

FASTENOPFERPOLICYSTATEMENT



Sustainable development | in times of climate changes

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1. Introduction

The Swiss Confederation shall promote the common welfare, sustainable development, internal cohesion and cultural diversity of the country

from Art. 2 of the Federal Constitution

What will history say of us if we let whole countries disappear?

A representative of Tuvalu speaking on behalf of 43 island states at the UN climate conference in Nairobi in 2006.

Fastenopfer supports development that is based on human dignity and sustainability, so that all people – irrespective of their social and religious status – can live 'life in all its fullness' (John 10,10). With its principle of 'We share', Fastenopfer invites people to work towards this goal and, by sharing means, resources and responsibility, to make the vision of a better life for all come true.¹

Fastenopfer takes a critical stance towards neoliberal ideologies of growth. In its campaigns, it calls for a way of life in Switzerland that is conscious and oriented to modest consumption. Fastenopfer advocates a model of sustainable development. This is only possible if economic productivity, social solidarity and ecological responsibility are seen as interrelated and are optimally integrated. To achieve this, the unjust structures that prevail across the globe must be changed, and the basic needs of poor people must be met.² In our times, climate change presents a particular challenge and threat to 'sustainability'. That is why special attention is paid to this challenge in this policy statement. The excessive consumption of natural resources in the industrialised countries threatens the livelihoods of the people in the South. Instead of generating positive development, this leads to more hunger and poverty for many people. The postulate of sustainable development demands that we in the north accept our responsibility. This means, for example, that we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions quickly and massively, and support the people in the South in their efforts to adapt to the changed natural conditions and achieve economic development while using low-carbon technologies.

The aim of the policy statement is:

- to clarify terms related to sustainable development and climate change
- to point out the consequences of climate change, with a specific focus on development cooperation
- to put forward guidelines for action

This policy statement was approved by the Fastenopfer Board of Directors on 1st March 2011.

¹ Fastenopfer (2009). *Leitbild* (German)

² Fastenopfer (2009): Nachhaltigkeitsbericht 2008, p.3 (German)

2. Terms, context and key issues

2.1 Sustainable development

The concept of sustainability can be summarised to mean 'sustainable development, which implies meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and choose their own lifestyle.'³

The two key concerns in this statement are that development is understood to be sustainable over time and includes three dimensions, economic, environmental and social components, which are all interrelated. Moreover, values that are grounded in religion and culture are key factors in any understanding of development. They can have either a positive influence that promotes development, or an inhibiting impact. That is why various authors supplement the traditional three-dimensional definition of sustainable development with the dimensions of religion and culture.⁴

By adopting an integrated approach, environmental problems of the industrialised countries are focused on to an equal extent as debt problems of the countries of the South, or the lack of proper enforcement of the rights of workers in both North and South. The concept of sustainable development seeks solutions for the eradication of poverty in the world. This accepts that the countries of the South need to catch up in their economic development, without, however, inflicting irreversible ecological damage that would impair people's quality of life. Achieving globally sustainable development requires solutions at regional, national and global level. It must also address the causes of poverty, and include changing unjust structures.⁵

Sustainable development is embedded in the right to development. This says that all human beings and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development on an equal basis, where all human rights can be fully realised.⁶ Using the term 'right' underlines the belief that people as right-holders are entitled to assert their rights.⁷ The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG), in which the international community has committed itself to halve poverty and hunger in the world by 2015, among other things, are an important step on the way to sustainable development.

The concept of sustainable development is widely accepted. It forms part of the Swiss Constitution⁸ and is also implicitly referred to in Catholic social teaching.⁹ For Fastenopfer, the postulate of sustainable development is a precondition for effective development cooperation.¹⁰

³ United Nations (1987). *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*, General Assembly Resolution 42/187, 11 December 1987.

⁴ Annemarie Holenstein/SDC (2007): *Role and significance of religion and spirituality in development cooperation*.

⁵ Fastenopfer (2009): *Leitbild* (German)

⁶ UNRIC (1998). *Das Recht auf Entwicklung – mehr als nur Freiheit* (German)

⁷ Fastenopfer (2007). Policy Statement 'Human rights – human rights based approach'

⁸ Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation, article 2, 2011

⁹ See the social encyclicals 'Populorum progressio', 'Sollicitio rei Socialis', 'Centesimus Annus', 'Caritas in veritate'

¹⁰ CIDSE / Misereor (2008): *Arbeitspapier zur Wirksamkeit der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit*, p. 7 / 17 (German)

2.2 Climate change

Global warming / climate change¹¹

Climate change is the term used for the current change in climate caused by human activity. Climate change is in many respects linked to sustainable development. The causes of climate change lie in the excessive use of natural resources. Its consequences threaten to impede sustainable development for many people and communities.

