



6th Newsletter of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, January 2012

In the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties of the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which took place in Durban** in December 2011, the international community reached a consensus on a package of decisions which can be seen as a foundation for a new global climate regime. In a nutshell, the Durban Agreements consist of the following main components: 1) Launch of the Green Climate Fund; 2) Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol for some industrialized countries for the period 2012 to 2020; 3) Road Map for a new Global Climate Change Treaty for all countries by 2015, to enter into force in 2020. Also, some progress was achieved in the area of market mechanisms and the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation. **More in the policy section of this newsletter.**

Mandated to contribute to solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation and their integration into development cooperation, the Global Program Climate Change (GPCC) and the SDC Climate Change and Environment Network (CCE network) look back on an important year of work: In February 2011 the Swiss Parliament approved 125 Mio in bilateral funding towards the new international funding target for climate change in Cancun ([fast start financing](#)). 46 new SDC projects and programs (of which 35 in adaptation, 5 in Energy and 7 in Forests) are already approved and another ten are in pipeline. Strongly correlated is continuous work on the accessibility to the [Climate relevant portfolio of SDC](#), i.e. key-info regarding more than 400 climate sensitive resp. relevant SDC activities.

The [Agenda 2012](#) containing the chronological schedule of CCE network activities is online and the four action plans resp. [Working Groups](#) (Climate and DRR Check, Guidance on Adaptation, Mountains @ SDC, AFOLU – Agriculture, Forests and Land-Use) are now coordinated and resourced. – Once the 290 invited professionals from partner organizations of SDC all over the world and in Switzerland will be invited into the network this January and start to share and shape network objectives, the SDC Climate Change and Environment network will reach its optimal size according [SDC learning and networking](#).

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

SDC Supports Skills Development for Solar Water Heaters and Heat Pumps in South Africa

One of South Africa's major challenges is the shortage of low cost housing. The recent massive roll out of houses and buildings has led to poor quality houses with little consideration for energy efficiency. The **Energy Efficiency Skills Development Project** addresses this issue. Since August 2010 SDC has been supporting the Plumbing Industry Registration Board (PIRB) in developing and implementing a plumbing skills programme for the installation and maintenance of solar water heaters (SWH). The project is also contributing to the government's initiative to install 1 million SWH in low income houses by 2015 (SWH save up to 60% of household electricity costs). The training focuses on upgrading plumbers' skills to become certified SWH installers, the development of an assessment and record keeping system,

converting training material into e-learning, etc. In mid 2010, Eskom, South Africa's power utility announced that only SWH installed by certified plumbers trained by the PIRB qualify for the subsidy. Early 2011, Eskom announced a new subsidy on domestic hot water heat pumps. This prompted an extension of the skills development project to include training on installation and maintenance of heat pumps. Also, in September 2011 a National Building Regulation on Energy Efficiency was passed which makes it compulsory for all new buildings to be designed to a standard that minimizes energy use. This has prompted an increase in demand for the SDC supported training on both SWH and heat pump installation and maintenance from industry professionals, training institutions and other municipalities. [More in Pretoria News, Housing in Southern Africa \(October\)](#) and in the [Project Factsheet](#).

A Memorandum of Understanding for Energy Efficient Buildings in India

After three years of preparations, a Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Efficiency in Buildings was signed between the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Indian Ministry of Power on November 8, 2011 in New Delhi. This agreement paves the way for strong cooperation between the two countries, in view of reducing energy consumption in new buildings in India. While Switzerland has valuable historical experience in improving energy efficiency in buildings, India faces considerable challenges to manage the energy demand of its soaring building sector. The Memorandum of Understanding sets a framework for the implementation of an ambitious 5 year project, the Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP). More on the project on [SDC's corporate website](#) and [India website](#).



