

knowledgeforclimate.net: COFER Strengthening Capacities and Resilience in Climate Adaptation

*A Consortia for Education and Research
(COFER) of SUDAC*

Swiss partners



University of
Zurich ^{UZH}

ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Berner
Fachhochschule

Z

hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zürcher Fachhochschule

International partners



UNIVERSIDAD
NACIONAL
DE COLOMBIA



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSIDAD
CATÓLICA
DEL PERÚ



ज्ञानपीठ
JNU



Project context

SUDAC – swissuniversities development and cooperation network

- SUDAC promotes the establishment of frameworks of cooperation in education and research including different types of academic institutions (Universities/ETH, UAS, UTE).
- Topical focus: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Agenda 2030.
- A COFER should lead to synergies and stronger integration of research, education, and implementation by building upon the different strengths and experiences of the involved institutions through new collaborative networks that will emerge in the North and in the South.
- COFER will act as a “research and education incubator”: its members should develop proposals together with their Southern counterparts and apply for relevant tenders in their field of competence.
- Financial period: mid-2018 to end of 2020. Contributions from federal funds (through SUDAC) and matching funds (virtual and real) from the participating institutions.

Rationale

The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on “Climate Action” recognizes climate change as one of the greatest challenges of our time, fundamentally undermining the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development.

The developing world is disproportionately affected. Climate change adaptation (CCA) is indispensable for SD.

But: CCA is a complex and interwoven process. The current engagement of research with CCA practice shows important limitations

Knowledge and education are critical resources for CCA.

But: Comprehensive teaching curricula at the university level are missing in Switzerland and countries in the South



Vision and objectives

Our **vision** is to develop and maintain over the long term an **active international network of academic institutions** in the field of climate change adaptation (CCA). The network engages in **innovative and impact-full research and education** that is salient to the needs for achieving sustainable development.

Our **objectives** are to use a **joint knowledge production (JKP)** approach in education and research to advance the production and dissemination of knowledge on CCA, its application in policy and practice, and related capacities.

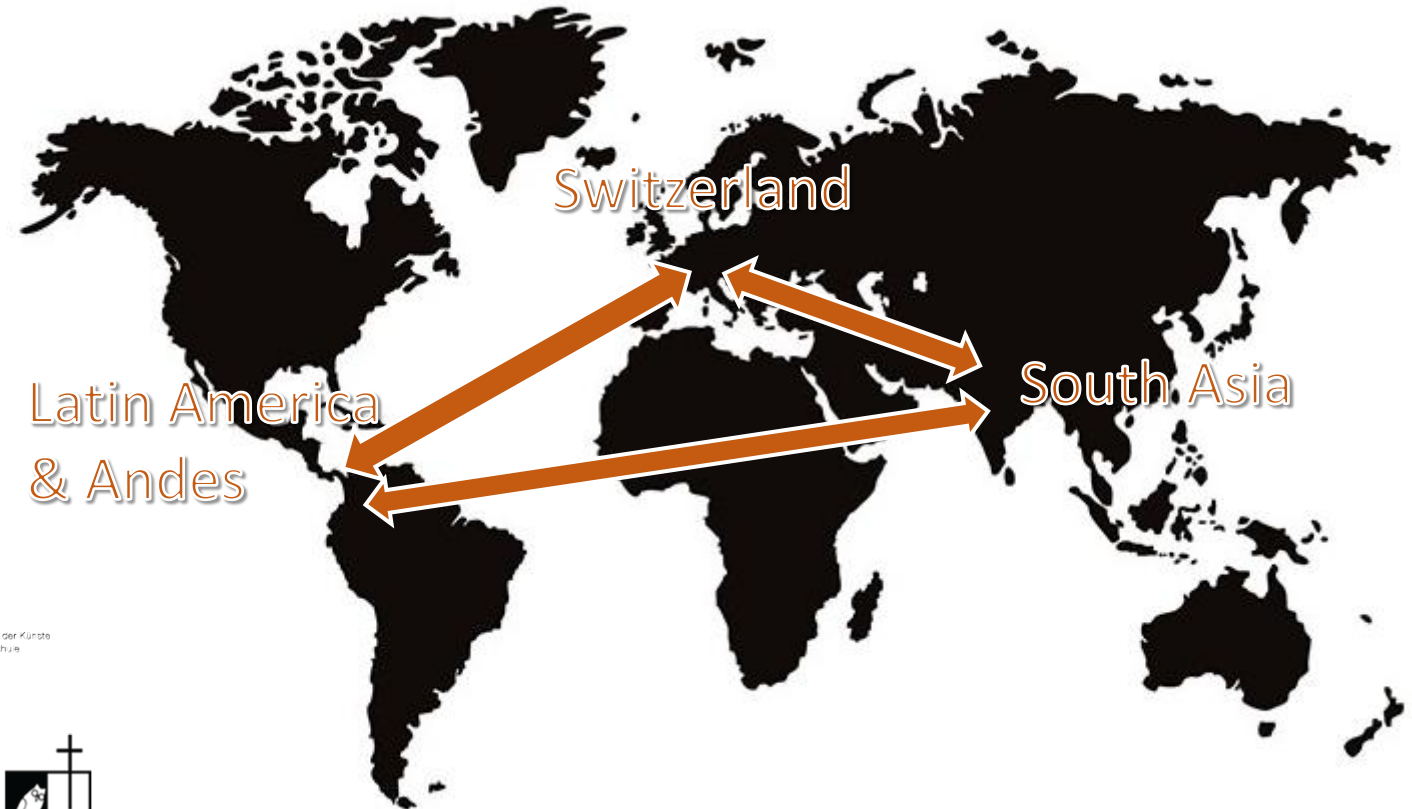
knowledgeforclimate.net contributes to SDG 13 and SDG 4 through strengthening research, improving education, raising awareness, and building human and institutional capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change and increase country-wide resilience and adaptation.

