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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter No. 16 August 2014

Dear members of the CC&E Network,

Swiss Development Cooperation aims at helping the poorest and most vulnerable on our planet. The challenge of a rapidly changing climate further exacerbates the difficult living conditions of many poor people. As a consequence increasing efforts to tackle Climate Change – both with regard to adaptation and mitigation – have been undertaken by SDC and SECO over the last couple of years.

The recently compiled 'Report on Effectiveness of the Swiss International Cooperation in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Interventions 2000-2012 SDC/SECO' sheds light on these efforts. It allows to better understand how the challenge of Climate Change has been tackled and provides a picture of what has been achieved. The technical report comprises more than 400 pages and is available upon request in English only while the 'Public Report' version presenting the main elements in an easy readable and illustrated format on less than 40 pages is also available in French, German and Italian. The latter is accompanied by a short movie of about 3' and will be uploaded on the SDC homepage and the CC&E Shareweb right after the Annual Conference of Swiss Development Cooperation on 'Saving the climate, fighting poverty' which is taking place in Geneva on 29 August 2014.

We will be happy to receive feedbacks on this pioneering report on how to assess effective ODA to combat CC.

Your CC&E Network Focal Point, Daniel Maselli

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Clean Air & Climate – Linking Science, Policy and Action

Global warming, declining ice masses and the influence of humans on climate change has been ascertained by scientific evidence. And despite scientific results, global negotiations within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) hardly result in binding actions to combat climate change. But several mitigation oriented initiatives are ongoing, complementary to UNFCCC's negotiations, which might produce more visible action. SDC's project "Clean Air & Climate – Linking Science, Policy and Action" (Clean Air & Climate – SPA) supports two major initiatives; the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and The Climate Parliament. By supporting these two initiatives the project contributes to global actions reducing CO₂ and Short Lived Climate Pollutant (SLCP) emissions.

The [Climate and Clean Air Coalition](#) catalyses major reduction in short-lived climate pollutants. It was launched in 2012 and sees its strength in the potential to leverage high-level political will and to incubate concrete action through its initiatives. [The Climate Parliament](#) on the other hand influences mitigation relevant legislation in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency through its global network of parliamentarians. [More](#)

Resilience to climate change – Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (RCC - GFDRR)

Between 1980 and 2012 the total losses and lives lost due to hydro-meteorological disasters have been growing. Most significantly affected are the poorest and marginalized populations living in high risk areas, and with low ability to cope with the impacts of extreme but also recurrent low-intensity events. Due to population growth in high risk areas and the consequences of climate change, it is expected that climate related impacts will continue to grow. Climate change is thus undermining poverty goals and continues to inflict heavy economic losses. To reduce these expected threats it is important to ensure that countries have the needed skills, information, tools, and experience to enhance climate and disaster resilience on their own. The aim of the RCC-GFDRR project is therefore to contribute to increasing the resilience of people to natural hazards.

The Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery ([GFDRR](#)) is a partnership of 37 countries and 7 international organizations hosted by the World Bank since 2006. RCC-GFDRR, as a thematic program of the GFDRR, will provide demand-based technical assistance to help countries integrate climate and disaster risk into development strategies. [More](#)

SMArt – Sustainable Mountain Art

Promoting and implementing a global sustainable development is a challenge that will last beyond 2015. While the new post 2015 agenda is being shaped, more efforts are needed to raise awareness about the key global challenges and the necessity and potential of changing human behaviour on our planet and to contribute to reduce poverty and secure decent living conditions for future generation. Through a joint effort of the four SDC Global Programs, the means of art will be explored by promoting exchanges of artists that are concerned with issues related to the foci of the four programs i.e. water, food security, migration and climate change. Soon a website with more information will be established by the Fondation pour le développement durable des régions de montagne (FDDM, VS, Switzerland). SMArt will help create a network of artists in the South and the East who are addressing issues of sustainable development, particularly in mountain regions. The creation and diffusion of the artists' oeuvres will allow for broadening and changing perspectives, for stimulating dialogue among different actors from different geographical regions and cultures. [More](#)

Update on SDC-funded Climate Change Initiatives:

Wireless sensor technology for irrigation management in Burkina Faso

In this project SDC, EPFL, Sensorscope sàrl, Velux Foundation and the Third Millennium collaborate to develop and test a technology that collects and explores ecohydrologic data in low-cost hydrometeorological stations. To optimize the allocation of water resources in drip-irrigated perimeters, the technology provides an alert message when a need for irrigation is indicated. The pilot experiment has shown that these reliable low-cost stations allow for significant water savings while increasing production and food security. Moreover, they can improve sustainable management of groundwater resources. [More](#) (in English); [More](#) (in French)

