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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

# 7th Newsletter
## of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, May 2012

The CCE network has been busy over the past months, but we would like to highlight two key activities here. In March CCE network members participated in an **online dialogue** on climate change and environment trainings. The objective was to shape future climate change and environment related training in the context of SDC. While many members followed the online discussions, around fifty networkers contributed actively. In April, new and old Swiss-based CCE network members met in Bern for the first **CCE network meeting including Swiss partner organisations**. The purpose of the meeting was to give networkers the opportunity to get to know each other and take stock of the diversity of activities of the new member organisations, i.e. research institutions, engineering offices, experts NGOs. Participants were invited to express their needs and wishes regarding the CCE network - a crucial step towards developing collective ownership and setting priorities for the upcoming months.

Many information needs expressed are already met by the current tools, but access to them seems to be a challenge. Redesigning the shareweb and providing guidance on the use of existing tools (including dgroup) could improve the situation. However, in order to make the transfer from knowledge to action, the enlarged CCE network requires human resources, care and attention - from partners, SDC's geographic entities and mainly also from the GPCC. Building up social capital – through exchange with individual members and the facilitation of topical and geographic interaction – in such a network with themes of transversal importance requires not only thematic nurturing and dissemination of information, but also an active member management through the Focal Point with the support of all members. We all need to become active, make propositions and work in a give and take logic in order to influence the climate change agenda! More in the minutes of the event.

## SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

**Central America: Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change in the work of Swiss NGOs**

Around thirty percent of official Swiss development assistance funding in Central America (Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador) goes to Swiss NGOs working in the area of food security, gender, education, rural economy, human rights, water and sanitation, health, tourism, and disaster risk reduction (DRR). In this context, systematic mainstreaming of climate change adaptation/mitigation and DRR approaches in operational activities and institutions of Swiss NGOs working in Central America will increase the sustainability of their interventions. The objective of the first phase is twofold. First, to raise the awareness of technical staff, the management and partners. Second, to ensure that new projects implemented by Swiss NGOs in Central America are more climate resilient. More in the project document.

**Start of Clean Development Mechanism Validation Process of South Africa's Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln Project**

The Vertical Shaft Brick Kiln (VSBK) project in South Africa funded by SDC and implemented by Swisscontact and SKAT has achieved another important milestone. The project has been developing a CDM Project of Activities (PoA) aiming to allow smaller brick entrepreneurs to participate in the CDM market and access carbon credits. In February the validation of the PoA started with the upload of the PoA documents on the website of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Also, Standard Bank was appointed as Coordinating and Managing Entity (CME) of the carbon credits (or certified emission reductions). Final registration and acceptance of the PoA is expected before the end of 2012. More on the CDM web.

**Andes: Knowledge and Capacities to Tackle Climate Change**

The SDC funded project **Building knowledge and capacities as adaptive responses to environmental changes in the Andes** is implemented by the Consortium for the Sustainable Development of the Andean Eco-region (CONDESAN). Its objective is to lay the social, scientific and technological foundations for monitoring systems that assess the impacts of social and environmental changes in the region. The project applies an integrative approach, linking dynamics of land use and climate change to ecosystem processes expected to ensure the societal benefits of maintaining biodiversity, carbon stocks and water sources in the Andes. Recognising that timely and robust information is critical for natural resource management in the region, the project seeks to **integrate the monitoring system with decision-making** processes at multiple levels (e.g. local, regional), as a way to strengthen capacities and foster adaptive management.

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**Also, climate change impact on mountain biodiversity** has been identified as a long term major threat to biodiversity conservation in mountain regions. Nevertheless, information on how climate change will impact biodiversity remains conceptual and empirical data is needed to establish a baseline for comparison with predicted climate change impacts. The Global Observation Research Initiative In Alpine Environments (GLORIA) programme was established as an effort for long term observation and comparative study of climate change impacts on highland biodiversity. The network provides technical assistance to South American sites to ensure their sustainability and produce regional outlooks aimed at supporting the formulation of adaptation measures and policies under an ecosystem-based approach. So far twelve GLORIA sites in five countries ranging from the Eastern Andes of Colombia to the Argentinean highlands have been established. Along this huge transect, more than 800 vascular species are monitored, constituting the biggest biodiversity and climate change research network in the Andes to date. More on CIMA and GLORIA on the CONDESAN website.

