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Climate Change & Environment Network Newsletter No. 15 May 2014

Dear members of the CC&E Network,

The latest IPCC Assessment Report leaves no doubt: Climate Change is a reality and it impacts rich and poor all over the world – and will do so even more in future. Hence it is a necessity to ‘think climate compatible’ when doing sustainable and effective development work. For this, the Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) is a practical tool that can help address climatic, environmental and risk issues in a systemic and systematic manner.

In order to further promote and expand the use of CEDRIG, a collaborative process of transforming the instrument into a digital, online, customized and user-friendly tool, has been initiated and a CEDRIG Community of Practice (CoP) launched on [dgroups](#).

Over the forthcoming months CEDRIG will be modernized and we invite all those who have worked with the tool to provide us with their suggestions for improvement or with their expectations in view of the announced online version. As always – only through a genuine collaborative effort will we be able to improve CEDRIG’s usefulness to achieve better results. I count on your active participation – both for the development of the digital improved version and for its test application.

Your CC&E Network Focal Point, Daniel Maselli

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Swiss Contribution to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

The GCF is on its way to becoming fully operational and receiving its first contributions. It is set to become the main multilateral fund for climate change action in developing countries and the centrepiece of long term financing under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In order to receive and disburse funds, the GCF must meet several essential requirements. To this end, Switzerland has contributed CHF 500'000 to the 2014 administrative budget of the GCF which is USD 18 million. PLAFICO – the joint environmental finance platform composed of SDC, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) – coordinates Swiss engagement in the GCF. The mentioned Swiss contribution will go towards fulfilling the essential requirements of the GCF before it launches the first resource mobilization in 2014. A total of CHF 120 million is allocated in the SDC multilateral budget for Swiss core contributions to the GCF for 2014-17. The actual amount will be subject to approval by the Federal Council and determined in negotiations with other contributing countries. The GCF complements existing multilateral climate funds (e.g. Adaptation Fund, Global Environment Facility) but is unique as it is the only one with a legal personality, essentially making it an international organization. Also, unlike the other funds that function through

single-project mechanisms, the GCF will implement a programmatic approach. The GCF will develop capacities within the recipient country and enhance ownership by allowing the latter to access financial resources directly if it meets certain standards. This direct access modality is novel as currently multilateral finance for climate change activities is channelled through multilateral agencies. Thanks to these particularities, the GCF could contribute to consolidating the very fragmented landscape of multilateral climate change finance and strengthen sustainable development strategies at national level. The GCF will be instrumental in supporting developing countries in their climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Also, it will promote a general shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development. [More](#)

Energy Efficiency in the Clay Brick Sector in South Africa

South Africa is one of the 20 most carbon intensive economies in the world and the highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter in Africa. The energy supply of its economy depends on cheap coal, which has discouraged investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy for a long time. Representing 26% of GHG emissions, the building sector (including cement and brick production) is one of the largest emitters in the country. However, South Africa has pledged to reduce its emissions growth by 34% by 2020 in the framework of UNFCCC negotiations. Subsequent changes in government policies and increasing environmental regulatory pressure have encouraged actors in the clay brick sector to seek ways to make clay brick production more energy efficient. The Energy Efficient Clay Brick Project (EECB; formerly referred to as VSBK+) funded by SDC and implemented by Swisscontact, seeks to support this transformation of the clay brick sector. Its goal is to reduce emissions by 320'000 t CO₂ annually and reduce input energy by 10%. By promoting change within the clay brick sector, the project should trigger industry-wide reductions in CO₂ emissions and improvements in energy efficiency. This will also be achieved by supporting clay brick producers in adopting the energy efficient brick-firing technology. In the second 4-year project phase which started at the end of 2013, the focus is on getting more government buy-in, influencing policy dialogue and providing support for the adoption of energy efficiency measurers beyond technology transfers. [More](#)



Energy Efficient Clay Brick Project in South Africa (© Swisscontact)

Nicaragua: Environmental Programme for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (PAGRICC)

Nicaragua is one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts. After Haiti and Honduras, it is the third country in the region most likely to suffer a crisis due to a disaster, e.g. hurricane, flood and drought. Impacts of disasters are expected to be even greater due to high levels of environmental degradation of the land and watersheds. The effects of climate change are most severe on agricultural activities. The rural poor, especially women, will be affected the most. In this context, the PAGRICC was designed to reduce the vulnerability of the rural population in Nicaragua to climate change impacts. More specifically, PAGRICC implements activities to better manage disaster risks and conserve natural resources in 7 municipalities. While PAGRICC is implemented by the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, it is funded by multiple donors, including the Inter-American Development Bank. Since October 2013 and for a period of 3 years, SDC is contributing CHF 3 million to PAGRICC. [More](#)



Producer showing his irrigation system, Nicaragua (© SDC Central America)

