



Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter

Dear Readers

The next major event of our network is coming closer. The preparation for the planned regional thematic learning event to take place in Nicaragua from 6 to 10 July 2015 jointly with four other networks - agriculture and food security (A+FS), disaster risk reduction (DRR), employment and income (E+I), and water (RésEAU) - is progressing well.

The focus will be on sharing experiences in integrated watershed management in Latin America including Central America and the Caribbean. The local study area will be the so-called 'dry corridor' in Nicaragua.

Similar as for other events, we plan to hold a global preparatory e-discussion. For this, two concept notes are currently being elaborated. They will be made available both in English and Spanish. The discussion will address two topics: 'Climate risk management and transfer at various scales', and; 'Financing schemes and incentives for integrated resource management in multi-scale watersheds'. The discussion will be launched on Monday 25 May and last until Friday 12 June 2015. The first topic will be dealt with until 3 June 2015 followed by the second.

I encourage all of you to have a look at the two concept notes and to participate as actively as possible in the e-discussion. This is a great opportunity to share and learn together!
Your Focal Point, Daniel Maselli

SDC Funded Projects & Programmes

Biocultura, Phase 2 - Bolivia

Climate scenarios predict a temperature increase of 6°C in the Andean highlands by 2100. As a consequence droughts will be more frequent in semiarid regions and floods in humid regions. These predicted changes will negatively affect agricultural productivity, biodiversity and food security of already poor farmers living in the Andean highlands. Since 2009 the Biocultura programme has been supporting the development of a national policy for environmentally sound resource management. Biocultura analysed local traditional practices and complemented this knowledge with scientific evidence, strengthened the local organizations in applying their traditional technologies, and enhanced the compatibility of economic efficiency with environmental aspects. In its second phase, Biocultura aims at orienting the existing concepts towards climate change and to increase the population's resilience to climate change and its consequences with a budget of CHF 13.6 million. [More](#)

Core Contribution to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The mission of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is to enable rural women and men to overcome

poverty, and to improve their food security and nutrition. As the only multilateral organization with a mandate to support small-holder agriculture, the organization has important expertise and proven results in an area which is central to the mandate of Swiss development cooperation, namely poverty reduction and rural development. Complementary to the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), IFAD concentrates on resource mobilization to invest in development opportunities in the form of loans and grants to support agricultural and development projects. SDC is supporting IFAD with a core contribution for three years (2016 – 2018) of CHF 45 million. [More](#)

Improved Access to Markets for Fresh Fruits and Vegetable (FFV) Small Scale Producers – West Bank

The agricultural sector of the West Bank has a workforce of around 180'000 people, including informal employment. But restrictions related to Israeli occupation have a negative impact on the performance of the agricultural sector. Combined with weak legal frameworks and limited production and marketing knowledge, this results in an unexploited potential of the agricultural sector to enhance food security and improve livelihoods. The Fresh Fruits and Vegetable (FFV) project implemented by Oxfam Great Britain merges a project on the olive oil market with another dealing with access to markets. The FFV project aims at building on experience, contributing to sustainable farming and increasing the income of small scale women and men FFV producers in the West Bank. The project expects to establish fairer and inclusive market channels, to improve the production, increase the influencing power of women, and develop inclusive and enabling policies. The project is supported by SDC with a budget of CHF 3.4 million for a period of 3 years. [More](#)

Update on SDC Funded Projects and Programmes

Sino-Swiss Yarkant River Project – China

The Karakorum mountains contain the largest concentration of glaciers on Asia's mainland. The perennial snow and ice cov-



er, exceeding 16'000 km², is a huge freshwater reservoir for a generally arid and drought-prone area. But due to glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), the Yarkant river is also a potential

threat for around one million people. Since 2010 Swiss and Chinese experts have been cooperating aiming to get a better understanding about glacier change processes and related risks in order to establish an early warning system. The project is being implemented by Geotest, Geopraevent and the local department of water resources, with an SDC funding of 2.6 million CHF. Get more information about the project and the Karakorum lake in a short video in French.

