



Climate Change & Environment Network Special Newsletter, December 2014

This special newsletter of SDC's Climate Change & Environment (CC&E) Network aims at providing all network members and SDC staff with information on the **20th Conference of the Parties (COP 20)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. It highlights important events and information from a Swiss perspective. COP 20 was held in Lima (Peru) from 1 to 12 December 2014.

Background

Before COP 20

At the 17th conference of the Parties (COP 17) the Durban platform for enhanced action was established. The aim of the working group of the platform was to develop a new greenhouse gas reduction protocol, an instrument or other outcome with legal force by 2015 for the period beyond 2020. Negotiations under this platform should culminate to a new global climate agreement in 2015 at COP 21 in Paris, replacing the former Kyoto-Protocol. The COP 20 in Lima was crucial for defining the parameters of this 2015 global agreement due at the COP 21. The fifth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) underlined the importance of such a new international document.

Further, countries need a clear guidance for the revision of their pre-2020 mitigation commitments and actions in order to reach the two-degree objective for 2100. Governments have been awaited in Lima to harness the momentum and to make substantive progress on the outline for national climate action commitments.

After COP 20

After two weeks of negotiations the parties concluded by elaborating the elements for the new 2015 climate agreement. The adopted [Lima Call for Climate Action](#) will be the basic document for the future agreement. However, instead of focusing on the most important central points that would have to be considered in the 2015 climate agreement, the decision is accompanied by a long annex with many options leaving the main decisions open for COP 21. The president of the COP 20, Peru's Minister for Environment Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, described the text as being not perfect but comprising the positions of the parties.

It was decided that during the coming months all member states will have to announce their **intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs)** in a transparent and reproducible manner. However, it is up to them what they wish to include in their INDCs, the COP 20 could not agree on specific plans to cut emissions before 2020.

More information on the background of the COP 20 and the main outcome can be found on the webpages of [UNFCCC](#), [COP 20](#), [iisd](#).

Swiss Position

The negotiation mandate of the Swiss Delegation in Lima was approved by the Federal Council in November 2014. Switzerland is committed to the **elaboration of a global agreement 2015** in Paris, supporting an agreement that involves all states according to their responsibilities and capacities, while considering the needs of the least developed countries. However, Switzerland would like to avoid the former strict distinction between industrialized- and developing countries.

With regard to the **greenhouse gas emissions**, Switzerland advocates for a stronger commitment towards their reduction. Each state should announce by spring 2015 its individual national reduction goal until 2020. The criteria for the formulation of the national goals had to be defined in Lima.

In Lima, the **current climate regime** was strengthened by Switzerland with the attempt to specify its implementation. The fifth report of the IPCC highlighted the fact that current measures for the reduction of emissions have not been enough in order to keep the global temperature increase below two degrees until 2100. Therefore, Switzerland wants the UNFCCC to support both; governmental and non-governmental initiatives, and to increasingly involve the **private sector**, particularly the financial sector as well as cities into the process of emission reduction. Moreover, clear regulations with regards to market mechanisms, such as those dealing with environmentally compatible development need to be elaborated.

Switzerland supports the principle that all countries which are in an economic position to do so, should contribute their share to **the funding of the climate politics**. Furthermore, the private sector should increasingly be mobilised and involved in the future.

Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard participated as Vice Prime Minister of Switzerland at the Ministerial Summit of COP 20 9-11 December 2014. More on the webpages of [FOEN](#) and [DETEC](#) (German / French / Italian).

SDC Participation @COP 20

As part of the Swiss Delegation in Lima, SDC focussed in the negotiations under the UNFCCC on four different issues related specifically to climate change adaptation.

