



3rd CC-Newsletter of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, February 2011

FOCUS

SDC aims to systematically integrate climate change issues and disaster risk reduction into its development cooperation programmes. In this context, the Climate and DRR Check is being produced and [as of January 2011 the revised edition of the Climate and DRR Check is available](#).

The Climate and DRR Check is an approach to support SDC staff and their project partners in analysing existing and planned cooperation strategies, programmes and projects with respect to their exposure and influence on climate change and natural disasters. The first edition of the Handbook was applied and tested in Bolivia and Bangladesh in 2010 and with the feedback provided an improved version was elaborated.

The Climate and DRR Check is structured into three main parts: Part I outlines the rationale and framework of SDC's Climate and DRR Check and provides the user with procedural information on the check. Part II contains the practical handbook. This is the core of the document and aims at guiding SDC staff and operational partners through the process of screening and assessing existing and planned strategies, programmes or projects with regard to their exposure to climate change and natural disasters. Part III of the document provides supporting materials.

The CCE Network will hold an **online dialogue** from Mid March to April 2011 on **experiences** of people having participated in the **elaboration** of the Climate and DRR Check and its **tests** in Bolivia and Bangladesh – as **participants, partners or moderators** ([see Agenda CCE Network](#) and [register in dggroups!](#)).

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Less Greenhouse Gases, More Bricks - Reducing CO₂ Emissions in Seven Latin American Countries

Through the Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC), the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) contributes approximately 5 million Swiss Francs to the implementation of this three year project carried out by Swisscontact. Tests in Peru showed that archaic ovens can be easily adapted so that 30 to 40 per cent of greenhouse gases and energy input can be reduced. If the predictions of experts are correct, this innovation could not only drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also fumes that damage the workers' health and pollute agricultural products of the area. [Click here to read the article in Switzerland's most renowned daily newspaper.](#)

ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC)

The GPCC has developed a project with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in which the GPCC supports the forest related implementation of the ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change. The present programme is one of the first Swiss collaborative measures in this context. Together with the recent appointment of an EDA Ambassador to ASEAN it is an indication of the growing importance attributed to ASEAN in Swiss foreign and economic policies.

The objectives of the partnership are twofold: a) developing a common Social Forestry strategy for the mitigation and b) adaptation of climate change in ASEAN member states and ensuring that socio-economic benefits derived from climate change activities benefit local communities, women and vulnerable groups. [More information is available on the ASEAN Social Forestry website.](#)



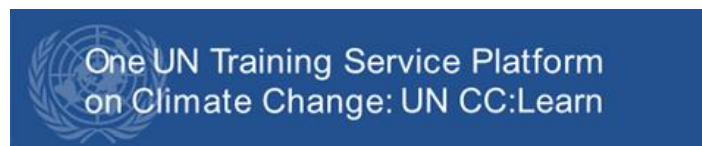
Malkhan Singh Gurjar, Sarpanch of Chandela village in Bundelkhand and Mr Jairam Ramesh, Minister for Environment and Forests who participated in the NPCCA process (© SDC)

Linking Grassroots Actions to Policy Debate for Climate Change in India

The National Policy Dialogue on Climate Change Actions (NPCCA) is an SDC-supported national process that brought together a diverse set of stakeholders. **Voices, lessons and perspectives of communities and civil society organisations** at the grassroots level in the **semi-arid and arid regions of India** were linked to those of **governmental and academic institutions**. The series of workshops held in 2010 culminated in a National Dialogue at the Parliament House in New Delhi in November last year in which the high level participants endorsed the Chennai Action Plan. The Chennai Action Plan which was produced at the last consultation workshop in Chennai highlights the importance of maintaining ecosystem resilience for inclusive growth. [More information will be available on the new website of the initiative after February 8](#)

The UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change - UN CC: Learn

UN CC:Learn is a partnership of 23 UN agencies which offers services to Member States, UN agencies and other development organisations on **designing and delivering effective and results-oriented learning on climate change**. UN CC:Learn contains three programme areas: Knowledge Management and Networking, Development of a Training Package as well as Human Resources, learning and skills development in partner countries. In the period 2011-2012 three pilot projects to strengthen human resources, learning and skills development to address climate change will be carried out with Swiss funding. It is expected that pilot countries will be selected during the second quarter of 2011. [Find more information on the UN CC: Learn Website](#)





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Green Gold: How Carbon Finance Can Help Mongolian Herders

70 per cent of Mongolia's pasture land - also referred to as the country's green gold - has disappeared through desertification and 60 per cent of the population is below the poverty line. One attempt to tackle these interrelated problems is the Green Gold Pasture Ecosystem Management Programme, co-funded by SDC, which enables Mongolia's herder community to progressively combat desertification and **restore degraded pastures, and pasture productivity**. How? By encouraging herders to organise themselves in community based management structures and **connecting them to finance for sustainable land management in the carbon markets**. [Read the article here](#) or [consult the background documents of the programme](#).