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion in International Cooperation - REPIC Platform

This interdepartmental platform for the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency in developing and transition countries (REPIC) was established in 2004. The REPIC Platform supports energy projects which have to create appropriate networks for the knowledge transfer of their results. The Platform also organizes events and workshops to disseminate gained knowledge and to expand the REPIC network. For its new phase from 2014 to 2017 the focus of the REPIC platform is now on the replication and multiplication of promising projects and for the dissemination of promising solutions. [More](#)

Policy Processes

Green Climate Fund launches Initial Contribution Process

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a financial mechanism by which developed countries can fund climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in developing countries. At its 7th Board Meeting in July in Songdo, South Korea, the fund's governing board completed the predefined eight essential requirements. This made it possible to launch the process for initial resource mobilization for GCF, which is expected to be concluded in mid-November. It is hard to predict the level of initial resources to be put at the disposition of the GCF. Considering that a lot of technical and legal issues remain to be sorted out by the Board until the first GCF projects can be financed. A first Swiss contribution to the GCF (from the multilateral budget of SDC/GPCC) is planned, but will first have to be approved by the Federal Council. [More](#)

CRISTAL Forest – A Decision-support Tool

CRISTAL Forest (Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation, Livelihoods and Forest) is a project-planning tool. It helps to get a clear understanding of how forests contribute to people's adaptation strategies and how communities are reacting to changes. With initial support from SDC, the tool was further developed and tested by scientists from the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) in collaboration with the UNITAR C3D+ (the Climate Change Capacity Development) network. [More](#)

Two New Guides to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report for South Asia and Africa

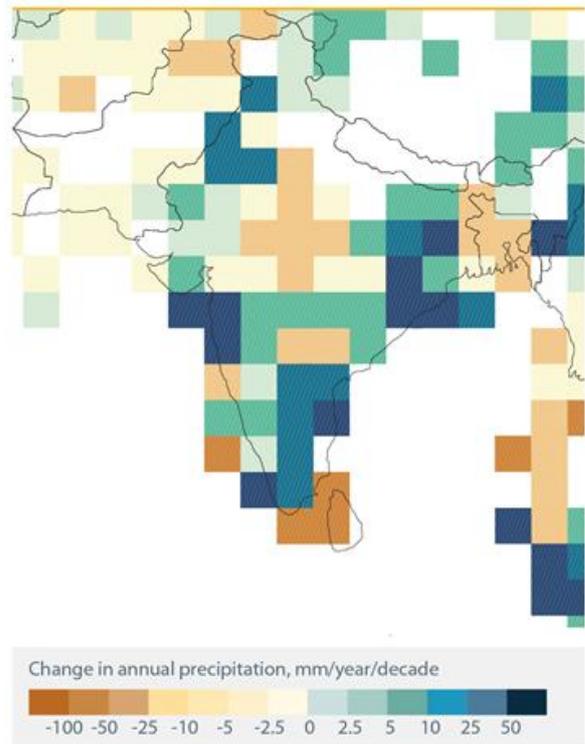
The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and Overseas Development Institute (ODI) have released two reports that distil key messages of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report for Africa and South Asia. The two concise reports are the first in a series and provide in depth information on climate impacts, future trends, and experiences in adaptation and mitigation. The figure below illustrates for example that rainfall trends in Asia are characterised by strong variability, with both increasing and decreasing trends. More extreme rainfall events and fewer weak rainfall events have been observed in the central Indian region. Together with the reports, infographics and presentations are offered and intended to be used for educational purposes and discussions related to the reports. [More](#)

Nagoya Protocol enters into Force

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits will enter into force on 12 October 2014. The ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by 51

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will provide a greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. The Protocol creates a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use. [More](#)

Change in annual average rainfall in South Asia, 1951–2012



Change in annual average rainfall in South Asia (© IPCC)