The network: *knowledgeforclimate.net*

Connecting Switzerland and world regions...

A core consortium of 4 Swiss and 5 international institutions.

Over the mid- to long-term we seek to extend the network, to strengthen and diversify disciplinary, interdisciplinary and regional capacities. *knowledgeforclimate.net* reaches beyond the academic sector to stakeholders in the governmental, non-governmental and private sectors.



The network: *knowledgeforclimate.net*

Swiss institutions

UZH (lead): Veruska Muccione and Christian Huggel

ETHZ: David Bresch and collaborators

BFH/HAFL: Christine Jurt and Roland Stähli

ZHdK: Niklaus Heeb, Noemi Chow, Jonas Christen



International institutions

Peru: Pontificia Universidad Católica del Peru (PUCP), Lima

Colombia: Universidad Nacional, Bogotá

San Salvador: Universidad Centroamericana 'José Simeón Cañas'

India: Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi

Nepal: Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu



The network: *knowledgeforclimate.net*

Mechanisms of collaboration and link to policy and practice

CCA policy and practice

Swiss Institutions

UZH ETH BFH-HFL ZHDK

International partners

PUCP UNAL UCA JNU TU



Approach

- For more effective CCA collective responses of researchers from different disciplines, policy makers and groups of the civil society are needed.
- Application of **Joint Knowledge Production (JKP)** processes, implying that researchers, policy makers and actors of the civil society cooperate in the design, production, dissemination and application of knowledge that is based on mutual recognition and learning.
- JKP accommodates **diverse forms of knowledge and perspectives**.
- Adoption of approach from **co-design to co-dissemination** pursued and reflected in education and research. University students will learn how to generate knowledge and information required for CCA, and how such knowledge can be applied and implemented in their respective context.
- Existing JKP **experiences from projects/case studies** are jointly analyzed, and the research outputs are expected to greatly contribute to the advancement of understanding on the interactions between JKP and CCA in different contexts.

Two levels of JKP:

- 1) JKP in the process of production of teaching material and research
- 2) JKP approaches in the application and implementation for CCA

Work plan

Work Package A: Assessment of needs and coordination

Across all partners, disciplines, contexts, institutions and stakeholders

Work Package B: Co-production of teaching material

Blended learning. Learning platform, physical and virtual courses. Emphasis on visuals.

Common teaching resources on fundamentals of CCA.

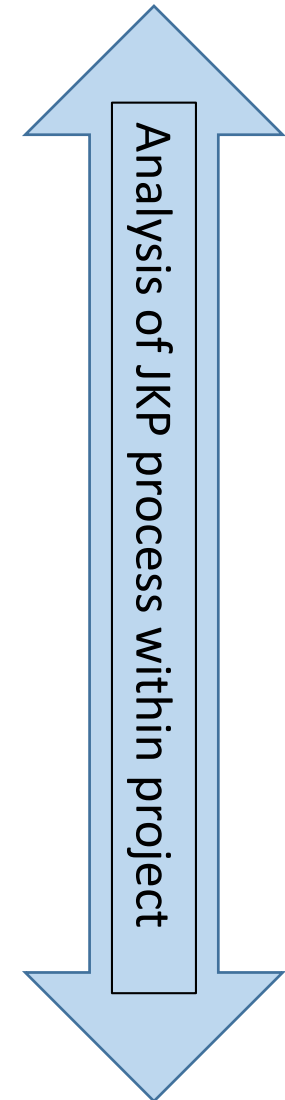
Contextualize teaching material with regional and local realities. Enhancing existing and designing new courses.

