



9th Newsletter of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, November 2012

Farewell François.



Dear Network members,

I have the pleasure to introduce to you the new Focal Point of the Climate Change and Environment Network: Daniel Maselli. As of March 1, 2013 I shall withdraw from my current Focal Point position by taking an active early retirement from SDC Headquarter activities. I would like to concentrate my efforts in concrete project activities related of course to environmental issues. Despite my short time as Focal Point, I was able to meet many new people within and outside SDC. This to me has created a feeling of urgency to be more directly active in the field of environment. I believe that the arrival of Daniel in the GPCC team is an excellent opportunity for SDC to benefit from a highly committed person with a broad network, content knowledge and experience. Daniel is trained in biology and in geography. He has been moving in and out from research and development over the last 25 years. Many of his geographical and topical areas of professional activities have a strong link to climate change and environment. As core group member of the CCE Network he is familiar with the activities, achievements and challenges of both the Network and the role of a Focal Point.

Best regards,
François

Welcome Daniel!



Swiss Support to the Energising Development Initiative

From November 2012 to December 2016 SDC will contribute to the successful multi-donor partnership Energising Development (EnDev) between the Netherlands, Germany, Australia, Norway, the United Kingdom and others. The objective of EnDev is to provide low income households, social institutions and small enterprises in Africa, Asia and Latin America with access to modern and low carbon energy services. Infrastructure for modern and climate friendly energy services such as improved stoves for cooking, access to grid energy and biogas are key expected outputs of this phase. In the year for Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) this initiative is highly relevant. See the policy section of the newsletter for more on SE4All. [More](#) on the Shareweb.

IUCN Programme Contribution for 2013 - 2016

With its most recent core contribution of over CHF 9 million for the next four years to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), SDC remains one of its key donors and partners. IUCN helps the world find pragmatic solutions to the most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN's work focuses on valuing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice. Its goals are in line with those of SDC, i.e. promoting globalisation without social and environmental degradation and the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change related risks. Click [here](#) or on the image below to watch a video introduction to IUCN. [More](#) on the Shareweb (in French).



© [IUCN Website](#)

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Green Call Centre in South Africa for Green Electricity

South Africa is facing an energy crisis because the existing electricity supply is not sufficient and the electricity that is produced comes from coal fired power stations – an unreliable source characterised by high CO₂ emissions (the country is among the top 12 CO₂ emitters worldwide). As more energy efficiency in buildings was identified as a cost-effective way of reducing emissions and hot water systems make up the highest burden on domestic electricity consumption, this was defined as an entry point to tackle this energy crisis. The aim of the Government of South Africa is to promote the shift from the current electricity-based domestic hot water system to either solar water heaters (SWH) or heat pumps. In line with this, the new SDC-funded project which started in November promotes the uptake of such greener alternatives by providing households with non-manufacturer biased information on such alternatives, possible monthly savings through a change of system, etc. A call centre will provide interested citizens with technical and financial information related to replacing electrical geysers with SWH or heat pumps. [More](#)

Creating Local Conditions for Food Security in Cuba

Due to its geographic location, Cuba is highly vulnerable to natural disasters as well as the effects of climate change. Also, in response to the fact that it imports 80 per cent of the food consumed by its population, the Government of Cuba pursues a strategy of strengthening its local agriculture and food production. The national programme called **BASAL** was designed with the support of the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme and others as a multi-stakeholder approach and is also receiving funds from SDC since October 2012. The co-financing of this initiative represents a new opportunity in strengthening new partnerships, ways of collaborating and donor harmonisation. It also builds on synergies with other food security initiatives in the country. [More](#) (in Spanish)

Climate Change Adaptation in China: Monitoring and Early Warning on Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF)

Average temperature rise in China is higher than the worldwide average, causing significant glacier melt and impacting on water regimes. The GLOF project was launched in 2010 to reduce vulnerability in the floodplains of glacier-fed river systems, by establishing an early warning for glacier lake outburst floods, and continuous glacier monitoring. It was jointly planned by SDC, the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources and the Xinjiang local authorities, and is implemented by Chinese partners and the Swiss-based Geotest. Key expected outcomes are to improve the safety for populations and their livelihoods, gain knowledge to better understand and adapt to glacier change processes caused by climate change, and implement risk management measures. Also, the project will provide information on glacier regimes and downstream river basins. [More](#)