2.2.1 Causes of climate change

The cause of climate change is the increased concentration of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The high concentration of CO₂ is caused by human activities, in particular the burning of fossil fuels (crude oil, natural gas, coal) and changes in land use (deforestation). Agricultural activity is the main cause of higher concentrations of methane and nitrous oxide.¹² The consequence of this is the additional warming of the earth surface and of the lower atmosphere. The average global temperature has increased by 0.74° C in the last hundred years. Since 1990, the temperature has risen by roughly 0.2° C per decade, and will continue to rise even if the CO₂-concentration were to be stabilised at the level of the year 2000.

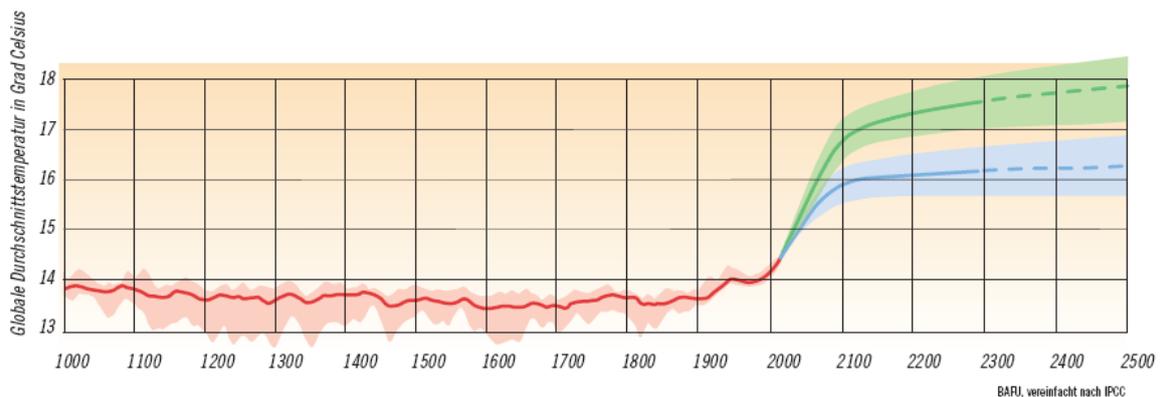


Illustration: Average global temperature in degree celsius

The red line shows the average global temperature in the past, the blue line the expected trend if environmentally-friendly and resource-efficient technologies were to limit global warming to two degrees above today, the green line shows a temperature rise of 4 degrees if no or insufficient reductions are achieved.¹³

The major emitters of greenhouse gases are the industrialised countries. Because of the long retention time of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the industrialised countries are responsible for the historic impact of climate change, even if today emerging countries such as China or Brazil cause high levels of CO₂ emissions and must take a significant share of responsibility when it comes to future developments.

¹¹ IPCC (2007) Vierter Sachstandsbericht, Arbeitsgruppe I (German)

¹² IPCC (2007). Zusammenfassung für politische Entscheidungsträger, Vierter Sachstandsbericht, Arbeitsgruppe I, p. 2 (German)

