



# Climate Change

A SDC Global Programme



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

# Why climate change is a key issue for the SDC

- ▶ Climate change and its effects know no geographical boundaries: they have an impact on the entire world population. However, the consequences of climate change affect more particularly people in developing countries.

Their livelihoods are often seriously affected by climate change, because they depend directly on natural resources. For example, the rain-fed agricultural production of millions of smallholder farmers is affected by changing precipitation patterns due to global warming.

- ▶ Climate change exacerbates the scale of natural disasters such as droughts and floods, therefore increasing the occurrence of poverty and hunger in the Global South.

Climate change poses additional challenges in terms of food security, water and energy supply. As a consequence, it threatens sustainable development objectives and compromises what has already been achieved.

- ▶ Both climate protection and climate change adaptation are key priorities for the SDC.

Climate protection aims to mitigate climate change through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. By adapting to climate change, people should still be able to enjoy a secure livelihood in the future.

- ▶ The SDC is committed to long-term climate-compatible development and thus plays an effective role in reducing poverty.

Switzerland is committed to supporting developing and transition countries in implementing climate measures. But it should also be remembered that industrialised countries have a historical responsibility for the substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions.



# The Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC)

- ▶ promotes understanding of the importance of climate change in the context of sustainable development among the public and within the political sphere
- ▶ engages in dialogue with national and international institutions to improve the coherence and effectiveness of Switzerland's commitment to climate policy and action
- ▶ supports Swiss policy formulation in climate and development negotiation processes
- ▶ supports the mobilization of resources for multilateral climate funds
- ▶ implements innovative projects of global significance that contribute to climate-compatible development and poverty reduction on a global scale
- ▶ combines in its projects and programmes approaches to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with measures to adapt to a changing climate
- ▶ promotes the transfer of knowledge, institutional learning and the dissemination of information on political and scientific developments in the field of climate change.

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*We are facing a considerable challenge: managing a transformational change towards a sustainable, CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral way of life.*

Kathy Riklin, National Councillor, President of the Advisory Committee on Climate Change Issues

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# The four pillars of the Global Programme Climate Change (GPCC)

## ► Climate change – multilateral processes and financing

Switzerland is actively engaged in multilateral climate change policy processes. Most prominent are the international negotiations for a new global climate change treaty for post-2020. There, the focus of SDC is on issues related to developing countries, allowing SDC to draw on decades of relevant experience in development cooperation.

The question of who should be paying for adaptation measures in developing countries, and to what degree, is highly political. SDC advocates fair financial burden-sharing based on differentiated needs and respective capabilities, aside from highlighting the central role of the private sector in bringing about transformational change. GPCC contributes significantly to the mobilization of national and international finance for the implementation of measures based on the central features of the UNFCCC multilateral regime.

## ► Climate change – fighting the root causes

Around two thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions originate from the energy sector, the other third from agriculture, forestry and waste management. The GPCC is committed to promoting energy efficiency, clean air (mainly the reduction of soot particles) and the development of renewable energies. Furthermore, the programme supports sustainable land management, especially in the forestry sector.

## ► Climate change – adapting to the unavoidable

Through targeted support, the resilience of the most exposed and vulnerable population groups in partner countries is increased, enabling them to respond more proactively to the unavoidable consequences of climate change such as water scarcity, crop failure and the impact of extreme weather events. People's livelihoods can thus be maintained in the long term. The GPCC advocates synergies between the climate sector and other global challenges such as food security and the conservation of biodiversity.

## ► Knowledge management – learning to master the future together

Extensive knowledge is key for climate-compatible development. There is a high demand for generating, collecting, processing and disseminating knowledge. The GPCC supports various knowledge platforms and instruments and thus promotes exchange and learning opportunities for partner institutions at a global scale. The SDC's Climate Change and Environment Network has an important role to play here.



# Examples of Global Programme Climate Change activities

The GPCC is committed to ensuring that climate finance instruments are effective and is represented in the governing bodies of relevant multilateral funds, such as the Adaptation Fund and the new **Green Climate Fund – GCF**. The GCF was formally established in the UNFCCC in 2010 to promote a paradigm shift towards climate-compatible development. In doing so, special consideration is given to the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable populations in developing countries. The GCF promotes private sector engagement and also intends to raise private funds through innovative financial instruments.