© Geotest

Bolivia : How Communities are Adapting to Climate Change

Bolivia is highly vulnerable to climate change. The lives and livelihoods of rural communities in the highlands (Altiplano) are threatened by the increase in temperature, new intensity and frequency of natural disasters and changes in water systems due to receding glaciers. In this context the SDC-funded project implemented by CARE will work towards increasing the resilience of 2000 families towards climate change and natural disasters through sector specific interventions as well as policy incidence between 2012 and 2014. [More](#) (in Spanish)

Strengthening Climate Services in the Andes

An innovative partnership called CLIMANDES was launched at the extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress in Geneva in October. The aim of CLIMANDES is to strengthen climate services in Peru and contribute to informed decision-making, e.g. through increasing the number of professionals and students trained in meteorology and climatology by the newly established regional training centre. The project is funded by SDC and will run until July 2015 under the coordination of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) and with several implementing partners such as the Peruvian National Service for Meteorology ([SENAMHI](#)), the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology ([MeteoSwiss](#)), etc. [More](#) on the Shareweb or in the [NZZ](#) (in German).

Policy Processes

2012: The International Year of Sustainable Energy for All

Did you know that one out of every five people on Earth does not have access to electricity or what it could provide for health, safety, working, business, learning, etc. and that twice as many people still have to use wood, coal or animal waste to cook and heat their homes? One of the main successes of the international year for sustainable energy for all (SE4All) is that it has raised global awareness on the importance of sustainable

energy also in the context of reducing poverty and inequalities. Achieving sustainable energy requires developing systems that support the optimal use of energy resources in an equitable and socially inclusive way while keeping environmental impacts low. Throughout the year, different stakeholders came together to discuss actions required to create a more enabling environment for the promotion of universal access, more efficient use of energy including relying more on renewable energy. Charged with the initiative by the General Assembly, the Secretary General set the following objectives to be met by 2030: provide universal access to modern energy services, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. In order to meet these objectives, a global action agenda was elaborated. The agenda identified eleven action areas including sectoral and enabling action. [More](#) in the report on the Shareweb or on the [SE4All website](#).



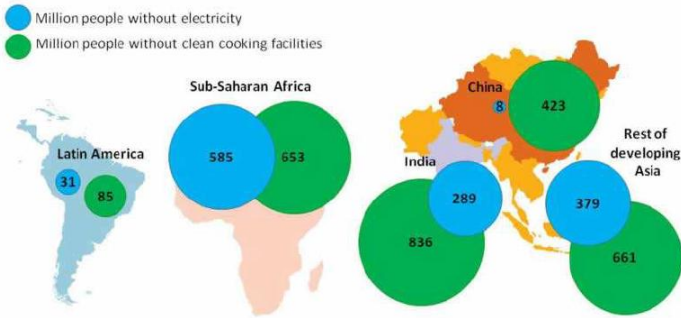
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Switzerland's Energy Strategy 2050

In its new Energy Strategy 2050, the Federal Council recommends to maintain the current high level of reliance on electricity for energy supply security. It also emphasises that there will be a focus on increasing energy efficiency, the expansion of hydropower and the use of new renewable energy and only when necessary on imports and on using fossil-fuel-based electricity production. It also foresees an expansion of Switzerland's electricity networks and more investment in energy research. These measures should guarantee supply security in the future despite the decision to close nuclear plants in the medium term. In September, the Federal Council commissioned the Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications to launch a public consultation on the Energy Strategy 2050. The consultation will last until January 2013. [More](#) on the website of the Swiss Federal Office of Energy. [More](#) in the strategy (in German) on the Shareweb.

Energy Market Expansion in the Developing World: A Creative Lab for New Business Models

The Working Paper of SDC's Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) explains why energy market expansion in the developing world can be considered a creative lab for new business models and proposes a tool to assess how such business models create economic, environmental and social added value. Even though billions of people still do not have access to basic energy services (see image below) and access to energy is a key contributing factor to poverty, access to energy has not featured prominently on the agenda of development cooperation actors. While energy poverty was not addressed systematically from the 1980s to early 2000, it has become important again for donors in the last decade for several reasons. The cost competitiveness of renewable energies has increased as well as the volatility of traditional energy sources. Also, new sources of climate finance are being designed and emerging economies are investing in developing countries in this area. This new context offers opportunities for leveraging private investments and bringing the climate and energy agendas together in order to provide sustainable energy to everyone. [More](#) in the report on the CCE shareweb.