Policy Processes

Climate-Resilient Development – A Framework for Understanding and Addressing Climate Change

Climate change is just one of the many challenges developing countries are confronted with. But it can have a negative impact on various sectors. For example, climate change induced flooding can destroy infrastructure and property, crop yields can be affected by temperature increase and change in precipitation patterns, and the incidence of diseases such as malaria can shift due to increasing and more frequent rainfall. Therefore, challenges due to climate change need to be incorporated into existing processes and activities. In order to identify, understand and address these challenges, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) developed a simplified “development-first” five-stage approach, helping practitioners and policy-makers integrate climate considerations directly into development activities. [More](#)

Multilateral Accent – Global Warming and Financing

The 16th edition of Multilateral Accent, produced by SDC and the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), is dedicated to global warming and financing. Published in English, French and German, it provides a comprehensive overview of the current climate finance landscape, the different instruments and their scope, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Climate Investment Fund (CIF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) as well as other international initiatives. Thomas Stocker, professor of climate and environment physics at Bern University, explains in an interview that an annual 5% emission reduction is necessary to reach the 2°C target by 2100 and that the 5%, as a maximum, would be economically acceptable. He highlights the need to avoid repeating mistakes of the past and the necessity to make latest technologies more accessible. Further, Multilateral Accent provides an overview of the difference between and the need for both adaptation and mitigation.

[English](#), [French](#), [German](#)

Recipes for Change – Food Insecurity and Climate Change

The Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP), co-financed by SDC, launched a new initiative called “Recipes for Change”. The initiative promotes an interactive way to engage with and understand the risks of food insecurity and climate change in local settings. Different videos feature well-known chefs preparing recipes from the communities where ASAP projects are implemented, while highlighting the climate vulnerabilities and adaptation solutions for local food crops. [More](#)

Keep it in the Ground – The Guardian’s Climate Change Campaign

On 1 April 2015 The Guardian newspaper started to divest (the opposite of invest) its financial portfolio from fossil fuels. The Guardian stated that by supporting fossil fuel companies, investors not only continue to fund unsustainable business models that are bound to make climate change worse, but they

also risk their financial assets becoming worthless if international agreements on climate change are met. These investments are creating a “carbon bubble” worth trillions of dollars based on assets that could prove to be unusable. The Guardian further launched a petition asking the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wellcome Trust, which are the largest charitable foundations in the world, to move their money out of fossil fuels, including oil, coal and gas companies. [More](#)

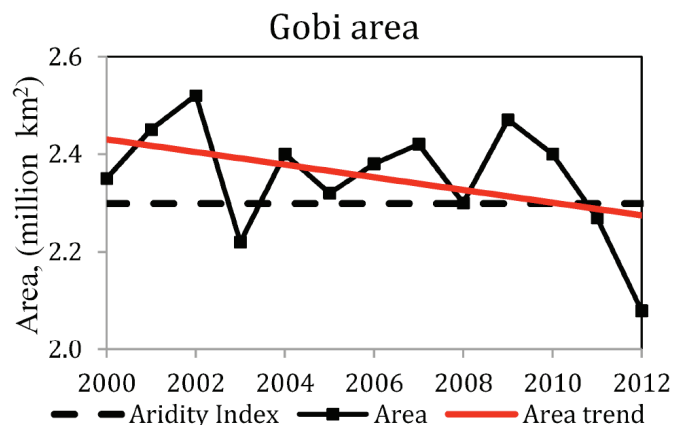
UN-REDD moves towards Implementation

It is time for REDD+ to shift from a period of preparation towards implementation. Consequently, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD) launched a number of support tools and projects in order to enhance this shift. For instance a new grant scheme called Community-based REDD+ Grants (CBR+) providing funding of up to USD 50'000 was launched in partnership with the GEF. [More](#)

Science & Research

Contraction of the Gobi Desert, 2000 – 2012

Deserts and semi-deserts of high significance for their biodiversity are home to 2 billion people. But surprisingly little is known about the exact expansion and contraction of desert land influenced by climate change as well as anthropogenic factors highlighted by the article. Desert boundaries are naturally dynamic, which complicates measurement of its extent and thus the precise quantification of desertification. The article provides new data with regards to the expansion and contraction of the Gobi desert and indicates a long period of contraction mainly due to increased rainfall. The research thus questions the total desertification area in China identified by former research projects as well as the current desertification debate with regard to the Gobi desert. [More](#)