Adaptation Committee (AC): at the COP 18 a three-year working plan for the implementation of climate adaptation was established in the frame of the Convention. At the COP 20 Switzerland acknowledged the current status of the AC's work by highlighting the importance to foster the link to the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP). → [Final Decision](#)

The *Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)* was established in 2006 in order to facilitate and catalyse the development and dissemination of information and knowledge that would inform and support adaptation policies and practices. After the decision at COP 19 to focus on four main topics, SDC - as a member of the Swiss Delegation - perceived its progress as good and supported the continuation of the NWP. → [Final Decision](#)

The *National Adaptation Plan (NAP)* process was established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF). It enables parties to formulate and implement NAPs as a means of identifying medium and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. SDC emphasised the high importance of systematic adaptation planning on a national level as a means for an efficient and effective adaptation process. Thereby, national coordination and anchorage is crucial. → [Final Decision](#)

Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (L&D): As part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework, in 2010 the COP initiated consideration on approaches to address loss and damage (L&D) associated with climate change impacts in developing countries. At COP 19 in 2013 the Warsaw International Mechanism for L&D associated with climate change impacts was established. SDC supported L&D as an inclusive part of adaptation at COP 20, as well as a balanced constitution of the executive committee on L&D which takes its decision by consensus. → [Final Decision](#)

Swiss-Supported Events

The following is a selection of the most important events which were supported by Switzerland @COP 20.

The Water & Mountains Pavilion

The Mountains & Water Pavilion was created by the Ministry of Environment (MINAM) of Peru and supported by the Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC) of SDC. It was one of the five thematic pavilions developed by the Government of Peru with a number of partners and sponsors and intended for the general public in an area called "[Voces por el Clima](#)". The pavilion had the aim to highlight ecosystems, mountain populations, energy and water as key elements for a sustainable development in the framework of climate change. It had the following objectives: (1) to link relevant actors and to generate a common knowledge on challenges and opportunities of the sustainable development of mountain and water address climate change; (2) to identify effective solutions to challenges and opportunities, to promote collective actions, and to mobilize financial resources; (3) to link discussions and thoughts among UNFCCC members and to discuss talk over the post 2015 development agenda; and (4) to promote the

Socioeconomic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services (8 December)

The speakers of this official side event provided an overview of the current knowledge of the socio-economic benefits of climate services in Peru and presented related case studies. The strengthening of such global, regional and national climate services can bring important socioeconomic benefits since they provide fundamental information to respond to the impacts of climate variability and change. According to the side event the



School children at the Mountains & Water Pavilion with the new brochure 'Mountains and Climate Change – A Global Challenge' launched in Lima on the occasion of the International Mountain Day 11 December 2014 © Daniel Maselli

initial cost of investment for the strengthening of climate services is minimal compared to the dividends of improved safety and well-being. The side event was co-organized by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Peru, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Bank Group, the Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss, the International Centre for the Investigation of El Niño (CIIFEN), the SDC and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. [More](#)

Innovation in the Development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) - The MAPS Experience (9 December)

This official side event offered a platform for conversation with participant countries of the Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios (MAPS) programme. The discussion was held on how this country-led process is fostering south-south cooperation and was organised by the MAPS Programme and Switzerland in collaboration with Chile, Colombia, Peru and Brazilian Climate Change Forum. Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru have conducted nationally mandated research-processes for developing long-term scenarios. [More](#)

How to Save Lives, Improve Quality of Life and Contribute to Mitigate Climate Change (9 December)

The aim of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) official side event was to provide the latest scientific update pertaining to short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) as well as to provide an overview of CCAC work in the brick production sector and Heavy-Duty Diesel Initiative. The side event was organized by CCAC secretariat, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Swisscontact and [Ev-K2-CNR](#). After several presentations by the experts a panel discussion was held, in particular on black carbon impacts and on regional mitigation efforts through CCAC Brick and Heavy-Duty Diesel initiatives. The presentations of the event can be downloaded and videos of the speakers watched on SDC's Lima office [webpage](#).

Launching Event of the Andean Forest Programme - ANFOR (10 December)

The Andean Forest Programme (ANFOR) aims at promoting sustainable management of Andean mountain forests facing climate change. Based on a partnership with a wide range of actors in all countries of the Andes, ANFOR will foster a broad network for the creation and sharing of knowledge in order to validate best practices of sustainable management which can then be raised to a political

level. The programme strives to stimulate regional interest and synergies for the conservation of Andean forests as well as for adaptation and mitigation strategies. ANFOR will be facilitated by the consortium [CONDESAN](#) and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation supported by SDC. More on the [side event](#) and on [ANFOR](#).