¹³ Diagram from: UMWELT 3/08, Bundesamt für Umwelt Bafu, p. 22

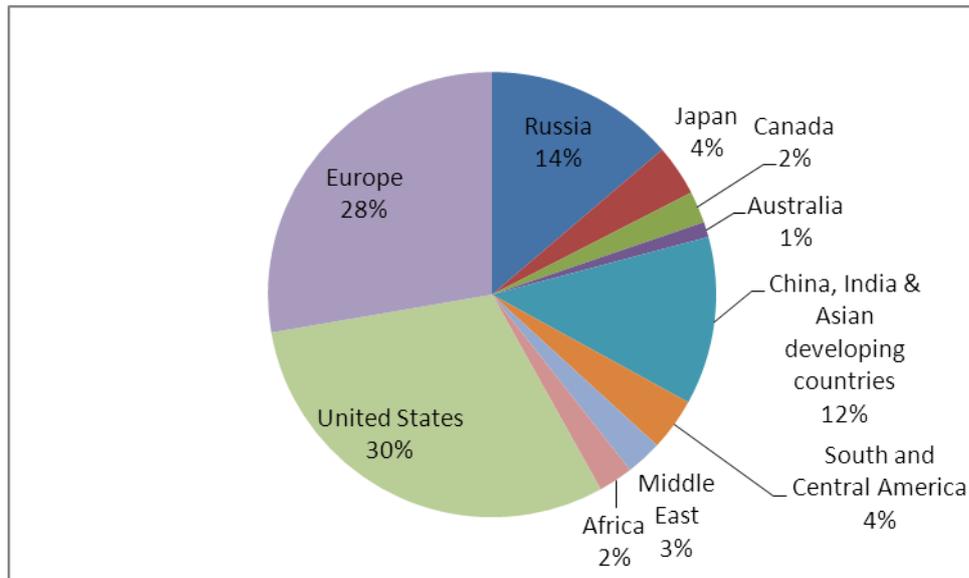
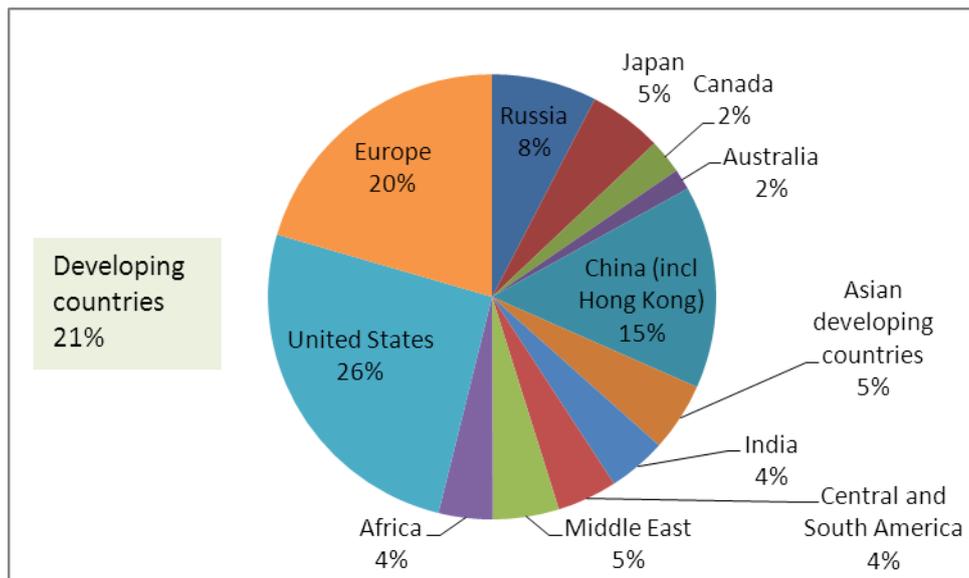
Cumulated energy-related CO₂-emissions 1900 – 1999Cumulated energy-related CO₂ – emissions 1992-2004

Diagram from Justitia et Pax: Climate change – following words with deeds, based on Germanwatch: Global climate change: Causes, consequences, global possibilities for action, page 12.

2.2.2 The effects of climate change

The severity of the effects of climate change greatly depends on the degrees by which the temperature will rise. A rise in temperature of 2°C is considered to be a tipping or turning point. If this limit is exceeded, then far-reaching changes in the global climate can no longer be reversed because the permafrost of the tundra would thaw and release huge quantities of carbon dioxide, regional weather patterns such as the monsoon rains in South Asia could shift, rain forests could dry up, and ecosystems collapse.

Global warming leads to changes that can already be discerned today, such as the rise in sea levels, melting glaciers, changes in the amounts of precipitation, greater temperature

extremes and changes in wind patterns. These changes have impacts that affect people and the environment. The most important are:¹⁴

Water

The availability of water changes, it tends to decline in dry regions while in other areas, the amount of water in the rivers will increase in the next 20 to 30 years, partly due to higher levels of glacier melt.

As a consequence, between 75 and 250 million people in Africa will experience increasing water shortages by 2020, while in the Himalayas, there will be a growing incidence of floods and landslides in the next two to three decades, as a consequence of the glacier melt.

Ecosystems

Climate change and the associated problems (e.g. droughts, floods, shifts in vegetation zones), combined with the consequences of globalisation (e.g. excess use of natural resources, pollution, changes in land use) are likely to severely test and affect the resilience of many ecosystems. The consequence will be an increased risk of extinction for 20-30% of all animal and plant species. In eastern Amazonia, soil moisture will decline due to the rise in temperature, the tropical forests will change into savannahs, leading to a severe loss of biodiversity.

Food/food security

The rising temperatures lead to a decline in harvests in the low latitudes (tropics / subtropics). In some African countries, this will reduce yields from rain-fed agriculture¹⁵ by up to 50% by 2020. The more frequent droughts and floods will have a negative impact on food production. This situation, combined with population growth and growing urbanisation, increases the risk of hunger in the countries of the South.

