

CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

Foreign Policy Responses
to Climate Change



Federal Foreign Office



adelphi

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The climate diplomacy initiative is a collaborative effort of the Federal Foreign Office in partnership with adelphi, a leading Berlin-based think tank for applied research, policy analysis, and consultancy on global change issues.
www.climate-diplomacy.org



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www.adelphi.de



www.auswaertiges-amt.de

Authors

Alexander Carius
Daria Ivleva
Benjamin Pohl
Lukas Rüttinger
Stella Schaller
Helen Sharp
Dennis Tänzler
Stephan Wolters

Design

stoffers/steinicke
www.stoffers-steinicke.de

CLIMATE DIPLOMACY

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FOREWORD

Climate Diplomacy – a Growing Foreign Policy Challenge

Scientific evidence leaves no doubt that the climate is changing. Scientific evidence leaves little doubt that it is mainly us who are changing it. The effects of us changing the climate are going to be severe: In many regions, water will be scarcer, storms and floods more damaging, and droughts more dire. From heat waves in California to famines in the Horn of Africa – we are already seeing a preview of what is to come. These impacts threaten to undo economic development, undermine livelihoods, and make the world more insecure and unpredictable. This prospect has significant repercussions for our foreign policy agenda and objectives.

Climate change is a key foreign policy challenge for the 21st century. The Paris Agreement concluded in December 2015 and ratified already in 2016 was a historic milestone in the fight against climate change – and a victory for multilateral diplomacy. But we cannot leave it at that!

Around 200 nations have committed themselves to limiting global warming to well below 2°C, or even to 1.5°C. We need to ensure that these nations stay committed. We need to implement all national contributions and even collectively ratchet up ambitions over time. We need to reach out to governments and citizens around the globe to engage them on this issue. We need to mainstream the exigencies of climate change into other policy areas. We need companies to divest from carbon-intensive activities and factor climate risks into their supply chains, while embracing the opportunities of the low-carbon transformation. To sum up: We need efforts beyond the negotiation process itself.

Germany plays an active role in advancing this process. The Federal Foreign Office is undertaking numerous measures designed to support action on climate change. Our climate diplomacy initiative aims to engage in a dialogue, bringing together perspectives and building bridges across countries, stakeholders and sectors. With and across the European Union our goal is to ensure a coherent stance, for which we undertake many efforts cooperating and coordinating. The European Union climate diplomacy action plans of 2015 and 2016, pursued by the EU and its Member States, have been an effective step in this direction. In reaching out to partners around the world, we seek to raise awareness and explore new ideas on how to best mitigate the effects of climate change in international relations. Germany also used its G7 Presidency in 2015 to advance awareness and action.



Diplomacy can go a long way in helping to create the conditions for the sustainable transformation we have to undertake. This publication illustrates how our climate diplomacy initiative addresses the challenges and opportunities on our way. I hope it will also inspire you to join us in striving for a low-carbon, climate-resilient future for us and the following generations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sigmar Gabriel". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sigmar Gabriel
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Germany

PREFACE

by Alexander Carius, Dennis Tänzler and Stephan Wolters, adelphi

The effects of climate change will increasingly shape our security in the coming years. Our physical environment is now in a state of flux, posing significant challenges to how societies function. This may have serious economic, social and political consequences for entire regions. Countries with varied adaptation capacities will be able to handle the impacts in different ways, while many developing countries and fragile states that lack established and stable institutions are likely to be hit hardest. To address these challenges, a new profile of climate diplomacy is evolving to make use of a full range of policies, including development cooperation, conflict prevention efforts, and humanitarian assistance, in addition to more traditional measures of climate change adaptation and mitigation.

These new approaches for foreign policy go beyond the traditional realms of climate policy. Moving from risk analysis of climate-related threats to timely preventive action requires greater commitment to integrating climate change concerns into development, foreign, and security policies. Examples include strengthening diplomatic networks, building new alliances with partners, and raising awareness – not only of potentially negative climate change impacts, but also of opportunities to embark on a sustainable transformation of our societies. Such a new foreign policy approach will also contribute to implementing the landmark climate agreement reached in Paris in December 2015. Indeed, the approach has already proven to be instrumental in bridging the long-standing divide between developed and developing countries.

German foreign policy has taken major steps in this direction in recent years, with efforts closely related to major developments within the United Nations, the European Union and the G7. Based on an active discussion with partners around the world, different conceptions of climate diplomacy have become apparent, highlighting the need for tailored policy responses and activities. Entry points for diplomacy range from geopolitical concerns or livelihood security, to the economic benefits of climate action. Though varied in their focus, all of these narratives emphasise the importance of developing specific capacities among foreign policy-makers to meet the challenges of climate change.

adelphi and its partners formed an alliance with the German Federal Foreign Office and have played a central role in the process of analysing the international debates on climate diplomacy and security, while developing key narratives, contributing to awareness raising and capacity building efforts, and supporting international and regional dialogues on this topic around the world. In this publication, we seek to illustrate the rationale and results of the German Foreign Office's and adelphi's engagement in climate diplomacy activities – efforts undertaken to help foster a response to climate change that is commensurate with its status as one of the key foreign policy challenges of the 21st century.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	FOREWORD
6	PREFACE
10	CLIMATE DIPLOMACY: THE ROAD AHEAD
14	CLIMATE DIPLOMACY NARRATIVES – ENTRY POINTS
16	CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND CITIES
18	CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND GROWTH
20	CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND WATER
22	CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY
24	CLIMATE RISKS, DIPLOMACY AND RESILIENCE
26	CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY AT THE UN
28	A NEW CLIMATE FOR PEACE: G7 TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE AND FRAGILITY RISKS
34	REGIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESSES
44	DEVELOPING CAPACITIES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES
46	CLIMATE SECURITY DIALOGUES AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE
48	TRAINING FORMATS FOR DIPLOMATS
49	EXPERT CONSULTATIONS
50	REACHING OUT TO SOCIETIES AND DECISION-MAKERS
54	COMMUNICATION TOOLS: INFORMING THE DEBATE
54	THE ONLINE PLATFORM
56	THE ECC FACTBOOK
58	THE TOURING EXHIBITION
60	FOREIGN OFFICE CLIMATE FUND PROJECTS
65	PARTNERS
66	PICTURES



CLIMATE DIPLOMACY: THE ROAD AHEAD

Melting glaciers in the Himalayas and the Andes, more frequent storms in the Caribbean and Oceania, changing weather patterns in Africa and the Middle East: the challenges posed by climate change are enormous. The repercussions raise geopolitical questions, have implications for livelihoods and development, and necessitate a strategic response to ensure sustainable development. They raise questions that go to the heart of international politics: sovereignty, territorial integrity, and access to resources, such as water, food, and energy. For the coming decades, climate change has the potential to cause significant and highly uncertain impacts on societies, undermining human security and increasing the risks of conflict and instability.

There is a consensus among scientists and policy-makers around the globe that climate change will act as a multiplier and even a trigger for threats to international peace and security. Numerous official statements, position papers and resolutions by the United Nations, the European Union and the G7, as well as other international and regional organisations and donor agencies, have emphasised the security implications of climate change. An appropriate response to the security challenges of climate change requires a broad coalition. An effective partnership should include governments – with foreign ministries assuming a core role – as well as representatives of science, business and civil society.



It is also becoming increasingly clear that development and growth policies need to be climate compatible. In fact, climate action presents great opportunities to grow the economy sustainably. Using cross-sectoral convening power, bilateral relations and multilateral fora, diplomats can promote a better understanding of these opportunities beyond the environmental policy community, and scope and facilitate bilateral cooperative action. Such an integrated approach will on the one hand help to further foreign policy objectives, and on the other hand support implementation of the Paris Agreement, while ratcheting up ambition over time.

For these reasons, starting in 2011, the German Federal Foreign Office in cooperation with adelphi and its partners have reached out to stakeholders, experts and organisations throughout the world, with the aim of building support for climate diplomacy while also providing additional reasoning for concluding a global climate agreement.

Hundreds of decision-makers and experts as well as thousands of citizens have participated in regional roundtables from Bogotá to New Delhi, executive briefings and consultations from Wellington to Port of Spain, and events at climate conferences from Durban to Doha. The objectives at the core of these activities are to share viewpoints, jointly identify priorities and develop common strategies to address climate challenges.



ROAD AHEAD

DIPLOMACY & RESILIENCE

CAPACITIES

OUTREACH

Moreover, the activities build on the conviction that, in order to further deepen the understanding of climate change and security, and to gain support for preventive action, strong political commitment is required at the global, regional and national levels. The consensus reached at the 2011 UN Security Council Open Debate on climate change and security, captured in the presidential statement, demonstrates the overall recognition of the dire risks that emanate from climate change. And this recognition is being carried into other fora: Under the German Presidency, the G7 commissioned the independent report *A New Climate for Peace: Taking Action on Climate and Fragility Risks*, which identifies compound climate-fragility risks that pose serious threats to the stability of states and societies in the decades ahead. At the meeting of G7 Foreign Ministers in Lübeck on 15 April 2015, they announced a stronger collective commitment to tackling the climate-related risks faced by weak states.

