

Climate Change Adaptation in the High Mountains of Peru and Bolivia

Lessons Learned, Challenges, and Strategies for the Future



Wednesday, November 13, 2013

MC13-415

12:30 – 14:00 EDT

Light Lunch will be provided

Chair: **Jörg Frieden**, Executive Director

Introduction: **Melchior Lengsfeld**, Executive Director, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Switzerland

Speaker: **Rupa Mukerji**, Co-Head of Advisory Services Department, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Respondent: **Christian Peter**, [Lead Environmental Specialist](#), The World Bank

Country-based experts: **Bernita Doornbos** (Lima via VC), Water and Climate Change Advisor, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

Javier Gonzales Iwanciw (La Paz via VC), Climate Advisor, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

The high Andean and Altiplano regions of Peru and Bolivia are vulnerable to

both greater climate variability and climate change. Seventy percent of the tropical glaciers of the world are located in Peru and 20 percent in Bolivia. As rural livelihoods are highly weather-dependent, climate change is progressively stretching capacities of rural households to cope and is having a direct impact on food security.

The presentation will share experiences of on-going bilateral cooperation between Switzerland and the governments of Peru and Bolivia. The Program on Adaptation to Climate Change ([PACC](#)) in Peru has facilitated the creation of an information base on climate change vulnerability and impacts at local and regional levels, promoted adaptive measures at household and community level and helped establish spaces for dialogue on climate change. PACC now seeks to promote and catalyze the scaling up of effective adaptation measures in national level development and incentive programs.

In Bolivia, extreme events are causing an estimated four percent GDP loss annually. Approaches of the Programme for Disaster Risk Reduction ([PRRD](#)) in Bolivia seek to strengthen capacities of local and regional authorities to integrate DRR and ACC in municipal and departmental planning processes.

In both countries these programs face significant challenges in terms of capacities and trade-offs between immediate development priorities and long-term goals and between rapid economic growth and environmental considerations. These experiences offer lessons of regional and global relevance.

Chair:

Jörg Frieden is Executive Director for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Poland, Serbia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan in the World Bank Group. He started his career with a Research Fellowship in Mexico and jobs in the private sector. He joined the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in 1986 as a Sr. Adviser in the Research and Policy Division. Afterwards, he spent 7 years in various positions abroad, incl. Country Director at the Swiss Cooperation Office Mozambique, Head of the Demobilization Unit at the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Mozambique, and Advisor to the Swiss ED at the World Bank in Washington. In 1997, he returned to Switzerland where he spent 2 years as Head of SDC's East and Southern Africa Division. From 1999 to 2003, he held the post of Vice-Director at the Federal Office for Refugees where he was responsible for Finance and Social Policy. After once again spending 5 years abroad, this time in Nepal as Country Director at the Swiss Cooperation Office and Advisor at the UN Peacekeeping Mission, Jörg Frieden returned to SDC Headquarters in 2008 where he was named Head of the Development Policy and Multilateral Cooperation Department and Assistant Director of the SDC. He holds a licence degree and Ph.D. in economics from the University of Fribourg, Switzerland.

Speakers:

Melchior Lengsfeld

Starting in 2005, Melchior Lengsfeld was the Executive Director of Helvetas and has been the Executive Director of the Swiss-based NGO HELVETAS Swiss

Intercooperation (www.helvetas.org) after the merger in 2011. Prior to assuming the leadership position, Melchior directed the country program of Helvetas in Mali and was a senior advisor of a sizable water and hygiene project in Mozambique. He holds a Master of Advanced Studies in Development and Cooperation (MAS) from ETH Zurich (science and technology university) as well as an M.A. in sociology, economics and philosophy. Melchior Lengsfeld lives in Zurich and has four children. In addition to English, he is fluent in French and German.

Rupa Mukerji

Rupa is the Co Head of the Advisory Services department of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and works out of Zurich and Bern. She is formally trained in natural sciences and business management. She started her career with non-profit organizations in India, formed and led a social enterprise for over a decade, moving to Switzerland in her current function in 2011. Rupa has written extensively on the topics of rural livelihoods, disaster risk management, adaptation to climate change and currently is a lead author of the IPCC 5th Assessment Report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability to Climate Change. Among other advisory work, she supports and advises Helvetas projects in South Asia, East Africa and South America.

Respondent:

Christian Peter

Christian Peter is a Lead Environmental Specialist for LCSEN in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (LCR). He joined the Bank's Environment Department in 1998 working with the then ESSD Forest Team on the review and revision of the Bank's Forest Strategy and Policy as well as coordinating the Team's Forest Partnership Program. Subsequently, he managed multi-sectoral projects on natural resource management, forestry, water resources management and improved management and financing of protected areas while he was based for 6.5 years in Dar es Salaam/Tanzania and Nairobi/Kenya. In addition, he has coordinated the Bank's dialogue on environment and climate change in both countries. Christian Peter joined LCSEN in July 2012 and has been managing NRM and protected area related projects in Peru and Costa Rica. He has also been leading LCSEN's engagement with Conservation Funds, bilateral donors and other stakeholders to enhance quality of conservation funds in the Region and enhancing financing opportunities for biodiversity. Prior to joining the Bank Christian worked with the German State Government of Baden-Wuerttemberg, the German Development Service as well as in the consulting sector. He holds an MSc in Forest Science from Goettingen University (Germany).

Joining via VC from Lima, Peru:

Bernita Doornbos,

Water and Climate Change Advisor, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, Peru. Agricultural engineer specialized in irrigation (MSc Wageningen, 1996). Five years of experience in irrigation and rural development projects in the Andean region (Ecuador, Peru). PhD research(2002 – to date) on the introduction of sprinkler irrigation in smallholders' production systems in Cusco, Peru. Training

experience on integrated water resources management, irrigation, climate change adaptation and rural development in the Andean region (2001-2012).

Joining via VC from La Paz, Bolivia:

Javier Gonzales Iwanciw

Climate advisor of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation since 2012. Environment and development researcher and practitioner involved in the climate field since 1998. Has worked for almost ten years for the National Climate Change Program of the Bolivian Viceministry of Environment (1998 – 2008). Since 2008 involved in international climate change research linked to the Stockholm Environment Institute, Nur University (Bolivia) and the Public Policy Group at Wageningen University (PhD. Candidate).



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