© IEA Energy Outlook 2011

Climate and Development: A Double Dividend

In the review of the initial outcomes from the SDC Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) the author illustrates the reasoning behind this catchy title. Investing in climate change creates a double dividend because this mitigates the causes and effects of climate change and helps implement adaptation measures, while reducing poverty. For example, the development of new plant varieties can be seen as a step to adapt to changing rainfall patterns and at the same time it contributes to food security. Another example is the development of energy saving technologies in Indian small and medium enterprises which from the perspective of climate change leads to lower CO₂ emissions, while from the development perspective it secures jobs. Several projects supported by the GPCC in India, China and Peru are reviewed together with the activities undertaken by the GPCC regarding global, regional and national climate policy. In the context of the current weak global climate regime, good bilateral contacts as kept by the GPCC are particularly important in order to achieve progress at the national level, i.e. with partner countries. The report also highlights the important role that partner organisations can play when it comes to environmentally friendly or so-called green growth. [More](#) on key conclusions including the contribution of the Climate Change and Environment network in the report on the Shareweb.

Convention on Biological Diversity: Conference of the Parties Takes Decisions on Geo-engineering and REDD+

In October, the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) took place in Hyderabad, India. The CBD entered into force in 1993. The overall goal of the convention is to promote the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of all biodiversity components as well as fair and equitable sharing of its use. The COP is the governing body of the convention and has met on different issues over the years, most recently in India where it adopted 33 decisions on a range of issues. Regarding climate change, decisions were taken on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in developing countries, strengthening the linkages between biodiversity and climate change and on geo-engineering. Concerning the latter issue, the COP reaffirmed that no climate-related geo-engineering should take place due to the lack of science-based, global and transparent control and regulatory mechanisms. [More](#) in the Earth Negotiations Bulletin.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress

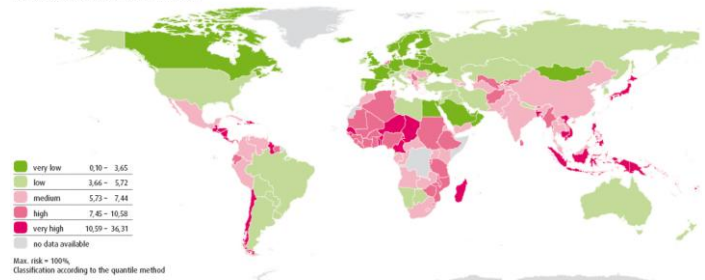
The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress was held from September 6-15th on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea with around 10,000 participants, including leaders from all walks of life—politics, business, civil society, academia, local and indigenous communities, faith groups and the media. The Congress slogan was Nature+, i.e. capturing the fundamental importance of nature and its inherent link to every aspect of our lives. It included a public Forum, and a Members' Assembly – IUCN's unique global environmental parliament. The Members' Assembly approved the IUCN Programme for 2013-2016, over 180 resolutions on a

wide range of issues, including action to avert extinctions of rare dolphin species, scaling back offshore drilling; promoting the human right to water, and better payment channels for ecosystem services in poor countries. World Leaders Dialogues, i.e. moderated public debates with experts on strategic issues related to conservation and sustainable development were an integral part of the Congress and resulted in key messages, e.g. ecosystems can be used as buffers to reduce the impact of climate-related disasters; the true cost of food needs to be reflected in its price, etc. The 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress marked an important milestone for strengthening collaboration and moving from commitments to action. The Jeju Declaration, signed on the final day of the Congress, recognises that nature offers important solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges in climate change, sustainable energy, food security and economic and social development. [More](#)

World Risk Report 2012: Environmental Degradation and Disasters

According to the report, between 2002 and 2011, 4130 disasters were recorded and more than a million people suffered their consequences with economic damage ranging around USD 1.195 billion. Although until now people have rarely directly triggered such disasters, this may become an issue in the near future, e.g. by human action or uncontrollable technology such as nuclear power and geo-engineering. Past experience has shown that the strength of a natural disaster determines to a large extent the subsequent harm and damage caused, but not only. Social, economic and institutional factors are an important part of the picture as they shape the risk a country faces. In other words, disasters hinder development and at the same time a lack of development raises the disaster risk. To better deal with this reality, a world risk index was developed – a tool to assess the disaster risk a country faces – in order to raise awareness on the issue and inform decision makers. The risk assessment on country and global levels includes relevant key indicators looking both at the exposure to risks and susceptibility to natural hazards. Regarding the linkages between environmental degradation and disasters, the report stresses that ecosystems that are intact reduce disaster risk in four ways. First, forests, wetlands, coral reefs etc. reduce exposure to hazards as they act as natural buffers. Second, grasslands, forests, rivers, etc. can reduce vulnerability when sustainably managed. Third, ecosystems enhance the coping capacity if a disaster occurs and fourth, they indirectly influence adaptive capacities. [More](#) on the Shareweb.

