for human and commercial consumption, they do not do this systematically for water consumption in the energy sector. The researchers stress that unless more water-efficient technologies are introduced, conflict on the different uses of water will arise and hinder economic and social development. They also call for more research to better understand the impacts of climate change on water availability for the different sectors of use, e.g. energy and food. [More](#)

Events and Trainings

Past: Facing Climate Change and Disaster Risks Together – SDC's First Multi-Regional Multi-Network f2f Meeting

On 13-17 January 2014, members of SDC's Climate Change and Environment (CC&E) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) networks came together in a face-to-face (f2f) meeting in Nagarkot, Nepal. 47 participants from 16 different countries in Central, South and Southeast Asia discussed and exchanged their experiences in the field of climate change and disaster risk reduction. The objective of the **first day** was to: 1) gain a common understanding of key concepts; 2) share experiences on issues such as managing disasters in the Hindu Kush Himalayas, sustainable forestry in Nepal and SDC's DRR activities in the South Caucasus; 3) understand the role of SDC's regional advisors in DRR and Rapid Response (RR); and 4) draw joint conclusions from the e-discussion and group work on floods. The focus of the **second day** was on forests and working in an integrated manner. The key findings of the e-discussion on forests were examined further, and developments regarding the network (e.g. membership map, resources) were presented. The **third day** was dedicated to exploring ways members of both networks can better work together to face disaster risks and climate change together. The results of the different discussions carried out using the Open Space (OS) methodology were recorded in a report. While the **fourth day** was filled with field visits and discussions on floods and forests, the **fifth day** allowed participants to exchange lessons from the field visits and explore future cooperation opportunities between the CC&E and DRR networks. [More](#) in the presentations and OS report

UN CC:Learn Supported Training for Decision-Makers in Indonesia

UN CC:Learn is a partnership of multilateral organisations that helps members learn in a results oriented way to better address climate change. Switzerland provided the core funding for the 2011-2013 implementation phase and activities regarding strategy development for low emission and climate resilient development. With the support of UN CC:Learn, a training workshop was organised for public and private stakeholders in Indonesia on their role in implementing activities around Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). [More](#)

Upcoming Events and Trainings

Below is a list of upcoming events and trainings:

- A new compilation of various training events that may be of interest to the members of the CC&E network can be found on the shareweb. [More](#)
- 30th Aguasan Workshop on "Water Challenges Beyond WASH – Bridging the Water, Food and Energy Sector Divides", 16-20 June 2014 in Männedorf, Switzerland. [More](#)
- 15th Swiss "Global Change Day", 2 April 2014 in Bern, Switzerland. [More](#)
- 3 week training for future climate adaptation leaders at the Oxford Adaptation Academy, 11- 30 August 2014 in Oxford, UK. [More](#)
- International Conference on "Forests, Soils and Rural Livelihoods in a Changing Climate", 27-30 September 2014 in Dhulikhel, Nepal. [More](#) on deadlines for registration and submission of abstracts

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- [WHO guidance to protect health from climate change](#) through health adaptation planning
- [Global Forest Watch](#) - a new online monitoring system for forests, empowering people to better manage forests
- [Big facts for 2014](#) on climate change, agriculture and food security
- New [platform on Low Emission Development Strategies](#) (LEDS) to support countries in Asia and the Pacific
- UN CC:Learn [learning module on climate change](#)
- Guidance note on [How to Develop a National Climate Change Learning Strategy](#) by UN CC: Learn
- [El Hornero](#) magazine published by the Energy Efficiency for Artisanal Brick Producers Project in Bolivia
- [C40 website](#) for news on how cities are connecting with each other to share expertise on climate action
- [Forests and climate change](#) – platform for news, debate, research and tools on forests and climate change
- [Guidelines](#) on integrating science into humanitarian and development work to enhance community resilience
- Policy Brief on [Green Building in Latin America](#)
- Website of the [Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves](#)

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

- **Jon-Andri Lys** on science and humanitarian practice
- **Christoph Haemmig** on glaciers / GLOF in China
- **Lorena Aguilar** on IUCN's seed bank initiative
- **Gabrielle Müller** on the 15th Swiss Global Change Day
- **Jon Bickel** on CCAC and the El Hornero magazine

Please send your climate change related news for the next newsletter to: daniel.maselli@eda.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@eda.admin.ch (CCE Network Focal Point) or nara.zanes@gmail.com (Newsletter Editor) 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.