Sustainable Mountain Development for Global Change (SMD4GC)

Although mountains are the home to only 12% of the world's population, they cover 27% of the Earth's land surface and supply 50% of the global population with freshwater for domestic use and lowland irrigation. Most commonly known as tourist destinations, they are also centres of cultural and biological diversity. Despite their richness, they are one of the least documented and valued ecosystems. Also, people living in mountains have not received much attention or support in developing the human, environmental and economic potential of mountains. The few mountain development initiatives that exist are isolated and not sustained. This is problematic considering that people in mountain regions are highly vulnerable to poverty, land degradation, land right issues, and food insecurity. This is compounded by the fact that mountains are very sensitive to global changes, such as climate change and migration. In this context, the new SDC-funded programme SMD4GC aims to contribute to the sustainable development in mountain regions and work with policy makers to address global challenges in a coherent manner. Activities will include awareness raising and advocacy, but also the implementation of specific knowledge-based activities with communities in four major mountain regions. SMD4GC will rely on the lead of the mountain hubs in Africa, Latin America, Hindu Kush-Himalaya and Central Asia. [More](#)

Update on SDC-funded Climate Change Initiatives

Research for Renewable Energy (RE) in India

This SDC-funded project in India contributes to the sustainable growth of the RE sector, in order to enable reliable decentralized access to energy and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. This project, implemented by the Prayas Energy Group (PEG) between 2011 and 2014, complements SDC's other work in renewable energy and rural electrification in India. [More](#) on PEG's involvement in the development of India's Energy Security Scenarios 2047

Energy Efficiency Skills Development Project in South Africa

This SDC-funded project in South Africa supported government and industry efforts towards improving energy efficiency in the building sector between 2010 and 2013. The aim of the project was the establishment of an accredited qualification and the subsequent realization of trainings for building inspectors, builders, and plumbers. The project ended with many encouraging results, e.g. standards for a certificate course were developed and over 800 municipal building inspectors trained; also, 6 occupational qualifications (for bricklayers, carpenters, etc.) were developed. More on the [results of the project](#) in an article by Anele Moyo and more on the project in the [6th CC&E newsletter](#)

Policy Processes

Climate Change, Food Security and Small Scale Producers

In its info note, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) presents its analysis of the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) related to climate change impacts on food and farming. Every 6 years, the IPCC releases a report with overarching conclusions of the science related to climate change. This October, the complete 5th Assessment Report (AR5) will be published. AR5 is composed of reports written by 3 different Working Groups (WGs) and a synthesis report. All WGs have published their reports (see climate science section below for the reports of WGs 2 and 3, and the 14th CC&E newsletter for the report of WG 1). An important message of CGIAR's note is that climate change is already affecting food security worldwide, e.g. impacting on crop yields, abundance and distribution of fish harvests, and price fluctuations. It also confirms that tropical areas are impacted more than other parts of the world. Climate change is affecting all dimensions of food security, i.e. availability, access and utilization of food as well as the stability of food supplies. Another important fact is that the nutritional quality and safety of food is affected by climate change, e.g. while elevated carbon dioxide levels decrease the amount of protein contained in cereals, high ozone increases this amount. Small-scale farmers, livestock keepers and fishers in tropical areas (e.g. South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa) are affected most by the negative impacts of climate change on their livelihoods. After examining IPCC's findings, the note assesses what farmers are already doing to adapt to climate change and what likely scenarios they will face in the 2030s and 2050s. [More](#)

How to Win the Argument on Climate Change

The author of this paper by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) presents a plan on how to convince the public that addressing climate change is everyone's concern and requires sustained action. Having sound arguments that are appropriate for the target audience is crucial, as changes in climate policies are contested. Changes inevitably create new winners and losers in the short term, which makes it extremely difficult for policy makers to take action. By communicating well, we can all help build support for action in climate change. The five steps to follow according to this paper are: tell a simple story, focus on a positive message (transformational benefits), support policy packages that not only ease transition but also help losers, build a group of persistent leaders with a long term vision, and concentrate on good implementation. [More](#)

Mobilising the Gender Advantage in Climate Change Adaptation

In this recently published paper, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) shares its experience with closing the gender gap and why this can lead to a greater impact of climate change adaptation efforts made by communities. One

important message is that gender-sensitive adaptation has beneficial results for families and communities, as it leads to better livelihood options and incomes. It also allows men and women to make better, more informed decisions, which often result in more sustainable management of natural resources. The paper stresses that climate change can exacerbate existing gender inequalities. Climate change adaptation efforts that are not gender sensitive may make such inequalities even greater, e.g. livelihood diversification projects for women can result in an even bigger workload for them. Also, women and men experience climate variability differently and have distinct ways of coping with the effects of climate change. Consequently, relevant activities must address these different needs and types of knowledge. Although the report is structured around thematic areas like the ones mentioned above, it shares many concrete experiences (e.g. Bolivia, Mali, Kyrgyzstan) where IFAD is mainstreaming gender concerns into its climate change activities. [More](#)