# Policy Processes

### Rio+20 and the Report of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability

In January the 22 member Panel - co chaired by Finnish President Halonen and South African President Zuma - shared its final report containing over fifty recommendations on putting sustainable development into practice and mainstreaming it into economic policy. In a nutshell, the recommendations are based on: the **recognition** that the world is facing unprecedented prosperity while the planet is under unprecedented stress with growing inequalities and; the **vision** of eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, making growth inclusive, production and consumption more sustainable while dealing with challenges such as climate change and the fact that by 2030 we will need at least 50 per cent more **food**, 45 per cent more **energy** and 30 per cent more **water**. The panel advocates for global action to ensure that sustainable development is put into practice, e.g. improving the **interface** between environmental science and policy, including it into mainstream economics (by making economic, social and environmental **costs** of action/inaction explicit), embracing the idea that dealing with the **food-water-energy nexus**, **human rights** and achieving **sustainable development** is a question of pe**ople's opportunities to influence their future.** More in the report.

As preparations for the **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (also referred to as Rio+20) are entering their final phase, this report is expected to stimulate wide public dialogue around global sustainable development. At the Conference in June, world leaders, the private sector, NGOs and other groups will focus their discussions on a green economy in the context of sustainable development and the institutional framework for sustainable development. More on Rio+20 and in an article in German (NZZ).


© Green economy policies, practices and initiatives from the Rio+20 website

### Factsheets on Sustainability Topics: Water and Mountains

In the run up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20, the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) in collaboration with other Swiss researchers and actors (e.g. SDC) is producing factsheets on the sustainability topics water, mountain areas, biodiversity & ecosystems and food security. The factsheets examine challenges and opportunities at Swiss and global levels. The factsheet on **water** warns that while changes in temperature, precipitation patterns and snowmelt will affect water availability, higher temperatures will lead to more water loss (evaporation), the retreat of glaciers and the timing of snowmelt/streamflow. The likely sea level rise will mainly affect developing countries. At the same time the demand on and competition for freshwater is increasing, especially due to agriculture which consumes the bulk of available freshwater now and will require even more in the future due to growing food needs. Virtual water trade is also increasing and while it may mitigate water stress in some parts of the world, the risk of externalising resource depletion and degradation to production areas is high. The factsheet on **mountains** explains why global sustainable development depends on mountain regions, e.g. they provide 60-80% of the world's freshwater resources used for drinking, irrigation, energy, etc. More on these global issues and the consequences for Switzerland in the water factsheet and the mountain factsheet on the SCNAT website.

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### Why Farming Should be Placed at the Heart of Climate Policy

In this joint policy brief by the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the authors advocate for the recognition of the importance of agriculture in combating climate change. The brief argues that agriculture is a victim, but also a cause of climate change, e.g. greenhouse gas emissions caused by agricultural activities, clearance of forests for crops and livestock. Consequently, international climate change negotiations and national policy making should play a greater role in promoting changes in agricultural practices, i.e. converting to climate smart agriculture. **Climate smart agriculture** aims to increase food production, help farmers become more resilient to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Such practices include improving the nutrient and water conservation of the soil (conservation agriculture), increasing tree cover of farmland (agroforestry) and reducing the climate-change footprint of the livestock sector (climate smart livestock farming). The estimates of the annual global costs of climate change adaptation in agriculture are high (USD 7-14 billion). This figure shows that money matters and that public sector funding, financing from Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism as well as market solutions are needed urgently. More on the CGIAR website. Visit SDC's Agriculture and Rural Development Network for more on climate change resilient agriculture and on targeting women with rural advisory services.

### Results of the Organisational Effectiveness Assessment of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (MOPAN) assesses the organisational effectiveness of multilaterals, i.e. it evaluates how they are organised to contribute to development and/or humanitarian results. MOPAN was established in response to calls for greater donor harmonisation and coordination in 2002 (more on MOPAN). The MOPAN assessment covered the following four dimensions of UNEP's organisational effectiveness: strategic, operational, relationship and knowledge management. Regarding strategic **management,** the organisation found that UNEP has made much progress in becoming a more results-oriented organisation (e.g. through a new matrix management approach and results based medium term strategy). Concerning **operational management**, the evaluation found that UNEP is strong in financial accountability and the implementation of recommendations from evaluations. However, it should invest in an organisation-wide risk management framework. UNEP is valued by its stakeholders and

has developed a partnership strategy: both are rated positively in terms of **relationship management**. The organisation has a framework of lessons from evaluations and is strong in collecting and disseminating lessons learnt and other aspects of **knowledge management**. More in the report on the shareweb.