Different regions prioritise different aspects of climate diplomacy and view it from different angles. For this reason, the process initiated by the German Federal Foreign Office in



cooperation with adelphi and its partners puts emphasis on holding discussions at the regional level. Geopolitical questions, livelihood and development issues, and a sustainable, green economy can play a key role, although their relevance and their ability to contribute to the solution vary according to the regional context. This approach demands thorough debates with regional organisations, civil society and expert communities from diverse regions through informal consultations, side-events at international conferences, workshops, briefings and various outreach activities. Partner institutions are engaged in the development of regional perspectives through statements, briefs, joint consultations and region-specific exhibitions on climate and security.

This booklet documents the ambitious political action undertaken by Germany to engage stakeholders, partner countries and regional organisations around the world. It also highlights the achievements and key messages distilled from the joint climate diplomacy initiative by the German Federal Foreign Office and adelphi.



CLIMATE DIPLOMACY NARRATIVES – ENTRY POINTS

Climate diplomacy is multi-faceted and characterised by a variety of implications and interpretations depending on region, culture, discipline or socio-economic background. Different narratives on the diplomatic challenges and opportunities climate change presents resonate with different audiences. Therefore, framing the issue in various ways can help achieve foreign policy responses tailored to the specific needs of different geographies and sectors. These narratives facilitate informal and continuous engagement on climate change, notably by respective diplomatic networks. The narratives aim at providing concise lines of argumentation linking climate change challenges to wider or sectorial entry points and opportunities.

Following discussions in international and regional settings with a broad array of stakeholders, adelphi has developed narratives that illustrate the abundance and diversity of potential foreign policy approaches to climate change. These narratives are based on the experience gained in consultations with stakeholders around the globe. They are intended to inspire dialogue among foreign policy-makers and help guide effective decision-making processes to address the challenges of climate change.



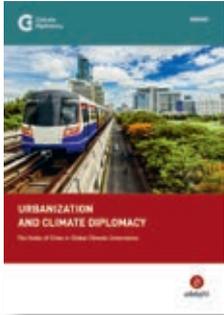
There are two ‘poles’ of overarching narratives of key relevance to climate diplomacy:

On the one hand, climate change is a threat to livelihood security, requiring stepped-up efforts on adaptation and resilience, and has geopolitical implications. Climate change threatens livelihoods through resource degradation and the growing intensity and frequency of disasters. Many countries fear that it will become increasingly difficult to meet the basic needs of their populations. And indeed, climate change pressures are expected to be linked to patterns of economic migration, with local resource pressures affecting livelihoods in many areas. Climate change can also converge with other pressures and stressors on states and societies that produce a wide range of fragility risks and geopolitical tensions. Changing geographies of rivers or glaciers may require diplomatic initiatives to balance interests and avoid disputes over borders or water rights. Foreign policies to address these challenges include joint risk assessments, the renewal and adjustment of international agreements, and natural resource governance initiatives. Foreign and development policies can support the strengthening of adaptive capacities through economic diversification, investment in infrastructure and agriculture, and the promotion of integrated water and resource management and disaster preparedness. Integrating policies and programmes in three key sectors – climate change adaptation, development and humanitarian aid, and peacebuilding – is necessary to help strengthen resilience to climate-fragility risks.

On the other hand, climate action represents an opportunity for sustainable growth and development. To ensure that the Paris Agreement will be a sustainable success, active engagement is required to fully implement the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) and to ratchet up ambition in the coming years. A sustainable transformation of the economy can deliver long-term prosperity and improved energy and resource security. Diplomats will therefore have to convey one key argument more convincingly than ever before: if we compare the costs and all benefits, it is clear that climate action is an imperative as it simply makes economic sense. Carbon-intensive fuels, resources and processes come at great cost to human lives, the environment and longer-term economic development. Investment in environmentally sound technologies provides a large source of new and stable ‘green jobs’ whilst reducing the economic and social costs of pollution. Diplomacy can go a long way in helping to create the conditions for the sustainable transition we need. For example, bilateral and multilateral partnerships can serve as meaningful instruments for overcoming barriers to trade and investing in low-carbon technologies.

Further entry points can be found in sectorial policies, e.g. energy and land use, or instruments such as emission trading or climate finance. Covering all of them is beyond the scope of this booklet. The following pages will provide a glimpse of selected emerging or enhanced narratives identified by the climate diplomacy initiative: water diplomacy, food security, urbanisation, and the benefits of climate action.

CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND CITIES



Fischer, Kaj; Eleni Dellas, Franziska Schreiber, Michele Acuto, Daniel London, Dennis Tänzler and Alexander Carius
2015: Urbanization and Climate Diplomacy – The Stake of Cities in Global Climate Governance
Berlin: adelphi

It is in the world's cities that the most ambitious climate action can be observed – but equally the most harrowing failures. As much as 70% of global CO₂ emissions originate in cities. Thus, the impact of cities on our climate is huge – and greater consideration must be given to their needs and potential during climate negotiations. An increasing level of collaboration among cities (e.g. in networks) makes it more feasible than ever for national governments to engage with cities as a coherent group of actors. This is supported by the evolution of climate governance since the failed Copenhagen Climate Change Conference of 2009 from a top-down process to a more bottom-up process. Some key lessons are emerging:

- › Decisions about the role of cities vis-à-vis states and international organisations must be grounded in the reality of interdependence: Enhanced coordination and collaboration between all levels of government is a prerequisite for cities and city networks to effectively contribute to climate action.
- › There must be terms of engagement for city networks and the international community: It is vital to create a setting that allows all stakeholders to interact on an equal footing. Therefore, any framework should at the minimum address the internal governance of networks, the number and global distribution of member cities, and the type of activities networks can contribute to the international process.



- › Improve coordination among city networks: The increasing diversification of network initiatives provides much needed flexibility but also calls for better coordination to avoid doubled or even conflicting efforts.
- › Give urban issues greater consideration in national climate policy: Both the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda as a cornerstone of Habitat III have far-reaching implications for national urban development strategies. Climate action, both on mitigation and adaptation, should be closely linked to the implementation efforts of these agendas. This means including urban development in INDCs, as well as integrating climate action into any national urban development policies.
- › Use the pre-2020 period to test enhanced modes of engagement: As the Paris Agreement will only enter into force in 2020, the coming years provide a window of opportunity to explore new ways of collaborating with cities and their networks. This is especially relevant in regard to climate finance, notably through better access for cities and local governments to the various international climate funds including the Green Climate Fund.

To address the knowledge gap at the nexus of urbanization, global governance and climate change politics, the German Foreign Office sponsored a workshop with leading thinkers and practitioners in 2015. Its recommendations and their implications were published in the report *Urbanization and Climate Diplomacy – The Stake of Cities in Global Climate Governance*, discussed at COP21 in Paris and examined with regard to other crucial global processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda and Habitat III.



CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND GROWTH: REALISING THE BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ACTION



Wolters, Stephan and
Dennis Tänzler 2016:
Diplomacy: Catalyzing
the Climate Economy,
Climate Diplomacy Brief
Berlin: adelphi

Climate action presents an opportunity to grow the economy sustainably. The *New Climate Economy* report by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate shows that up to 90% of climate actions required to stay below 2° warming are compatible with economic development and broadly shared improvements in living standards. Many of these investments are profitable even without considering their benefits for the climate. For example, there are huge health benefits to be gained in reducing air pollution in cities by shifting from cars to buses and bicycles.

