



5th Newsletter of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, October 2011

The CCE Newsletter is celebrating its 2nd Birthday! For this special occasion, we would like to hear your feedback on the newsletter.

Although it would be possible to use more sophisticated newsletter software, it was decided that a downloadable pdf newsletter would be more appropriate for the network. The thinking was that readers with limited bandwidth would prefer to download the whole newsletter and read it off-line or as a printout. They could then selectively click on links of articles for which they wanted to read more than the essentials. This allows the newsletter to cater to the needs of readers with different reading habits and possibilities regarding bandwidth.

What is your preference, i.e. do you prefer to receive a printable or online newsletter?



Please send a quick email with your opinion to
ueli.mauderli@deza.admin.ch or
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SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Cities Tackling Climate Change: Low Carbon Cities China

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



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Improving Livelihoods, Mitigating Deforestation and Maintaining Resilience to Climate Change through a Power Plant Extension in Nepal

With an estimated 40'000 MW production possibility and a mere 600 MW actual hydropower production, huge hydropower potential remains untapped in Nepal. The power plant extension project launched by SDC in September 2011 aims at harvesting this potential, by **upgrading a hydropower plant** that was constructed with Swiss funds 25 years ago. While the Salleri Chialsa Electricity Company (SCECO) functioned sustainably as a cooperative over the past two decades, it lacks own resources to increase the plant's capacities to meet the needs of population and economic growth in the region. It is expected that this investment will **improve the living conditions of the rural households** in Salleri and Garma and **enhance economic opportunities** through the provision of uninterrupted electricity. A further expected outcome is the **reduction of deforestation** for firewood for cooking, heating and lighting purposes. Consequently, the project will contribute to enhancing sustainable use of local water resources through contributing to the maintenance of resilience to climate change at the local level. Further information on the project funded with the 0.5 climate credit will be made available soon on the SDC Nepal website. [More on the CCE Shareweb.](#)

Swiss-Ukrainian Forest Development Project in Zakarpattya (FORZA)

After seven years of implementation, the SDC supported FORZA project ended in December 2010, but its legacy remains. The **project initiated a new era of forest management based on the principles of sustainability, participation and environment-friendly multifunctional forest use to improve livelihoods** of local populations. The project introduced a two-stage forest management planning approach going from technical planning (forest enterprise level) to integrating the needs and priorities of the local populations, e.g. also through encouraging green tourism. These forest management practices introduced by the project were subsequently adopted as nationwide policy by the national authorities. Despite such major achievements, there is still work to do and the former FORZA project staff has taken on the challenge of continuing efforts by forming an independent agency called FORZA. More info on FORZA on the websites of [SDC Ukraine](#), [new FORZA agency](#) and in a [German article](#).



© Forza Website

Empowering Indigenous Peoples in International Climate Negotiations

In mid-2011, SDC and the Federal Office for the Environment (BAFU) agreed to collaborate in a one year project with the goal of strengthening indigenous peoples' (IP) rights in international processes that affect their integrity and livelihoods, especially in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations. The project was developed in response to the demand of several major groups within the umbrella organisation of indigenous peoples in the Amazon basin (COICA). First, with this Swiss support, the latter was able to carry out an **Inter-Amazon Summit of Indigenous Peoples' Organisations in the Amazon** with the aim contributing to the forming an **opinion of IP regarding the implementation of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+)** in the Amazon basin. In a nutshell, the IP agreed at the summit that in the REDD+ context, land and land-use rights should be based on their (individual and collective) prior, free and informed consent. The second main objective of the project is to **enable indigenous peoples to provide informed input to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Secretariat which is preparing a specific new policy for indigenous peoples**. The new GEF policy on IP will become a binding standard for the UN, Bretton Woods organisations and other entities with access to GEF resources. More information on the demands of the IPs in the document produced at the [Inter-Amazon Summit on the website of COICA](#). More on the [GEF policy development](#).