Exploring the Links: Conflict, Climate Change and Politics

Based on experiences in Aceh, Darfur and East Africa, this policy paper of the Humanitarian Policy Group examines the relationship between climate change, conflict and politics. The starting point of the analysis is that improved resilience is a common goal of initiatives in the area of poverty reduction, climate change and conflict transformation. Experience has shown that this common understanding can bring experts of different disciplines such as humanitarian aid, development work and climate together to focus on multi-disciplinary resilience building, e.g. climate-resilient growth. While it acknowledges that this attempt to promote more integrated interventions around resilience has achieved positive results, the report points to a challenge that remains: most resilience-focused interventions are too techno-centric. The climate change and conflict nexus lends itself well to illustrate and study this. The paper stresses that interventions to strengthen resilience are neither apolitical nor purely technical, even though they are often presented as such. Therefore, well-intentioned climate change action can have a negative impact if the local context - including the conflict situation and political and power relations - is not analysed. A key message of the report is that climate change adaptation and mitigation measures could have even a greater influence on conflict than the impacts of climate change. For example, the case study on Aceh illustrates how ignoring the legacy of a recent conflict undermined a technically sound climate mitigation and conservation programme. [More](#)

Values-Based Approach to Planning for Climate Change

The video below shares the experience of Sihanoukville, a coastal city in Cambodia, in addressing the threats of climate change. It illustrates how cities are becoming increasingly important in designing and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation. Watch the video by clicking [here](#) or on the image below



Planning for Climate Change in Cities (© UN Habitat)

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

This report of Working Group 2 (WG 2) is the second of three reports that will feed into the 5th assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It was accepted by the IPCC on March 30, 2014. As indicated by the report's title, it assesses the vulnerability of human and natural systems to climate change, actual observed impacts of the latter and future risks. It also examines the limits and hopes humans should realistically have in adaptation measures. The message of the report of WG 2 is clear: climate change is happening now and people on every continent are already experiencing its impacts. Unlike IPCC's last report, which concluded that effects of climate change were emerging at a regional level, this report claims that effects are widespread and significant. Another finding is that climate change has (and will continue to) increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, e.g. heat waves in Northern Africa, extreme precipitation and coastal flooding. Consequently, if humankind wants to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change, it must take immediate action. According to the report, this will require determined adaptation and mitigation efforts. Countries need to act now to reduce their emissions in order to reach the goal of the international community of limiting the average global temperature rise to 2 °C. The faster they act, the more the reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can still reduce risks and costs related to climate change. More in the [draft summary report](#) for policy makers, the IPCC [press release](#), and the [blog](#) of the World Resources Institute

Decomposition of the Change in Total Global CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion

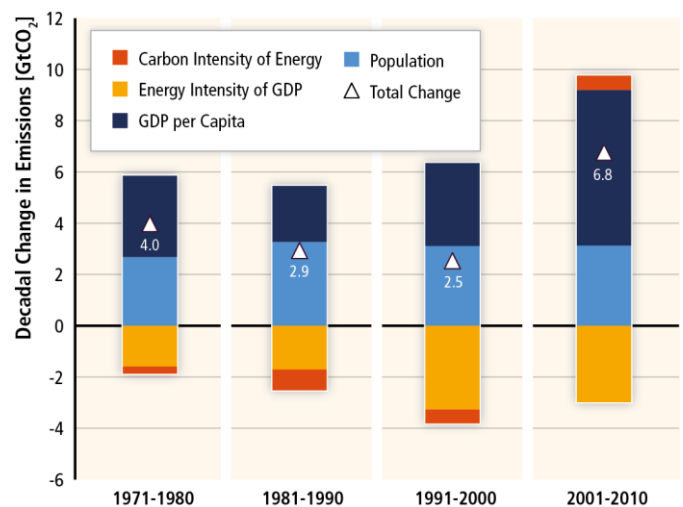
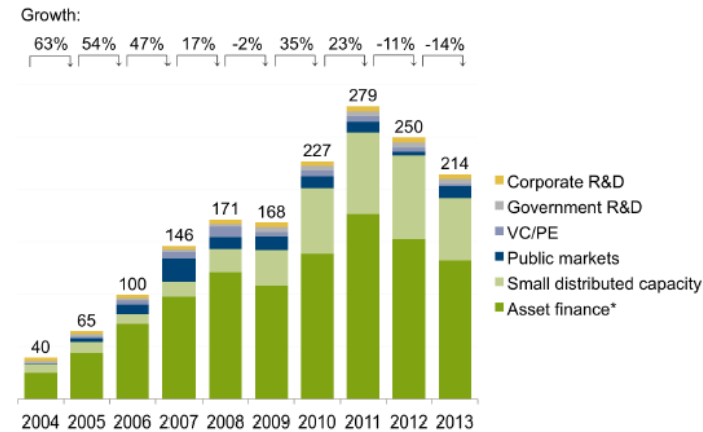


