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Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter No. 17 November 2014

Dear members of the CC&E Network

While at COP20 in Lima during the first two weeks of December a huge number of politicians, negotiators, subject matter specialists and media people will gather to tackle the pressing need to renew the Kyoto Protocol in view of the 'final call for our climate' in Paris next year, society at large remains at the margin and has a hard time to understand the mechanisms, the rational and ultimately the implications of all the discussions and negotiated deals.

However, there is a pressing need for a fundamental change in behaviour worldwide if the worst expectations related to climate change are to be avoided (see latest IPPC Report). For this to happen, figures of increasing temperatures or scientific scenarios and prognostics on natural disasters triggered by climate change alone are not sufficient. People need to be sensitized and motivated utilizing different senses that include emotions. This is why SDC has launched a new project involving art. [SMArt](#) (Sustainable Mountain Art) calls upon the capacities of artists to sensitize people about issues related to food security, water, migration and climate change linked to mountain areas – combining thus in an innovative way the topics of SDC's four global programs

The first art pieces – i.e. photographs of Luana Letts from Peru made in Swiss Alps combined with photographs of Niels Ackermann from Switzerland featuring photographs from the Peruvian Andes – will be shown at COP20 as well as in Valais. Have a look at the [SMArt](#) website! Your CC&E Network Focal Point, Daniel Maselli

SDC Funded Projects & Programmes

Rural Resilience Initiative (R4)

Vulnerable rural households in Malawi and Zambia will soon be able to better protect their crops and livelihoods against climate variability. This is the ambitious aim of the Rural Resilience Initiative R4. In July 2014, SDC committed US\$ 6.6 million to expand the United Nations World Food Programme's (WFP) R4 initiative to two new countries. The R4 innovative approach combines four risk management strategies for reducing and mitigating climate related risks in rural areas: improved natural resource management (risk mitigation), agricultural index insurance (risk transfer), access to credit (prudent risk taking), and savings (risk reserves). This comprehensive approach aims at empowering food insecure smallholder farmers to build assets that improve their productivity and reduce the impact of climate shocks. [More](#)

CHAIN – Cambodian Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition Project

In Cambodia 90% of the poor live in rural areas. Most of the rural population are smallholders with on average less than two hectares of land per household. The CHAIN project intends to increase income and food security by enhancing sustainable production of fruits and vegetables. Due to the fast economic growth in Cambodia, horticulture has a high market potential. The demand for fresh fruits and vegetables has remarkably increased

and today 90% of the demand is covered by imported products. In future this demand will be met with fruits and vegetables produced by Cambodian farmers. The project will be implemented by a consortium consisting of SNV, Swisscontact and AVRDC (The World Vegetable Center) with a duration of three years for its first phase. [More](#)

GCF – Core Contribution to the Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is a new multilateral climate fund, based in South Korea. Its mission is to finance low-emission and climate-resilient development programs with a focus on the most vulnerable countries and communities. The fund starts operating in January 2015. While initial resources will come from official development assistance, additional funding is expected to come from other innovative sources, including the private sector. Switzerland contributes with a core funding of US\$ 100 million. The Swiss contribution is coordinated among SDC, State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN). [More](#)

Update on SDC-funded Climate Change Initiatives:

CLIMANDES – Bridges in the Andes

For the development of national strategies and political dialogue on climate issues, the project CLIMANDES seeks to improve the information and database on climate. In September the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, the National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology of Peru and the Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina in Peru, in partnership with the WMO Regional Training Centre and CLIMANDES, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU). The purpose is to disseminate and support studies in meteorology in the WMO Training Centre. The MoU promotes the exchange of teachers, students and professional staff through short-term internships, and aims at strengthening multidisciplinary research and the organization of training courses and education material. [More](#)

Sustainable Charcoal Production in Tanzania

Unsustainable charcoal production is the main driver of deforestation and forest degradation on community land. Policy and regulatory frameworks that provide incentives for communities to sustainably manage their forests are required. The sustainable charcoal production project recently produced a movie which provides in-depth information about proposed models and solutions of the project for reaching sustainable charcoal production by addressing the change of policy and regulatory frameworks.