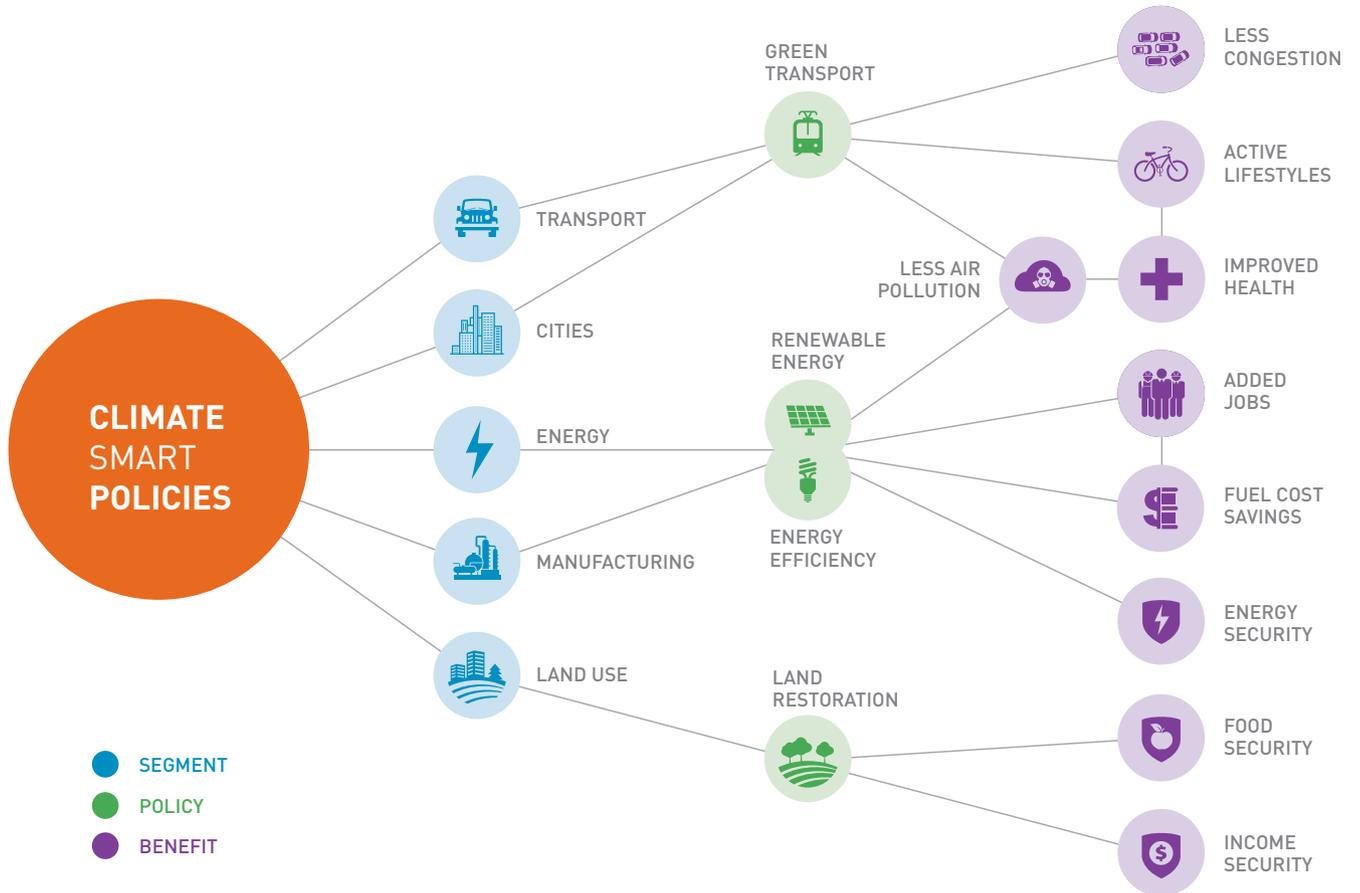
To ensure that the Paris Agreement will be a sustainable success, active engagement is required to fully implement the INDCs and to ratchet up ambition in the coming years. Diplomats will therefore have to convey one key argument more convincingly than ever before: if we compare the costs and all benefits, it is clear that climate action is an imperative as it simply makes economic sense. Carbon-intensive fuels, resources and processes come at great cost to human lives, the environment, and the economy.

Diplomacy can go a long way in helping to create the conditions for the sustainable transition we need:

- › Cooperation: By bringing together partnerships and alliances, diplomats can help to overcome barriers to climate protection and, for example, ensure that international business activities and investments incorporate and internalise climate risks and opportunities more widely. Cooperation on innovation and deployment fosters the knowledge-based economy and opens up opportunities for trade and investment.
- › Integration: Geopolitical and distributional questions are often decisive for carbon choices, which are thus beyond the reach of environmental cooperation alone. Foreign policy perspectives can help to integrate the various preferences. Economic instruments can also help to address climate-fragility risks, e.g. with investments sensitive to volatile food provision, local resource competition and insecure livelihoods.
- › Dialogue: Diplomats can collect and communicate good practices and use them to make a more convincing case for climate action elsewhere. Often, realising the co-benefits requires connecting the climate discourse to other policy domains, e.g. energy or agriculture, and their stakeholders. Diplomacy is in a unique position to make use of its strong outreach network to encourage this.

These questions are the subject of a report published and launched in autumn 2016 under the title *Diplomacy: Catalyzing the Climate Economy*. The report builds on an expert discussion at the German Federal Foreign Office organised by adelphi in November 2015.

THE CASCADING BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ACTION



CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND WATER: WATER RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN LIGHT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

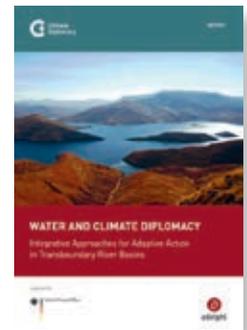
Water is a key element through which climate change impacts on our immediate environment. A very significant proportion of adaptation to climate change will consist in adapting to hydrological changes – changing patterns in rainfall, the changing availability of fresh-water in particular regions, greater variability in flows, more intense extreme weather events, and the resulting consequences for biodiversity, food security and more. These changes have important repercussions for international relations, above all due to the linkages that stem from the fact that some 60% of global river flows are trans-boundary.



Because of these interlinkages and their implications for foreign policy, water diplomacy is a crucial aspect of climate diplomacy:

- › First, changing flow patterns imply significant foreign policy challenges in geopolitically unstable regions. Declining access to water carries risks for political stability at the national level, but also internationally if governments' responses focus on blaming basin neighbours.
- › Second, infrastructure projects, even those motivated by climate change ambitions, may bring about risks of their own if the consequences of adaptive action in one country come at the expense of another. Thus, new hydropower dams may appear to be helpful in reducing greenhouse gas emissions while increasing protection against greater flow variability and its potential corollaries of floods and seasonal lack of water for irrigation. Yet if erected in upstream countries, downstream neighbours may resist them because of their own seasonal irrigation needs.
- › Third, climate change adaptation offers new opportunities for cooperation over water. Faced with the shared challenge of climate change, co-riparians can use joint analysis to build trust, identify potential benefits from cooperation and, eventually, elaborate joint responses. This is by no means a foregone conclusion, but a significant entry point for external actors that seek to promote stability by supporting cooperation over transboundary waters.

Considering these challenges and opportunities, water diplomacy has been a prominent issue in recent years. Every year since 2014, adelphi and the German Federal Foreign Office have co-organised side-events at the Stockholm World Water Week that have discussed the interlinkages between global environmental change, water governance, and foreign policy objectives. These side-events built on workshops with experts and policy-makers conducted for and with the German Federal Foreign Office. Moreover, this work has resulted in a number of publications on water diplomacy, including three longer climate diplomacy reports that analyse opportunities for strengthening water diplomacy: *The Rise of Hydro-diplomacy: Strengthening Foreign Policy for Transboundary Waters* (2014), *Water and Climate Diplomacy: Integrative Approaches for Adaptive Action in Transboundary Basins* (2016) and *A Short Guide to Preventive Water Diplomacy* (2016).



Blumstein, Sabine;
Benjamin Pohl, Dennis
Tänzler 2016: Water and
Climate Diplomacy –
Integrative Approaches
for Adaptive Action
in Transboundary
River Basins
Berlin: adelphi

CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY

Global food security is a core concern among the different impacts of climate change. The expected increases in temperature and changes in the hydrological cycle – changing rainfall patterns and regional water availability, greater variability, and more frequent as well as more intense floods and droughts – are likely to have significant impacts on agricultural output. Furthermore, such changes also risk undermining food security through their impacts on livelihoods, infrastructure and political stability. Coupled with the expectation of greatly increasing global food demand due to demographic growth and the changing diets that come with an expanding global middle class, this raises the spectre of increasing food insecurity.

The elementary importance of food security for human welfare coupled with the inherent connections between climate (change) and food availability and prices make global food governance an important topic for (climate) diplomacy. Some of the crucial linkages include:

- › Most scenarios assume that global food supply will be sufficient for the decades to come, even under worrying emission scenarios. Yet sufficient global supply is only one of several preconditions for ensuring food security at the individual (and even national) level. One basic corollary of this insight is the importance of access at the individual level, and trade as well as functioning international markets at the national level. Put differently, adapting to climate change will be much more difficult if states seek to ensure food security through autarchy.



- › Subsistence farming is still the main source of livelihood for hundreds of millions of people. These are among the most vulnerable to climate change, especially where farming depends on precipitation. One crucial human security challenge thus consists in ensuring that climate change adaptation efforts and climate finance actually reach these people, who are often marginalised.
- › Food insecurity is often invoked as a driver of unrest and conflict. Climate change risks are playing a role in this respect, be it by fuelling competition over resources, especially in marginalised regions, or through the indirect impacts that price volatility can have. Although the precise causal mechanisms vary and are contested, they constitute plausible risks for peace and stability.

Given these links, food security is becoming an increasingly prominent feature of climate diplomacy. The Center for Naval Analysis developed and carried out the project *Food Chain Reaction*, a simulation and role-playing exercise intended to improve understanding of how governments, institutions and private-sector interests might interact to address a crisis in the global food system. Based on these insights, and with Foreign Office support and participation, adelphi and the Center for American Progress organised several events around disseminating and discussing the resulting challenges for global governance on both sides of the Atlantic. The German Permanent Representation to the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) in Rome also organised *Climate and Food Talks* on these challenges. adelphi and the Center for American Progress published an issue brief entitled *Supporting Global Food Security in a Changing Climate through Transatlantic Cooperation* (2016).



Werz, Michael and Benjamin Pohl 2016: Supporting Global Food Security in a Changing Climate Through Transatlantic Cooperation, Washington D.C./ Berlin: Center for American Progress/adelphi



CLIMATE RISKS, DIPLOMACY AND RESILIENCE

The potential security risks of climate change require ongoing attention at the highest political level. The key forum for addressing these risks is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which convenes the yearly UN climate negotiations. In addition, a number of opportunities exist at the global level to enter into a broader dialogue, including with further relevant stakeholders, for example from the foreign and security policy community. The discussion on how to tackle climate risks has repeatedly highlighted the role of diplomacy and resilience strengthening. The German Foreign Office contributes to this process by supporting the debate in different fora on how to address climate change related risks and how to use diplomacy to strengthen resilience at various levels.