UN CC: Learn partnership initiative @COP 20

Sharing Experience on Climate Change Education and Training (4 December)

In this public event at the Mountains and Water Pavilion, the UN CC:Learn Ambassadors from four different countries discussed with the public on how to strengthen learning on climate change, from education for children to professional training for adults. [More](#)

How to make a Difference through Climate Change Education and Training (8 December)

Different formats than power point presentations are always welcome for the audience of side events. At this side event participants were involved in a climate risk management game that involved them in an active exercise with dice on decision-making under time pressure. Besides playing games, the audience was informed about how learning can actually make a difference on the ground as well as the role of formal, non-formal and informal approaches. [More](#)

Central American Climate Leaders Endorse a Regional Approach to Education and Training (10 December)

The central American countries met at this side event to discuss a regional programme on climate change learning. The Central American region already has a climate change strategy which was negotiated in 2010 under the Central America Integration System (SICA). Now SICA member countries want to build on this strategy through coordinated action on climate change learning. [More](#)

→ Have a look at the Un CC: Learn [brochure](#)

Enabling Conditions at Subnational Level for Financing Climate Change Adaptation: Experiences from Peru, India and China (11 December)

The climate change adaptation programmes in Peru, China and India supported by SDC, DIE Germany and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation organized this official side event on financing climate change adaptation. As climate funding mechanisms need to align with existing systems of decentralization in a country, several enabling conditions are needed at sub-national level. Practical experience from three diverse contexts and research results on the potential and limits of using social protection systems were presented for channeling international climate finance to vulnerable communities. South-south learning mechanisms were also discussed. [More](#)

Integrated Climate Risk Management for a Resilient World (11 December)

In this official side event, moderated and supported by SDC, the importance of integrated climate risk management (ICRM) was highlighted as an effective and efficient approach for reducing the risk of future losses and damage due to climate change. Different experts from the Netherlands, Japan, Bolivia and Tuvalu shared their knowledge about specific approaches of ICRM applied in their countries. Enabling factors and constraints for the adoption and implementation of ICRM approaches were discussed among the panellists. The need for capacity building and awareness raising was stressed as well as the importance of mainstreaming Disaster Risk Management in national policies. [More](#)

Mountains and Water – from Understanding to Action - Celebrating the International Mountain Day 2014 (11 December)

Mountains are important for the provision of fresh water for domestic use, industry and hydro power to half of the world's population. They are also home to half of the world's biodiversity hotspots and an asset for insuring food security for rural and urban population. However mountain regions are also dangerous places to live in, due to avalanches, landslides, floods or other natural hazards. The official side event highlighted the progress made in adaptation, mitigation and monitoring efforts in mountain environments. A new publication on 'Mountains and Climate Change – A Global Challenge' was launched in English and Spanish produced by the Centre for Development and Environment (CDE) and SDC. Statements on mountain ecosystems and water management and its importance for the UNFCCC were made by high representatives from Bhutan, Peru, Kyrgyzstan, Guinea, Argentina, Chile, Switzerland and FAO. Watch the impressive movie financed by SDC and the speech by the Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard on SDC's Lima office [webpage](#).

SMArt - Sustainable Mountain Art (1 -12 December)

An exhibition realized by the 'Sustainable Mountain Art' SMARt programme at COP 20 presented photographs made in Peru by a Swiss photographer Niels Ackermann and images from the Valais in Switzerland made by the Peruvian photographer Luana Letts. The SMARt programme raises awareness on the issues of sustainable development in mountain regions to the authorities and to civil society. It uses the powerful medium of culture and art for achieving this goal. [More](#)

Special thanks go to the contributors of information:

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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@deza.admin.ch (CC&E Network Focal Point) or zora.urech@helvetas.org (Newsletter Editor) for the next newsletter!**