### USAID's New Climate Change and Development Strategy

In January 2012 USAID announced its new Climate Change and Development Strategy for 2012-16. The strategy notes that climate change is one of this generation's biggest challenges. One way of meeting this challenge is to support countries in moving towards a low carbon economic growth pathway, which, in turn, should lead to more prosperous futures for the US and its partners. The objectives of the five year strategy therefore are to: **accelerate the transition** to low emission development; **increase resilience** through investments in adaptation; **strengthen development outcomes** by integrating climate change in programming. Given that USAID won't be able to work in every developing country at risk from climate change, the strategy also lays out selection criteria for programming climate change funds, i.e. clean energy, sustainable landscapes and adaptation. More on the USAID website.

### Tajikistan: Agriculture and Sustainable Land Management

The Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) for Tajikistan is one of about a dozen country-led pilot programmes financed by a multi-donor international trust fund and managed by the Climate Investment Fund. The purpose of the PPCRs is to demonstrate how climate risk and resilience can be integrated into core development planning, thereby providing examples and incentives for scaling up climate change action. While the PPCR in Tajikistan consists of six components, this final report is on the Agriculture and Sustainable Land Management (SLM) component. The objective of the assessment led by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) is to: 1) identify SLM practices that can be applied to improve rural livelihoods and resilience to climate change and 2) make recommendations for a policy and legal framework for the up scaling of such SLM practices. Land use vulnerability to climate change in Tajikistan, practices that address climate impacts (adaptation), as well as how to move from vulnerability to resilience and recommendations for a second phase are the main dimensions addressed in the report. More on the CCE shareweb.

### In a Nutshell: Findings of the Yearly Report of the Swiss Advisory Body on Climate Change Questions

The Advisory Body on Climate Change Questions (OcCC) was created by the Swiss Department of Home Affairs and the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications in 1996. The OcCC is a multistakeholder think tank for research on climate and climate change. According to the 2011 report, the year 2011 was by far the **warmest year in Switzerland** since measurements began in 1864. **Globally**, 2011 was also the eleventh warmest year since 1850. Besides summarising global and Swiss weather statistics, the report examines the **policy response to climate-related challenges**. It warns that emission reductions of all states must be higher and implemented soon to meet global targets. Compared to the relative inertia of global climate negotiations, 2011 is considered a successful year for Switzerland: the CO2 law was revised by parliament and if it is accepted by the population, it will ensure that Swiss CO2 emissions are reduced by 20 per cent by 2020 (baseline is 1990). However, with the decision to phase out nuclear energy generation (characterised by low C02 emissions), new challenges will arise in the climate-energy nexus. More in the annual report in French or German on the OcCC website and in an illustration of Swiss climate change over the past 50 years on the Meteo Schweiz website.

## Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

### Adapting to Climate Change in Eastern and Southern Africa

The video produced by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) presents a pilot project called Climate Change and Development Project (CCDP) implemented in Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. The project works with different stakeholders to ensure that policies and strategies in those countries lead to activities that emphasise the role of water and forests in adapting to climate change in the region. Conservation farming and other ecosystem-based approaches are promoted. Click here or on the image below to watch the video or download it to use as an input for your next team meeting.

© IUCN (on youtube)

### IPCC's Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation

The special report (in short SREX) focuses on the link between climate change and extreme weather/climate events, their impact and strategies to manage the respective risks. According to the IPCC this report is innovative due to its multidisciplinary approach, the emphasis it puts on adaptation and disaster risk management, and the proposed plan for outreach. For more information, read the summary report on the Shareweb or attend the event on SREX organised by the CCE and DRR networks on June 26.

### Does it Ever Rain at this Time?

Click here or on the image to watch the story of nine villages that are coping with variability in climate and markets that have not been experienced in such magnitude or intensity before in India.