For example, to anchor commitment to climate change at the highest level of the international political agenda and raise the level of ambition for global climate policy, German diplomats brought the security implications of climate change to the attention of the United



Nations Security Council in 2011. In the aftermath, German climate diplomacy was involved in initiating a series of government-initiated international conferences on climate and security. The discussions held in Berlin (2011), London (2012) and Seoul (2013) were each attended by about one hundred foreign policy-makers and experts. The events explored regional risks and opportunities for enhancing security and development, and reached out to numerous partners within the foreign and security policy community.

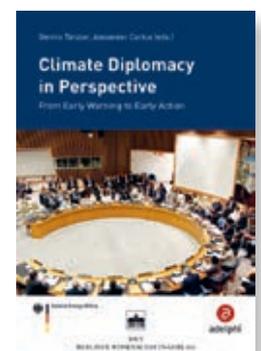
Germany and the United Kingdom together initiated the first discussion of climate diplomacy at the EU Foreign Affairs Council in July 2011. The Council agreed to address systemic risks from climate change, encourage low-carbon economic transformation and raise climate change in discussions with third countries at all levels. Since then, EU Foreign Ministers have discussed the foreign policy risks from climate change repeatedly, namely in 2013, 2015 and 2016.

German diplomacy also encouraged a focus on climate change and fragility among the G8 Foreign Ministers in 2013. This has opened multiple channels to ensure an ongoing discussion on how to deal with climate change impacts in conflict-prone contexts and how to join forces internationally to strengthen resilience to climate-fragility risks in vulnerable countries. Regional consultations during the preparation of the flagship report *A New Climate for Peace* in 2014 and 2015, as well as after finalisation of the report, enabled German climate diplomacy to establish the well-received notion that “resilience needs to become a compass for foreign policy.” A side-event on the last day of the ground-breaking Paris climate conference in December 2015 illustrated the importance of closely linking climate diplomacy efforts and resilience-strengthening initiatives at various levels. Yet the need to further explore options for preventive diplomacy did not disappear with the Paris Agreement. Only one month after the successful conference in Paris, climate diplomats came back to Paris to discuss next steps at the conference *Climate Change and European Foreign Policy after COP21*. This conference was organised by EUISS, IDDRI and adelphi with support from the German Foreign Office.

In a similar vein, the Dutch Foreign Ministry initiated a yearly “Planetary Security Conference” in 2015 in The Hague to create a forum for the exchange of experiences and insights on climate-related risks and conflicts. This is flanked by academic institutes and think tanks, including adelphi. From 2016 to 2018, discussions will be accompanied by working group sessions focusing on regional risk complexes, but also on potential response activities to ensure water and food security or conflict-sensitive adaptation.



Wolters, Stephan;
Dennis Tänzler, Gerald Stang
and Teresa Ribera 2016:
Climate Change and European
Foreign Policy after COP21
Climate Diplomacy Brief
Berlin/Brussels/Paris:
adelphi/EUISS/IDDRI



Tänzler, Dennis and
Alexander Carius (ed.)
2012: Climate Diplomacy
in Perspective – From Early
Warning to Early Action
Berlin: Berliner Wissen-
schafts-Verlag

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SECURITY AT THE UN

With the active involvement of German climate diplomacy, the UN has offered a regular platform for discussing climate risks for peace and stability.

The UN Security Council first considered climate change in April 2007 at the request of the United Kingdom. Two years later, in June 2009, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution A/RES/63/281, proposed by several small island states, which asked the UN Secretary-General to produce a comprehensive report on climate change and its possible security implications. Published in September 2009, the report (A/64/350) highlighted climate change as a 'threat multiplier' with the potential to exacerbate existing threats to international peace and security.

In recognition of the growing security concerns posed by climate change, the German Presidency of the Security Council took the initiative to consolidate the topic within the United Nations framework by calling an Open Debate on the impact of climate change on the maintenance of international peace and security in July 2011. The main objectives of this Open Debate were to strengthen the profile of climate change on the foreign policy agenda and to form and strengthen international alliances to drive the necessary processes to address the issue.

With the unanimous adoption of a Presidential Statement during this session, the Security Council reaffirmed the importance of establishing strategies of conflict prevention, and stated its concern about the possible adverse effects of climate change for international peace and security. This statement about climate change as an issue of top international priority sent a strong signal throughout the UN system and reinvigorated climate





negotiations. adelphi contributed to this process by initiating a series of informal preparatory events aimed at involving the scientific community and civil society in this process, organising several such events and developing ideas for the scope of the Security Council's Presidential Statement.

Further important UN debates followed after the 2011 debate:

- › Side-event during the UN General Assembly on Climate Change – *A Challenge for Preventive Diplomacy* in September 2012
- › Arria-formula meeting of the UN Security Council on *Security Dimensions of Climate Change*, 15 February 2013
- › Arria-formula meeting of the UN Security Council on *Climate Change as a Threat Multiplier for Global Security*, 30 June 2015
- › Open Debate at the UN Security Council on *Maintenance of International Peace and Security – Peace and Security Challenges Facing Small Island Developing States*, 30 July 2015 (7469th Meeting)
- › High Level Side Event during the UN General Assembly on *Climate and Security – The Foreign Policy Dimension of Climate Change*, hosted by Germany and France, September 2015
- › Open Debate at the UN Security Council on *Peace and Security in Africa – Challenges in the Sahel Region*, 26 May 2016 (7699th Meeting)
- › Open Debate at the UN Security Council on *Maintenance of Peace and Security: Water, Peace and Security*, 22 November 2016

“The Security Council expresses its concern that possible adverse effects of climate change may, in the long run, aggravate certain existing threats to international peace and security.”

UN SECURITY COUNCIL
Presidential Statement

A NEW CLIMATE FOR PEACE: G7 TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE AND FRAGILITY RISKS



Rüttinger, Lukas; Gerald Stang, Dan Smith, Dennis Tänzler, Janani Vivekananda et al. 2015: *A New Climate for Peace – Taking Action on Climate and Fragility Risks*, Executive Summary, Berlin/London/Washington/Paris: adelphi, International Alert, The Wilson Center, EUISS

G7-commissioned report on climate-fragility risks

The Group of 7 has been at the forefront of putting climate-fragility risks on the global agenda. In 2012, under the Presidency of the United States, the then G8¹ issued a joint statement recognising “climate change as a contributing factor to increased security risks globally.” This was followed up in 2013 under the British Presidency, which placed a strong focus on climate change. This included promoting ambitious international emission-reduction targets and more action on the security risks posed by climate change. G8 foreign policy officials decided to commission an independent report on climate change and fragility and an open online platform to share and disseminate knowledge and research on the topic.

In 2014, an international consortium of think tanks – led by adelphi and including International Alert, the Woodrow Wilson Center and the EU Institute for Security Studies – was commissioned by the G7 foreign ministries to implement these commitments. The project was supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the US government through USAID, and the European Union.

A New Climate for Peace

The aim of the report *A New Climate for Peace* was to examine the links between climate change and fragility, and what role foreign policy can and should play in order to address these challenges. Unlike the many previous reports on climate change and security, this report took a broader look at fragility and examined how climate change converges with other pressures and stressors on states and societies, thus creating a wide range of fragility risks.

The report covers the whole spectrum of situations of fragility, ranging from crisis and violent conflict to volatile transitional stages, such as regime change, post-conflict situations, and political unrest. It reaches beyond the traditional focus on the weakest and most conflict-ridden states by drawing attention to the risks posed by climate change for the stability and resilience of more developed countries.

In addition to a thorough review of the existing literature and scientific research, the consortium organised ten regional consultation and dialogue events. Stakeholders across five continents engaged in discussions on risk perception, preventive policy approaches and strategies in Ecuador, Egypt, Haiti, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines and Samoa.

¹ Following Russia’s violation of Ukraine’s territorial integrity and sovereignty in 2014, the G7 decided to continue meeting without Russia for the time being.

Seven climate-fragility risks threaten the stability of states and societies

The report identifies seven compound climate-fragility risks that pose serious threats to the stability of states and societies in the decades ahead:

- › Local resource competition: As the pressure on natural resources increases, competition can lead to instability and even violent conflicts in the absence of effective dispute resolution.
- › Livelihood insecurity and migration: Climate change will increase the human insecurity of those depending on natural resources for their livelihoods, which could push them to migrate or turn to illegal sources of income.
- › Extreme weather events and disasters will exacerbate fragility and can increase people's vulnerability and grievances, especially in conflict-affected situations.
- › Volatile food prices and provision: Climate change is highly likely to disrupt food production in many regions, increasing prices and market volatility, and heightening the risk of protests, rioting and civil conflict.



- › Transboundary water management is frequently a source of tension; as demand grows and climate impacts affect availability and quality, competition over water use will likely increase the pressure on existing governance structures.
- › Sea-level rise and coastal degradation: Rising sea levels will threaten the viability of low-lying areas, leading to social disruption, displacement and migration, while disagreements over maritime boundaries and ocean resources may increase.
- › Unintended effects of climate policies: As climate adaptation and mitigation policies are more broadly implemented, the risks of unintended negative effects – particularly in fragile contexts – will also increase.