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

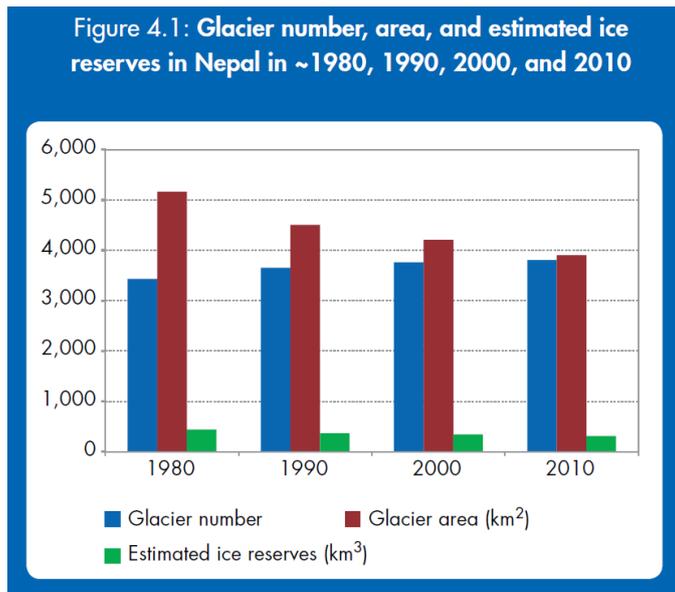
DECADE – Central Andes

For the development of adaptation strategies to changes in climate and extreme events, specific climate information is required. In Bolivia and Peru climate data exist in raw format but not in sufficient quality and suitable forms for decision makers. The research project DECADE has been launched to enhance and maintain local research capabilities in the area of climate data homogenization and analysis. It further promotes the provision of climate information in support of decision making in the Central Andes. The project, led by the University of Berne, MeteoSwiss and the University of La Molina in Peru has been financed for a duration of 3 years within the framework of the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d programme), a joint programme of SDC and SNF (Swiss National Science Foundation). [More](#)

ICIMOD: Glacier Status in Nepal

Glaciers and snow of the high Himalayan region are an important freshwater reserve for both mountain people and the downstream riparian areas. But glaciers are rapidly shrinking, and are increasingly fragmented due to climate change. Detailed data and understanding about the impact of climate change and glacier's current status is crucial for future planning. A new report published

by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) provides now comprehensive information on the status of Nepal's glaciers in 2010 and a change analysis of glaciers between 1980, 1990, 2000, and 2010. The study concludes that the glacier area in the Nepal Himalayas is decreasing rapidly, by 24% between 1977 and 2010, and that the number of glaciers increases due to fragmentation, which is linked to a rise in average temperature. The glacial shrinkage will have an impact on the long-term availability of freshwater, but is also associated with the risk of glacial lake outburst floods. The report concludes with recommendations indicating, among others, the importance of regularly mapping and monitoring Nepal's glaciers and the need for technological upgrading for the adequate assessment of hydro meteorological data. [More](#)



Decadal glacier change in Nepal (© ICIMOD)

Environmental Rehabilitation Approaches for Mining – A Review of Best Practices in Mongolia

In Mongolia about 20% of the rural workforce is engaged in the artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) industry. Land degradation is a key concern of mining stakeholders and appropriate rehabilitation approaches are requested which are economically affordable, socially acceptable and ecologically viable. This report documents the current state of knowledge in the ASM rehabilitation space based on 18 international case studies and presents best practices of rehabilitation approaches for ASM in Mongolia. [More](#)

Climate Variability and Vulnerability to Climate Change

This review argues that the full impacts of climate change are seriously underestimated because the majority of scientific studies focus on changes in the mean climate instead of changes in climate variability. The paper indicates an increased probability of future tipping events which are estimated to have large impacts on biological and food systems. Despite the complex ways of how factors and drivers interact and influence food security, the authors highlight the significant link between rainfall variability and child malnutrition. Another finding is that mainly in regions with high climate variability the population is growing. The increase in child malnutrition could thus be particularly large in sub-Saharan Africa. In other regions, however, climate may increasingly be the primary concern because of diversified livelihood strategies that are more and more independent of climate. The authors conclude with a discussion of five areas warranting attention for scientists, practitioners and decision makers. [More](#)

Introduction and Standardization of Low Carbon Cement LC3

Although cement is one of the most sustainable construction materials, it is currently responsible for almost ten percent of human CO₂ emission. With the funding of more than 4 million Swiss francs from SDC, a research consortium led by EPFL's construction materials laboratory aims to develop and standardize a new blend of cement which could reduce the carbon footprint by up to 40%. In collaboration with partners from the Indian Institutes of Technology and from universities in Cuba and Brazil the project will test the environmentally friendly blend of low-carbon cement by substituting up to half of the usual Portland cements. The blend combines highly abundant calcined clay and ground limestone, called Limestone Calcined Clay Cement or in short: LC3. [More](#)

Events and Trainings

Past Events:

Launch of the Climate Change Council of Cusco - 18 July in Lima

Supported by SDC's Climate Change Adaptation Programme (PACC) and the Ministry of Environment, the climate change council for the Cusco Region has been established and was officially launched on 18 July by the regional president. The council's main goal is to manage and promote the implementation of the regional strategy for climate change through development policies and plans that incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. [More](#)



