



## Special Newsletter of the SDC Climate Change and Environment Network, December 2012

This special newsletter of SDC's CCE Network aims at providing all network members and SDC staff with up-to-date information on the ongoing **18<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

**The COP 18 is being held in Doha, Qatar. It started on November 26 and is expected to end on December 7, 2012.** Delegates from over 190 countries are discussing the future of the global climate regime from 2020 onwards.

### Background

The **17<sup>th</sup> session of the UNFCCC** Conference of the Parties in 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 and an agreement was reached on monitoring, reporting and verification mechanisms.

[More](#) on COP 17 in the **6<sup>th</sup> CCE Newsletter**

[More](#) on the **UNFCCC Process** on the UNFCCC website

### Swiss Position

The Federal Council mandated the Swiss delegation in Doha to vote in favour of a second commitment period (up to 2020) for the Kyoto Protocol which runs out at the end of 2012. Also, Switzerland supports the idea that the reduction commitments of all states should be based on their share of climate gas emissions and their economic power. Regarding concrete CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets, Switzerland is prepared to commit to reductions by 20 to up to 30 percent (compared to 1990), depending on what other industrialised countries commit to. The Swiss negotiating delegation is being led by the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and includes representatives of the Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC), the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the Federal Department for Home Affairs (FDHA) and the Federal Department of Economic Affairs (FDEA). Representatives from the development (Alliance Sud), environmental (WWF), business and science sectors were also present. Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard will participate in the plenary session of the Ministerial Summit on **December 6**.

**More on the Swiss position** on the website of the [FOEN](#) and more (in German) on the website of [UVEK](#) Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (UVEK). **Get your daily Doha news** from the [iisd reporting service](#) or from the [UNFCCC website](#) !

#### Daily Highlights from the Past COP 18 Days

[Monday \(26.11\)](#)

[Tuesday \(27.11\)](#)

[Wednesday \(28.11\)](#)

[Thursday 29.11](#)

[Friday \(30.11\)](#)

[Saturday \(1.12\)](#)

[Monday \(3.12\)](#)

[Tuesday \(4.12\)](#)

### SDC Participation at the COP 18

SDC in Doha is part of the Swiss delegation and focuses on the issues closely linked to development cooperation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: financial mechanisms for developing country support, adaptation to climate change and forestry. On **adaptation**, SDC contributes to finding appropriate ways to address the problem of losses and damage caused by human-induced climate change. We also assist in the design and financing of the National Adaptation Planning process in developing countries, with a focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs). After a delayed start, the Adaptation Committee has been able to present an ambitious 3-year work plan based on broad support. On **mitigation**, Switzerland is among the few countries ready to commit to a second period (2012-20) under the Kyoto Protocol. The "Kyoto 2" group is comprised of the EU, Norway, Australia, and Switzerland who are collectively responsible for about 15% of world emission. In **forestry** the focus is on the further design of the REDD+ scheme for reduction of emissions from deforestation. The **financial mechanisms** under the guidance of UNFCCC are the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, and the new Green Climate Fund. Through its representation in the governing bodies of these funds, SDC is able to assure coherence between design and implementation phases. In terms of bilateral climate finance, Switzerland has been praised for transparency in the implementation of the "fast start financing" commitment i.e. the additional climate funding provided by Parliament in early 2011 in the context of the "0.5% Bill". Switzerland reported on the status of its fast start funding at the COP 18. Several SDC projects have received international awards for excellence e.g. efficient brick production programme in Peru and the Bangladesh Mangrove restoration project. A number of SDC projects are being showcased in side events.

—Live from Doha: Anton Hilber, Yuka Greiler, Juergen Blaser

### Swiss-Supported Side Events

#### Indigenous Peoples, Climate Change and REDD+ in the Amazon

**Side event:** On **November 29**, 2012 a side event took place with support from SDC and FOEN. [More](#)

**Background on Swiss engagement:** In mid-2011, SDC and the FOEN agreed to collaborate in a one year project with the goal of strengthening indigenous peoples' (IP) rights in international processes that affect their integrity and livelihoods, especially in the UNFCCC negotiations. The project was developed in response to the demand of several major groups within the umbrella organisation of indigenous peoples in the Amazon basin (COICA). With this support, an Inter-Amazon summit was organised and indigenous peoples were able to provide informed inputs to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat to feed into the specific new policy for indigenous peoples. This GEF policy on IP will become a binding standard for the UN, Bretton Woods organisations and other entities with access to GEF resources. [More](#) in the 5<sup>th</sup> CCE Newsletter