Policy analysis: the need for an integrated agenda

The best way to diminish the threat posed by these climate-fragility risks is to mitigate climate change. However, changes to the climate are already underway, so steps to manage and minimise these risks have to be taken today. In order to address these systemic compound risks, approaches that cross sectors instead of single-sector interventions are needed. Responses to these interdependent and complex challenges have to reflect the multi-dimensionality of the risks.

Integrating policies and programmes in three key sectors – climate change adaptation, development and humanitarian aid, and peacebuilding – is necessary to help strengthen resilience to climate-fragility risks and realise significant co-benefits. The policy analysis of the report identified key policy and institutional gaps, lessons learned and entry points in this regard.

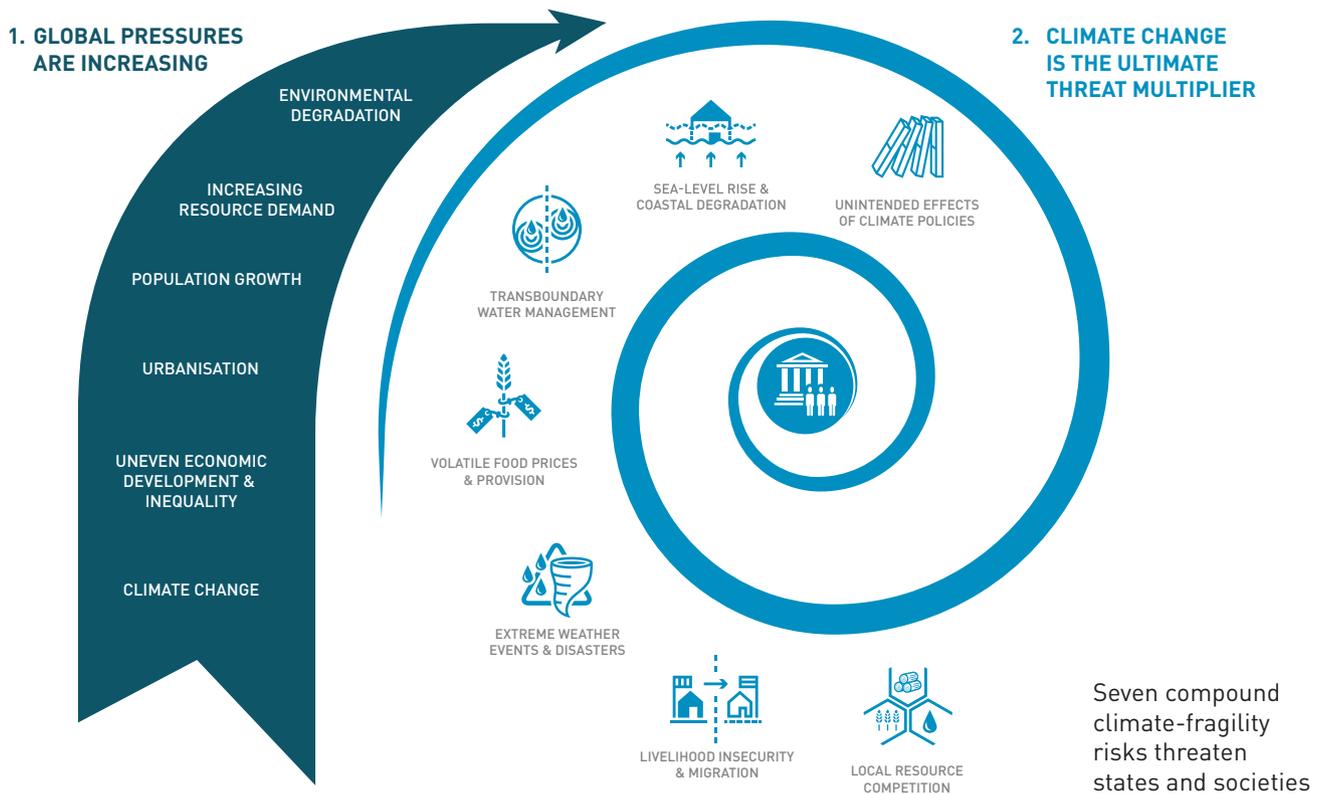
Recommendations: a new commitment for resilience

In order to overcome these gaps, the report calls for a new approach and new leadership from the highest level. It recommends that the G7 governments commit to designing and implementing integrated responses at several levels:

- › Within each G7 government;
- › Coordination among G7 members;
- › By informing global and multilateral processes;
- › Working in partnership with a wide range of other actors and institutions, including in countries affected by fragility.

It also proposes that this new multi-dimensional national and international process of coordination and cooperation for integrated responses should position itself in five action areas:

- › Global risk assessment
- › Food security
- › Disaster risk reduction
- › Transboundary water disputes settlement
- › Building local resilience



Knowledge platform

Coinciding with the publication of the report, the interactive online platform www.newclimateforpeace.org was launched. In addition to providing easy access to the report and its main findings, it offers political decision-makers, experts and practitioners up-to-date information on scientific and political developments around climate and fragility risks in the form of a blog, along with further information and resources in the format of an interactive map, the EEC Factbook, to explore the topic in more depth.

Report welcomed by G7 Foreign Ministers

The report was handed over to the German Foreign Minister in April 2015, and discussed and welcomed by the G7 Foreign Ministers at their Lübeck meeting in the same month. In their communiqué, they agreed “on the need to better understand, identify, monitor and address the compound risks associated with climate change and fragility” and to integrate “climate-fragility considerations across foreign policy portfolios”. In addition, they decided to set up a working group and task it with evaluating the report’s recommendations and facilitating information exchange, improving cooperation with affected countries and response to climate-fragility risks, making better use of risk assessments and developing guidance materials.

The resulting report by the G7 Working Group on Climate Change and Fragility was welcomed at the G7 Foreign Ministers’ meeting in Hiroshima under the Japanese Presidency in April 2016. The Ministers reiterated their commitment to “work to prioritise prevention of climate fragility risks by aligning our efforts toward the common goal of increasing resilience and reducing fragility in the face of global climate change,” and renewed the mandate of the working group for another two years with a view to implementing some of the report’s recommendations.

DATE

14 – 15 April 2015

LOCATIONFederal Foreign Office,
Berlin and Lübeck,
Germany**PARTICIPANTS**Federal Minister for
Foreign Affairs Frank-
Walter Steinmeier, Foreign
Ministers of the G7
Member States, High
Representative of the
Union for Foreign Affairs,
Federica Mogherini**DATE**

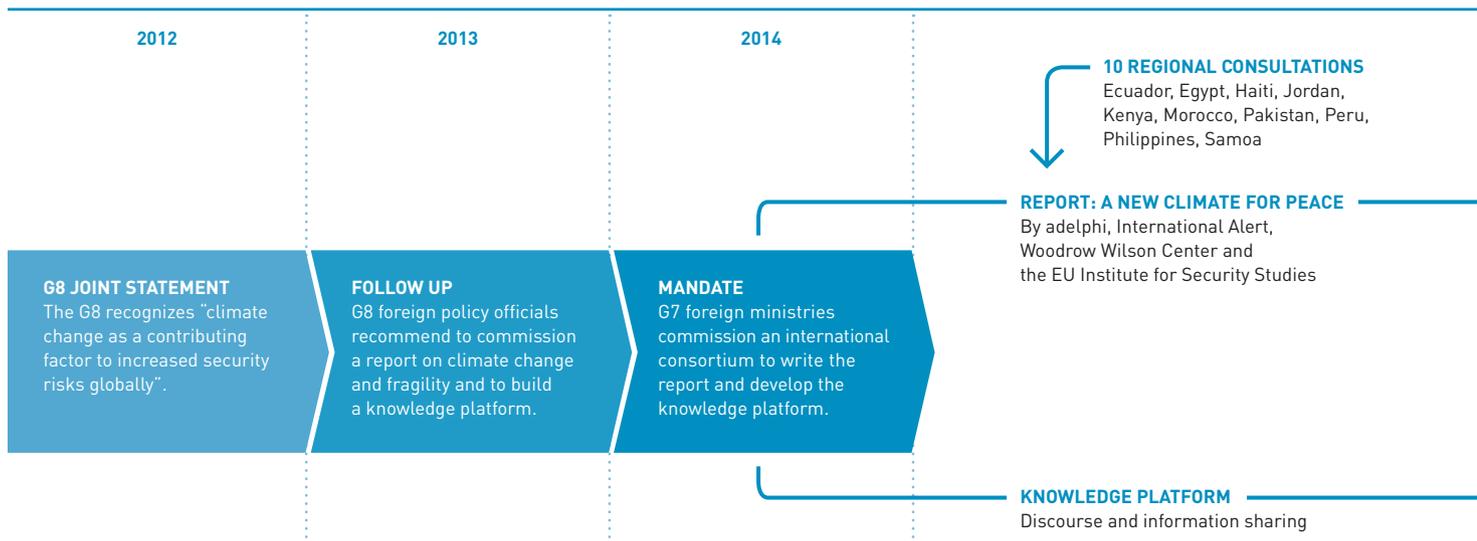
23 June 2015

LOCATIONForeign and Common-
wealth Office, London,
United Kingdom**PARTICIPANTS**Rt Hon. Baroness Anelay,
Minister of State at the
Foreign and Common-
wealth Office, representa-
tives of the Foreign and
Commonwealth Office,
think tanks, the media
and civil society

A NEW CLIMATE FOR PEACE: LAUNCH EVENTS

The report *A New Climate for Peace* was handed over to Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on April 14, and discussed at the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in Lübeck the following day. In their communiqué, the G7 Foreign Ministers welcomed the report and agreed with the conclusion that there is a need to better integrate climate-fragility considerations across foreign policy portfolios. To this end, the Ministers "decided to set up and task a working group with evaluating the study's recommendations."

