



Fact Sheet

SDC-SECO Report on Effectiveness 2014 Swiss International Cooperation in Climate Change 2010-2012



The overarching goal of Switzerland's international cooperation is a sustainable development that reduces poverty and global risks such as climate change. The impact of climate change on development is evident. People in developing countries are particularly affected by climate change because they lack resilience to its negative effects. As part of its international cooperation efforts, Switzerland is committed to strengthening the resilience and adaptation capacities of the affected populations and to mitigate greenhouse emissions.

The Climate Change Report on Effectiveness investigates which results the portfolio of 423 climate-relevant projects carried out by the SDC (283 projects/CHF 974 million) and SECO (140 projects/CHF 346 million) has achieved in the areas of climate change adaptation and climate change mitigation. What contribution did the projects make towards improving people's ability to cope with the negative effects of climate change (adaptation)? What contribution did the projects make towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation)?

The report shows that the projects under review were overall effective in achieving these climate-relevant development objectives. On a scale from 1 to 7, their effectiveness was as follows:

- 40% of the projects were assessed to be strongly effective or very strongly effective (score 5-6) both in terms of climate change adaptation (121) and mitigation (114 projects).
- 50% of the projects (198 projects) were assessed to be moderately effective both in terms of climate change adaptation and mitigation (score 4).
- 10% of the projects (44 projects) showed little or no climate benefit (score 1-3).

The climate effectiveness of Swiss international cooperation projects improved during the period under review. More recent projects show greater climate effectiveness because climate change has been incorporated more explicitly in their planning. Furthermore, the creation of the

SDC Global Programme on Climate Change and the development at SECO of a new thematic priority, "Fostering climate-friendly growth", have enhanced the institutional awareness and strategic importance of climate change in international development cooperation.

The climate portfolio benefited from another positive impetus through an additional CHF 140 million in funding for climate projects within the framework of the Fast-Start Financing initiative in 2011. These additional funds were used for climate adaptation, forestry and energy efforts. They built on the experience gained by the SDC and SECO to date.

The report also presents the methodological challenges in analysing the climate effectiveness of the broad-based SDC and SECO portfolio. For example, explicit climate baseline data are often lacking, particularly for the early period under review, and there were as yet few internationally recognised standards for measuring climate change adaptation.

There is room for improvement as regards the systematic inclusion of climate change in planning international cooperation measures. Improvements are further needed in developing methods and standards for measuring the effectiveness of climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts that have great potential for obtaining a consensus at international level.

Reports on effectiveness

The SDC and SECO regularly publish a report on the effectiveness of Swiss international cooperation in a selected area to keep Parliament and the public informed. The Climate Change Report on Effectiveness 2014 is the third such report, following reports on effectiveness in the water sector (2008) and the agricultural sector (2010). These reports are drawn up by independent external experts in accordance with strict methodological requirements and help ensure transparent and results-based accountability.

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