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Tunisia: Local Communities Adapt to Climate Change

The political transformations in Tunisia have opened the door to societal change and to reforms at the level of government. Consequently, from November this year until the end of 2014, SDC will **support a process aimed at identifying and implementing adaptation strategies and technologies at the community level in Tunisia**. The expected outcomes are that Tunisia 1) pursues sustainable development in the poorest and most neglected areas, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and related dependencies on fossil fuels; 2) reduces its vulnerability to climate change; 3) takes ownership for sustainable development; 4) promotes knowledge sharing in the area of adaptation. Swiss funds will be channelled through the **micro finance programme of the Global Environmental Fund**. [More on the CCE Shareweb](#).

First Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK) unveiled in South Africa

At the end of September, South Africa's first operational brick and mortar energy efficient Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK) was inaugurated at Langkloof Bricks in Jeffrey's Bay. This is a

milestone for Swiss technology transfer to South Africa. According to the Director of Swisscontact in South Africa, **"even if only 50% of brick production moves to the VSBK, 380 000 tons of coal will be saved in this country per annum**. This equates to over 950 000 tons of CO₂ emissions annually." More on the inauguration in [Swisscontact's media release](#). Background information on p.2 of the [4th CCE newsletter](#). **The VSBK project will be present at the Swiss stand at the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in Durban/South Africa** .



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Macedonia: We Don't Have a Spare Planet

The Macedonian NGO OXO's commitment and endurance in environmental education is starting to bear fruit. The **environmental education project** supported by SDC include a series of awareness raising activities for children such as the production of **education material for schools, teacher training**, conducting **environmental projects** in schools and even a daily **TV show** for children broadcasted in Albanian and Macedonian. This project will now be scaled up and integrated into the official education system of Macedonia. The objective remains raising awareness and encouraging children to behave in an environmentally friendly and responsible way. [More in the article in German on the website of PH Zürich](#) who is backstopping OXO. [More on the project on the OXO website](#).

Adaptation in China: Integrated Flood Risk Management

Floods are known for causing tremendous damage to human society around the Yangtze river. Recently, droughts have been causing enormous losses, e.g. in agricultural surfaces in the Yangtze river basin area. In this context, the water management of the Yangtze river is highly relevant. The project aims at supporting Chinese authorities in designing a **new integrated approach to flood risk management**, hereby minimising flood damage and water shortage problems. The project will be launched in November 2011 and last for two years. [More on the CCE Shareweb](#).



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Policy Processes

EU Includes Aviation in its Emissions Trading System (ETS)

In January 2012, the EU will embark on an experiment, addressing a major gap in climate policies until present: dealing with international spaces, e.g. air and sea not linked to one or several states. It has **decided to include greenhouse gas emissions from flights to, from and within the EU in the EU ETS. All airlines will be covered under this new directive** irrespective of their nationality and as is the case for industrial companies covered by the ETS, airlines will be able to trade their emission allowances. According to the EU, this measure will enable the aviation sector to make a contribution towards reaching Europe's climate change targets. However, the opinions of the aviation sector diverge and America's Air Transport Association (ATA) filed a legal complaint. In a recent decision, the Court of Justice of the European Union affirmed that the inclusion of international aviation in the European EST is compatible with international law. Despite this ruling, the move by the EU remains highly controversial and many governments including the US, China, India and Japan criticise the EU for imposing a unilateral emissions trading system instead of supporting efforts to set up a worldwide scheme. More in [The Economist](#) and on the [ETH climate blog \(in German\)](#).

Sino Swiss Exchange on Climate Law and Policies

Recently China became the second largest economy in the world and is at the top of the list of energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters. The government of **China has made tackling climate challenges caused by economic growth one of its priorities and is striving to learn from the experience of others**, i.e. it invited Switzerland (via SDC) to participate in its process of formulating a new law on climate. In a recent visit to Switzerland, selected **Chinese were informed about the Swiss climate policy** by representatives of the parliament, academia and public & private sector. Key instruments, ranging from voluntary measures endorsed by the private sector to the levying of a CO₂ tax, used to put into practice the Swiss climate policy were presented. [More in a press release on the SDC website](#).