© Watershed Voices India

### New Technologies and Cross-sectoral Collaboration in Managing Changing River Flows due to Climate Change

According to estimates, the **Ganges** basin will have a population of 720 million by 2025. Already now, agriculture accounts for 96 per cent of water use in Bangladesh/Nepal and 86 per cent in India. Some argue that water will be the primary medium through which climate change will have an impact on the livelihoods of the population around the Ganges, e.g. affecting the interconnected sectors of agriculture, energy and ecosystems. Also, as the

Himalayan glaciers which make up 9 per cent of water flow in the Ganges are receding, the frequency of glacial lake outburst floods may increase. Consequently, adaptation efforts should concentrate on water management, e.g. increasing variability in water flows. More on the CGIAR website. First steps in this direction have been taken in **Peru** where the National Water Authority (ANA) in collaboration with CARE Peru and SDC is implementing a project with the objective of designing a strategy of mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction for the areas affected by the receding glaciers of the Andes mountain range. Some practical ways of doing so will be through creating an early warning system for landslides and avalanches, and retention reservoirs to manage water flows. More in Spanish on the website of ANA and on the CCE shareweb.

**New Map Overlays Conflict, Climate Change and Aid in Africa**

**Climate Change and African Political Stability** - a pilot version of an online mapping tool - has been launched in Africa with the aim of helping researchers and policymakers identify causal relationships between climate change vulnerability, conflict, and aid. The development of the tool was led by the Strauss Center's program on Climate Change and African Political Stability (CCAPS). Through quantitative analysis, GIS mapping, case studies and field interviews, the program aims to identify whether climate change could trigger disasters that undermine state stability and define strategies and build capacities for appropriate responses (by affected states and global development aid). More on the website of CCAPs.

## Events

**Conference on: Technologies for Sustainable Development: A Way to Reduce Poverty?**

The Cooperation & Development Centre (CODEV) is organising an international conference on **Technologies for Sustainable Development: A Way to Reduce Poverty?** at Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland on May 29 to 31. The conference will look at how science and technologies can support both sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in developing and emerging countries. It aims to bring researchers and practitioners together to bridge the gap between the two communities, focusing on collaboration, methodologies, instruments and policies that could be used and/or encouraged. More on the website of the EPFL.

**Certificate of Advanced Studies in Disaster Risk Reduction**

Registration for the 3rd Edition of the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) is open until June 10, 2012. The CDRR aims to strengthen the capacities of participants in the field DRR, especially hydro meteorological disasters and/or those related to climate change. More on the EPFL website.

## Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- Factsheets for several Asian countries on national climate change governance providing updated information on the status of national climate policy and market mechanisms for Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Thailand.
- Renewable Energy country profiles for Africa are available on the website of the International Renewable Energy Agency.
- The website with World Development Indicators of the World Bank contains many World Development Indicators (WDI) listed according to topics including climate change.
- Subscribe to the UN REDD Newsletter to get the latest news on the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.
- Stay informed about the OECD's green growth activities by subscribing to its newsletter.
- Voices from the Forest Newsletter: Follow the activities of the non-timber forest products exchange programme (NTFP) - a collaborative network of NGOs and community-based organisations in South and Southeast Asia that works with forest-based communities in sustainable management of natural resources.
- Download the FAO policy brief on Forests and landslides in Asia.
- Read this article from the nature journal on how land grabbing is hindering sustainable development in Africa.
- Read the Disaster Risk Reduction - Spending where it should count report for facts on investment in DRR in the top 40 humanitarian recipients over the last 10 years (including a comparison with overall aid figures).

**Growth of the CCE Network**

The CCE network has extended its membership to partners. The membership has grown to over 260 members who share their knowledge and exchange through online tools such as the Shareweb and dgroups.

**Drowning in a sea of waste**

According to estimates, 265 million tonnes of plastic are produced globally each year. That would be more than enough to cover 48 contiguous states of the United States in plastic food wrapping. More in the Mail & Guardian Online.

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

- **Doris Hermann** on the EPFL courses and events
- **Francisco Cuesta** on the new CC project in the Andes
- **Jocelyn Ostolaza** on Glaciers and CC
- **Markus Giger** on the PPCR Tajikistan report
- **Jon-Andri Lys** and **Gabriele Müller** on CCAPS / Rio+20
- **Hanspeter Wyss** on the MOPAN/UNEP report
- **Luca de Giovanetti** on the VSBK project

**Please send your climate change related news for the next Newsletter to:**
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