Following the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting, the report *A New Climate for Peace* was launched at a high-level event in London in June 2015. The event was organised in cooperation with International Alert, one of the partner institutes in developing the report. Baroness Anelay, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, emphasised that climate change was "not only a threat to the environment but also to our global security, to poverty eradication and economic prosperity," and called for making it a top foreign policy priority.

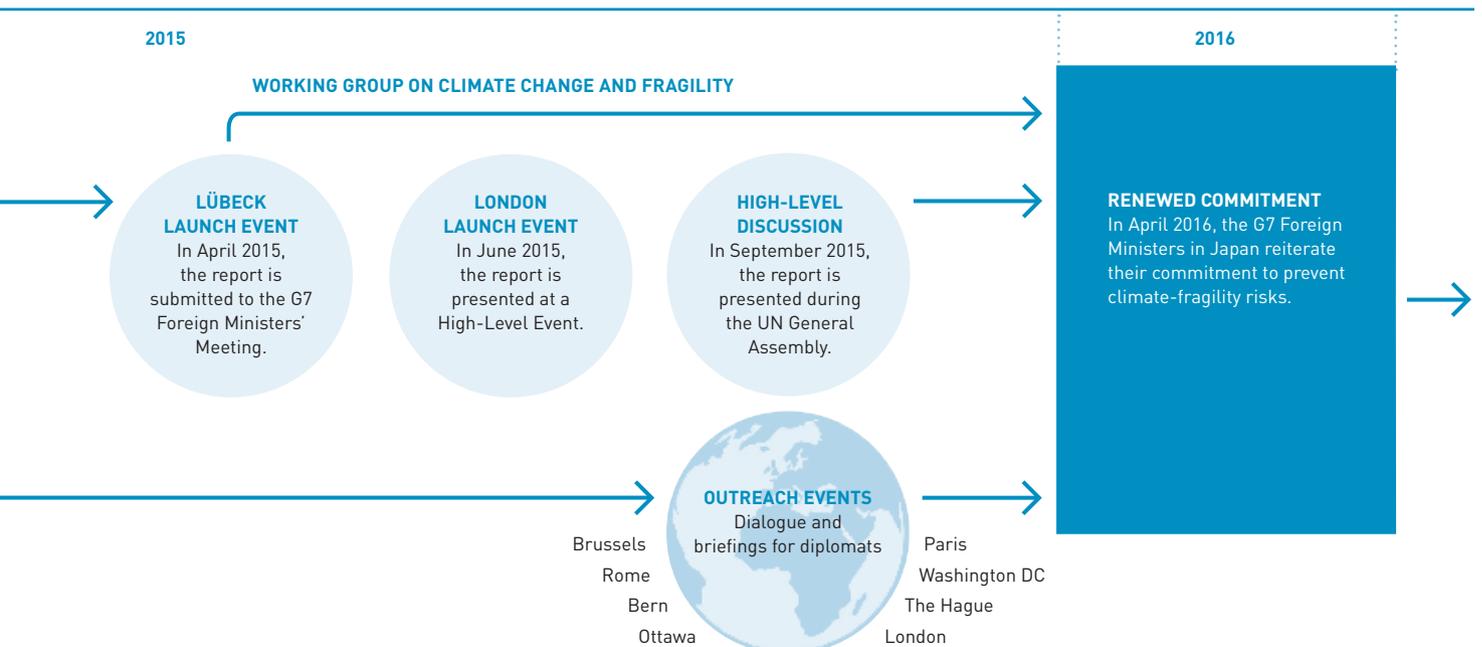


G7 Presidencies: United States (2012), United Kingdom (2013/2014), Germany (2014/2015), Japan (2016), Italy (2017)

A NEW CLIMATE FOR PEACE: OUTREACH AND BRIEFING EVENTS

Throughout the second half of 2015, adelphi organised multiple dialogue and briefing events for diplomats from all G7 states as well as relevant international organisations and other donors like the European Commission in order to discuss the key outcomes of the report and the ECC Factbook, and to maximise the use and visibility of the online platform. These included:

DATE	LOCATION	PARTICIPANTS
15 October 2015	Paris, France	Government officials from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Defence Ministry, representatives of the EU Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
1–3 November 2015	The Hague, the Netherlands	Government officials from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
12 November 2015	Washington D.C., United States	Government officials from the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), representatives of the Wilson Center
13 November 2015	Ottawa, Canada	Government officials from Global Affairs Canada
17 November 2015	London, United Kingdom	Government officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Department for International Development (DFID)
24–25 November 2015	Rome, Italy	Government officials from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment, representatives of think tanks, the Permanent Representation of Germany to the UN Organisations in Rome
26 November 2015	Bern, Switzerland	Government officials from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
17 December 2015	Brussels, Belgium	Representatives of the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission



LOCATIONS**Africa**

Pretoria, South Africa
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Asia

Tokyo, Japan
Republic of Singapore
New Delhi, India

Pacific

Apia, Samoa

Latin America

Bogotá, Colombia

PARTICIPANTS

Decision-makers, diplomats, representatives from think tanks, NGOs and academic experts from each region; civil society, representatives from German Embassies, German development cooperation and the German Federal Foreign Office

REGIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESSES

The security consequences of climate change will be different in each continent and will interact with social, political and economic processes and capabilities that are unique to each region. Different ecoregions in Asia, Pacific, Africa and Latin America will thus be confronted with diverse challenges.



In order to build up understanding of the particularities of each region in the face of climate change and further develop the engagement with and between diverse actors in their societies, the Federal Foreign Office sponsored a series of dialogues in all these regions between 2011 and 2016. Organised by adelphi in cooperation with local partners, the discussions provided a forum for local partners and experts from different countries in each region to exchange views and network. They were complemented by an array of activities including public exhibitions on environment, conflict and cooperation; executive policy briefings for decision-makers; roundtables in universities; and briefings for journalists.



DIALOGUES

Regional Dialogue Event
in 2016, Tokyo, Japan

Regional Dialogue Event
in 2013, Republic of
Singapore

Roundtable Discussion in
2011, New Delhi, India

ASIA

Climate change will have a wide range of repercussions in Asia. Among the major risks are natural disasters such as storms, floods and droughts, and scarcity of water, food and energy. These impacts have the potential to slow economic growth and development progress. In regions where scarce resources meet natural stresses and socio-economic cleavages, climate change can act as a multiplier of threats to international peace and security. The German Federal Foreign Office and adelphi have in the past focused on different sub-regions in order to account for differences between the various sub-regions with respect to the linkages between climate change, resources and conflict, and to develop targeted strategies for preventive action and diplomacy.



REGIONAL DIALOGUE EVENT

Climate-Fragility Risks in Japan and the Asia-Pacific Region

Climate-fragility risks are a major security risk for Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. As part of the Group of 7 (G7), Japan has recognised the resulting challenges for sustainable economic development, peace and stability. In April 2016, under the Japanese G7 Presidency, and following up on the independent report *A New Climate for Peace: Taking Action on Climate and Fragility Risks* commissioned by G7 members, the foreign ministers of the G7 reiterated their commitment to prioritise prevention of climate fragility risks including taking steps to integrate climate-fragility considerations across their national governments.

To facilitate a broader discussion on climate-fragility risks in Japan and reflect on and discuss the findings of the independent report, together with its implications and relevance for Japan, adelphi and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies jointly organised an expert workshop in Tokyo. Participants discussed specific climate-fragility risks in the region such as increasing competition for resources, for example around fisheries; growing fragility in the region, for example in small-island states; and supply chain risks and their impact on national economies. They also identified specific international, regional and Japanese experiences that could help in addressing these risks, such as Japan's strength in the field of disaster risk reduction.

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

- › The risks discussed during the workshops can serve as a starting point for a systematic and deeper risk assessment on how a changing climate will affect Japanese security, in particular how fragility and conflict dynamics might play out in the region and interact with the geopolitics of the region.
- › Japan has a lot to offer to more effectively address climate-fragility risks in the region and around the globe. To this end, a thorough assessment of domestic policies could be conducted to identify and explore relevant approaches, lessons learned and entry points for addressing climate-fragility risks.
- › The G7 could develop deep and long-term partnerships with specific countries that are experiencing fragility or conflict. The goal would be to increase the resilience of the affected country to a broad range of shocks and stressors by jointly identifying priority actions, and in turn providing support on that basis.

“Dealing with climate-fragility risks and dealing with those risks head-on must be regarded as one of [the] key strategies rather than building barricades on borders to fend off tragedies.”

