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Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter No. 12, October 2013

Update and Outlook on Network Activities

Several activities have taken place within the CC&E Network since the last newsletter. The Focal Point participated in an international conference on climate change and natural hazards in mountains in Kyrgyzstan and supported the use of the Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) in Burkina Faso through a joint backstopping mission with Naraya Carrasco from the Humanitarian Aid Domain. In early 2014, a CEDRIG training course in West Africa is planned.

Many of you participated in a **membership survey** on how you perceive and would like to use the CC&E Network in future. We received about 200 responses which is a great rate of return and shows that a majority of network members are motivated to remain part of the network. However, some members have changed their position and left the network, which gives us the opportunity to enlarge the network with new key individual and institutional partners. We will keep you informed on this endeavour and rely on your cooperation for the strategic re-orientation of our membership base.

Some of you should have received more information on the upcoming **first multi-regional, multi-network face-to-face (f2f) meeting** which intends to unite participants from Central, South and East Asia and will be held jointly with SDC's Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Network in Nepal 13-17 January 2014. For pre-registration, click [here](#)

Two e-discussions will take place in November 2013, prior to the event: One on 'forests', managed by the CC&E Network and one on 'floods and droughts', managed by the DRR Network. Members from Asia are the intended target participants of the e-discussions, but of course members from other regions are also welcome to participate!

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Reviving Seed and Knowledge Systems in Southern Africa

Water, good soil and biodiversity are necessary inputs for farming. Consequently, healthy ecosystems are a precondition for sustainable livelihoods – in addition to knowledge on farming. Farmers in Southern Africa have rich agricultural knowledge – not only on farming practices, but also on selecting, saving and exchanging seeds in order to conserve the genetic diversity of crops and face changing environmental conditions. While this knowledge and practice has allowed small scale farmers to provide their families and communities with food, it is increasingly under pressure because of the promotion of policies focused on industrial models. The loss of diversity caused by industrial models undermines the ability of households to cope with shocks and reduces the resilience of ecosystems. In this context, governments are slowly starting to realise that subsistence farming can play an important role in helping low-income countries adapt to climate change and that local seed and knowledge systems should be strengthened. As farmers also resort to commercial seeds, there is an increasing awareness that the interface between formal and informal seed systems at farmer level should be better

understood. The objective of a new SDC-funded project in Southern Africa is to do precisely that by reviving and enhancing seed and knowledge systems and agro-ecological practices, e.g. by promoting the use innovative tools such as eco-mapping, calendars and community research. [More](#)

Increasing Resilience to Climate Change in Chad

In Chad, 40% of the rural population depends on animal husbandry to make a living and animal husbandry makes up 45% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the rural sector. The dominance of the pastoral system entails a high dependency of local populations on natural renewable resources such as water and grazing land. The regions of Batha, Ennedi and Wadi Fira are particularly affected by desertification and the effects of climate change. Rainfall has become irregular and insufficient for the (mostly nomadic) pastoralists. This has led to increased food insecurity and conflicts with sedentary populations. In this context, a new SDC-funded project aims to improve food security and reduce poverty by strengthening the resilience of pastoralists, e.g. through veterinary services and constructing watering points to allow animals to remain longer on key pastures. The project also intends to increase productivity and transform conflicts in a peaceful way. [More](#) (in French)

Environmental Programme for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (PAGRICC) in Nicaragua

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in Latin America and also one of the most vulnerable ones to the effects of climate change. Between 1992 and 2011 it ranked third highest in terms of climate risk. The economic losses due to natural disasters over the past 30 years are estimated at USD 2'000 million. While 25% of the population is at risk of floods and hurricanes, 45% is threatened by droughts. Poorer people who depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods are affected the most. The government is trying to deal with these threats by implementing a national disaster risk reduction plan and a national strategy on climate change adaptation and mitigation. To support these efforts, SDC is co-financing the PAGRICC which is being implemented by the Ministry for Environment and Natural Resources. The goal of PAGRICC is to reduce the vulnerability of the rural population to natural disasters and increase its resilience to climate change. For example, smallholder farmers are expected to apply environmental restoration practices and to improve their practices in agriculture and forestry in order to reduce soil erosion. [More](#) (in Spanish)



Environmental restoration and water collection in Nicaragua (© PAGRICC)

Public Investment in Energy Efficiency in Mongolia

Despite Mongolia being one of the coldest countries in the world, the vast majority of the buildings in the country are not insulated. In winter, indoor temperatures in public buildings such as schools and hospitals range between 0 and 15 °C. Also, where there is a system for heating, it is very costly, i.e. heating costs in schools are double than what they would be with insulation. Consequently, heating costs for public buildings in rural Mongolia constitute the second biggest budget expense after salary costs. In this context, the new SDC-funded Public Investment in Energy Efficiency (PIE) project intends to improve living and working conditions for rural populations by supporting initiatives to reduce heat losses in public buildings. It is aligned with Mongolia's decentralisation reform and aims to promote community participation and decision making in the use of newly decentralised public funds for such priority investments. Another expected positive result of the PIE project is reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. [More](#)