UN Climate Change Conference held in October in Panama

In the run up to next month's big climate change conference within the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Durban/South Africa, **preparatory talks were held in Panama in early October to overcome outstanding differences and pave the way for Durban**. The UNFCCC, which was adopted in 1992, sets out a framework for stabilising atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. In 1997, at the third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Kyoto/Japan, mostly industrialised countries agreed

on a protocol which committed them to achieve certain emission reduction targets by 2012. Now, 193 states are part of this 'Kyoto Protocol' and since 2005, an ad hoc Working Group (AWG-KP) is considering which **further commitments would be feasible for states committed under the Kyoto Protocol**. In Panama, the **AWG-KP** continued discussions aiming at finding a zone of convergence on essential items and getting as close as possible to a draft text for Durban. Also in Panama, another ad hoc working group (**AWG-LCA**), which was established in 2007 in Bali, continued to elaborate an agreement on **key elements of long term cooperation regarding mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology, and a shared vision for long term cooperative action**. Although progress seems to have been made in some areas, the meeting in Panama also exacerbated some divides, especially regarding agreeing on new long term goals and finance. Experts warn that many political and ideological differences still remain to be tackled and that reaching a political agreement (rather than a legally binding one) should already be considered an important expectation from Durban. Background on the UNFCCC negotiations can be found in [previous newsletters, in particular in issues 2 and 3](#). More on Panama in the [Earth Negotiations Bulletin](#) and [the Environmental Finance](#) website.

Conserving Biodiversity: Protected Areas versus Community Managed Forests

While traditional measures of conservation i.e. protected areas, strictly control or restrain human activity, community managed forests try to respond to the needs of biodiversity conservation as well as those of local communities. A recent policy analysis of the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) compared case studies from tropical regions in Latin America, Africa and Asia, using **changes in forest cover and drivers of change as indicators for the effectiveness of different types of land-use in biodiversity conservation**. The results of the analysis suggest that **community managed forests perform better than protected ones**. Better in the sense that community managed forests have lower annual deforestation rates and less variation in rates of forest cover loss. The analysis also confirmed that greater rule-making autonomy at the local level often leads to better forest management, hence livelihood benefits. Although the analysis validates the experience of many practitioners that a robust conservation strategy should include a range of land use types and consider socio-economic needs of local people, **the size and extent of protected areas continues to grow**. However, this may change with the increase of REDD+ projects (remember, the Cancun Agreements of 2010 launched an international mechanism towards Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, forest Degradation, and the enhancement of existing forest carbon stocks in developing countries). More on the study in a related [article from the CIFOR website](#).



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The Governments of the **Philippines and Switzerland** (State Secretariat for Economic Affairs/Federal Office for the Environment) hosted a multi-stakeholder **workshop on REDD+ financing at the UN Climate Change Conference in Panama** on October 2nd, 2011. The workshop was a milestone of a larger initiative aimed at supporting governments and stakeholders in reaching a common understanding on a **governance framework for long term and sustainable finance for REDD+**. Suggestions will be presented at the UNFCCC COP 17 in Durban. [More on the workshop](#).

Guaranteeing the Energy Security of Switzerland

In September, the Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) published a report on energy security. Switzerland is characterised by low energy consumption compared to other countries in Europe. However, it is highly dependent on the international energy markets, as it imports 80% of its energy. The SFOE recommends reducing Swiss dependency on **fossil fuels** and phasing out of **nuclear energy**. Although the energy security in terms of **oil and gas** is considered safe in the mid term, it may be affected by political instabilities in the long term. While **electrical** power supply seems assured on the mid-term, massive investments in power plants and other infrastructure will be required to guarantee today's high security and consumption levels in the future. On the other hand, introducing more energy efficiency measures and encouraging innovations also offer (business) opportunities. **The Federal Council will consider these and other issues when it elaborates the Swiss energy strategy 2050.** [More in the report of the SFOE.](#)