Deforestation and changes in land use cause around one fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions.

**Intact forest systems** perform various functions: they absorb considerable quantities of carbon from the atmosphere, they regulate the natural water balance and they provide a source of food and building materials. This makes them a crucial factor in fighting poverty and enabling people to adapt to changes in environmental conditions. Three regional forest programmes, one each in Asia, Africa and Latin America, combine concrete mitigation and adaptation efforts.

**Urban planning and sustainable construction** are key elements for climate protection in the energy sector. Measures taken in emerging countries have a particularly significant impact in this area. Supported by the GPCC, the Swiss Energy City and European Energy Award labels serve as a model for resource-efficient urban planning in China today. The GPCC promotes clean local transport systems in Asia and South America: public buses are upgraded with diesel particle filters. New technologies and processes are developed and implemented in India, South Africa and Latin America in order to reduce greenhouse gases and soot particle emissions in building material production (cement and bricks). Some of these new technologies are being adopted by other countries.

**Mountain regions and arid or semi-arid areas** are home to many people and are especially vulnerable to changing climate conditions and extreme weather events. These areas are often marginalised, and many inhabitants are poor. As a farming nation and mountainous country, Switzerland has a wealth of experience in sustainable land and mountain development. The GPCC supports initiatives in the areas of water, agriculture and the prevention of natural hazards, making full use of the Swiss expertise available in these areas. Through a number of projects in various countries and regions – from the Andes and the Himalayas to Sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia – the GPCC works to strengthen the individual and institutional capacities necessary for adaptation to climate change.

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*What will farmers do? Sit and cry? ...  
if the crop fails you have to go look for  
work somewhere, don't you?*

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Mirabai Bhima Pore,  
smallholder farmer,  
GPCC beneficiary, India

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Climate change is a **cross-sectoral theme** – it concerns all thematic areas and geographical regions. **The Climate, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Integration Guidance (CEDRIG)** developed by the GPCC enables the SDC and other partners to deal proactively with the challenges posed by climate change, environmental degradation and natural hazards. The exchange of knowledge and experience gained from different sectors and from working together in the field encourages mutual learning and increases the effectiveness of activities.



# New impetus

Since 2008, the SDC has been breaking new ground with its global programmes on climate change, water, food security, and migration and development.

In addition to existing bilateral and multilateral work, this approach makes it possible to develop solutions to global challenges through worldwide political dialogue and concrete pilot projects. In the context of climate change and development, the SDC brings its hands-on field experience to the international political dialogue table. It has been successful in ensuring that innovative approaches are discussed and implemented in practice. Moreover, by linking dialogue and action, the GPCC explicitly promotes the development and exchange of knowledge on the multifaceted interplay between climate change and development.

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*There are no winners and losers, we all either win or lose in the future we make for ourselves.*

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

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*We decided to change the technology we use to produce bricks in our [producer] association. This meant we were able to lower our fuel consumption by more than 30% and increase our income and reduce air pollution at the same time.*

Ismael Orrco, President of the Sucso Aucaylle Association, Peru

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# Facts and figures

- The average global temperature has increased by 0.85°C relative to pre-industrial levels. The 2 degrees objective set by the international community will require a 40% to 70% reduction in all greenhouse gas emissions compared with 2010 levels by 2050.
- Since 1993, the sea level has been rising by approximately 3mm a year, and is expected to increase by 0.5 to 1.2 m by 2100. As a consequence, many human settlements are at risk: in Bangladesh more than ten million people live in these low-lying areas; on a global level, approximately 180 million people would be affected by a sea-level rise of 1m.
- The glacier surface in the Alps almost halved between 1850 and 2000. The glacier surface of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, has decreased by around 75% since 1912. The glacier is expected to disappear completely by 2033.
- Deforestation and land-use change currently account for 20% of all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by human activity.
- By 2020, the industrialised countries have agreed to mobilise USD 100 billion per year in order to support developing countries with adaptation and mitigation measures.
- In addition to other stress factors such as deforestation, the effects of climate change cause considerable damage to ecosystems such as in mountain regions in which around 20% of the world's population live and on which half of all people are dependent for their water resources.

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*Let us work together to make climate change a top priority for all leaders – at home and in the global arena. Let us take advantage of the opportunities presented by climate action and lay the foundations for a more prosperous and secure future for all.*

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

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## Would you like to find out more information?

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