Illustration of the text below on WG 3's contribution to the AR5 (© IPCC)

Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change

This report of Working Group 3 is the last report that will feed into the 5th assessment report of the IPCC and was approved by the IPCC in April 2014. The report analyses the literature on all aspects of climate change mitigation, related policy options and their implications. It works with the basic definition of mitigation as human interventions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or boost the sinks of greenhouse gases. While the report does not recommend certain policies over others, it does stress that a comprehensive assessment of climate policies must not only focus on mitigation and adaptation policies, but also on overall development pathways. This is necessary in order to ensure that mitigation efforts don't undermine sustainable development and poverty reduction. As the illustration above shows, population and economic growth are the most important causes of increased CO₂ emissions from fossil fuels. The report also stresses that our total greenhouse gas emissions have reached unprecedented levels. The main message is that it is still possible to limit the average

global temperature rise to 2°C, but only if we rapidly reduce our emissions and change our energy mix (e.g. decarbonize electricity generation, increase our low-carbon energy supply). The report warns that without immediate and determined action, global warming may reach more than 4°C above pre-industrial levels and have disastrous impacts, e.g. every degree of warming is expected to trigger renewable water resources to drop by at least 20% for an additional 7% of the world's population. The report gives hope by showing that although many challenges lie ahead, low-emission pathways will have positive impacts on other aspects of life, e.g. better health and reduce our vulnerability to energy price volatility. More in the [draft summary](#) and in the [blog](#) of the World Resources Institute



Global Investment in renewable energy in 2004 - 2013 (© [Global Trends Report](#))

Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014

This report is the result of an analysis by the Frankfurt School, the United Nations Environment Programme and Bloomberg New Energy Finance. It summarises the latest developments in the financing of renewable power (and fuels) in different regions, investments and technologies. As illustrated by the graph above, in 2013, investments in renewable energy dropped by USD 35.1 billion. This drop is partially caused by the decreasing cost of solar photovoltaic systems, but also due to uncertainties regarding renewable energy policies in many countries. [More](#)

Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Emissions on the Rise

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), emissions from agriculture, forestry and fisheries have almost doubled since the 1960s. FAO also released its own estimates of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU). While since 2001 agricultural emissions have increased by 14%, those caused by land use change and deforestation have decreased by 10%. [More](#) data and analysis on the FAO website

Events and Trainings

Past: World Urban Forum in Colombia, 5-11 April 2014

In early April, the World Urban Forum (WUF) took place in Colombia on the issue of urban equity in development. The

objective of the WUF, which is hosted every two years, is to assess urgent challenges in the area of human settlements. Besides assessing the current state of the world's cities, participants also contributed to the preparatory process of the post 2015 Development Agenda. [More](#)

Upcoming Events and Trainings

Below is a list of upcoming events and trainings

- Face-to-Face Meeting of SDC's Agriculture and Food Security Network, 2-6 June 2014, Thun, Switzerland. [More](#)
- Extension of the CH2011 Climate Scenarios: Colloquium in Climatology, Climate Impact and Remote Sensing, 21 May 2014 in Bern, Switzerland. [More](#)

Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- [Towards Resilient Agriculture in a Changing Climate Scenario](#) - a position paper based on the experience of small holder farmers in India
- [The Chronic Poverty Report 2014 - 2015](#) on what is required to help people escape permanently from poverty
- [Discussion Paper](#) on how climate change alters agricultural strategies to support food security
- [REDD+, Rural Development, NAMAs and People](#) – blog post by the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development
- [Supporting Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions through the Green Climate Fund](#) – paper on governance capacities and potential challenges
- [Guide to climate finance](#) – on the eldis website
- [Agriculture and Climate Change Mitigation in the Developing World](#) – CGIAR Working Paper
- [Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index](#) on best prepared countries to deal with climate related global changes
- [Economics of Climate Adaptation – Shaping Climate-resilient Development](#), Swiss Re case studies

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

- **Luca de Giovanetti** on EECB
- **Veena Joshi and Ashwin Gambhir** on RE in India
- **Jon-Andri Lys** on how to win the climate argument
- **Gabriele Müller** on IPCC's AR5
- **Elbegzaya Batjargal** on SMD4GC
- **Anele Moyo** on energy efficient buildings in South Africa
- **Harschal Khade** on climate resilient agriculture in India
- **Miriam Downs** on PAGRICC
- **Patricia Gorin** on Cambodia and global trends in RE

Please send your climate change related news for the next newsletter to: daniel.maselli@eda.admin.ch

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 nara.zanes@gmail.com (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.