



Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter

Gaining momentum in 2015

Dear members of the CC&E Network, 2015 is likely to be a special year for the future orientation of our world. In fact, we are cruising fast towards the 'post 2015' agenda. The first big event will be the conference in Sendai, Japan, on a next global framework for better Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). In December, the renewal of the global climate deal at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris will close this 'anno mirabilis'. Will we get a new agreement to address the challenges of a rapidly changing climate to be kept within manageable planetary boundaries? Along with these two challenges the process of shaping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the successor targets of the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), is in full speed. As a modest network, we shall try to keep our feet on the ground and share our concrete learnings – hoping that some of it can nourish these 'big tankers' on an increasingly turbulent ocean of humanity.

Happy reading - your network focal point Daniel Maselli

SDC Funded Projects & Programmes

China: Groundwater Rehabilitation under a Changing Climate

Rapid economic and population growth combined with long-term changing spatial and temporal precipitation distributions due to climate change are threatening China's water supply. Major river basins in the North and North-West are suffering from water shortages and groundwater aquifers have been greatly overexploited for agricultural activities. Aquifers will only be able to relieve droughts reliably under strict management. And groundwater is essential for reliable agricultural production which is only feasible with irrigation. Therefore this project, supported by SDC with CHF 5.4 million and implemented by ETH Zurich and China's General Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Planning and Design, has the overall goal to develop and apply an integrated real-time monitoring, modelling and controlling system to support groundwater management under climate change conditions, including greater variability, and to restore the aquifers' ability to mitigate the effects of drought. The first phase started in March 2014. [More](#)

Jinsha River Basin (JRB): Integrated Water Resource and Risk Management and Changing Climate

The Changjiang river basin is home to about one third of China's population and produces an equivalent share in the country's food production and gross domestic product (GDP). Due to high seasonal fluctuations of precipitation caused by climate change during the past decades, the region was confronted with frequent floods and droughts. The Jinsha river is located in the upper section of the Changjiang river, where glacier and climatic variability greatly influence the water regimes of the Changjiang river, but it receives less attention in terms of monitoring and adaptation measures. Furthermore, already constructed and planned hydro-stations greatly influence water dynamics. The JRB project thus supports an integrated water resources and risk management approach for the safety of life and assets, ensuring water security in the region

for food security, domestic use, and industry. The project started in February 2015 with a budget of CHF 6 million and is being implemented by Ernst Basler + Partner in collaboration with the Changjiang Water Resources Commission. [More](#)

Strengthening of MVIWATA

MVIWATA is a Tanzanian network of small scale farmer groups, a network comprising representatives from local to the regional level and from all 30 regions of Tanzania. Although 91 % of Tanzania's arable land is cultivated by small scale farmers, the interests of these farmers are still neglected in national or regional programs and policies of the agricultural sector. Growth in the sector faces a number of critical challenges along the value chains, such as access to land, financial services, markets and improved inputs, lack of infrastructure, poor farming practices and human resource development. In order to strengthen the role of small scale farmers in local and national policy making this project aims - with a budget of CHF 2.6 million - at improving the capacity of the MVIWATA network to organize itself and to defend its members' interests. [More](#)

Andes' Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change in Water Resources

A detailed design of a GEF (Global Environmental Facility) funded project entitled 'Andes Adaptation to the Impact of Climate Change in Water Resources' is being undertaken by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, on behalf of the four governments of Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia. This USD 9.7 million project will build on the lessons from projects supported by the World Bank, GEF and SDC that contribute to enhanced adaptation to climate change. Helvetas is providing both thematic and project management support during the 6 months design phase, leveraging experiences and competences from projects it is implementing in the region. The GEF project will have a specific focus on priority sectors that are highly dependent on water and shall improve their resilience to climate change impact on water resources. Building on past experiences from pilot actions, the project shall have a sectoral focus, sharing learnings among sector actors in the four partner countries. Recognising the regional importance of the project and the possibility to mainstream lessons from Swiss development cooperation, SDC's Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) is also supporting technical inputs to the design phase



Groundwater supply © Lyian Wang

Update on SDC funded projects & programmes

CALAC Programme: Climate and Clean Air in Latin America's Cities

In Latin American cities over 100 million people are exposed to harmful air pollutants above recommended standards. The CALAC programme (2013 – 2015) therefore fosters the reduction of soot and ultrafine particles in Santiago and Bogota by applying diesel particle filters to the public transport system. The programme also encourages the rapid action to mitigate climate change and air pollution by promoting the sharing of knowledge across Latin American cities. The two and a half year programme has an overall budget of CHF 2.3 million. Have a look at the programme's video. [More](#)