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Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation

The coastal belt of Bangladesh is highly vulnerable to natural hazards, e.g. cyclones, tidal surges, water logging, salinity intrusion. While forecasts of the effect of climate change on the coastal belt vary widely, there is little doubt that climate change will increase the vulnerability of the coastal belt. Also, there is a growing understanding that much more needs to be done to protect the livelihoods of the coastal belt population and to make whole communities and their production systems more resilient. Recently, a one-time Swiss contribution of 2.1 Million CHF to the ongoing Community-based Coastal Afforestation project was approved. The project implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests combines climate change mitigation with

adaptation and livelihood development activities. This project which is fully in line with the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009, is also the first project financed out of the global Least Developed Country Fund of the Global Environment Facility. It proposes innovative livelihood options for using otherwise unproductive land behind afforested coastal mangrove belts and it invests in capacitating local communities to plan and implement community based adaptation measures. [More on the UNDP website.](#)



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Jordan: Enhancing Institutional Capacities to Reduce Disaster Risk and Integrate Climate Change

A major portion of Jordan's population lives along the Jordan Dead Sea Transform Fault - the main geographic hazard in the region. High levels of urbanisation and inadequate construction standards increase the vulnerability of the inhabitants to flash floods and other life threatening hazards. Jordan is the fourth most water scarce country in the world and is expected to suffer from more climate change induced reductions in precipitation, which will seriously affect the rain-fed agriculture and food security in the country. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), SDC renewed its commitment to support the operationalisation of Disaster Risk Management Units for another three years from September 2011 onward. This intervention is expected to lead to a more proactive approach to disaster prevention and mitigation, while building institutional capacities and facilitating the implementation of existing policies in Jordan ([more](#)).

8 New Biodiversity Projects in the New EU Member States

As part of its enlargement contribution to support new EU member states, Switzerland - through SDC and SECO - is financing several biodiversity projects in **Poland and Slovakia**.

One of the projects in **Slovakia** focuses on the **Monitoring and Research of Forest Ecosystems**, supporting the Slovak Republic to improve forest planning and the collection/processing of accurate information on its forests. The other project around the **Development of Nature Conservation and of Protected Areas in the Slovak Carpathians**, aims at improving the sustainable use of protected areas and selected habitats. It also supports the regeneration of the natural environment and landscapes. Both projects amount to approximately 4.2 Million Swiss Francs. [More on both projects in a close-up article](#) on the website on Swiss contributions to the enlargement of the European Union.

Four projects are being implemented in the Polish Carpathian mountains. The Carpathian mountains are one of Europe's largest mountain ranges. Constituting a major ecological, economic, cultural and living environment, the Carpathians are an important reservoir for biodiversity. The Carpathians sprawl across seven countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovak Republic and Ukraine) which in 2003 signed the [Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians](#). The

Carpathian Convention provides a framework for cooperation and policy coordination (as the Alpine Convention for the Alps) and plays a key role in environmental programmes in the context of the EU enlargement. The four Swiss-funded projects are:

- 1) the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Grid project** which encourages a sustainable socio-economic development of the Carpathians, by developing networking and promotional activities among organisations and institutions implementing the Carpathian Convention ([more](#));
- 2) the **migration corridors** project which aims at protecting the forest fauna of the Polish Carpathians and adjacent border areas by promoting migration corridors for these animals ([more](#));
- 3) the **People-Friendly Carpathians** project which supports the prevention and mitigation of conflicts at the interface of local economic development and the protection of the natural environment of the Carpathians ([more](#));
- 4) the **Polish Society for the Protection of Birds (OTOP) Survey of Key Bird Species** project aims at protecting over 50 key bird species as well as their habitats ([more](#)).

The last two newly funded biodiversity projects in Poland to be mentioned here are the following. The **Upper Raba River Spawning Grounds Project** aims at regaining the original characteristics of the Raba River and its valley. This will be done through the restoration of natural, alluvial channels of the river and its tributaries as well as by restoring and protecting floodplains ([more](#)). The **IUNG project** (Polish abbreviation for Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation) supports an increased protection of biodiversity on agricultural lands, through enhanced knowledge of the effects of agri-environmental schemes. It sets the basis for a regional monitoring system and raises awareness of relevant target groups, e.g. farmers, public authorities, NGOs ([more](#)).



