



Implementing climate services through a twinning approach – The Climandes example

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Ongoing changes in climate patterns are expected to put further strain on livelihoods in climate-vulnerable regions, thus jeopardizing global efforts to reduce poverty, enhance food security and lessen the environmental liabilities as stipulated in the Agenda 2030. Increasing frequencies of extreme events such as droughts, shifts in temporal distribution of rainfalls and intense precipitation impact poor rural communities in numerous ways, and eventually lead to migration away from these areas. Improved availability of and access to climate services for vulnerable populations therefore are a key component for increasing resilience against and adapting to a changing climate, and are well recognized by the international community. In addition, the WMO-spearheaded GFCS underlined that there is a substantial gap to be closed between climate service providers and users, and that many NMSs in the developing countries or countries with emerging economies do not have but very limited capabilities for providing such services.

Setting up an NMS to fully exploit the potential of climate services is a challenge at the technical, institutional and interdisciplinary level, which becomes indeed great in a development cooperation context. Conversely, this highlights the paramount importance of finding ways to make development cooperation work to achieve the desired results. One major issue in this context is to ensure sustainability of the project results beyond the project end. This is often due to a lack funding, which in turn is often caused by the lack of the necessary institutional weight of the NMS in the country.

In this paper results of the Climandes project are presented on these two complementary levels. Climandes was launched in 2012 with a then innovative twinning set up between the Peruvian and Swiss national meteorological services (NMSs) SENAMHI Peru and MeteoSwiss and funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. The project succeeded to improve SENAMHI's data basis for climate services, train professionals in the region in the field of meteorology and climate science, significantly enhance the Education and Training (E&T) activities within SENAMHI and other NMSs in the region, as well as to establish a pilot GFCS User Interface Platform (UIP). On the cooperation level, the twinning approach was key in generating substantial ownership within SENAMHI, especially in the field of E&T and in interfacing with rural user communities in the Andean highlands. As a result of the broad range of activities, especially including the policy dialog, SENAMHI Peru is technically and institutionally stronger today than before Climandes started, and received additional funding for a set of services established in Climandes. This good outcome notwithstanding, there were a number of lessons learnt that will be shared with the goal to fuel a constructive discussion.