Enhancing Community Access to Land and Forest Resources in Southeast Asia

Since the 80s, Cambodia has lost 22% of its forest cover, Laos and Burma 24% and Thailand and Vietnam 43%. These are worrying numbers, especially considering that 140 million people in the region depend on forests (e.g. fuel and fodder) for part of their livelihoods. Due to multi-purpose land clearing, unsustainable logging, large scale infrastructure development and climate change the remaining forests are increasingly under pressure. In this context, the Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC) works towards empowering local people to obtain fair benefits from sustainably managed forest landscapes, e.g. by making community forestry more effective and transforming conflicts. While SDC was a founding partner of RECOFTC in 1987, it phased out its collaboration in 2008. However, in light of the new Mekong Region Strategy, SDC will support the RECOFTC with around CHF 5 million during 5 years. More on the [RECOFTC website](#) and on the [Shareweb](#)

Update on SDC funded Climate Change Initiatives

Energy Efficiency for Artisanal Brick Producers (EELA)

In a first phase (2010-13), the SDC-funded EELA programme aimed to reduce the carbon footprint of traditional brick making, while improving the businesses of local artisans. Recently, the EELA programme has entered into a second phase in Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru. More on EELA [in the Shareweb news](#) and in an [article on modernising artisanal brick kilns](#)

Monitoring Climate Change Impacts on the Andes (CIMA)

The SDC-funded CIMA Project was initiated in October 2011 with the main goal of establishing a monitoring system to evaluate the impacts of environmental changes in the Andes. After two years of implementation, the project has successfully developed a network of 25 monitoring sites located on the Andean mountains, ranging from Argentina to Venezuela. The creation and strengthening of thematic research and monitoring networks was an integral part of the project. Two important networks have received support: the GLORIA-Andes Network for High Andean Plant Biodiversity Research and Monitoring and the Regional Initiative for Hydrological Monitoring of High Andean Ecosystems (iMHEA). An important outcome of the project is the creation of the [Andean Forests Network](#). [More](#) project-related news on the CC&E Shareweb

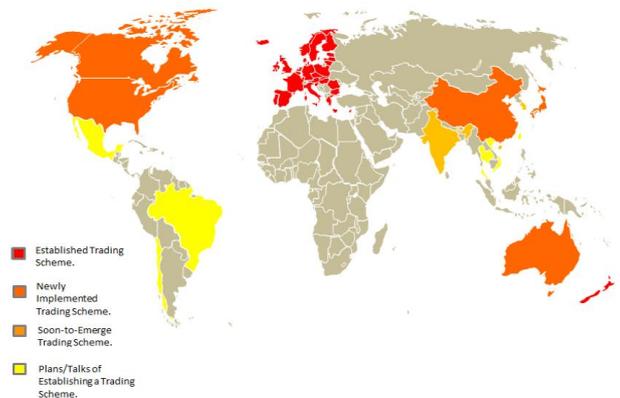
New Swiss Cooperation Strategy for Bolivia 2013-2016

In recent years, Bolivia has made significant progress in the reduction of poverty and inequalities. The new SDC strategy continues to support Bolivia in its efforts, with a special focus on improving the lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, i.e. women and indigenous peoples. Contributing to the consolidation of the democratic process, promoting climate change adaptation and economic development (productivity and diversification) are cornerstones of the strategy. More in the strategy in [Spanish](#) or in [German](#)

Policy Processes

Interpol's Guide to Carbon Trading Crime

Carbon trading is the world's fastest growing commodities market. It has its origins in the Kyoto Protocol which entered into force in 2005. The Protocol defines binding targets for its member states and the European Community to reduce emissions of six main greenhouse gases. While the main goal is that countries meet their targets by implementing domestic measures, they can offset their failure to meet targets by purchasing reductions made in other countries (carbon credits). Countries are supposed to keep records of their carbon credit trade and follow the rules set out in the Protocol. A number of emission trading schemes were also established at regional level. Because carbon is an intangible asset and the market is still immature, the carbon trading system is particularly vulnerable to crime. According to the guide published by Interpol, illegal activities that may harm emerging carbon markets are: fraudulent manipulations of measures (e.g. to claim more credits from a project than it obtained); selling carbon credits that belong to someone else or don't exist; exploitation of weak regulations such as committing financial crimes (e.g. money laundering); computer hacking, etc. Several recommendations are given by Interpol to address these concerns. [More](#)



Overview of the World's Carbon Trade Market (© Interpol)