Adapting to Climate Change in China (ACCC II)

The ACCC project in China just entered in its second phase (2014 – 2017). The project aims at mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development policies and at supporting the formulation and implementation of integrated Provincial Adaptation Plans across priority sectors. Due to the project's significant progress during its first phase, a National Adaptation Strategy could be realized and China's gained experience was shared internationally. [More](#)

Policy Processes

Strengthening Community Forest Rights – Combating Climate Change

Globally, the equivalent of 50 soccer fields of forests are cleared every minute (i.g. 13 million hectares per year). Governments, donors and other climate stakeholders share the opinion that in order to combat climate change the current deforestation rate needs to be reduced. However, the same actors still largely ignore the potential of strengthening community forest rights for reducing carbon emissions. This very informative report demonstrates now that in government-recognized community forests the deforestation rate is significantly lower compared to other forests. As an example; in a recognized community forest of a biosphere reserve in Guatemala the deforestation rate was 20 times lower than in the protected area of the same reserve. And in areas outside of recognized indigenous community forests in Brazil 27 times more carbon dioxide emission were produced from deforestation compared to community forests. On the basis of comparative studies and quantitative research in 14 forest rich countries, this report - produced by the World Resources Institute in the frame of the Rights + Resources Initiative (RRI) - provides persuasive data and arguments for the promotion of community forest rights. [More](#)



Woman carrying fuel wood © World Resources Institute

Synthesis Report of the IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Synthesis Report with the findings of the fifth Assessment Report (AR5). A global warming of more than two degrees Celsius compared with the average between 1850 and 1900 is expected. To avoid such an increase, the emission of greenhouse gases between 2010 and 2050 would have to be reduced by 40 to 70 percent. However, global CO₂ emissions have reached a new record level. Although the report highlights the significance of reducing emissions, it does not provide concrete recommendations on how this reduction could be realized. Instead it highlights the increasing importance of adaptation strategies to climate change in order to reduce the vulnerability of populations living in high risk areas. [More](#)

Climate-Smart Agriculture – A Position Paper

CIDSE (international alliance of catholic development agencies) presents in its position paper major weaknesses of the [Global](#)

[Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture](#) Framework Document and the concept of climate-smart agriculture as it has been developed by FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization). The position paper states that there are better and already existing models, policies and frameworks that should be at the heart of initiatives dedicated to tackling the climate and food crisis. In the paper, CIDSE calls upon policy makers to support a transition towards agroecology. The first part of the paper discusses the definition of climate-smart agriculture and the second focuses on the Global Alliance, highlighting concerns identified in terms of safeguards, governance and investments. [More](#)

10 million Euro for Agroforestry in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America

Although agroforestry always existed in traditional rural land cultivation systems, the word 'agroforestry' became only known when the World Agroforestry Centre was built in 1977. Today a substantial body of knowledge is available about diverse agroforestry systems, their socioeconomic and ecologic role and functioning. Now the African Development Bank (AfDB) realized a huge boost in agroforestry by approving a 10 million Euro investment in the African compartment of the Moringa Private Equity Fund. The Moringa Fund will support scalable and replicable agroforestry projects in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. Smallholders are expected to benefit from the investments through income diversification and higher and more stable incomes. By investing in sustainable agroforestry solutions, the fund further aims at assisting governments in meeting their adaptation and mitigation targets. [More](#)

Climate Change Reference Framework - America

The Interamerican Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture (IICA) provides information with regards to policies, laws, plans and strategies on climate change of all countries on the American continent. The information has recently been updated and you can get it on a very simple and nicely designed webpage. [More](#)

