



ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Cooperation towards sustainable development is the framework and the improvement of livelihoods in developing countries the main objective of the Environment and Climate Change Team of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation. Environmental performance and livelihoods are closely interlinked and at times there are tradeoffs. We design and support the implementation of interventions that optimize the livelihood and environment interactions. We foster biodiversity through a landscape approach and develop measures which mitigate climate change and at the same time are profitable for local communities. We advise development actors to design and support measures that help rural communities to adapt to climate change and to manage disaster risks. Thereby it is our institutional strength to link the local level – such as questions around the governance of natural resources – with the policy dialogue in national and international bodies. The team offers its services to a multitude of Swiss and international clients as well as to the own development projects of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation in its partner countries.



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COMPOSITION OF THE TEAM

We are a multidisciplinary, multilingual, multicultural and gender balanced team of nine motivated people. Our work experience covers Africa, Asia, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe. We feel equally at ease in a capacity building event in a remote rural village in Africa as well as being a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

WHAT WE OFFER

Design & Planning

Project formulation, monitoring and evaluation; strategic planning; feasibility studies; impact assessments

Capacity Development & Backstopping

Capacity building; development of training modules; conduct and facilitation of thematic learning events; organisational development and coaching of partners
Thematic support; advice and backstopping at local, national and international level

Knowledge Management

Research, analysis and documentation; evidence based learning; development of concepts, methods and tools
Support to international initiatives; representing clients in international forums and conferences; bridging field activities with international policy making

THEMATIC COMPETENCES

- Landscape and watershed management
- Sustainable Forest Management; including conservation, restoration and other good practices
- Community forestry/collaborative forest management and use of forest products and services (timber and non timber)
- Governance of forests and natural resources, including decentralisation processes and institutional reforms
- Biodiversity conservation and fostering agro-biodiversity
- Mitigation of climate change: Afforestation and reforestation, REDD+ and rural energy. Voluntary carbon markets and Clean Development Mechanism
- Adaptation to climate change: assessment of vulnerabilities, design and monitoring of adaptation
- International advocacy for water
- Disaster risk reduction
- Payment for environmental services

EXAMPLES OF SERVICES RENDERED

Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO): Backstopping mandate on policy dialogue and support/monitoring (sustainable forest management in the tropics, forest and climate change, forest products and trade).

Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC): Backstopping mandate on Climate Change and Forestry.

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation: Backstopping a programme on adaptation to climate change, food security and disaster risk reduction in Peru.

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation: Evaluation and subsequent planning of a watershed management project with adaptation to climate change elements in Ethiopia.

Agence Française de Développement (AFD): Assessment of AFD strategy since 1990 to support Sustainable Forest Management in the Congo Basin.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND TOOLS

Publications:

The AFLEG and FLEGT processes and the challenges of Forest Governance in African Tropical Timber-Exporting countries. Gasana and Samyn. 2010
Revisiting collaborative forest management in Kyrgyzstan. Carter, Grisa, Sieber, Gatekeepers Series, 2010
Developments in UNFCCC regarding forest and their potential implications for Tropical Forest and the World Tropical Timber Economy. Gardi and Robledo, 2010.
The role of forest ecosystems in community-based coping strategies to climate hazards. Three examples from rural areas in Africa. Robledo, Clot, Hamill and Richie, 2011.
Forest, landscape and governance: multiple actors, multiple roles. Carter, Schmidt, Robinson, Stadtmüller, Nizami, 2009

Tools:

FORECA tool-kit for REDD: www.redd-foreca.org
ITTO Manuals for sustainable management of the tropical forest; www.itto.int/policypapers_guidelines/
CRiSTAL: Community-based Risk Screen Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods; www.iisd.org/cristaltool/
Fostering Climate Resilient Development: Mapping Project Areas Most at Risk.
www.helvetas.ch/wEnglish/competencies/documented_experiences/doc_resources.asp?navid=16

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

> The publications are available at www.helvetas.org
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