Exploring the Transformative Potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) within Climate Change

Recent dramatic events in Tunis and Egypt have demonstrated the transformative effect various ICTs such as interactive radio, mobile phones and Internet-based services like Facebook and Twitter can have by catalysing social, economic and political change processes. Is there a relevance of this ICT-enhanced development to climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes? Regarding **mitigation**, ICTs contribute to 2% of Global Emissions. Efforts to optimise this are spearheaded by the [Global e-sustainability Initiative](#) of the leading UN Agency for information and communication technology and [OECD's Green-ICT Initiative](#) which explores the potential of ICTs to help reduce carbon emissions through smarter and greener production processes. Concerning **adaptation**, a workshop report called "Planting the Knowledge Seed Adapting to Climate Change Using ICTs" assesses the potential of strategically integrating human-centred ICTs into adaptation programmes. [Click here to see the full workshop report](#).

Low Carbon Technology Transfer: Lessons from India and China

Low carbon technology transfer to developing countries can play an important role in mitigating carbon emissions and consequently is an important issue both in bilateral and international negotiations such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. However, the diversity in existing low carbon technologies and the fact that there is relatively little empirical evidence upon which to base policy, creates several interesting opportunities and challenges for climate policy makers. The case studies from India and China highlight once again that climate policies should consider specific country contexts. They also conclude that technology transfer is only one part of the process of low carbon innovation in developing countries and therefore cannot be considered in isolation. Another interesting finding discussed was that the limited access of many developing countries to intellectual property rights does not necessarily constitute a barrier to the development of low carbon technologies. [Read the policy briefing here](#).

Policy Processes

The Cancun Agreements from a Development Perspective

On December 11, 2010, the 194 parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - with the exception of Bolivia - agreed on a final text at the [16th United Nations Climate Change Conference](#) (or [COP 16](#)) in the Mexican city of Cancun, thereby saving the multilateral process of reaching a comprehensive deal. Despite this, no major breakthrough was achieved: the Cancun Agreements more or less imported the essential elements of the Copenhagen Accord into the UNFCCC. The clarification of crucial questions, for example binding obligations for countries outside the Kyoto Protocol, was postponed to 2011. [Read the full summary of the COP 16 and CMP 6](#) and [SDC's summary of the outcomes of Cancun](#) in form of a power point presentation.

Nevertheless, the states agreed to intensify efforts towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to define as soon as possible a **second commitment period** in order to ensure that efforts (based on the still non legally binding Copenhagen agreement) continue even when the Kyoto period expires. In addition, COP 16 agreed that a **Green Climate Fund** be established. The structure of the fund will be determined by a transitional committee, but 30 billion USD fast start financing for 2010-12 was reconfirmed. The Parties also decided to create a framework for adaptation to climate change - the **Cancun Adaptation Framework** - to alleviate the already evident consequences of climate change, in particular in the very vulnerable developing countries. Finally, a political framework and phased approach to strengthening efforts by developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and other forestry-related activities the so-called **REDD+** was set up. It will start with the development of national strategies and hopefully evolve into results based actions that can be fully measured, reported on and verified.

With regard to the **reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**, while the Cancun text notes that developing countries will contribute on the basis of their capacities, the Kyoto States are obliged to intensify their efforts. The question of the **Swiss commitment** for the period 2013 to 2020 is being discussed by the Swiss Parliament. The Federal Council proposed that Switzerland reduces its greenhouse gas emissions in this period by at least 20 percent compared with 1990. Also, if other industrialised states such as the USA or Japan commit to a comparable reduction, the Federal Council is willing to increase Switzerland's target to 30 percent. [See the media release of the Federal Office for Environment \(FOEN\)](#).

In conclusion, agreement in Cancun hinged on finding a way to bypass the more difficult questions of **if, when, and in what form countries will take binding commitments**. In particular, the deal had to strike a balance between developing country demands for a new round of developed country targets under the Kyoto Protocol and the refusal of Japan and others to be boxed in. The final outcome leaves all options on the table and sets no clear path toward a binding agreement. The question of whether a) a legally-binding agreements is crucial at this stage or b) whether an evolutionary process is the most promising way forward is discussed in an interesting study completed by the PEW centre. [Go to the study](#).