The Global Green Economy Index

The Global Green Economy Index (GGEI) is a communication tool to empower policy makers, international organizations and the private sector with a reference point for national performance in the green economy. The GGEI covers 60 countries and 70 cities and it provides a global measure of national performance in key efficiency sectors such as buildings, transport, tourism, and energy. The performance index is defined by 32 underlying indicators and datasets covering the four main dimensions; leadership & climate change, efficiency sectors, markets & investment, and environment & natural capital. Germany and Sweden top the 2014 GGEI ranking, followed by Costa Rica. [More](#)

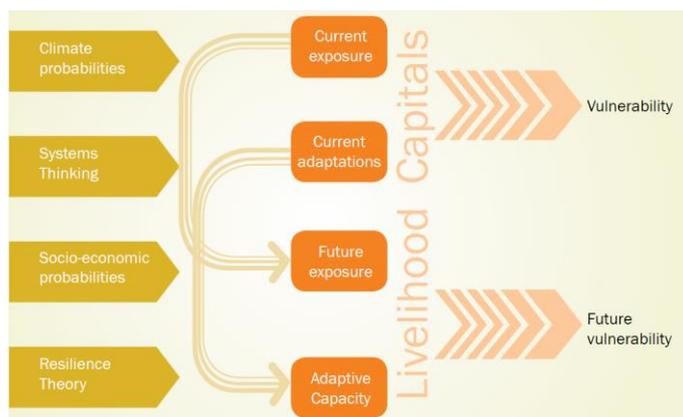
Sourcebook on Monitoring Biodiversity for REDD+

There are ongoing discussions and no final solution to merge the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) when it comes to REDD+. According to the CBD the existing REDD+ frameworks still lack adequate safeguards to address biodiversity. On the other hand, REDD+ recipient countries fear additional regulations on already complex frameworks. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) just released a sourcebook on monitoring biodiversity for REDD+. The sourcebook provides methods and best practice guidance to answer the questions 'Why is monitoring biodiversity for REDD+ important?' and 'How should monitoring be conducted?' The sourcebook acknowledges the challenge of monitoring biodiversity for REDD+ and seeks to avoid further complexity. The book could thus be a helpful tool to achieve both biodiversity and climate commitments in a cost-effective way. [More](#)

Science and Research

CoDrIVE Programme Designer – A Handbook for Community Driven Vulnerability Evaluation

The CoDrIVE-PD (Community Driven Vulnerability Evaluation – Programme Designer) has been developed by the Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) and is a tool meant for development practitioners and planners. This tool allows a thorough assessment of vulnerability, enabling communities to articulate their experience, know-how and priorities. The handbook provides clear instructions and a theoretical framework for the collection, compilation, analysis and documentation of data. The handbook has been rigorously tested and validated in different Indian states and developed to primarily address the needs of watershed development. However, it is flexible enough to be applied in any other region and livelihood-based project. [More](#)



Analytical Framework for Community Driven Vulnerability Evaluation © WOTR

Three Research Projects financed by the Swiss Programme for Research on Global Issues for Development (r4d)

The research module "Sustainable Management of Ecosystems for the Provision of Ecosystem Services" supports research collaborations that enhance the sustainable and equitable provision of ecosystem services for human well-being, with a particular focus on the poor in developing and emerging countries. Three international research projects of a duration of 6 years and a budget of around 3 million CHF each have been approved for funding:

Oil Palm Adaptive Landscapes (OPAL): The project proposes to improve the management of oil palm plantations across tropical Asia, Africa and Latin America by engaging stakeholders and agents of change with plausible oil palm development scenarios at multiple scales. These scenarios will be developed through an integrated platform that merges the social, economic, and ecological drivers that shape oil palm development. Using such a platform, researchers will assess the outcomes of different scenarios with respect to trade-offs among biodiversity, hydrological and carbon sequestration ecosystem services, and local livelihoods. [More](#)