Coasts

The rise in sea levels puts coastal regions at greater risk. It intensifies erosion, leading to an increase in the number of people threatened by floods. The risk is particularly great for densely populated areas, as for example in the Asian megadelta regions which are already threatened by other dangers such as tropical storms, and have a low adaptive capacity. Small islands and island states are also affected. In Indonesia, for example, as many as 2,000 small islands could sink by 2030 as a result of rising sea levels.¹⁶

Health

Vector-borne diseases such as malaria or dengue fever will increase as a result of climate change, since mosquitoes as carriers thrive in warm and humid climate zones. According to estimates, up to 80 million more people in Africa will be exposed to the risk of malaria by 2015. It is also feared that an increase in water-borne diseases will occur, since warmer temperatures affect the survival rate of pathogenic bacteria and, together with heavier

¹⁴ IPCC (2007). *Zusammenfassung für politische Entscheidungsträger*, in *Klimaänderung: Wissenschaftliche Grundlagen*, Beitrag Arbeitsgruppe II

¹⁵ Rain-fed cultivation is a form of agriculture practiced in areas, for example humid savannahs, where annual rainfall is greater than evaporation, allowing plant cultivation without artificial irrigation.

¹⁶ UNFPA (2009). *State of world population 2009*, p. 3

rainfalls and floods, can favour the spread of pathogens.¹⁷ Even today, climate change costs lives. The World Health Organisation estimates that in 2000, some 150,000 excess deaths were occurring annually because of extreme heat waves, more severe storms, floods or other consequences of climate change.¹⁸

Migration

If sea levels rise, millions of people now living in low-lying coastal areas will have to leave their homes. More protracted and severe periods of drought may drive farmers and their families from rural areas to the cities in search of a new livelihood. The number of internally displaced people resulting from the increase in natural disasters or conflicts due to a growing shortage of vital resources such as drinking water, agricultural land or pasture will rise. Because of greater migration, urbanisation is likely to increase. Poor population groups are particularly vulnerable because they are forced to settle in areas at risk, and will be vulnerable to floods or landslides there.

These examples show that not all impacts can be ascribed exclusively to climate change. Climate change can be the main cause, or just one of various different components that lead to the change. The interrelationships between different influences often aggravate the situation, for example if, due to rising water temperatures, fish resources decline in a particular body of water, and this process is made worse by continuous overfishing.¹⁹

2.3. Mitigation / Adaptation

Mitigation and adaptation are the two key terms coined by climate policies in recent years. They reflect two complementary strategies of dealing with climate change.

Mitigation

Mitigation refers to the strategy designed to tackle the causes of global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, with the aim of achieving a reduction in global warming.

- **Columbia:** *The organisation Semillas de Agua aims to increase the CO₂-storage capacity of agricultural areas. In cooperation with researchers from the university, the CO₂ content of the soil is analysed and methods developed for increased CO₂ capture. The sustainable cultivation methods with greater storage capacity are based mainly on the use of organic materials. The farming families are made aware of climate protection in field visits and workshops, and learn to use appropriate agricultural methods. It contributes to climate protection and at the same time, the farmers can improve the soil quality of their fields.*

Adaptation²⁰

Adaptation covers the measures necessary to adapt to the impacts of climate change. These are initiatives that reduce the vulnerability of natural and human systems to actual or

¹⁷ Bundesamt für Umwelt BAFU (2009) 3. Weltklimakonferenz in Genf, Faktenblatt 2

¹⁸ UNFPA (2009). *State of world population 2009*, p. 5

¹⁹ IPCC (2007): *Zusammenfassung für politische Entscheidungsträger*, in Klimaänderung:

Wissenschaftliche Grundlagen, Beitrag Arbeitsgruppe I, p. 27 (German)

²⁰ See <http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/glossary/tar-ipcc-terms-en.pdf>

expected impacts of climate change. The aim is to lessen the damage and exploit the opportunities created by climate change. Various types of adaptation can be distinguished:

Anticipatory (proactive, ex-ante) adaptation measures are taken before climate phenomena occur. One example is a diversification of income sources for subsistence farmers, if it is expected that conditions in agriculture will worsen.

Reactive (ex-post) adaptation efforts are made after climate events have occurred, for example after natural disasters. This category also includes strategies to which people resort if they are unprepared when the events of climate change affect them. For example, if a small farmer's family sells its land after several poor harvests in order to buy food for the family, or decides to stop sending the children to school in order to save the school fees.

- **Philippines:** *The Center for Empowerment and Resource Development CERD works actively to improve the situation of the fishing families and the use of sea and coastal resources. They held a workshop in which they analysed, jointly with the local people, the impacts of climate change on people's livelihood and on the project. Their findings have led to various adaptations in the project activities, for example they work harder to ensure the protection of natural resources.*

2.4 Vulnerability

The official definition of vulnerability in the area of climate change is 'the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes'²¹. The vulnerability of a system to climate change depends on three factors:

- **Exposure** – defined as the degree to which a region is affected by extreme weather events (droughts, floods etc.). Exposure refers to an external dimension which cannot be influenced.
- **Sensitivity** - the degree to which the population is affected by changes in the ecosystem. For example, how much the affected population depends on the existing natural resources in order to make a living or ensure their survival.
- **Adaptive capacity** – defined by the abilities of a society to mobilise and use resources in order to adapt to the changes.