© <http://www.mountainpartnership.org/files/pdf/leaflet/ENG-LR.pdf>

Side Events at Cancun: The Agriculture and Rural Development Day

The Agriculture and Rural Development Day 2010 was held in parallel to COP16 and during that time brought agriculture sector adaptation and mitigation strategies to the centre of the global climate treaty negotiations. The key message re-iterated throughout the day was that agriculture is where climate change, food security, and development intersect and that consequently a COP decision on a work programme for agriculture was required.

[Go to the website of the Agriculture and Rural Development Day.](#)

Side Events at Cancun: Experience Sharing of SDC-funded Projects

Several SDC-funded studies and projects were presented in different side events during the Cancun Conference. The official Swiss side event, hosted for the first time by SDC's Global Program Climate Change, discussed the economics of adaptation in the context of climate change. More specifically, seven SDC-funded studies aimed at facilitating the elaboration of national adaptation strategies - led by Swiss RE, the World Bank, and the University of Zurich - were presented. [See here for more information on the side event.](#)

SDC was also invited to participate in the side events organised by its partners Peru and India. The side event co-hosted by Peru focused on how to adapt to the impact of climate change in mountain areas, especially on existing innovative approaches at local and national level. [Get more information on the event here.](#) National and international policy options to enhance technology development and transfer were the topic of the side event co-hosted by India. [Click here to read the summary of the event.](#)

Agridea Rural Development News: Climate Change and Development

This issue of the Rural Development News of Agridea was dedicated entirely to climate relevant development activities. Articles range from examinations of how climate change constitutes an additional risk factor for agriculture and food security, to an assessment of different water harvesting systems in Bolivia. It also features an article written by the focal point of SDC's Climate Change and Environment Network. In this article, Ueli Mauderli gives an overview of the challenges and opportunities of climate change in development cooperation from the point of view of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. [Go to Issue 2/2010 of the Rural Development News.](#)

Climate Change and the World Bank Group: The Challenge of Low-Carbon Development

This evaluation of the World Bank Group's (WBG) portfolio in energy, forestry and transport was co-founded by SDC and is the second in a series - the first one was conducted in 2009 and assessed the WBG's support for key areas of policy reform ([see the Chat with Ken Chomitz on the Monitoring and Evaluation of Adaptation](#)). The report seeks to draw lessons for development

and climate change mitigation efforts, focusing specifically on the development and transfer of technical/financial innovations, as well as on finance and other aspects of implementation. The rationale being that choices and investments made in the next two decades in buildings, power plants, transport systems, and forest use will irreversibly shape the global climate's future. So how can the Bank have the greatest impact, both for development and for greenhouse gas mitigation? First, through providing advice and support for favourable policies. Second, by acting as a venture capitalist, i.e. supporting the transfer and adaptation to local conditions of existing technologies, policies, and financial practices. Third, the WBG could refocus on high-impact sectors and instruments. [Read the complete evaluation.](#)

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

The HARITA Model of Managing Climate Risk: Agricultural Micro-insurance Experience with Potential for Scaling-Up

In 2009, **Swiss Re**, Oxfam America and around a dozen other organizations came together in a "local-to-global" approach to launch a climate change resiliency project called the Horn of Africa Risk Transfer for Adaptation (HARITA). The HARITA model is innovative in its holistic approach to risk management as it includes **risk reduction** (minimizing vulnerability and promoting resiliency), **risk transfer** (stabilizing incomes, promoting quick recovery and introducing micro-insurance with a Weather Index Insurance), as well as **prudent risk taking** (increasing land and labour productivity, diversifying incomes through credit). The project seems to have broken new ground in the field of climate change resiliency and micro insurance by addressing the needs of smallholder producers through this unusual mix of measures and by tackling four key barriers to using weather insurance at scale. [Go to the project overview document.](#)

A light from India or the Story of Turning Rice Husks into Electricity

This is yet another example of how some of the greatest advances and innovations come from **taking old ideas** or technologies and **making them accessible to millions** of people who are underserved. Bihar is one of the poorest states in India and of the over 80 million residents, 85 per cent of the population lives in households with no grid connection and has to rely on gasifiers and indoor fuel-burning systems for cooking and light. Bihar also produces around 1.8 billion kilograms of **rice husk** per year, most of which is discarded because it does not burn well for cooking and cannot be fed to animals. But, as the founders of the company Husk Power have shown, when combined properly, gasifiers and rice husks together become a whole new power system through which electricity is produced in an eco-friendly, reliable and affordable way for the poor families. [Go here to read the full article.](#)