Telecoupled Landscapes: Landscapes on forest frontiers in the humid tropics provide powerful examples of the challenge to reconcile human development with increasingly evident planetary boundaries. Global forces have come to outweigh local determinants of land use change in these landscapes. Driven by demands for agricultural expansion and intensification, fuel, carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, and more, these forces consist not only of socio-economic ("globalization") or environmental interactions ("teleconnections"), but increasingly encompass combined socio-economic and environmental interactions between two or more distant socio-ecological systems. This phenomenon, which land change scientists have recently conceptualized under the term "telecoupling", points to major methodological and empirical research gaps. The research

project pursues the overall goal of devising and testing innovative strategies and institutional arrangements for securing ecosystem service flows and human well-being within and between telecoupled landscapes. [More](#)

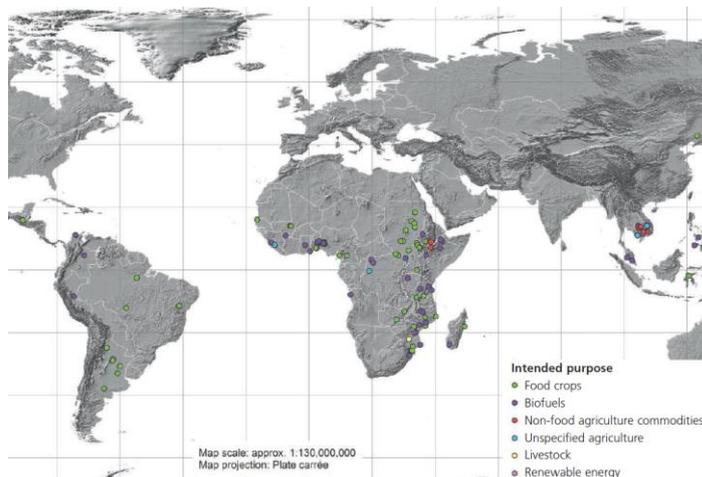
Invasive Species: The aim of the project is to help mitigate the effects of woody invasive alien species on biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being in East Africa. To achieve this goal, the project will generate and share knowledge on invasion processes and on context-dependent effects of woody invasive alien species in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, elaborate sustainable control measures and develop and document sustainable land management strategies that mitigate the negative effects of woody invasive alien species in East Africa. [More](#)

Gender and Inclusion Toolbox – Participatory Research

The toolbox provides methods and tools for the improved gender inclusion in climate change and agriculture projects. The manual emphasizes participatory and qualitative approaches and the chapters are in modular format. It is intended for gathering gender sensitive data when programming a project. [More](#)

Policy Brief - Land Deals Intensify Competition for Scarce Resources

The Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) analysed a sample of 139 land deals which are registered in the [Land Matrix](#). According to the policy brief, three main land types were subject to land deals: cropland (35%), forest (34%) and grassland/shrubland (26%). The deals regarding cropland cover about one-third of areas where people already farm. But in many cases the land rights of individuals, often based on customary laws, are not respected. Moreover, grasslands connected to land deals are often traditional grazing areas. As a consequence, herders have to move to more marginal and unproductive areas. The policy brief states that based on their analysis, tens of millions of people are affected by the deals that are recorded in the Land Matrix. The policy brief concludes with four policy implications resulting from the data analysis. [More](#)



Location and intended purpose of land deals © CDE Berne

The Vulnerability Sourcebook

The reduction of vulnerability and the identification of medium- and long-term adaptation needs are the principle aims of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). As a prerequisite to reducing the vulnerability it first needs to be identified and assessed. The vulnerability sourcebook, elaborated by GIZ, EURAC research and adelphi provides a conceptual and standardised approach for assessing vulnerability covering a broad range of sectors and topics as well as different spatial levels and time horizons. This very user friendly document guides the users in designing and implementing vulnerability assessments through eight sequential modules. [More](#)

Events and Trainings

Past: Mountain Communities Workshop on Climate Change and Biocultural Heritage, Bhutan, 26 May – 1 June

The Mountain Community Initiative brought together representatives from 25 indigenous and traditional mountain communities to exchange knowledge and experience regarding climate change adaptation strategies. The conclusions and results of the workshop have been compiled in an event report.