Launch of the Climate Change Council in Cusco (© PACC)

First Series of Scientific Thursday – Climate Change Risk Management, 17 July in Lima

The scientific Thursdays are one example to foster scientific evidence based decision-making in Peru. It has been organized by Peru's Ministry of Environment with the support of the Peruvian Geophysical Institute, the National Centre for Disaster Risk Estimates, Reduction and Prevention and SDC's Glacier Project. The focus of the first event was on climate change, glaciers and risks. [More](#)

World Day to Combat Desertification – Public Conference, 17 June in Geneva

The purpose of the day was to raise awareness around international cooperation to combat the effects of drought and desertification. The theme of this year was "ecosystem based adaptation to climate change". [More](#)

Andean Dialogue between Science and Policy – Regional Workshop, 4 – 5 June in Quito

Hosted by SDC's project on Monitoring Climate Change Impact on the Andes ([CIMA](#)) this workshop aimed to encourage analysis and foster dialogue with regard to natural resource management in the Andes. The challenges for linking information generation and decision-taking are manifold and have been discussed with

representatives of the Ecuadorean and Peruvian governments, diverse NGOs and donors, academics and researchers. [More](#)

Trainings:

UN CC: e-learning Tools to Support the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process

The NAP-Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) is assisting Least Development Countries (LDCs) to integrate climate change adaptation into ongoing medium and long-term national planning and budgeting. UNITAR (UN Institute for Training and Research) has now developed a new and free-of charge e-learning tool which provides interactive learning on climate change policy, adaptation, planning and financing. The course is structured around 6 modules: 1) climate change science, 2) international legal and policy framework for climate change, 3) climate change adaptation 4) climate change mitigation and low carbon development 5) climate change finance 6) planning for climate change. [More](#)



Supporting LDCs to advance NAPs (© UNDP)

e-learning Course - Certified Expert in Climate and Renewable Energy Finance

This course, starting on 1 September 2014, addresses two major perspectives. One is focused on the understanding of the functioning of markets and investment and the needed policy instruments that adequately consider environmental issues. The other perspective is on the specifics of renewable energy financing regulations and policies for project financing. The course has a duration of 6 months and the 11 modules are conducted completely online. Register now! [More](#)

Upcoming Events:

Below is a list of upcoming events and trainings:

- [Annual Conference](#) of Swiss Development Cooperation – Side event on 'How to Achieve Effective Climate Action in International Cooperation' – 29 August in Geneva. [More](#)

- 5th International Disaster and Risk Conference IDRC – 24 -28 August in Davos. [More](#)
- 7th Annual ESP Conference (Ecosystems Services Partnership) with a focus on Latin America (Costa Rica) – 8 - 12 September in Costa Rica. [More](#)
- 12th Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – 6-17 October 2014 in Korea. [More](#)
- An updated overview of internal and external trainings and training material for members of CC&E network can be found on the [CC&E Shareweb](#).

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- SDC's [Global Brief](#) – Climate Change: Time to Adapt
- [Adaptation to Climate Change in Mountain Ecosystems](#) – a movie about experiences gained by the PACC project, Peru
- [Climate Change and Human Development](#) – reports of the "Up in Smoke group" compiled in a book
- UN CC:Learn [Dynamic Platform](#) – to showcase good learning practices in the area of climate change
- UN CC:Learn [Two Advanced Learning Resource Guides on Climate Change Science](#) – the best and most relevant resources on climate change science
- [La nueva cara del Husacarán](#) - a movie about adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction in Peru
- [Our High-Energy Planet](#) – a climate pragmatism project
- [Virtual Newsletter](#) of the Glacier Project in Peru – second newsletter on project news and events
- [Climate-Smart Development](#) – a report on benefits produced by climate mitigation policies.

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

- **Amrei Horstbrink** on UN CC:Learn tools
- **Erdenesaikhan Nyamjav** on gender and mining
- **Jon-Andri Lys** on Climate Variability
- **Laurence von Schulthess Rechberg** on Burkina Faso
- **Patricia Gorin** on UN CC:Learn tools and IPCC reports
- **Rafael Millán** for updates in the Andean Region
- **Shiva Hari Kathri** on the status of Nepal's glaciers
- **Verónica Galmzes** on PACC News
- **Yuka Greiler** on NAP-GSP

Please send your climate change and environment related news for the next 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 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@eda.admin.ch (CC&E Network Focal Point) or zora.urech@helvetas.org (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.