Work Package C: Co-production of research: from co-design to co-dissemination

Building on extensive experiences of partners, projects and case studies.

How can JKP contribute to improve CCA science and practice?

Knowledge hub, conferences and roundtables, publications, knowledge translation, project proposals.

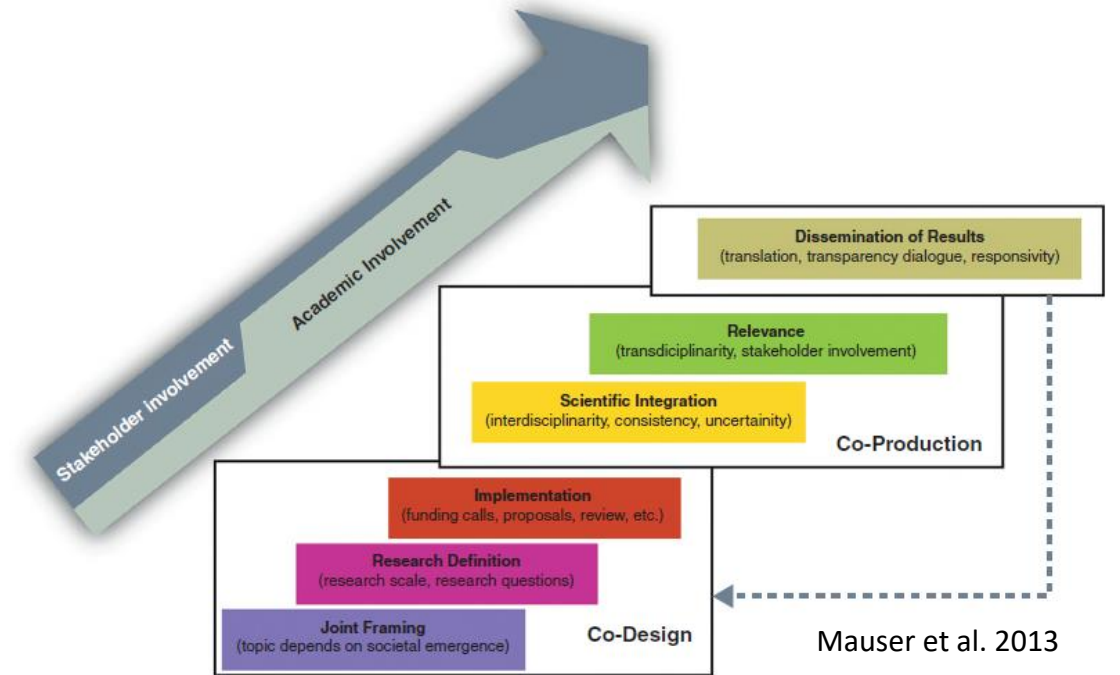


First insights and next steps

The COFER has already attracted considerable and wider interest. The potential for an extension of the network is large.

The needs assessment has shown the wide range of disciplinary, contextual, cultural, and institutional backgrounds, perspectives and expectations. This is both an important wealth of and challenge for the project.

Conceptual models of JKP may not so easily be implemented in a highly multi-national/cultural context. More experiences and more flexible models need to be developed and systematically analyzed.



A workshop in February 2019 with the complete consortium will be an important milestone and guide the subsequent production of teaching material and research.

Relevance for Zurich climate research and teaching

Teaching material is planned to be freely available and could be used at UZH, ETHZ and other interested institutions

We're looking for existing teaching experience in climate adaptation: please approach us!

We're interested in specific adaptation experiences, in particular where JKP has played a role: please approach us!

A call is currently out for formation of clusters of cooperation (CLOCs) for SUDAC phase 2 where at least two existing COFERs need to join in one (or more) region.



Knowledge for climate

An international network for climate change adaptation, research and education.

knowledgeforclimate.net

Rationale

This network international network brings together multi-disciplinary expertise from Switzerland and from two major world regions, South Asia and Latin America. Swiss members of the JKP4CCA network are the University of Zurich (UZH), the ETH Zurich, the Bern University of Applied Sciences, the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). From South-Asia, partner universities are the Tribhuvan University (Nepal) and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (India). From Latin America, partner universities are the National University of Colombia, Universidad Centroamericana „José Simeon Canas“ (EL Salvador) and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru (Peru).

News

[Kick-off workshop, 6-8 February 2019](#)

During this first workshop of the knowledgeforclimate network we aim to develop a common understanding on key aspects of joint knowledge production and climate change adaptation and to elaborate a road map of the network for the next couple of years. We will do this...
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