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Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)

Switzerland is a member of the Consultative Group (CG) of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. The CG is GFDRR's policy making body. To support its status as a member of the CG, Switzerland (SDC) will commit a contribution of USD 1 million per year for the period of 2012-2014. In response to a clearly alarming trend in the frequency and severity of climate related disasters, the World Bank, the UN, and major donors launched the GFDRR. The goal of the GFDRR is to mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in country development strategies. Also, the GFDRR is delivering on the Cancun call of the UN climate change negotiations process for enhanced adaptation action. As part of its overall mission to mainstream disaster risk reduction into development strategies, GFDRR supports highly vulnerable developing countries to develop and implement disaster risk reduction strategies and programs, builds developing countries' capacity in climate risk assessment, financing and transfer, and provides global leadership in post-disaster damage and loss assessment. [More on the website of the GFDRR.](#)



© Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project

Lessons Learnt from Two Decades of Community Forestry in Nepal

In July 2011, the Nepal Swiss Community Forestry Project (NSCFP) came to an end after 20 years of work in originally two and eventually four districts of Nepal's middle hills. The experience of NSCFP clearly demonstrates that community forestry can have a significant positive impact on the livelihoods of rural people, particularly in generating income and ensuring a sustainable supply of forest products, and in increasing the voice of women and other disadvantaged groups in the good governance of forest resources. Members of community forest user groups, the Nepal Forest Department, a variety of service providers, project staff, the implementing agency Intercooperation, and SDC drew lessons from their experience, e.g. social inclusion and conflict sensitive project management. [Download the publication from the CCE Shareweb.](#)

Adapting to Climate Change in China

Agricultural production and food security are two critical areas impacted by climate change, especially in China where millions of people depend on natural resources and agriculture. Research on the impacts of climate change has a long history in China, but only recently are linkages being made between research and policy processes. In this line the Adapting to Climate Change in China (ACCC) project, supported by the UK, China and Switzerland (SDC) aims at linking climate change research with policy making and development. More in the Policy Brief of the [ACCC project](#) and the [IIED](#).

Policy Processes

Durban: Breakthrough at the Climate Change Conference

In the run up to the **17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17)** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban, experts warned that many political and ideological differences still remained to be tackled and that reaching a political agreement - rather than a legally binding one - would already be an important success of Durban. Indeed the negotiations from November 28 to December 11, 2011 were tough, but in the end a breakthrough was achieved, as Durban **laid the foundation for a new inclusive climate regime**. States parties agreed to elaborate a legally binding agreement as soon as possible but no later than 2015 (to enter into force in 2020). Also, steps were taken towards the **implementation of the Cancun** agreements, e.g. Green Climate Fund. Finally, an agreement was reached regarding monitoring, reporting and verification mechanisms.

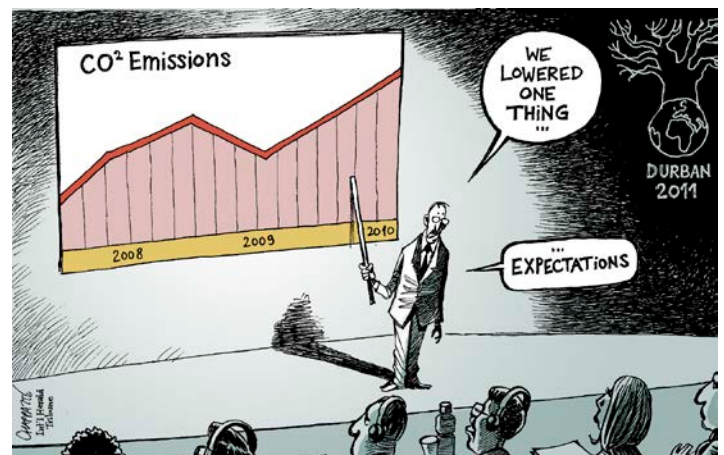
However, **major challenges remain**. The Kyoto Protocol which currently sets binding greenhouse gas emission targets for 37 industrialised countries expires in 2012. Although some countries (e.g. European Union, Switzerland) have agreed to a second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol until a new treaty takes its place, the Kyoto club of countries shrunk further at Durban. The USA, Japan, Canada, Russia and possibly also Australia can no longer be considered members. This means that binding commitments under the second Kyoto period will only cover 15 % of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. The