#### Launch of the UN Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness

**Side event:** On Monday **December 3**, the UNFCCC Secretariat together with representatives from funding members including SDC, launched the Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness. [More](#)

**Background:** The UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (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. In the period 2011-2012 three pilot projects to strengthen human resources, learning and skills development to address climate change were implemented with Swiss funding. [More](#) on the platform and [more](#) on the Swiss support

### Latin America: Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios Programme (MAPS)

**Side Event:** At this side event of **December 4**, participants shared experiences from the respective MAPS processes going on in Chile, Peru, Brazil and Colombia. The MAPS is a collaborative effort towards exploring innovative ways to achieve low carbon development. [More](#)

**Background:** In June 2006 SDC started to support the MAPS in Peru and Chile. The overall goal of this programme is to allow emerging economies to develop in an environmentally friendly way, i.e. combine economic development with low CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The programme in Latin America was inspired by positive experiences in South Africa where research-based scenarios were combined with stakeholder consultations in order to get high quality information for decision making on climate change response strategies. It is hoped that the same will be achieved in the Latin American context. [More](#) (in French)

### Tackling Climate Change: China and International Organisations

**Side Event:** The international community had an exchange on tackling climate change in China at a side event on **December 4**. [More](#) on the side event

**Background:** The Low Carbon Cities China (LCCC) programme targets Chinese cities where according to estimates, 70% of the Chinese population will live and consume 83% of China's energy by 2030. Under this programme, cities are supported in monitoring and steering key climate change policies, so they can implement more targeted and efficient climate change mitigation and adaptation measures. The so-called low carbon index system allows municipalities to manage their climate change strategies in a consistent and action-oriented manner. Yinchuan, Meishan, Dongchen, Kunming, Baoding and Lushun are elaborating their own approach for low carbon cities and are introducing measures to save energy, e.g. in public buildings, by promoting smart low carbon mobility, supporting pilot projects for renewable energy production, etc. The LCCC programme also offers a platform for knowledge sharing among the cities involved. [More](#) in the factsheet on the CCE Shareweb

### Lighthouse Activity 2012: Energy Efficiency of Artisanal Brick Units to Mitigate Climate Change (EELA)

**Side Event:** On **December 5**, several side events were held in the framework of the Momentum for Change initiative launched by the UNFCCC Secretariat. The initiative provides a platform to showcase climate change actions, i.e. mitigation and adaptation activities that are already achieving tangible results

and that are the result of collaborative efforts between the public and private sector, while benefitting the urban poor in developing countries. One of this years' showcased activities, i.e. Lighthouse Activities is the SDC-funded EELA programme. [More](#) on the side event

**Background:** The EELA programme was initiated in 2010 on the one hand to reduce the carbon footprint of traditional brick production and on the other, to improve the business and livelihoods of the local artisans. EELA is financed by SDC and implemented by Swisscontact. At the first face-to-face meeting of the CCE Network, the network members visited the EELA project in Cusco, Peru. [More](#) on the visit including videos can be found on the blog of the event. [More](#) on the project on the Shareweb



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### India: Strengthening Communities and Institutions to Adapt to Climate Change

**Side Event:** On **December 5**, a side event took place on making policy work for grassroots, i.e. empowering local self governments in developing countries in adapting to climate change. At this event, an SDC funded initiative in India will be presented. [More](#)

**Background:** Since 2009, the project supports rural communities in semi-arid and rain-fed regions in India by promoting livelihood resilience, adaptive capacities and risk reduction in the context of climate change and disasters. Key elements of the project are watershed-development and ecosystem management, participatory water budgeting, supporting adaptive sustainable agriculture, etc. [More](#) on the project on the CCE Shareweb

#### More Side Events and Looking Forward

Many more side events took place with Swiss support, for example in the context of the Mountain Day on December 3 [More](#) on the Mountain day and [more](#) on the high priority side events with Swiss participation.

It is too early to comment on the results of the COP 18 at this stage, as negotiations are still ongoing. We are all keen to find out whether the five main goals of the negotiations will be met: 1) adopting a 2<sup>nd</sup> commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol; 2) progress on long term climate finance; 3) equipping institutions supporting mitigation and adaptation in developing countries; 4) continuing negotiations on a legally-binding instrument; 5) commitment to act to close the gap between current and required mitigation pledges to achieve the 2°C target. The next newsletter will cover the results of COP 18 in more depth.

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**.