



Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter No. 13 December 2013

Season's Greetings and an Appeal for Joint Membership Development

Dear members of the CC&E Network,

As communicated recently the „friendly cleaning“ of our network has reduced the number of members from about 300 to nearly 200. This was an important preliminary step to move to the strategic development of the CC&E constituency. In view of 2014, we invite you to help us to connect to important and interesting new strategic partners – be they individuals or institutions. I believe that all of you regularly come across interesting people while participating in events or reading reports and documents. Therefore we call upon you to reflect on and connect us to potential new CC&E members that might be of strategic interest for our network. There are no fixed criteria on 'strategic importance' or „strategic interest“ and the identification can happen from different perspectives – such as content expertise, role, or geographical scope. Please let us know whom we should contact. I'm convinced that we can raise the profile and usefulness of our network for the benefit of all members through such an „organic strategic growth“.

With my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Your CC&E Network Focal Point – Daniel Maselli

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Swiss Contribution to the Adaptation Fund (AF): CHF 10 Million

Just in time for the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Switzerland announced that it will contribute CHF 10 million to the AF for the period 2013-2015. The AF was established under the UNFCCC in 2001 with the objective of reducing vulnerability and increasing the adaptive capacity to respond to the impacts of climate change. It was created to assist particularly vulnerable developing countries to meet the costs of adaptation projects and programmes. By helping developing countries implement climate-resilient measures, the AF contributes to safeguarding development and reducing the burdens on the poor (who are often hardest hit by climate change impacts). Since 2010 the AF has supported projects worth USD 190 million in 31 countries. It is financed through the Clean Development Mechanism the Kyoto Protocol and contributions from developed countries. The latter have become increasingly important due to the collapse of the carbon price on international markets in 2012. Thanks to this financial contribution (and also because it is part of the AF Board), Switzerland will continue to influence the design and operations of the AF. [More](#)

Swiss Core Contribution to the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE)

More than 90 % of the world's animal species are arthropods (e.g. insects, ticks, spiders) and many of them live in tropical Africa. The effects of arthropods on people are mostly negative: they act as malaria vectors, trigger shifts in agropastoral land-use (e.g. through the tsetse fly), and cause yield losses. However, arthropod conservation and utilisation holds unexplored opportunities for health, agriculture and environment. ICIPE's goal is to contribute to the development of the sustainable management of arthropod pests and strengthen the use of beneficial ones. Through basic and applied research, ICIPE (with the support of SDC), has made some significant achievements in the past. This new phase of collaboration from 2014 to 2016 is expected to be a continuation of previous research and development in the areas of animal health, environmental health, human health and plant health. In addition, resources will go into greening the ICIPE, i.e. minimising its carbon footprint. Key beneficiaries of ICIPEs work are the farmers in Africa who are reached through ICIPE's partners, ranging from NGOs to public and private service providers. [More](#)

Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP)

Switzerland contributed CHF 10 million to the ASAP which was launched last year by the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD). The objective of the ASAP is to scale up multiple-benefit adaptation approaches for poor smallholder farmers, so that their income and climate resilience increases. The target group of ASAP is 8 million poor smallholder farmers – 4 million being women and girls. It is particularly important to strengthen smallholder farmers in the context of climate change. While they account for 60% of global agriculture and provide up to 80% of food in developing countries, smallholder farmers also constitute the largest group of the world's undernourished and food insecure. As many smallholder farmers rely directly on climate-affected natural resources, they are disproportionately affected by climate change. In this context of increasing uncertainties and risks, improving the resilience of smallholder farmers and transforming rural development practices is crucial. Achieving this is one of the main goals of ASAP. More in the [credit proposal](#) and in the [video](#) below



Video on ASAP (© [ASAP](#))



Picture illustrating poor air quality in Bolivia (© [Swisscontact Bolivia](#))

Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Improving the Air Quality in Bolivia

During the last six years, the number of motorised vehicles in Bolivia has doubled to a total of over 1 million. This is a sign of strong economic development, but was also promoted by government subsidies on gas. The downside of this economic growth is the increasing air pollution and the collapse of the public transportation system. After land utilisation, the transportation sector is responsible for most greenhouse gas emissions in Bolivia. Vulnerable groups such as the poor, women, children and the elderly are suffering the most from these changes as they are the ones who use public transportation and spend a lot of time on the streets, e.g. as street vendors, shoe cleaners, etc.. The SDC-funded project (called „aire limpio“), implemented by Swisscontact, tries to address these issues in the 12 biggest cities in Bolivia, where 88% of the motorised vehicles can be found. It aims to reduce CO₂ emissions by around 130'000 tons each year. While the project was launched in 2003, the recently approved credit proposal seeks to consolidate the achievements of the past years. [More](#) (in German)