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Community Radios, DRR and Climate Change

Using community radios in development cooperation is nothing new but it is worth remembering that it remains a **cost effective way of reaching rural communities**. In a recent e-discussion, solution exchange Bangladesh highlighted a few advantages of community radio. Community Radio (CR) typically serve geographic - as opposed to thematic - communities and are often **complementary to commercial or government owned radios**. Why? Because they reach a specific, local audience and can become a vehicle for community development. In Bangladesh, all agencies with CR licenses **work in cyclone, drought or flash flood prone areas**. Consequently, CR could play a catalytic role in bringing disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to the centre stage for those communities and in disseminating early warnings. [More on Solution Exchange Bangladesh.](#)

Smallholder Agriculture: A Smart Investment for the Poor and the Planet

According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), **Climate change** is hitting the **world's 500 million smallholder farmers** hard. It is they who feed one third of humanity (providing 80% of food in developing countries), manage vast areas of land, yet constitute the largest share of the developing world's undernourished. Climate change is altering the livelihood conditions of smallholder farmers who need to adapt much more rapidly than traditionally. Supporting smallholder farmers adapt to climate change requires transforming how rural development is done (e.g. doing deeper risk assessments at policy and project level) and enabling smallholder farmers access climate finance. IFAD's smallholder adaptation programme (SAP) was set up to do this. SAP is based on IFAD's new climate change strategy and the Environment and Natural Resource Management (ENRM) Policy launched in July this year. [More on the SAP](#) and the [ENRM on the IFAD website.](#)

This newsletter in English is directed at an audience that is interested in receiving the latest news on activities related to climate change and development cooperation carried out by Swiss actors, key international actors and the most extraordinary innovators. It is one of the instruments of the **Global Programme Climate Change and the Climate Change and Environment Network** of the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation to facilitate the access to information in the area of climate change & development as well as encourage dialogue, mutual understanding and trust between all political, administrative and technical actors involved in this crucial crosscutting issue.

The newsletter caters to both the needs of quick readers who are interested in getting the latest news in a minute and those who want to get more in depth information. The latter group can do so by clicking on the links that take them straight to the relevant background documentation. Do not hesitate to ask the [Global Programme on Climate Change](#) (GPCC) for articles you do not have access to or to **subscribe to the distribution list**.

We appreciate your [feedback](#) on how to improve this newsletter. **Please also send climate change relevant news you consider essential for the SDC to ueli.mauderli@deza.admin.ch or nara.weigel@helvetas.org 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.



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Updates on Issues Featured in Previous Newsletters

Future Policy Award

As mentioned in the [4th CC Newsletter](#), once a year, the three most exemplary national policies that create better living conditions are granted the Future Policy Award. As 2011 is the International Year of the Forest, the 2011 focus theme for the award is *forests for people*. SDC supported policies in **Nepal** and **Bhutan** were among the top nominees. Together with **Switzerland** (for its Federal Act on Forests) they received **honourable mentions** while the **prize went to Rwanda, Gambia and the US.** [More on this year's winners on the World Future Council website.](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at regularly or subscribing to:

- [Quarterly Update of the Rights and Resources Initiative](#) for information on its activities regarding forest tenure, policy and market reforms
- Find the latest news on [Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security](#) on the CGIAR website
- [Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning: A Guide for Practitioners](#) from the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative

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

- **Matthias Anderegg** on the community radio initiative in Bangladesh
- **Jean-Gabriel Duss, Chloé Milner and Romana Tedeschi** on the new projects in China, Tunisia, Nepal, Macedonia
- **Manuel Etter** for the article on FORZA in Ukraine
- **Jürgen Blaser and Carmenza Robledo** on UNFCCC negotiations, indigenous peoples and REDD+
- **Luca de Giovanetti and Janine Kuriger** on VSBK in SA

Please send your climate change related news for the December 2011 Newsletter to:

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