Update on the National Adaptation Plans (NAP) Process

Since June 2013 the NAP process is underway at national level in Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The NAP process was defined in the Cancun Adaptation Framework in December 2011 and encourages states to formulate national adaptation plans to identify adaptation needs and strategies. The key objectives of the NAP process are to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and to facilitate the integration of adaptation into relevant policies, especially related to development. The NAP process is meant to be a long-term, iterative process across sectors. The LDC Expert Group of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was mandated to lead the design of the NAP guidelines. It was decided that international support to LDC member states in implementing the NAP process should also include technical guidelines for producing the plans. In June, the NAP guidelines were launched in Bonn with the participation of representatives of LDC countries, multilateral and bilateral agencies. More on the [guidelines](#) and on [the NAP process](#)

Working Group 1 Contribution to the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The IPCC is a scientific body which reviews and assesses the most recent scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to the understanding of climate change. One rationale is that such a common understanding is conducive to advancing climate change negotiations. Every six years the IPCC releases a report with overarching conclusions of the science related to climate change. The 5th assessment report (AR5) focusing on climate change factors that materially affect people's lives and on irreversible aspects of climate change will be published next year in October. On 30 September, Working Group 1 presented its contribution to the AR5. The contributions of the other two working groups are due early next year. [More](#) on the IPCC; Read the [AR5](#)

Climate Diplomacy: Seeing the Bigger Picture

In a recent policy brief, the climate and development knowledge network reflected on the challenge of securing an international climate agreement by 2015 to limit the global temperature increase to a maximum of 2°C. It acknowledges that climate diplomacy in the current context is difficult due to the dispersed nature of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the increasing number of institutions and fora involved. Some barriers to climate diplomacy are resource and capacity constraints (especially of Least Developed Countries) and that often the responsibility for climate diplomacy is divided among different ministries. Another finding is that climate diplomacy needs support at home in order to succeed at the international level. Some recommendations on how to strengthen climate diplomacy are mentioned, e.g. promote the engagement of the same team both at the national and international levels. At national level, countries can create climate diplomacy action plans or appoint a climate envoy to further their cause. [More](#)

Water and Climate Change Adaptation – Policies to Navigate Uncharted Waters

In September at the World Water Week in Stockholm, this new report produced by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) was launched. While climate change will shape the future for fresh water, climate change is also mostly perceived as “water change” – given that climate change manifests itself in changing precipitation patterns, increasing floods and droughts. Although there seems to be a general agreement that climate change affects fresh water, the evidence base to inform specific adaptation in water systems is still limited. Also, to adapt to climate change, flexibility will be needed in a domain that is characterised by long lived infrastructure with high fixed costs. The report suggests that policy makers should take a risk-based approach, considering all climate predictions. Some possible approaches to test further include flood insurance, water trading, ecosystem-based adaptation and green infrastructure. Recommendations are based on a survey that was conducted in 34 member countries of the OECD. [More](#) in the book on the online OECD library

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

A Global Ranking of Cities Threatened by Natural Disasters

This recently published SwissRe report examines the risks related to the high number of people living in cities and the increasing occurrence of natural disasters due to climate change. By 2050, 68 % of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas and many of these big cities are located on the coast, consequently threatened by floods, storms, earthquakes, etc. Big cities are key to economic development and at the same time the loss potential is large, especially since it remains unclear how well developed coping mechanisms of

urban societies are. The report analyses natural disaster risk in 616 major cities around the world and estimates the potential impact of disasters. It was produced with the intention of giving fresh impetus to the global debate on strengthening the resilience of cities and taking action to mitigate the risks. [More](#)

The Global Climate 2001-2010: A Decade of Climate Extremes

The recently published report by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) presents climate data collected during the past decade. Among other things, it examines which weather extremes can be explained by natural variability of the climate system and which ones are a result of climate change. More in the [summary report](#) and [video](#)

Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture: System of Crop Intensification (SCI) in India

Following the success of the System of Rice Intensification – a method of cultivating rice using scientific but sustainable methods – The Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) modified and adapted the method to other crops. Crops like maize, vegetables, groundnut, and sunflowers are productively grown by this SCI method. This is a move to promote low external inputs, increase land productivity, the use of indigenous seeds, and reduce the cost of cultivation. It includes the promotion of agricultural demonstration plots, training of farmers on better practices of transplantation, and seed treatment. [More](#)



Chilli and Eggplant cultivated through SCI (© WOTR, India)

Events and Trainings

Past: SDC Brown Bag Lunch on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition

In a joint lunch meeting organised by SDC's CC&E and the Agriculture and Food Security networks, participants reflected on the main findings of the International Conference on Forests for Food Security and Nutrition. Participants discussed the interface between forestry, food security and nutrition, as well as possible opportunities for increased cooperation between the two SDC networks dealing with these issues. Participants were reminded of the four dimensions of food security: 1) the physical availability of food; 2) access to it; 3) food utilisation (i.e. how this determines the nutritional status of individuals); and 4) whether the three mentioned dimensions are stable/adequate over time. Forests play an important role in terms of providing food security, nutrition, ecosystem services and generating income. Some challenges faced in terms of using forests for the above aspects of food security are: weak land tenure and access rights; climate change; and unsustainable management of forests. Ways of dealing with challenges were discussed (e.g. promoting community based forest management) and how SDC could contribute. More on the [website of the FAO conference](#), in the brown bag lunch [presentation](#) and in an [FAO publication on forests and food security](#)

Past: Experience Sharing on Designing Energy Efficient Buildings in India

On 23 July 2013 a seminar on sustainable architecture, i.e. an integrated approach to energy-efficient building design, was organised by the Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP). The aim of the workshop was to share experiences from applying the concept of integrated design. [More](#)

Past: Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) Application in Burkina Faso

Following the request of the SDC Coordination Office in Ouagadougou, the CC&E Focal Point and Naraya Carrasco from the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Network provided backstopping support to apply CEDRIG in the context of preparations for the extension of a rural development programme in Burkina Faso. During 2.5 days participants representing a wide range of stakeholders engaged in a dialogue that generated a shared understanding of the status, challenges and possible impacts of climate change and DRR to consider when preparing a project document. [More](#) on CEDRIG

Past: 3rd Mountain Hazard Conference in Kyrgyzstan

At the conference the interrelations of natural hazards, climate change and water in mountain regions were explored through different perspectives. The CC&E Focal Point gave a presentation on lessons learnt from the 2010 floods in Pakistan, i.e. on understanding the triggers, impacts and potential avenues for better management of natural hazards in mountain regions. More on the website of the [conference](#) and in the [presentation](#)

Past: Women's Solutions to Climate Change in Mozambique

What do women's solutions to climate change look like? What does resiliency mean for women and men alike? In a country as at-risk to the impacts of a changing climate as Mozambique is, all needs, perspectives, capacities and ideas need to be put on the table. That understanding was at the heart of the multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral workshops in Maputo in August organised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperation for Environmental Affairs, and with the support of the Government of Finland and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. [More](#)

Past: First Exchange Visit on Climate Change Adaptation

SDC staff and stakeholders working in climate change adaptation in Central America, Bolivia and Peru met in Lima and Cuzco for a first exchange on lessons from working in adaptation. The exchange visit took place on 2-6 September 2013. [More](#)

Upcoming Events and Trainings

Below is a list of upcoming events and trainings:

- 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the UNFCCC in Poland, 11 – 22 November. More on the [official website of the event](#) and on the [Swiss participation](#)
- Training on Human Rights and the Environment in Italy, 21-23 November. [More](#)
- The Swiss NGO DRR Platform is organising a F2F-meeting on the role of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in building resilient communities. The event will take place in Grosshöchstetten on 26/27 November 2013, followed by a Public Day in Bern on 28 November 2013. [More](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- web-based tool [CCORAL](#) designed for organisations in the Caribbean to make climate resilient decisions
- Results of the [EURO-CORDEX Initiative](#): high-resolution regional climate change ensemble for Europe
- New blog on global sustainability: [Future Earth Blog](#)
- The [2012 Annual Report of Bioversity International](#), released in July 2013. It describes key research and project outcomes in biodiversity conservation and in understanding climate change impacts on agriculture
- The [Risk Perception Survey](#) developed by SwissRe
- [Dialogues for Disaster Anticipation and Resilience](#) – a toolkit for learning, supporting dialogue and applying scientific and technological knowledge to increase resilience to risks
- Recent publications of SDC in Central America: [Por amor al mar](#); [Adaptándonos al cambio climático](#); [En busca del orden perdido](#); [Hacia la construcción de un país](#)
- Recent publication of the Swiss NGO DRR Platform: [Implementing, Learning and Advocating – Reducing Disaster Risks and Adapting to Climate Change](#)
- An Issue Brief on the [Impact of Climate Change on ASEAN Food Security](#)
- FAO [Guidelines on Climate Change for Forest Managers](#)
- Policy Brief on the [Green Climate Fund](#)

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

- **Jon-Andri Lys** on disaster anticipation and resilience
- **Rupa Mukerji** on AR5 and the Euro-Cordex initiative
- **Patrick Sieber** on the Swiss Re tool and report
- **Miriam Downs** on SDC DRR news/ from Nicaragua
- **Arjuna Srinidhi** on the WOTR event
- **Margaux Granat** on women and CC in Mozambique
- **Jocelyn Ostolaza&Sergio Pérez** on CC in Latin America
- **Patricia Gorin** on the Swiss NGO DRR Platform

Please send your climate change related news for the next newsletter to: daniel.maselli@deza.admin.ch

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@deza.admin.ch (CCE Network Focal Point) or nara.zanes@gmail.com (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.