India: Climate Resilience through Risk Transfer with Microinsurance Solutions (RES-RISK)

The project implemented by SDC's Global Programme Climate Change India in partnership with Microinsurance Academy and Basix Group aims at enhancing the resilience of communities vulnerable to climate change by developing pro-poor micro-insurance solutions. It designs and pilots composite microinsurance schemes, covering agricultural, livestock, health and natural catastrophe perils – risks exacerbated by climate change. RES-RISK addresses demand side issues (e.g. low insurance awareness and the limited understanding of the risks faced by the target communities) and supply-side issues (e.g. insurance packages that do not address the relevant risks, or are perceived as too costly). What is novel about this approach to climate change adaptation is that communities manage risk through bundled insurance packages and they are involved in the design of the insurance business processes and packages. Consequently, insurance packages match the target communities' needs, priorities and willingness to pay. Capacities are built on the ground and local communities are trained to operate their own insurance schemes. More in a longer [article](#) by SDC India or in the [project factsheet](#)



Training on micro insurance in India (©Micro Insurance Academy)

Honduras: Environmental Programme for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change

According to the Disaster Deficit Index of the Inter American Development Bank, Honduras is threatened by disasters with consequences that are more than seven times greater than its financial capacity to respond to the related potential economic loss. That makes Honduras the second country in the region (after Haiti) most likely to suffer a crisis due to a disaster. The SDC-funded programme intends to strengthen the capacities of national government and civil society actors in dealing with climate variability through improved disaster risk management. It is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. [More](#) (in Spanish)

Update on SDC funded Climate Change Initiatives: Bolivia's "Biocultura" Approach

The overall objective of the (SDC-funded) National Programme "Biocultura" is to promote conservation, and sustainable use of the Andean ecosystems, and the economic, social and cultural development among Andean indigenous communities. Biodiversity conservation is crucial for them, as their life and culture are highly dependent on it. More in the [credit proposal](#) and the [essay](#) on the "biocultural approach" (in Spanish)

Policy Processes

COP 19 in Warsaw: Small Steps Forward

The special newsletter on the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) gave an overview of the issues at stake and the Swiss participation. A few weeks after the dust of the negotiations has settled, more processed analyses of the state of the global climate change negotiations are available. The overall assessment is that negotiators lacked a sense of resolve and only small steps were taken at COP 19. As the walking out of some NGOs such as WWF, Oxfam and ActionAid showed, they were underwhelmed by the level of action taken at Warsaw. The COP 19 concluded 27 hours after its scheduled closing time. There was a lot of finger-pointing between developed and developing countries, with the latter accusing the former (e.g. EU) of breaking their promises regarding financial commitments. The paragraphs below examine the results in the priority areas discussed at COP 19: pre-2020 commitments, climate finance, loss and damage (L&D), post-2020 agreement.

Ambitions regarding **pre-2020 mitigation** were almost nonexistent. At the time of COP 19, only 4 out of the required 144 country ratifications had been completed for a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force. China and the EU announced their intention to ratify, but even then the goal is far from being achieved. The backsliding on greenhouse gas reduction targets by some countries such as Japan was also strongly criticised. Regarding **climate finance**, some progress was made thanks to the pledges of some developed countries (including Switzerland) to reach the USD 100 million fundraising goal of the AF. Measures were taken to operationalise the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which will become the main fund for climate finance and take over multilateral adaptation funding once it takes off in 2015. Nevertheless, this was not enough to re-gain the trust of developing countries which remain sceptical on whether developed countries will keep their promise of providing USD 100 billion climate finance per year after 2020.

In this context, the creation of a new international mechanism for **L&D** is a small achievement of Warsaw. Countries vulnerable to L&D caused by extreme weather events that cannot be prevented, are cautiously optimistic about receiving additional support to cope with these effects of climate change, especially since developed countries had resisted the creation of another mechanism for a long time. The former insisted on the creation of a separate mechanism for these cases that cannot be addressed appropriately with adaptation and mitigation measures.