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Policy Brief – Why Support Mobility in Mongolia’s Drylands

In Mongolia pastoralism is an important sector for the country’s economy, food security, and culture. Mongolia’s pastoralism is based on the concept of mobility, a strategy adapted to environmental variability and patchy natural resources. It is an efficient way to reduce pressure on land, conserve biodiversity and mitigate effects of extreme climatic events. However, in Mongolia’s new policies, the value of mobility is not always fully considered and reflected. The policy brief hence highlights the value of mobility and the need for its consideration in policy-making processes. [More](#)

Thematic Focus – EXPO Milano 2015

The theme of the 2015 Universal Exhibition “Feeding the planet – Energy for life” relates closely to food security and nutrition. SDC will showcase its commitment and capacity for innovation in this domain at the Expo.

On a global scale, almost 500 million smallholder farmers are feeding two thirds of the population. Crop diseases and pests can have devastating effects on their food security and their income. Switzerland wants to use the example of the Plantwise project to illustrate the problem of food insecurity in the world from the perspective of individual farmers.



The “Plant Doctor Game”

At the interactive exhibition at the Expo Milano 2015 visitors step into the smallholder farmer’s shoes for a short time with the Plant Doctor Game. The Plant Doctor Game starts by briefing players about the context. Players receive some information about the situation of the world’s smallholder farmers and a general outline of the role and activities of the plant clinics that have been set up worldwide. Then the game begins in earnest. Players are shown a photo of a food and have to guess its main ingredient (coffee, cocoa, maize, etc.). They then meet the farmer who produces the ingredient, before being invited to step into the farmer’s shoes and choose the right time to sow the crop.

At this point, things take a turn for the worse: the crops are suddenly struck by disease. Players have to take action to ensure the food security of both their own family and many other people. They will have to seek the aid of a plant doctor in order to identify the disease and determine the most effective way to treat it.

The interactive Plant Doctor Game sets out to show how modern technology can be used to improve the lives of smallholder farmers. Players aim to earn as many ‘food security points’ as they can and are able to compare their scores with other players and to add their points to the total achieved by all participants. [More](#)

The app is now available for downloading to a smartphone or computer. Players from around the world can be smallholder farmers for a few minutes and contribute to feeding the planet. The app was developed by Plantwise, the SDC partner behind the creation of plant clinics.

Link “Plant Doctor Game” ([Apple](#) / [Android](#))

“To strengthen food security, we need to focus on smallholder farmers in developing countries”

Interview with Markus Bürli

SDC will be represented at the Swiss pavilion at Expo Milano 2015, the Universal Exhibition centred on the theme of ‘Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life’. This is an opportunity for SDC to present its ideas in favour of the right of everyone in the world to food. Read on for an interview with Markus Bürli, Deputy Head of the SDC Global Programme Food Security.

What changes need to be made to guarantee food security worldwide?

The majority of poor and malnourished people live off the land and earn their living from agriculture or closely related activities. To improve food security, we therefore need to concentrate on smallholder farmers in developing countries and help them to produce healthy crops to increase their income. Smallholder farmers need support to be able to use their very limited means to produce food in such a way that secures natural resources for future generations.

What sorts of projects are being supported by SDC to strengthen food security?

Agricultural production by small-scale family farms is a key focal point for SDC. This covers agricultural research, advice and ways to adapt to climate change. Much more needs to be done to improve food security, however. As a result, SDC is also committed to providing secure access to land and water for smallholder farmers and working markets, so that agricultural products can be sold at a decent price. Another focus for SDC is encouraging widespread use of enhanced technologies for storing staple foods to ensure that they are not damaged by insects, rodents or mould.

What message would you like to deliver to the public at the Expo?

Access to education and knowledge are the keys to productive and sustainable small-scale agriculture. Modern technologies, such as mobile phones, are also widely available in developing countries and could be used here. However, simple and cost-effective innovations are also important, such as the plant clinics run by experts and held on market squares where smallholder farmers can take their ‘sick’ plants and seek advice.

The Swiss pavilion is partly sponsored by Nestlé and Syngenta. SDC also cooperates with multinational companies. Why?