USA, India and China fought against an international legally binding commitment. Scientists warn that the postponed action will be increasingly costly to catch up on. With current reduction proposals, the global mean warming is expected to reach about 3.5°C by 2100 (instead of the target 2°C). The next climate change summit (COP 18) will take place in Doha in December 2012. Much work in terms of negotiations and innovations lies ahead. For more on COP 17 see the [report of Anton Hilber on the shareweb](#) (GPCC). Click the following sites for [Durban decisions](#), [Agreement on Long Term Cooperative Action under the Convention](#) and background on the UNFCCC conventions: [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#), the [website of the Federal Office for the Environment](#), [BAFU /FOEN media clipping report/Medienspiegel](#) (in German/French), the [climate action tracker](#), and [previous CC newsletters](#).

Side Events at the COP 17 in Durban: Cooperation between Switzerland and Partner Countries

Cooperation between Switzerland and partner countries was well covered in Durban through several side events. The one with a lot of Swiss media coverage was on the energy efficient **Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK)** project implemented in South Africa with Swiss support since 2009. [More in Switzerland's most renown newspaper NZZ](#) (in German). The **FORECA** project (Forêts Engagées comme Réservoirs de Carbone) is yet another initiative with Swiss support that was presented in a side event co-organised by SDC and the [African Forest Forum](#) in Durban. Implemented since 2007, it is one of the first pilots in the framework of the UNFCCC initiative to decrease greenhouse gas emissions through reduced deforestation, combining a scientific approach with local implementation. At the side event, the project implementation process, results and challenges were presented. Download [the FORECA publications or toolbox](#) or [more info including presentations from the side event](#) from the Shareweb. Also, first lessons and results of the Adapting to Climate Change in China (ACCC) project were presented in a side event at the China Pavillon in Durban. See the previous section of this newsletter on SDC funded climate change projects and programmes for more information on the ACCC project. [More on the side event on the ACCC website.](#)

In another side event, the Governments of the **Philippines and Switzerland (SECO/FOEN)** presented the results of multi-stakeholder consultations towards building a **governance framework for long term and sustainable financing for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)**. [More in the publication presented at the COP17 side event.](#)



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Bhutan hosts Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas

After having attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009, the Bhutanese Minister of Agriculture and Forests had the idea of launching regional negotiations to address the challenges of climate change. The Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India agreed to convene the **Bhutan Summit for a Living**

Himalayas which took place on November 19, 2011. The main objective of the summit was to adopt and endorse a 10-year road map for adaptation to climate change in the Eastern Himalaya's sub-region for ensuring food, water and energy security while maintaining biodiversity and eco-system services. The strength and main achievement of the "Bhutan Climate Summit" and the launched process is that the four countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India are making a joint effort to address climate change in the sub region in a coordinated manner - integrating the upstream and downstream perspectives. This initiative is an interesting regional process fully owned by the four countries involved. Hopes have been expressed, also by the Prime Minister of Bhutan, that other regions might eventually follow this process and that such regional processes might advance faster and further than any measures agreed under the UNFCCC. [Download the Ministerial Declaration from the Shareweb](#) and find out more on the [website of the Summit](#).