Voices of the March for Climate and Social Justice at COP 19 (© Democracy Now)

A rough work plan for finalising an **international climate agreement** at COP 21 in Paris in 2015 was adopted. Although state parties agreed to a bottom-up system for pledging emissions reductions, they avoided the critical debate on equity, i.e. which countries should take which kinds of climate action. Even though countries decided in Durban that the new 2015 agreement should be applicable to all countries, developing countries fought for an approach with differentiated responsibilities based on a country's historical emissions and capabilities. They insisted on the use of "contribution" rather than the more rigid term of "commitment" in the Warsaw deal. With the real issues of commitments and the legal nature of the 2015 deal unresolved, it seems like the chosen way forward is this bottom-up approach of states delineating their contributions first (rather than initially agreeing on top-down commitments).

Even though the COP 19 was not ground breaking, optimists say that it set the basic conditions for the 2015 deal, which is expected to be finalised at the COP 20 in Lima (Peru) and adopted at the COP 21 in Paris (France). Now the negotiators of the different governments have to get to work at the national level and define their contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, so they can make the next two COPs a success! More in the [Special Newsletter on COP 19](#), the [UNFCCC website](#), on [iisd](#) and in the [video](#) (illustrated in the image above)

Post-2015: Linking UNFCCC, the Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (HFA2) and the New Development Agenda

The discussions at the UNFCCC on L&D summarised in the previous article illustrate how interlinked the issues of disaster risk reduction, climate change and sustainable development are. In practice, they are dealt with in separate international institutional arrangements, i.e. the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (HFA2), the UNFCCC and the post-2015 development agenda. Fortunately, all of these processes are expected to reach important milestones in 2015, which creates opportunities to coordinate and avoid duplications. Consultations towards the **HFA2** will culminate at the World Conference on Disaster Risks in Japan in 2015. The report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the **Post-2015 Development Agenda** includes a proposal for a target on building resilience and reducing deaths from natural disasters. The report was published in May 2013 and presents a vision of what the global development agenda should look like. It foresees a convergence of the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development and those of the 2010 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Summit into one global development agenda beyond 2015, focusing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The process towards such a new framework is led by the member states of the United Nations and in the form of several work streams, such as the mentioned high level panel, a UN system task team, national, global and thematic consultations, etc. More on the HFA2 in the [11th CC&E Newsletter](#) and on [PreventionWeb](#); More on the post 2015 development agenda in the [report](#) of the high level panel and on the [website on SDGs](#); More on the [Rio+20 Conference](#)

Development Cooperation Report (DCR): Ending Poverty

The recently launched DCR of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), analyses what remains to be done in terms of ending poverty. Although some progress has been made in achieving the MDGs, it has been uneven across countries, locations and population groups. The first MDG goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty has been achieved – thanks to strong economic growth in China. Today, 1.2 billion people or 22% of the developing world's population, still live in extreme poverty, i.e. live on less than USD 1.25 a day, are humiliated, excluded, hungry, ill-housed and cannot care for their children. Political will and a new development finance framework needs to be developed to end poverty. It is crucial to learn from past experience (e.g. China's agricultural miracle), focus on people living in fragile states and those stuck in the new bottom billion (extreme poor in middle income countries such as India). This must be done without causing more environmental degradation and there are examples that show it is possible, e.g. Brazil which at the same time reduced extreme poverty and inequality and cut deforestation by 80%. **Environmental sustainability needs to be integrated systematically into poverty reduction and vice versa.** For example, the report stresses that governments must end fossil fuel subsidies which are inefficient, encourage wasteful consumption and don't even favour the poor. More on defining and measuring poverty, policies to tackle poverty, and new directions for ending poverty, including suggestions on new goals, in the [DCR](#), and on the issue of poverty and wellbeing on [SDC's thematic website](#) on this issue

The 2013 Geography of Poverty, Disasters&Climate Extremes

This recently launched report not only attempts to combine scientific evidence in mapping poverty, the impacts of climate change and the occurrence of natural disasters, it also predicts how these patterns will overlap in 2030 - the next deadline for achieving the new development agenda. The objective of the report is to determine how seriously disasters and climate change may undermine the elimination of extreme poverty. It includes several dynamic scenarios which identify possible patterns of vulnerability to extreme weather and natural disasters, as well as the impact of disaster risk management (DRM). The sobering conclusion of the report is that unless poverty eradication is built around DRM, the goal of ending poverty may not be met. [More](#)

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Breakthrough Technologies to Decarbonise the Pulp and Paper Industry

Currently, the European paper industry supplies a quarter of the world's market. The industry was challenged by the European Commission in 2011 to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% before 2050. A report launched by the Confederation of European Paper Industries (CEPI) in November 2013, announced the discovery of breakthrough technology concepts in the pulp and paper industry that will change how the sector operates, ensure its future in Europe and decarbonise the production process. The report was applauded by the European Commission as an example for other sectors. [More](#) on the resource and energy efficient solutions and the roadmap proposed in [CEPI's report](#)

Harmonised Auto-Fuel Biofuel for the EU by 2030?