Value for Waste in Dhaka, Bangladesh

According to the World Bank the population in Dhaka is growing at a rate of 6 % per year. Due to population growth and economic development waste production is increasing and Dhaka is facing unprecedented challenges with regard to solid waste management. The 'Value for Waste' project implemented by Swisscontact promotes separate collection mechanisms and composting procedures through the support of a community initiative on organic waste treatment. The project enables families to produce compost on site and thus to reduce the amount of waste that needs to be transported. [More](#)

Nature Conservation Programme (NCP) in Macedonia

The overall goal of the NCP Programme in Macedonia is to assist the country in conserving its outstanding biodiversity and natural ecosystems through the promotion of sustainable management approaches. To achieve this goal, the programme supports the elaboration of strategic concepts and planning documents, which contribute to sustainable land use planning and management of the region and the development of sustainable tourism in low-level protected areas. [More](#)



Policy Processes

INTERLAKEN + 10 - Governing forest landscapes: Lessons Learnt and the Way Forward Post-2015

After a series of workshops held on forest governance issues during the past ten years, Switzerland jointly with Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico and the Ukraine hosted a country-led initiative on governance of forest landscapes in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). The gathering of representatives of governments, civil society, international organisations, academia and international experts from 53 countries took stock of experiences gained and lessons learnt on forest governance across the globe in light of recent developments and trends. During four days participants jointly analysed key aspects of forest governance in regional and thematic sessions and formulated recommendations for the post-2015 international arrangement on forests. The report on

the workshop and the recommendations as well as other resource documents can be downloaded from the initiative's webpage. [More](#)

Switzerland Commits to Reduce its Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 50 Percent by 2030

For the next climate conference in Paris the parties have to communicate their post-2020 mitigation commitments. Switzerland as a member state now communicated its intended nationally determined contribution (INDC) and commits to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. This corresponds to an average reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 35 percent over the period 2021-2030. [More](#)

Science & Research

Scaling up Index Insurance for Smallholder Farmers

Only in recent years has agricultural insurance become widely applied across developing countries. This tendency is mainly due to recent innovations in index-based insurance. In index insurance, farmers can purchase coverage based on an index that is correlated with those losses, such the amount of rain during a certain window of time or average yield losses over a larger region. Pay-outs are then triggered when this index falls above or below a pre-specified threshold. The report, produced by the Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) research programme, shows based on four different case studies how insurance programmes have significantly contributed to a scaling up of services for relatively poor smallholder farmers. Important factors that have been shown to be conducive to this progress include investigations into new technologies, the addressing of index designs, holistic linkages to supply chains and other risk management initiatives, as well as solid assessments of the risks farmers are facing. The report concludes with the suggestion that the lack of capacity to provide relevant services was the decisive factor hindering the uptake and benefit of index-based insurance, rather than a lack of demand among farmers. [More](#)

Climate Finance: Is it Making a Difference?

This review of the effectiveness of multilateral climate funds conducted by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) presents the first comprehensive break-down of how multilateral climate finance has been spent in 135 countries. Findings demonstrate that climate funds have broken new ground by helping countries begin to confront the implications of climate change for development. Following the review's conclusion active engagement from civil society and the private sector can bring new issues and perspectives to bear on decisions made. Also, the report's conclusions provide recommendations on how climate-finance architecture can become more effective. [More](#)

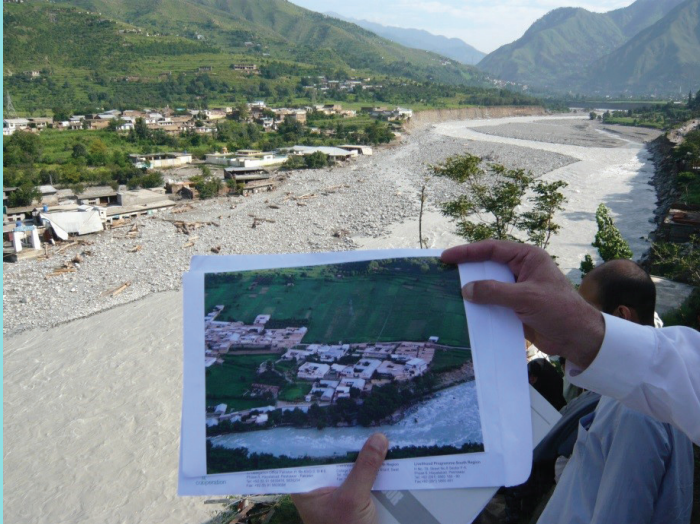
Remote sensing-based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Countries – RIICE