DATE

14 June 2016

LOCATION

Tokyo, Japan

PARTNER

International Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), Japan

PARTICIPANTS

Experts from international organisations and the national and international research community, government officials from Japan and Germany

AMBASSADOR MUTSUYOSHI NISHIMURA

Former Ambassador of Japan to the UN Climate Negotiations and Special Advisor to the Cabinet in charge of Climate Change, Japan

DATE

29 November 2013

LOCATION

Nanyang Executive
Centre, Nanyang
Technical University,
Singapore

PARTNER

Centre for Non-Traditional
Security Studies (NTS),
Singapore

PARTICIPANTS

Government officials from
Southeast Asian countries
and Germany, experts
from international
organisations and the
national and international
research community

REGIONAL DIALOGUE EVENT

New Approaches for Climate Diplomacy in Southeast Asia

adelphi and the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies gathered representatives from Southeast Asian foreign ministries and think tanks in Singapore to discuss suitable foreign policy strategies in addressing emerging challenges. At the centre of the debate was the need for enhanced regional cooperation on climate change-related challenges, including strengthening the role of ASEAN, but also the need for stronger international cooperation.

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

- › Strengthen existing collaboration in disaster management and relief: the forest sector and green technologies are useful entry points for joint actions in response to climate change.
- › The valuable experience of Southeast Asian coastal cities can be fed into the promotion of green economy and sustainable development initiatives in the region. Singapore, with its unique feature of being a city-state, could be well-positioned to provide much-needed leadership.
- › Climate policy will work best with a multi-level governance approach. Vertical linkages are important to make the best use of initiatives and fora such as the recent ASEAN city mayors' meeting and the UN Habitat's Citizens and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI).

DATE

14 April 2011

LOCATION

India Habitat Centre,
New Delhi, India

PARTNER

The Energy and Resources
Institute (TERI),
New Delhi, India

PARTICIPANTS

Indian and German
government officials,
natural and social science
experts from Bangladesh,
India and Nepal

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

South Asian Perspectives on Water, Climate Change and Conflict

adelphi, in partnership with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), hosted the roundtable discussion on *Water, Climate Change and Conflict in South Asia* alongside the India Water Forum. TERI is a longstanding research institute with a focus on earth systems and climate change, among other fields. The event featured prominent speakers from around the South Asian region and was a building block for increased cooperation within the region, as well as engagement between Germany and South Asia on water conflict issues.

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

- › Eliminate the primary obstacles to regional cooperation in the water sector by improving efficient water management, working to overcome regional mistrust, and minimising the influence of vested interests.
- › South Asia possesses a regional economic and political organisation, but the common concerns around water do not feature on its agenda. Seize opportunities for regional cooperation, for example in jointly addressing water pollution and sharing micro-irrigation technologies.
- › Given the scale of shared water resources in the region, many of the impacts of climate change cannot be studied by any single country alone. Strengthen local capacity and data transfer in South Asian countries, as well as technology transfer and regional data exchange.

PACIFIC

REGIONAL DIALOGUE EVENT

Foreign Policy Challenges in the Context of Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region

The Pacific islands are hit hard by the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, tropical and extra-tropical cyclones, increasing air and sea-surface temperature, and changing rainfall patterns, with significant geopolitical consequences. To discuss these, adelphi hosted a side-event during the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in 2014 in cooperation with the University of the South Pacific, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. High-level officials from the Pacific region and from Germany, as well as experts from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the University of the South Pacific, discussed ways to integrate the perspectives of small-island states on climate risk and resilience-building into the international climate discourse.

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

- › The Pacific SIDS should make their voice heard and enhance their international profile, not just focusing on vulnerability, but also underlining climate action solutions. This requires diplomatic creativity and making unusual alliances in the UN system and beyond to help build trust in international climate negotiations. The Samoa Pathway – the outcome document of the Third SIDS Conference – and the Majuro Declaration on Climate Leadership (2013) could be stepping stones for further dialogue and partnerships.
- › The security and geopolitical dimension of climate change in the Pacific is significant as it can be seen as the litmus test for likely climate impacts on the global scale. Some Pacific SIDS face questions of sovereignty and even of survival. Geopolitical issues like concerns over resources and exclusive economic zones are also on the agenda of regional powers. This offers an entry point for cooperation and raising the ambition of climate action, as was later demonstrated by the pivotal role of Tony de Brum (former Foreign Minister of the Marshall Islands) in the High Ambition Coalition, which helped achieve consensus on the Paris Agreement.
- › Climate change concerns are cross-cutting and should be a topic in energy, economic and aid diplomacy. The resilience-building efforts need to be strengthened, encompassing both extreme weather events and slow-onset events. The Warsaw framework for loss and damage is an important platform for vulnerable SIDS. Involving all stakeholders including local governments is crucial.

“Climate diplomacy begins at home, but it requires creative thinking, constant lobbying, and technical substance. Diplomacy has its origins in helping countries avoid the scourge of war and create a better tomorrow. This could not be more true for the challenge of our generation – climate change.”

DIALOGUES

Regional Dialogue Event in 2014, Apia, Samoa

DATE

3 September 2014

LOCATION

Third SIDS Conference in Apia, Samoa

PARTNERS

University of the South Pacific, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

PARTICIPANTS

High-level government officials from Germany and the Pacific SIDS as well as representatives of international organisations; experts from Germany, the Pacific and the IPCC

TONY DE BRUM

Foreign Minister of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

DIALOGUES

Regional Dialogue Event
in 2013, Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia
Regional Scoping
Workshop in 2012,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Roundtable Discussion
in 2011, Pretoria,
South Africa

DATE

24 October 2013

LOCATION

UN Conference Centre
in Addis Ababa

PARTNERS

African Institute for
Security Studies (ISS),
Addis Ababa
African Climate Policy
Center (ACPC) at the UN
Economic Commission for
Africa in Addis Ababa

PARTICIPANTS

Development and
environmental policy
experts working in the
region, high-level
diplomats, government
representatives from
African countries, the
African Union, Germany
and other development
cooperation partners

AFRICA

REGIONAL DIALOGUE EVENT

New Approaches for Climate Diplomacy in Africa

Livelihoods in several African countries often depend heavily on natural resources. The rates of undernourishment are high in various parts of the continent and by 2025 about 230 million people are expected to face water scarcity in Africa. Climate change may increase tensions over scarce resources in regions where urgent development needs meet natural stresses. The absence of fair and effective mechanisms of conflict resolution can increase this risk to peace and stability. In October 2013, 50 experts from the climate policy and development communities assembled to discuss the impacts of climate change on the African continent.

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS

- › Improve the understanding of climate impacts at all stages of the food production chain by increasing the information exchange on risks for food security and availability through platforms and knowledge hubs. This knowledge should then be integrated into existing agricultural plans.
- › Foster basin-level diplomacy, regional trade initiatives and integrated water management. The river basin organisations in place in Africa should go beyond a strict water policy focus and engage with other ministries that take important water governance decisions, such as ministries of foreign affairs, energy and finance.
- › Cross-sector planning for water-based investments in energy (hydropower), industrial development (mining, food processing), agriculture (irrigation) and livelihoods (farming, fisheries) is a critical success factor in securing water in the region.

“Given the history of resource and political conflicts in Africa, climate change could aggravate territorial and border disputes and complicate conflict resolution and mediation processes.”

**PROF. KASAIJA
PHILLIP APUULI**

Head of the Conflict
Prevention and Risk
Analysis Programme at
the Institute for Security
Studies (ISS)



DIALOGUES

Regional Roundtable
Discussion in 2012,
Bogotá, Colombia

PARTNERS

Universidad de los Andes-
Centre for International
Studies (CEI), Bogotá;
Vita e Civilis, Sao Paulo

PARTICIPANTS

Social and natural
scientists with expertise
in Colombia, Bolivia, Costa
Rica, Ecuador and Peru;
Colombian government
officials and represen-
tatives from the German
Federal Foreign Office
and German development
agencies

LATIN AMERICA

REGIONAL DIALOGUE EVENT

Latin American Perspectives on Climate Change and Security

The Andean region is already facing increased temperatures and rapid glacier melt, and is expected to suffer greater precipitation variability, which will in turn impact on water supply and agriculture. The intense floods experienced in Colombia, Peru and Bolivia in recent years demonstrate the significant impacts that climate variability, climate change and intensified natural disasters can have in the Andean ecoregion. The Regional Dialogue Event aimed to identify specific regional risks and strategies to counter them.

SELECTED RECOMMENDATIONS:

- › Strengthen the Latin American position and identify competitiveness and innovation opportunities by linking discussions around security and climate change with on-going discourses on investment, international aid and trade within the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
- › In addition to adequate episodic emergency responses, design preventive policies that incorporate the lessons of communities affected by severe flooding and mudslides in recent years in Colombia, Bolivia, Peru and elsewhere. Based on these experiences, examine disaster risk management and adaptation strategies in place to weed out detrimental adaptation practices.
- › Prevent large-scale environmental damage by revisiting current practices in mining and oil exploitation activities in the region.

**MANUEL RODRÍGUEZ
BECERRA**

Former Colombian
Environment Minister

“Current development policies in the region are increasing the countries’ vulnerability to climate change. We could even say that we have a policy of de-adaptation in place.”