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Achieving Food Security in the Face of Climate Change

In its report for policy makers, the Commission on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change reviews the scientific evidence to identify steps towards achieving global food security in the context of climate change. In order to meet global food needs in the 21st century, the world will need to produce significantly more, especially if current trends in food consumption and the management of food systems continue. At the same time, climate change is amplifying the environmental and socioeconomic causes of food insecurity. Thus, agriculture production systems need to become more climate resilient, use resources more efficiently and low-waste supply chains must be developed. The Commission also emphasises that the international community needs to prioritize where, how and when to act, e.g. develop specific interventions for globally identified priority areas. In addition, it identifies some critical high priority policy actions, such as integrating food security and sustainable agriculture into national and global programmes and magnifying global investments in sustainable agriculture in the next decade. Another priority action identified is awareness raising and behavioural change, for example by reshaping food access and consumption patterns, encouraging healthy eating patterns and creating comprehensive information systems encompassing human and ecological dimensions of food security. [More in the report on the Shareweb](#).

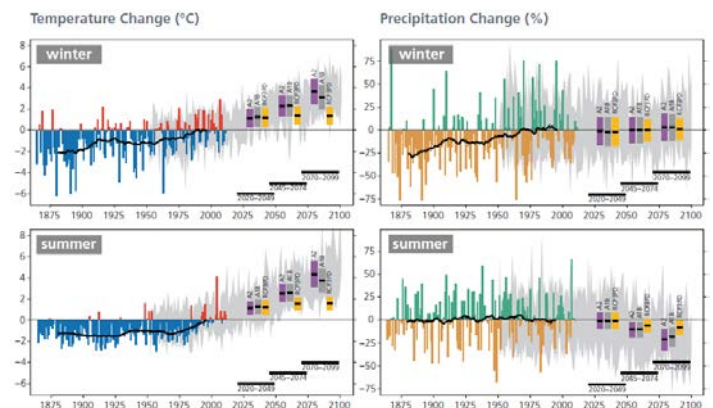
Science-based and Sustainable Solutions to the Drought and Famine in the Horn of Africa

This year, the Horn of Africa experienced the worst drought in six decades, causing great suffering to 12 million people in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. In a special edition, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) pays tribute to the drought and famine stricken people in the Horn of Africa and gives an overview of some science based solutions to the present crisis. According to the authors, current emergency support should be replaced by planned sustainable agricultural development solutions implemented together with the affected communities. Improving

dryland agriculture is considered key in making communities more resilient to climate change induced disasters. One way of doing this could be to enable farmers to grow drought resistant climate change-ready crops such as chickpeas, and institutionalise incentives towards the cultivation of dryland crops. Another would be to reform seed aid and seed policy so that access to seeds by smallholder farmers no longer is a challenge, especially during emergencies. [Read the article on the Shareweb](#).

The Climate of Switzerland in the 21st Century

Several scientific research centres in Switzerland cooperated to provide a new assessment of how the climate in Switzerland and Western Europe is likely to change in the 21st century. Climate scenarios were produced based on a new generation of climate models with improved statistical methods and compiled in a report entitled Swiss Climate Change Scenarios CH2011. The illustration below shows past and future changes in seasonal temperature (°C) and precipitation (%) over northeastern Switzerland. [More on the Climate Change Scenarios' website](#).



© The changes are relative to the reference period 1980–2009. (www.ch2011.ch)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at regularly:

- [World Bank Climate Change Portal](#) (available in several languages): the link will also be added to the recommended links and supporting materials we are offering on shareweb and in the handbook.
- [World Energy Outlook 2011](#) brings together the latest data and policy developments, giving insight into global energy markets.

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

- **Maryline Dafflon** on the Biodiversity projects
- **Anele Moyo** on solar water heaters and heat pumps
- **Barbara Desvoignes** on the new DRR project in Jordan
- **Jane Carter & Bharat Pokharel** on Community Forestry
- **KR Viswanathan** on Drought/Famine in the Horn of Africa
- **Gerolf Weigel** on the Bhutan Climate Summit

Please send your climate change related news for the May 2012 Newsletter to:

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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 & development as well as encourage dialogue, mutual understanding and trust between all political, administrative and technical 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 relevant news you consider essential for the SDC to ueli.mauderli@deza.admin.ch or nara.weigel@helvetas.org 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.