In general, SDC considers the private sector to be an important stakeholder in international cooperation, along with civil society and, when it comes to food security, farmers’ associations. In this case, the private sector comprises major multinational corporations, as well as small and medium-sized companies based in developing countries. The important thing is that such cooperation takes social and environmental standards into account as well as encompassing economic aspects. This is the only way in which we can foster a sustainable future where hunger and malnutrition are things of the past.



Felix Fellmann – SDC Agriculture and Food Security Network Focal Point, felix.fellmann@eda.admin.ch
A+FS Network www.sdc-foodsecurity.ch
With family farmers towards a world without hunger

Policy Brief – Effective Support for Climate Change Adaptation

Operating since 2014 the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will by the end of the year be the biggest multilateral institution financing climate adaptation activities. Decisions on the use of the GCF funds will have to be taken at the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in december 2015. This policy brief, published by the Climate Finance Advisory Service (CFAS), highlights existing expectations towards this instrument and provides suggestions on the potential role the GCF could play in the challenging and complex financial climate change landscape in order to fund successful adaptation initiatives and to work in a complementary way to the existing climate finance architecture. [More](#)

Resilience from a Community Perspective

The Swiss NGO DRR Platform is a network of Swiss non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which are dedicated to increasing resilience to all aspects of disaster risk and climate change. Their recently published report provides insights on individual, collective and contextual factors affecting communities' resilience building and explains how resilience can be framed at community level. For the assessment of these factors and the identification of key characteristics that contribute to resilience building, the Swiss NGO DRR Platform developed a resilience framework and a specific methodology and applied it for its studies in five different countries. [More](#)

Events and Trainings

Past: Scaling up Capacity Building Efforts across the Indian Himalayan Region, 28 -30 January, India

The workshop was organized by the Department of Science and Technology and the Government of India in partnership with SDC. It aimed at understanding the challenges and opportunities for adaptation planning and implementation in the Indian Himalayan region and enhancing the capacities of state governments for undertaking adaptation activities. [More](#)

Past: Regional workshop on Climate Change and Agriculture in Western Africa, 1 – 6 February, Burkina Faso

This event, organized by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, was based on the experience of former workshops on climate change issues in India and Ethiopia. Its aim was to strengthen capacities in the domain of climate change with a focus on agriculture and water in West Africa. [More](#)

Training: UN CC:Learn on Climate Change, in French

UN CC:Learn has invested a lot of effort to develop free massive open online courses (MOOC) on climate change issues. For instance at the beginning of 2015 a MOOC on climate change adaptation attracted more than 8'000 people and another pilot course on REDD+ will be offered soon.

UN CC:Learn has now translated its introductory e-course on climate change in French. It consists of 6 modules, each taking around two hours. All presentations and modules can easily be downloaded. [More](#)

Upcoming Events:

- **Little Sydney:** Protecting Nature in Europe, 28 – 31 May, Hainburg, Austria. [More](#)
- **Flavours from our soil** – celebration of the world day to combat desertification, 17 June, Berne, Switzerland. [More](#)
- Conference organized by Union of Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) on **the beauty of sourcing with respect**, 25 June, France. [More](#)
- **Scaling up good adaptation practices** – International Conference, 24 – 25 August, New Delhi, India. [More](#)
- 8th international scientific conference on **energy and climate change**, 7 – 9 October, Athens, Greece. [More](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- A [research article](#) on the spatial variations in climate hazard impacts in western Mongolia.
- A [research article](#) on the potential of the green economy to enhance sustainable mountain development.
- A [discussion paper](#) about the promotion of ecosystems for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- New [book](#) called: Rising to the call: good practices of climate change adaptation in India.
- A [summary](#) on the high-level policy dialogue on innovations and clean technologies for India's low carbon economy.
- The [complete version](#) of the Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- A [review](#) from the Mountain Research Initiative on Elevation-dependent Warming in Mountain Regions.

Special thanks go to the contributors of information:

- **André Wehrli** on climate-resilient development
- **Lyan Wang and Jacqueline Schmid** on the Yarkant river project
- **Henri Rueff** on drylands and deserts
- **Patricia Gorin** on Resilience and Disaster Risk
- **Iaria Firmian** on recipes for change
- **Manish Mohandas** on different events in India
- **Rahel Meier, Markus Bürlü & Felix Fellmann** on Expo Milano 2015

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.