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Growing a Forest and Harvesting Community Development

Mexico has become a global leader in safeguarding its expansive forests by giving local communities **ownership rights** and the responsibility for the forests instead of fencing off the forests. Surprisingly few people even in Mexico are aware of this success story. Communities own more than 60 per cent of Mexico's forests and use them as key source of their livelihoods. Consequently, communities protect and preserve their forests which in turn contributes to keeping greenhouse gas emissions low (the destruction of forests is responsible for almost one-fifth of all greenhouse gas emissions which is more than all global transportation combined). [Ixtlán de Juarez](#) for example, is a forest community near the southern Mexican city of Oaxaca in which local ownership of forests has encouraged local entrepreneurship: locals built a saw mill, tree nursery and partnered with neighbouring communities to launch a furniture as well as ecotourism business. In conclusion, Mexico's experience in promoting environmental protection and economic development through community ownership of forests is a model that other countries should be encouraged to follow. [Read the complete article.](#)

300 Hands-On Field Activities for Community Based Adaptation

This publication issued by IIED, contains a brief introduction to Community Based Adaptation (CBA) to Climate Change and over 80 interesting summaries of experiences and approaches on CBA which were presented at the Fourth Conference on CBA held in February 2010 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The case studies are categorised thematically and range from the management of water resources and agriculture, to insurance/microfinance and the role of ecosystems in adaptation. Some summaries also address process related issues such as how to build adaptive capacity of communities, include vulnerable groups, as well as scaling up good practices.

Most of the summaries refer to **Africa** and to general challenges/methods of CBA. CBA is considered an important **local approach** to face adaptation to climate change, complementing national adaptation plans (often financed by big donors). The report stresses that CBA projects are similar to development projects, but factor in potential impacts of climate change on livelihoods and vulnerability to disasters, using local

and scientific knowledge. CBA is participatory and uses community development and DRR approaches. As CBA initiatives are increasing, the conference highlighted the importance of sharing experiences and translating them into improved policy responses. Consequently, a Global Initiative on CBA is being launched as a knowledge sharing platform.

Due to its clear presentation of specific case studies of a variety of topics linked to CBA, the publication is a useful resource for development practitioners faced with challenges in address adaptation to climate change on a local level. [Go to the publication.](#)

Book Tip

As Mark Hertsgaard explains in his book **Hot: Living Through the Next Fifty Years on Earth** 'generation hot' is the approximately two billion young people who will have to deal with global warming for their entire lives. In other words, they are the ones who have received a life sentence for a crime that not they but generations before them committed. Hot is an angry, but also cautiously hopeful book that wants to get people to see the climate threats but also become part of the climate solutions. [More information on the Grist website.](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at regularly or subscribing to:

- [The Little Green Data Book](#)
- [United Nations Development Programme & Climate Change Adaptation - A Quarterly Update of Activities, Issue No. 4, November 2010](#)
- [IISD Negotiations Bulletin on the Cancun Conference](#)
- [Swiss Cleantech - an interesting young association of Swiss enterprises working in clean technology, etc.](#)
- [Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use \(AFOLU\) Methodology approved by the Voluntary Carbon Standard Programme](#)
- [People and Forests E-news](#)

Special thanks go to the following network members for submitting articles for this edition of the CC&E Newsletter:

- **Veena Joshi and Gerolf Weigel from the COOF in New Delhi** for the article on the Cancun Side Event on India and information on the NPDCCA
- **Anton Hilber** from the GPCC for the book tip
- **Yuka Greiler** from GPCC for the Update on Cancun
- **Patrick Kalas** from the Division Knowledge and Learning Processes for his article on ICTs and CC

Please send your climate change related news for the June 2011 Newsletter to:

ueli.mauderli@deza.admin.ch or nara.weigel@helvetas.org

This Climate Change Newsletter distributes internal news of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), as well as Swiss and international news related to climate change and development cooperation relevant for the work of SDC. The newsletter includes links to sites or documents giving further information in the internet, SDC Intranet and the Data Management System (DMS). Do not hesitate to ask the [Global Programme on Climate Change](#) (GPCC) for articles you do not have access to.

Send us Climate Change related news you consider essential for the SDC for the June 2011 newsletter! However, please note that in order not to exceed the size of 4 pages, we need to screen the news and make a selection. Help us by making a pre-selection, by already translating to English, shortening, possibly simplifying text, and adding links - that way you will have a greater chance of finding your news here!

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