The poorest people in the countries of the South are particularly vulnerable, because they are affected by the following circumstances:

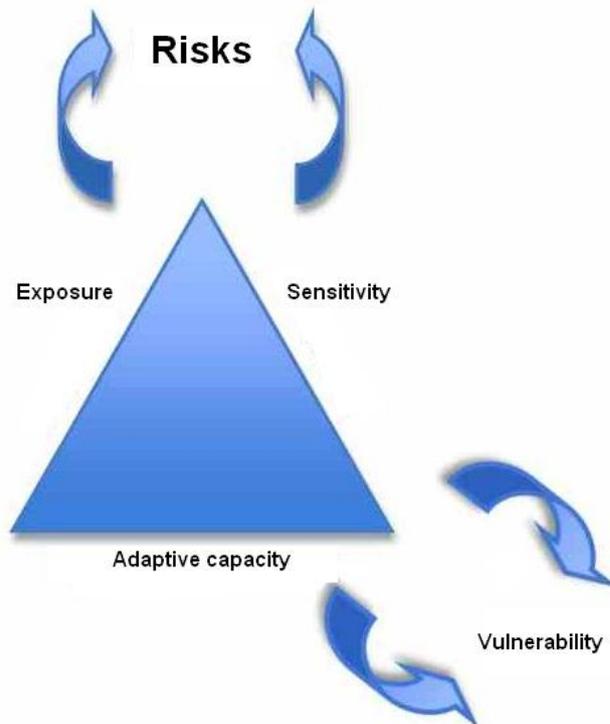
- **Increased risk**

Risk is defined by the interplay of exposure and sensitivity. In the countries of the South, there exist a particularly large number of delicate and endangered natural habitats, and a disproportionately large section of the population has to rely on the natural resources for its survival. For example, in Burkina Faso, 90% of the population live from subsistence agriculture. This means that they are directly affected by changes in the ecosystem.

²¹ IPCC, 2007

- **Heightened vulnerability**

The degree of vulnerability is a function of the combination of sensitivity and adaptive capacity. Countries of the South, and in particular the poor people in these countries, are particularly affected because their sensitivity is greater and their adaptive capacities are smaller than those of the industrialised countries or the middle and top layers of society.



Graph according to the Center for Development and Environment, 2009

2.5 Climate change and sustainable development

The effects of climate change have a negative impact on development in the countries of the South. They prevent and weaken economic development. The extent of the costs of climate change is difficult to measure. The Stern Report²² came to the conclusion that the global cost of climate change would rise to more than 5% of global gross domestic product (GDP). This means that the countries of the South have to use more money to repair the damage, which will compete with other tasks in the fight against poverty. The industrialised countries will also face a heavier financial burden. The result may be that they will not provide the financial means, nor introduce the structural economic changes, to enable sustainable development in the countries of the South. Even today, one can see in the countries of the South how climate change is weakening sustainable development. An analysis of the impact of climate change on reaching the Millennium Development Goals shows this:

²² The Stern Report is a report by Nicolas Stern, former chief economist of the World Bank, produced for the British Government on the consequences of global warming for the world economy

The consequences of climate change and their impact on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

Millennium Development Goal	Effect of climate change
Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to livelihood assets, including homes, water supply, health and infrastructure, can undermine people's ability to earn a living. • Reduction of crop yields affects food security. • Changes in natural systems and resources, infrastructure and labour productivity may reduce income opportunities and affect economic growth. • Social tensions over resource use can lead to conflict, destabilising lives and livelihoods and forcing communities to migrate.
Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of livelihood assets and more frequent natural disasters reduce opportunities for full-time education. More children (especially girls) are likely to be taken out of school to help fetch water, earn an income or care for ill family members • Malnourishment and illness reduce school attendance and the ability of children to learn when they are in class • Displacement and migration can reduce access to education.
Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exacerbation of gender inequality as women depend more on the natural environment for their livelihoods, including agricultural production. This may lead to increasingly poor health and less time to engage in decision-making processes and earning additional income. • Women and girls are typically the ones to care for the home and fetch water, fodder, firewood and often food. During times of climate stress, they must cope with fewer resources and a greater workload. • Female-headed households with few assets are particularly affected by climate-related disasters.
Goal 4 Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher mortality and morbidity rates due to heat waves, floods, droughts and hurricanes. • Children and pregnant women are particularly susceptible to vector-borne diseases (e.g. malaria and dengue fever) and water-borne diseases (e.g. cholera and dysentery) which may increase and/or spread to new areas. • Reduced water and food security negatively affect child health.
Goal 5 Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in the quantity and quality of drinking water has negative effects on maternal health. • Food insecurity leads to increased malnutrition. • Floods and droughts spread water-borne illness, impacting maternal health.
Goal Combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water stress and warmer conditions increase vulnerability to disease. • Households affected by Aids have lower livelihood assets, and malnutrition accelerates the negative effects of the disease.

Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alterations and possible irreversible damage in the quality and productivity of ecosystems and natural resources. • Decrease in biodiversity and worsening of existing environmental degradation. • Alterations in ecosystem-human interfaces and interactions lead to loss of biodiversity and loss of basic support systems for the livelihood of many people, particularly in Africa.
Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change is a global issue and a global challenge: responses require global cooperation, especially to help developing countries adapt to the adverse effects of climate change • International relations may be strained due to the effects of climate change.

Table: based on UNFPA State of World Population 2009

2.5.1 Greenhouse Development Rights²³

In order to enable sustainable development, an effective climate policy must be linked to the right to development.²⁴ That is why Fastenopfer supports the Greenhouse Development Rights (GDR) approach. This is grounded in the principle of justice of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, according to which states commit themselves to protect the climate system on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and capabilities for climate change and for dealing with it. In practice, countries that have produced emissions for a long time and are rich should contribute more to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. GDR is a method which defines a fair contribution by the different countries to the implementation of climate protection measures. It uses an index that describes the responsibility and capacity of a country within the global structure. Responsibility is based on a country's cumulative greenhouse gas emissions since 1990. This gives all people the same emission right, and the long-term effects of climate change are taken into account. Capacity is calculated from the proportion of people with an income above 20 dollars per person per day. Capacity ensures that the right to basic development for all people is safeguarded. An index is calculated for each country on the basis of these two factors. The richer a country, and the greater its greenhouse gas emission, the higher this index will be, and the country has an obligation to do more than poor and non-industrialised countries. For Switzerland, the calculation produces the following result:

By 2020, Switzerland must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 130% (reference year 1990), 40% domestic reductions and 90% abroad. The reduction obligation might appear paradoxically high, but it reflects a fair contribution by Switzerland for two reasons. As a wealthy and highly developed country, Switzerland has the resources to ensure effective climate protection. Switzerland's greenhouse gas emissions since 1990 have been above average by international comparison, and it has correspondingly contributed to global warming.

²³ Fastenopfer/Bread for all (2009): *Switzerland's Fair Share in a Climate Constrained World*. And Fastenopfer / Bread for all (2009). *Greenhouse Development Rights – Das Recht auf Entwicklung trotz Treibhausgasen*.

²⁴ see Fastenopfer (2009): *Policy statement "Securing basic needs – promoting access to resources"*

3. Climate change in development cooperation

The consequences of climate change and, for example, its effect on the millennium development goals, show how climate change impacts on global and local development in the most varied ways. This changes the contexts and priorities of development cooperation. Climate change is therefore a transverse theme which requires specific action from the different actors.

3.1 Climate change and gender

Climate change and its consequences affect different social groups differently, as is the case with men and women. Only relatively recently has the discussion around climate change focused more often on the specific impact it has on men and women, and on gender-specific strategies to handle the effects²⁵.

Women play an important role in the production and preparation of food. They are also important actors when it comes to key areas of climate protection such as changes in land use. Women are more severely affected by poverty, and have less power to make decisions about their own life. Their economic productivity is less appreciated, and the gender-specific role assignment in the family and society make them particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Moreover, women are more at risk of losing their life than men in extreme weather events (e.g. heat waves, hurricanes, tsunamis)²⁶.

Greater participation and active empowerment²⁷ of women on the issue of climate change at all levels, both local and international, contributes new ideas and solutions to the discussion. By integrating women's everyday reality and their views when elaborating possible solutions, their needs and potentials can be better taken into account and utilised. This in turn has a positive effect on the quality of social responses to climate change. Practical measures could include:²⁸

- substantially increase the participation of women in government delegations and bodies, which is currently around 15-25%.
- be aware of the restricted access women have to information in the public arena when developing early warning systems.
- reduce women's vulnerability as providers in the family by giving them greater control over natural resources such as land, water and energy.