More than 3.5 billion people worldwide depend on rice production. But catastrophes often lead to yield losses which threaten rice availability and as a consequence, food security and thus political stability. After such catastrophes, governments in developing countries often struggle to cope with the financial burdens and with assistance to farmers. RIICE, a public-private partnership in Asia and beyond, thus developed a new satellite technology which provides information on the different stages of rice growth cycles, identifies losses due to flood and drought and delivers yield forecasts at mid-season. This information supports policy-makers in developing and implementing food security policies. The RIICE project also focuses on technical advice for research institutions and for decision-makers in implementing robust large-scale crop insurance programmes. [More](#)

Thematic Focus - Disaster Resilience

News from the Sister SDC Disaster Risk Reduction Network

Natural hazard events such as floods, cyclones, droughts, landslides, earthquakes and extreme temperatures have always occurred and more or less impacted humanity. These natural phenomena turn into disasters when they exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.



Floods in Pakistan, 2010

Over the past decades, the international community, through the UN, shifted from peace and security promotion exclusively to include disasters resulting from natural hazards. The 90's were proclaimed as the international decade for natural disasters giving birth at a later stage to the adoption of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015, where Switzerland has been one of the main contributors. [More](#)

Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) is the key document to build the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The post-2015 framework is the follow-up of the HFA 2005 – 2015 and will be finalized at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 14 – 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

Expected Outcome

The substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries.

Goals

Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive economic, structural, legal, social health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, and institutional measures which prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and thus strengthen resilience.

Priorities for Action

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening governance and institutional arrangements
- Investing in economic, social, cultural and environmental resilience

[More](#)

So here we are! Looking back at what has been achieved so far and what still comes ahead of us. Since the adoption of the HFA, disaster risk reduction measures have helped to diminish human losses and have been acknowledged as essential to ensure sustainable development for the future. Unfortunately, the number of people affected and the economic losses are still on the rise. [More](#)

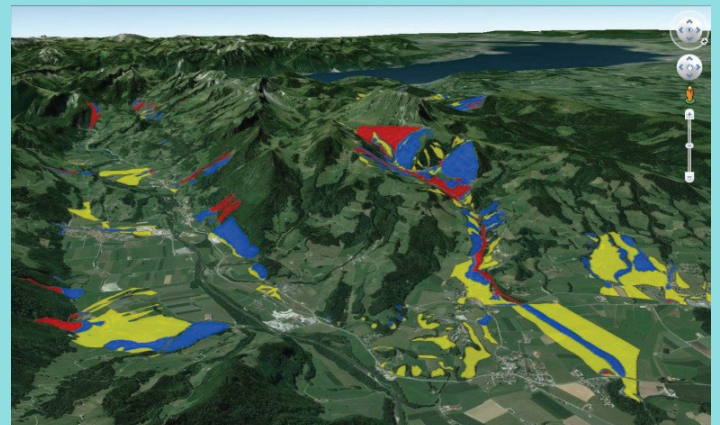
Given the prevalence of hydro-meteorological disasters globally, it is anticipated that climate change impacts will exacerbate disaster risks. Environmental degradation also plays a key role. The loss of vegetation cover and natural buffer zones such as marshlands and the building of infrastructure diminishing water infiltration and increasing runoff are also causing more disasters. [More](#)

But one of the main and often forgotten factors for this increase of reported disasters is the level of exposure. The global population tends to live in hazard prone zones such as coastal areas and illegal settlements in suburbs of mega cities where the economy is more prosperous.

What will the new world conference in Sendai on disaster risk reduction beginning 14th of March 2015 bring to the table? Do we need another framework or do we just need more time to implement the existing HFA? Will all the countries agree to a common goal? Will all these policies developed finally have an impact at community level as well, described by the global network of civil society organization for disaster reduction as the “clouds but little rain” effect?

The SDC network disaster resilience has been one of the main contributors to shape the Swiss position on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction:

- We believe that knowing our risks is crucial to start with
- We advocate for the prevention of building-up new risks by making sure that we move towards a risk-informed sustainable development
- We call for the reduction of existing risks through mitigation, preparedness and risk sharing
- We acknowledge the needs for a suitable enabling environment promoting good governance and accountability



Extract of the multi-hazard map of Canton Fribourg, Switzerland.