WorldRiskIndex
WorldRiskIndex as the result of exposure and vulnerability



© World Risk Report 2012

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Improving Health through Climate Services

The atlas of health and climate published by the World Meteorological Organisation and the World Health Organisation is the product of a unique collaboration between the meteorological and health communities. It is a response to the growing recognition that decision makers need access to reliable information on the connections between climate and health in order to meet the challenges of increasing adverse impacts of climate on human health. The first of the three key messages of the atlas is that climate affects the distribution of large disease-

related burdens and threatens health security. Second, the health-climate nexus is influenced by many different types of vulnerability related to human (individual and collective) behaviour and health programmes. Third, that climate information is increasingly used across the globe to protect health through risk reduction, preparedness and in worst case response. [More](#)

Climate Change Impacts: Accounting for the Human Response

This report sheds some light on understanding how human response to impacts of climate change in turn leads to further indirect or distant impacts on climate change. Such impacts arise due to physical stimuli, socio-economic contexts, governance structures, cultural characteristics, etc. and have so far not been included in many climate change models. The report highlights three areas where including this is important: migration of humans / economic activity in response to climate change, the consequences of biofuel production and climate change impacts on human health. [More](#) on the Shareweb

Study on Environmental Innovation and Transfers of Climate Change Mitigation Technologies

This policy brief published by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) summarises the key findings of a study on links between innovation in energy and climate change mitigation technologies (CCMTs) and their role in influencing environmental policy. One interesting finding was that although technology transfer and cooperation in research is more substantial among Kyoto Protocol's Annex I countries, non-Annex I countries (i.e. developing countries) are increasingly becoming trade and research partners. Regarding the role of fossil fuel prices in driving innovation, the study found that if oil prices become sufficiently high, innovation in renewable energy sources will increase. [More](#)

Impacts of Megacities on Air Pollution and Climate

Since 2008, over half of the world's population is living in urban areas and many people are living in megacities, i.e. cities with populations over 10 million. Due to the high concentration of people, megacities are not only economic power centres but also a source of dense pollution. The trend of urbanisation is growing and therefore it is becoming increasingly important to better understand the role of megacities (anthropogenic and biogenic emissions) in local to global atmospheric chemistry, as this is key for controlling air pollution and reducing climate change. This is the objective of the report published recently by the World Meteorological Organisation. [More](#)

Events and Training

Past: INTERCLIMA – Managing Climate Risks Together

At the end of October the first edition of the InterCLIMA took place in Lima, Peru. The objective of this international event was to analyse the integration of climate change in development processes and the economy – the central topic of this event was managing climate risks. The event was organised by the Peruvian Ministry of Environment with financial support from

different donors and the private sector. SDC took a leading role in the organisation of the event, providing financial resources, facilitating presentations of experts and sharing experiences from its climate change projects in Peru and Bolivia. [More](#) on the InterClima website.

New: Sign up for the new GPCC Climate Change Training!

You can deepen your knowledge and skills in climate change adaptation and the monitoring of adaptation by following the new course on climate change adaptation using the Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) tool. After the course you will be able to implement monitoring of climate change adaptation projects, an emerging topic in the field of international development. [More](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- [Climate Change Policy and Practice](#) and [Biodiversity Policy and Practice](#) website with information on international climate negotiations and policies
- [First Climate Investment Fund in Africa report](#) published by the African Development Bank
- [Sameeeksha website](#) – this is a collaborative platform which pools resources and makes synergies among various organisations working towards the development of the small and medium enterprise sector in India by using energy-efficient technologies
- [Report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation on the state of food insecurity in the world](#) – according to the report economic growth will not be sufficient to accelerate the reduction of malnutrition and hunger
- [Information network for brick producers](#) – connecting experts of the programme on energy efficiency of artisanal brick units to mitigate climate change in Peru



Re-launch of the Website of our Network!

The website of the CCE Network was restructured and re-launched in September. See for yourself at:

<http://www.sdc-climateandenvironment.net>

Increasing Environmental Impact



According to the 2011 Environment Report of the Federal Administration, the environmental impact of the Federal Administration in 2008-2010 has risen compared to the previous 2 year period. [More](#)

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

- **Jon-Andri Lys and Janine Kuriger** on Climandes
- **Veena Joshi** on the Sameeeksha platform
- **Jocelyn Ostolaza** on INTERCLIMA and EELA

Please send your climate change related news for the next newsletter to: nara.weigel@helvetas.org

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 francois.droz@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.