[More](#)

Past: Workshop on promoting Climate Resilient Development, Nairobi, 8 – 12 September

The purpose of this 5-day workshop was to sensitise staff and implementers to climate change issues and to improve the integration of climate change into ongoing activities in East and Southern Africa. The workshop was organized by SDC's East and Southern Africa Division.

[More](#)

Past: UN CC:Learn Partner Countries Experience-Sharing Workshop, Geneva, 30 September – 1 October

Representatives from the five UN CC:Learn pilot countries met with participants from three new partner countries to share experiences. Participants elaborated 10 recommendations to facilitate the development and implementation of a national climate change learning strategy.

[More](#)

Past: 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Pyeongchang, 6-17 October

The focus of the conference was on the first assessment of progress made towards the defined strategic plan for biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Among many others, the decision was made to double the financial resource flows to developing countries until 2015 in order to ensure the implementation of planned activities.

[More](#)

Past: Fourth Global Green Growth Forum (3GF 2014), Copenhagen, 20-21 October

The forum focused on transformative actions for the promotion of sustainable consumption and production for a greener economy. The insights and conclusions from 3GF 2014 are intended to serve as an input to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda.

[More](#)

Past: National Workshop on Scaling-up Good Practices for Climate Change Adaptation, New Dehli 27-28 October,

How can successful project innovations, such as agro-met advisories, climate resilient agriculture, and water and biodiversity conservation measures be integrated into state level institutions? Opportunities for up-scaling of project results were discussed with more than 80 policymakers, practitioners, academia and civil society in a workshop jointly organized by SDC, WOTR (Watershed Organization Trust), WRI (World Resources Institute) and NABARD (National Bank for Rural Development).

[More](#)

Training: UN CC:Learn Resource Guides - Climate Change & Health / Climate Change & Education

On 4 September UN CC:Learn launched two new Resource Guides; Climate Change & Health provides access to the most relevant resources with regards to linkages between climate change and health. Climate Change & Education provides resources relevant for learning about both formal and informal education on climate change at primary and secondary levels and is dedicated to primary and secondary teachers and other actors working in the education sector.

[More](#)

Upcoming Events:

The following events are forthcoming:

- Mountain and Water Pavilion / Forest Pavilion located in the area of the public “[Voices for Climate](#)” venue; the pavilions are hosted by Peru at the UNFCCC COP 20 from 1 to 12 December in Lima/Peru.
- Side event on “Enabling Conditions at subnational level for financing Climate Change Adaptation” at UNFCCC COP 20 on 11 December in Lima. [More](#)
- World Park Congress – 12 to 19 November in Sydney. [More](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- Recent publication of UNDP in Central America (now in English): [For the Love of the Ocean](#); [Adapting to Climate Change](#); [In Search of Lost Order](#); [Building a Disaster Safe Country](#).
- UN CC:Learn Guidance for Developing a National Climate Change Learning Strategy ([French](#) and [Spanish](#)).
- A mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity by UNEP / [CBD: Global Biodiversity Outlook 4](#).
- [Linking DRR, Climate Change Adaptation and Loss & Damage](#) – A publication launched by the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (ABPN).
- A [national inventory of glaciers in Peru](#), published by the National Water Authority (ANA).
- The [Iied Briefing](#) explains the key positions of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in CC negotiations.

Special thanks go to the contributors of information:

- **Jean-Gabriel Duss** on information from the Andes
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- **Stéphanie Aubin** on the R4 Initiative
- **Verónica Galmez** on the forest pavilion at COP 20
- **Ueli Mauderli** on the charcoal video in Tanzania
- **Stefan Salzmänn** on the CIDSE position paper
- **Li Huo** on ACCC II
- **Mirjam Macchi** on the climate workshop in Nairobi
- **Antonia Suter** on the adaptation workshop in New Dehli

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.