3.2 Fastenopfer's work in the North:

For us as representatives of a country which produces a high proportion of greenhouse gas emissions, solidarity in relation to climate change means: We must be ready to assume our responsibility and make a major contribution to mitigation as well as to funding the adaptation of the countries in the South. This is not an issue of guilt or of charity, but of social justice. Fastenopfer works actively to ensure that at all levels (individually, institutionally and at government-level), the necessary efforts are made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to fund the adaptation measures in the countries of the South. As part of the 2009

²⁵ Alliancesud (2009) *Global+dokument – Klimaveränderung und Post-Kyoto-Verhandlungen aus entwicklungspolitischer Sicht*, p.11 (German)

²⁶ UNFPA (2009). *State of World Population 2009*, p.4,

²⁷ Fastenopfer (2009): Policy statement "Gender – gender mainstreaming"

²⁸ Fastenopfer/Bread for all (2008): *EinBlick – Gerechtigkeit im Klimawandel*, p. 12 (German)

ecumenical campaign ‘Justice in climate change’²⁹, Fastenopfer initiated a number of activities:

- *Individuals and church institutions take responsibility to contribute towards climate protection. If they are aware of their own energy consumption and make efforts to reduce it, then they can also legitimately demand justice in climate change from the government, companies and individuals. Fastenopfer informs people in Switzerland about the subject and provides information on how they can reduce their energy consumption. With a special CO₂-counter, parishes can calculate their ecological footprint and are given practical advice on how to reduce their energy consumption.*
- *In 2008, Fastenopfer published its first sustainability report. In the report, Fastenopfer provided clear information about its economic, ecological and social activities. For each of these areas, measures were devised to improve sustainability. Every other year, progress is reviewed and made public.*
- *In a petition³⁰ Fastenopfer demanded of the Federal Government that Switzerland should commit itself to more ambitious reduction goals and to greater support for the most seriously affected countries. An important aspect is that the mitigation efforts are geared to sustainable development and that therefore, emission certificates are only obtained that are sustainable from an ecological, economic and social perspective³¹. The political activities continue with the support of the Klimaallianz³² and the Klimainitiative³³.*
- *Climate change brings additional costs for the countries of the South, so they need additional funds. Adhering to this principle of additionality is one of Fastenopfer’s demands submitted to the Swiss government. The climate fund is a tool that was developed so individuals and parishes can apply this principle. The fund generates additional financial means so that partner organisations can carry out specific activities for climate protection.*

3.3 Fastenopfer’s work in the South

Fastenopfer is committed to promoting sustainable development³⁴. Fastenopfer’s empowerment principle³⁵ considers that the people concerned are not objects, but rather actors who actively shape the process that builds on their own resources. The local community, including marginalised groups such as women, migrants or young people are, because of their specific roles, their involvement and their experience, important actors who participate in change and should be involved in determining their development.

- **Brazil:** *The indigenous people of Goiás and Tocantins live off their natural resources (gathering of plants and fruits, hunting, fishing, subsistence agriculture). Their situation is affected by increasing pressure on the existing natural resources, especially as a result of the expansion of agribusiness and the construction of large hydroelectric power stations. The organisation CIMI supports the indigenous people to ensure that they are better informed about their rights and the possibility of asserting them and of networking with other social movements. This assists in securing the social, economic and cultural*

²⁹ see http://www.fastenopfer.ch/sites/global_justice_new/climate_justice.html

³⁰ For text of petition see <http://2009.oekumenischekampagne.ch/cms/index.php?id=208> (German)

³¹ For further information on emission trading see Fastenopfer/Bread for all (2008). *EinBlick – Gerechtigkeit im Klimawandel* (German); for further information on the reference standard CDM Gold Standard see www.cdmgoldstandard.org

³² see <http://www.stimmenfuersklima.ch/> (German)

³³ see <http://www.klimainitiativeja.ch/> (German)

³⁴ Fastenopfer (2009). *Leitbild* (German)

³⁵ Fastenopfer (2009). Policy statement “Gender – gender mainstreaming”, p. 9

survival of the indigenous people. They are empowered to realise their own development model.

Since climate change has a negative impact on sustainable development, many projects supported by Fastenopfer are already now considering the consequences of climate change.

- **Kenya:** *The Laikipia region in the Rift Valley is populated by cattle owners and agricultural communities. Deforestation, overgrazing, demographic trends and the consequences of climate change have led to the destruction of the people's natural livelihoods and intensified conflicts between different groups over the use of the land. The drought from 2007 to 2009 further heightened the tensions between different ethnic groups among the semi-nomadic cattle herders. This led to an increase in cattle theft, in which young men literally go out on organised robberies, and which involve a high degree of violence and subsequent revenge actions. Caritas Nyeri supports the population in seeking peaceful solutions to the underlying and open conflicts, and to deal with the causes of the conflict over the long term. Activities focus particularly on setting up and strengthening village peace councils, which act as recognised instances of arbitration.*

Fastenopfer is committed to reducing the vulnerability of the poorest to the consequences of climate change, and to strengthen the population for the long term.