Good bye and see you after Sendai!

Nadia Benani - SDC Disaster Risk Reduction Network focal point
Nadia.benani@eda.admin.ch: www.sdc-drr.net

Want to read more about disaster resilience? Go the very rich library of the [prevention web](#).

The Top 20 Questions for Forestry and Landscape Research

During the last couple of months, people from more than 100 countries submitted 2'800 questions related to forestry and landscape research. The most frequent questions were selected and scored by participants based on their perceived significance. Visit the website and find out what the forestry and landscape community considers as the most urgent questions for further deliberation and action. [More](#)

Events and Trainings

Past Events:

Training on Adaptation Planning & Implementation, Himachal Pradesh, 24 – 29 November & 17 -21 February

These two trainings were organized in the frame of the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) with the aim to create a pool of trainers and to develop capacities within various departments on climate change adaptation planning and implementation. Both trainings were supported by SDC, where about 30 officials from various departments of the Government and other institutions participated in lectures and field visits. [More](#)

Training: Disasters and Ecosystems: Resilience in a Changing Climate – online course

This Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) started already in January 2015. However you can jump in at a later stage and get free access to all the course materials, including lecture videos without having to worry about falling behind. The MOOC is meant to enhance your knowledge and skills with regards to concepts and tools of ecosystem-based approaches for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. You will learn about basic concepts, key international initiatives, get to know how ecosystems, disaster reduction and climate change are interlinked, and how to apply different concepts and tools. [More](#)

Training: AGUASAN Workshop – Towards Resilience and Adaptive Management in the Water Sector, 22 – 26 June, Spiez, Switzerland

AGUASAN is an interdisciplinary Swiss community of practice promoting the wider and deeper understanding of key issues in water and sanitation. The workshop will be based on the key question of “how to best implement DRR in principles in the WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) sector to strengthen resilience to natural disasters in a multi-hazard approach”. The workshop provides a platform for an in-depth exchange, a joint learning experience and a possibility to elaborate strategies and conceptual tools. [More](#)

Training: Governance of Landscapes, Forests and People, 24 August – 4 September, Bogor Indonesia

This course is organised by The Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation in collaboration with CIFOR and ICRAF. It challenges forest and nature management professionals to adopt

an integrative perspective, looking beyond the forest boundaries, taking into account cross-sectoral concerns and working in multi-disciplinary teams. [More](#)

Upcoming Events:

- 16th **Swiss Global Change Day** - the platform where the science community of all disciplines meets and interacts, 1 April, Berne. [More](#)
- Annual Conference of the Society for Tropical Ecology on “**Resilience of Tropical Ecosystems: Future Challenges and Opportunities**”, 7 – 10 April, Zurich. [More](#)
- The **African Carbon Forum 2015** on the latest investment, finance and development opportunities relating to climate change, 13 -15 April, Marrakesh. [More](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- New [Guidelines](#) for Energy-efficient Multi-Storey Residential Building in India, developed by the Indian Government.
- A [factsheet](#) on the Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection (CALIP) project, funded by [ASAP](#) (Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme).
- A [joint research report](#) produced by Oxfam, GROW, CARE and Centroamérica on drought and climate change in Central America.
- A [working paper](#) produced by the CGIAR on adaptation actions in Africa, showing evidence that gender matters.
- An [assessment and overview of climate finance flow](#) for 2014, produced by the Climate Finance Advisory Services (CFAS).
- [Global overview](#) of CARE International's practice of community-based adaptation (CBA) to climate change.
- Biodiversity and Artisanal and Small-scale Mining in Mongolia, a [document](#) produced by SDC and The Asia Foundation.
- A [research study](#) on cognitive perceptions of risk and the behavioural intentions to undertake farm-level risk reduction measures.
- [Scientific article](#) on the conceptual framework of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Special thanks go to the contributors of information:

- **Rashadul Hasan** on Value for Waste
- **Manuel Thurnhofer** on the AGUSAN workshop
- **Yves Guinand** on RIICE
- **Gabriele Mueller** on the Swiss Global Change Day
- **Lyian Wang** on GWM and JRB in China
- **Ilaria Firmian** on ASAP and CALIP
- **Manish Mohandas** on trainings and news from India
- **Erdene Nyamjav** on biodiversity and mining in Mongolia
- **Rupa Mukerji** on the GEF project
- **Cvetan Nikolovski** on the NCP in Macedonia

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 (CC&E Network Focal Point) or zora.urech@helvetas.org (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.