This report commissioned by a consortium of six automotive and fuel companies (Daimler, Honda, Nestle Oil, OMV, Shell and Volkswagen), assesses the potential contribution of biofuels to decarbonise European road transport. It claims that liquid fuels, including biofuels, will continue to hold an important space in the long term energy mix, but that the future is unclear in terms of

EU's policy towards biofuels. The report also suggests that there is a window of opportunity for the EU to send clear investment signals to the industry and it outlines a roadmap regarding what the fuel industry should achieve by 2030 in terms of producing sustainable biofuel supplies. [More](#)

Aligning Biodiversity Compensation and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation (REDD+)

This recently launched report examines how private sector conservation financing schemes could be integrated in the tropics and sub-tropics. The report presents a framework on how two leading private sector initiatives could be aligned to achieve reductions in biodiversity and habitat loss: REDD+ through voluntary carbon market compensations and biodiversity compensation actions by no net loss commitments. The conceptual framework starts at the project level and suggests how biodiversity compensation and REDD+ can be integrated at project level. One important rationale is that even though the primary objective of REDD+ is to incentivise reductions of the impacts of climate change from forested lands, it can contribute to protecting biodiversity as forests are the home for up to 80 % of the world's terrestrial biodiversity. [More](#)

Upcoming Events and Trainings

Below is a list of upcoming events and trainings:

- 5th International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC), 24-28 August 2014 in Davos, Switzerland: Interested participants can submit their abstracts up to 28 February 2014. [More](#)
- World Future Energy Summit 2014, 20-22 January 2014 in Abu Dhabi (UAE). [More](#)
- 3rd International Climate Change Adaptation Conference, 12-16 May 2014 in Fortaleza (Brasil). [More](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- Recycling used cooking oil and transforming it into biodiesel: [Factsheet](#) summarising Caritas' experience in combating climate change and poverty in Bali
- Climate Fund Index or [ClimFix](#), is a tool that compiles weighted data to calculate the share a country or region should contribute to combat climate change
- New online [database](#) for finding partner research institutions with experience in transboundary research
- News [Website](#) of the Swiss Cooperation Office in Peru
- OECD DAC [statistics on climate related aid](#), i.e. on adaptation, mitigation and overall climate-related aid
- [Handbook](#) by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre: integrating disaster risk management into CC adaptation
- [Publications](#) (in Spanish) of the adaptation to the impacts of glacier retreat in the tropical andes, i.e. Peru
- [CoDrIVE](#): a recently launched tool by WOTR for community driven vulnerability evaluations
- South Pole Carbon [website](#) and recently published [white paper](#)
- World Bank report on [Building Resilience](#) and Integrating Climate and Disaster Risk into Development
- [World Development Report 2014](#): Risk and Opportunity - Managing Risk for Development
- News on IPS website, e.g. on how [hurricane Sandy](#) raised risk awareness in Cuba; on [sustainable technologies](#) to safeguard the soil in Cuba



Mitigation hierarchy as used by the authors of the REDD+ report (© Code Red)

Events and Trainings

Past: International Conference on Climate Services (ICCS)

On 4-6 December 2013, the ICCS took place in Montego Bay (Jamaica). Participants explored opportunities and barriers faced when transitioning to sustained climate services, including for drought monitoring and coastal management. [More](#)

Past: International Mountain Day (IMD) on December 11

The purpose of the IMD is to raise awareness on the importance of mountains, review the issues at stake in mountain development and build partnerships for positive change in these areas. The focus of this year's IMD was on the contribution of mountains towards sustainable economic growth. More on the [IMD](#), on [sustainable development in mountain regions](#), on the recent [cooperation agreement](#) signed by Switzerland and Austria in November 2013 to promote global sustainable development in mountain regions, and on the [IMD events](#) in Switzerland

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

- **Jon-Andri Lys** on the partner institute research database
- **Sergio Pérez, Javier Medina, Manuel Martínez**, and **Graciela Morales** on projects in Bolivia, Honduras & Cuba
- **Patricia Gorin** on post-2015 development agenda articles
- **KR Viswanathan** on RES-RISK
- **Arjuna Srinidhi** on CoDrIVE
- **Thorsten Reckerzügl** on Caritas' CC project in Bali
- **Andrea Roth** on the IDRC in Davos

Please send your climate change related news for the next newsletter to: daniel.maselli@eda.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 SDG to daniel.maselli@eda.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.