- **Madagascar:** *Many small farmers in Madagascar are in debt and depend on exploitative money lenders. On the east coast, in the region around the port town of Toamasina, the partner organisation KMF/CNOE supports the formation of savings and credit groups which enable the farmers to free themselves from the debt trap through their own efforts. Henceforth, the farming families are able to get through food shortages by using their own resources, pay for their children's schooling, or afford to buy medicines. This also strengthens people's resilience against the impacts of climate change, since they have better access to financial resources without having to get into debt with the money lenders.*

3.3.1 Climate proofing

The causal relationship between climate change and poverty requires that any sustainable programme planning systematically analyses the impact of climate change on the vulnerability and risks faced by the local communities and develops a strategy to strengthen their adaptive capacities and reduce their sensitivity. It must do this not only with projects that deal specifically with climate change, but in all types of development projects. Unless this happens, the effectiveness of development projects may be reduced, or development projects may even result in unintended negative consequences. This analytic process is called climate proofing. It is a tool that helps to gain a better understanding of the connections between 'climate change', 'livelihood' and 'adaptation', and include them in the project analysis. It allows climate risks in projects to be recognised, minimised, and the adaptation capacities of the actors to be strengthened. Ultimately, it helps to improve the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of interventions.

The reference tool for Fastenopfer is the 'Climate proofing tool – Strengthening local adaptation and mitigation capacities in community-level development projects'. The tool is used to analyse:³⁶

- how climate risks and natural hazards affect local communities
- what strategies exist for coping with these risks
- how the project affects livelihood resources that are important to cope with climate risks
- whether the project contributes to protecting the climate

and leads to proposals on:

- how the project can be adapted to strengthen the adaptive capacity to climate change.

The information for the analysis is collected in meetings with the local population and the project managers. This ensures that the proposed project modifications are adapted to local circumstances. The discussions deliberately involve both women and men, so that both groups can give their view on the situation. The information from the discussions is supplemented with brief research into the literature.

The manual suggests various exercises which help to identify climate risks, their effect on livelihoods and current strategies to deal with these risks. The tool is broken down into the following modules:



³⁶ The tool was developed by Bread for all and Heks. It is based on the analytic tool CRiSTAL developed by IISD, IUCN, SEI-US and Intercooperation (<http://www.cristaltool.org>). Bread for all (2010): *Tackling Climate and Disaster Risks in Development Cooperation*.

4. Guidelines for action

Fastenopfer is guided in its activities by the postulate of sustainability and in particular of climate protection.

Strategies in the North

- Fastenopfer assumes responsibility for its own actions. It publishes transparent information about its economic, ecological and social contributions in regular sustainability reports and puts forward proposals for improvement; whose implementation is checked at regular intervals.
- Fastenopfer informs and raises the awareness of people and parishes in Switzerland about sustainable development and climate change. By promoting fair trade, the CO₂-counter and the climate fund, it offers people and parishes the possibility of action to pursue sustainable development in a practical way in their lives.
- Fastenopfer works politically to promote sustainable development and climate protection. In particular, it campaigns for Switzerland to assume its responsibility in accordance with the Greenhouse Development Rights. To this end, Fastenopfer continues its public relations work, is involved in lobbying, and coordinates its activities with other organisations.
- Fastenopfer demands of public institutions that they consider the criteria of sustainable development in public procurement.

Strategies in the South

- Fastenopfer is committed to ensuring that all country programmes and projects meet the criteria of sustainable development. This means empowering the local population to implement the ecological, economic, social and religious-cultural dimensions of development. This is reflected in the programme and project plans, it is reviewed in the evaluations, and if necessary adapted. Key questions are:

Ecology:

- Are we aware of the changes that have happened and are expected in the local ecosystem?
- Are the changes taken into account in the project design?
- Are the changes the result of causes that could be positively affected by the project?

Economy:

- Are the additional income sources created by the projects sustainable, i.e. can they continue to exist even after Fastenopfer's support ends?
- Does the cooperation with Fastenopfer lead to dependencies in the partner organisations?

Social

- Do the projects / programmes include all social groups and do they integrate marginalised groups (small farmers, both male and female, young people, migrants etc.)? Are the specific needs and resources of the different groups defined?
 - Do the projects lead to an empowerment process for all groups, or are inequalities (e.g. access to further training, additional sources of income) increased?
 - Was the cultural and religious context taken into account in the project design?
 - Did the projects / programmes take account of the specific vulnerabilities and strategies of women and men in coping with the consequences of climate change?
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- Fastenopfer provides the resources to enable partner organisations to carry out climate proofing of their project activities and adapt their projects accordingly. In the country programmes and evaluations, as well as in the project applications and reports, climate change is integrated in the context analysis. The impacts of climate change on the project activities are analysed (climate proofing) and, where relevant, specific activities are defined.
 - Fastenopfer works to ensure that, in cooperation with other organisation, it can react preventatively rather than merely reactively. To this end, consultations will be conducted until 2013 in all country programmes with the partner organisations, in order to prepare scenarios for possible disasters.

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