DEVELOPING CAPACITIES TO MEET THE CHALLENGES

Climate change impacts and their foreign policy implications at the global, regional and local levels are complex and dynamic. In order to formulate appropriate policies and sound long-term strategies, as well as to conduct climate outreach, a thorough grasp of climate diplomacy, and an understanding of the characteristics of climate impacts and politics in each region are necessary.

In this context, the German Federal Foreign Office and adelphi have taken on a programme for further developing the capacities and knowledge available to the Federal Foreign Office, consisting of a range of capacity building formats, since 2011.

Specific country profiles complemented the diplomatic toolkit in the run-up to COP21 in order to support targeted outreach to selected partner countries. These profiles looked into the specifics of each country's approach to national and international climate politics, helping to identify common interests and entry points for ambitious climate cooperation – based on so-called climate diplomacy narratives.

A series of policy briefings, organised for German Embassy staff and representatives of German donor agencies in regions of key political interest, has been undertaken in recent years and a two-track executive training for diplomats has been initiated.

At the Federal Foreign Office, roundtables with invited experts are organised at regular intervals to provide new perspectives and in-depth knowledge to foreign policy-makers. A series of region-specific Climate Security Dialogues for the Foreign Office's senior staff and other German government decision-makers allowed for an ongoing exchange on the particular linkages between climate and security with experts from four regions: the Southern Mediterranean, Latin America, South Asia and Central Asia.



Auswärtiges Amt



LOCATION

German Federal
Foreign Office, Berlin

DATES

May – November 2011

PARTICIPANTS

Each workshop drew 20–30 participants spanning German decision-makers, think tanks, foundations, NGOs and academia. Participating experts from the Southern Mediterranean, Latin America, South Asia and Central Asia included academics, policy advisors and civil society representatives.

CLIMATE SECURITY DIALOGUES AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE

The Climate Security Dialogues were created in cooperation with the KlimaCampus and Research Group Climate Change and Security (CLISEC) at the University of Hamburg as a forum to discuss the impacts of a shifting climate in times of political, economic and demographic transformation, bridging the science-policy gap.

SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

The Water-Food-Energy-Migration Complex

The Southern Mediterranean region encompasses Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. Key climate change challenges in the region include increasing water scarcity, desertification and the degradation of fertile soils, which already contribute to conflicts and population displacements. In May 2011, experts on food security, water, energy and applied economics from Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Palestine met to exchange perspectives on the potential effects of climate change. Recommendations by the regional experts included encouraging the integration of climate change into existing regional initiatives and agreements on shared water resources, as well as fostering their transparent management.

LATIN AMERICA

Addressing Food and Water Security Risks

Latin America comprises the countries of Central and South America as well as Mexico and the Caribbean. In September 2011, adelphi convened natural scientists in geography, meteorology and hydrology, along with civil society experts from Argentina, Mexico, Peru and Colombia to meet with European social scientists and members of the foreign, development and security policy communities. Resource competition among different sectors is likely to be accentuated as shared resources, such as water for energy security and agriculture, become scarcer. The key messages by the group of experts focused on the need for more consultation of different social groups and for strengthening the knowledge base for addressing climate change and planning adaptation measures in the region.

CENTRAL ASIA

Interlinkages between Water and Energy Security Trends

The Central Asian region stretches over Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Central Asia will be severely affected by climate change, particularly through water scarcity and related impacts on energy security. Experts from the region on integrated water resource management, transboundary water management and development met with academics and members of the security and foreign policy communities from Germany. The experts highlighted the need to improve resource efficiency and effective coordination to address climate change challenges. Recommendations included to go beyond a single-sector approach and gradually involve Afghanistan in cooperation mechanisms.

SOUTH ASIA

Conflict or Cooperation over the Himalayas?

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka belong to the region of South Asia. Decreased availability of natural resources and an increasing number and intensity of natural disasters will be the main climate challenges in the region. The dialogue drew from the insights of regional experts on climate, water, security and meteorology, who met with decision-makers, academics and representatives of civil society organisations and think tanks from Germany and other European countries. The sub-region is most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, in particular due to the effects on wetlands and glacial areas of the Himalayas. If these crucial elements of the overall regional ecosystem are damaged, a vital link in flood warning and protection against floods may be lost.



FORMAT

Executive briefings

LOCATIONS

Ottawa, Canada
Santiago de Chile, Chile
Cairo, Egypt
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Jakarta, Indonesia
Wellington, New Zealand
Managua, Nicaragua
Port of Spain, Trinidad
and Tobago
Washington D.C., USA

PARTICIPANTS

Diplomats from the
German Embassies in
each country, as well
as selected represen-
tatives from German
development cooperation,
Chambers of Commerce
and German political
foundations

TRAINING FORMATS FOR DIPLOMATS

In cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, adelphi prepares and conducts targeted policy briefings for German Embassy officials, officers from German implementing agencies, and representatives of German foundations in selected capitals. In some cases, representatives of the EEAS and other EU Member States as well as G7 officials are also included. Furthermore, in order to enable foreign ministry staff to apply central concepts of climate diplomacy, the German Federal Foreign Office has embarked on a two-track executive training programme for diplomats, which aims to impart key skills and up-to-date knowledge.

The briefings elaborate on climate security risks in the specific regions and provide an introduction to the Federal Foreign Office's approach and efforts to develop a foreign policy perspective on climate security risks. Participants become acquainted with the broader climate and security debate and the respective UN processes and activities. There is also discussion on the particular role that embassies may play in promoting policies to address risks in the respective domestic and regional contexts.

The objective of the briefings is for the participants to further develop their knowledge and understanding of the topic in order to be able to undertake climate diplomacy outreach in line with international processes and German foreign policy priorities. To this end, participants discuss the extent to which climate change can be a threat multiplier, the policies and measures needed to tackle climate risks, the kind of international activities that are of key relevance for this topic, and possible options for German foreign policy in the respective regional settings.

The first track is a yearly, week-long training programme by the Federal Foreign Office for younger German diplomats from embassies and headquarters on current and main topics of climate and energy policy. Leading experts from ministries, universities and think tanks are invited to provide insights, share their experience in negotiations, and contribute ideas for further development of an ambitious global climate policy. Headquarter and embassy staff exchange their experience in implementing climate and energy diplomacy projects in their host countries, thus disseminating best practices among German foreign missions.

adelphi offers a second training track for diplomats, both German and foreign, which covers an array of foreign policy instruments, as well as approaches and actors' perspectives on climate change. The training programme makes use of innovative methods such as the simulation of UN Security Council sessions on climate security. In 2013, the training implemented on behalf of the German Federal Foreign Office took place in Berlin and was conducted for diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean; in 2015, the above simulation was undertaken with German diplomats.

EXPERT CONSULTATIONS

RUSSIA AND LOW-CARBON DEVELOPMENT AFTER PARIS

Oleg Pluzhnikov presented opportunities and barriers for ambitious climate action in Russia. The discussion focused on current developments in Russian climate politics, its key actors, the role of progressive businesses and entry points for re-vitalising cooperation on climate topics.

INDIA'S CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY POLICY

Dhanasree Jayaram gave a talk on the water-food-energy nexus in India, clarifying the links to national development priorities. The discussion explored opportunities to respond to the challenges by means of international cooperation.

NATURAL RESOURCES IN VIOLENT CONFLICT

David Jensen discussed the role of natural resources and climate change in violent conflicts. He stressed that accounting for environmental factors in post-conflict processes is crucial for long-term stability and highlighted ways to transform potential sources of tension into a platform for peacebuilding.

PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSATLANTIC CLIMATE POLICY

Prof. Stacy VanDeveer met with German Federal Foreign Office staff to identify opportunities for transatlantic cooperation. The discussion highlighted the diverse policies and perspectives of Canadian and United States actors, and the dynamic nature of current discussions over possible energy futures.

THE GULF MONARCHIES IN THE RUN-UP TO COP 18

In preparation for the UNFCCC COP in Qatar, Dr Mari Luomi elaborated on the climate and energy policy of the Arab Gulf states. As their population grows and energy demand increases, the Gulf countries show rising interest in the development of alternative energy sources.

CLIMATE CHALLENGES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Max Schön briefed Federal Foreign Office staff and argued that companies are willing to engage in climate change mitigation if a climate change policy provides a reliable framework for action.

A FAIR COMPROMISE TO BREAK THE CLIMATE IMPASSE

Dr Marco Grasso led an exchange on a realistic, fair and effective climate agreement in the run-up to the UNFCCC COP in Paris. He emphasised the need to bridge the expectation gap between countries, and suggested a carbon budgeting approach based on CO₂ consumption rather than CO₂ production.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS EFFECTS ON GEOPOLITICS

Cleo Paskal commented on current geo-political, geo-economic and geo-physical changes in worldwide power relations, taking the South Pacific as an example. She advocated an ambitious climate diplomacy engagement under the leadership of Europe, the US and Canada in the Pacific region.

LOCATION

German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

PARTICIPANTS

Experts and Federal Foreign Office Staff

EXPERTS

Oleg Pluzhnikov, Deputy Head of the Branch Division of Business Russia, Russia

Dhanasree Jayaram, Researcher at the Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal University, India

David Jensen, Head of the UNEP Environmental Cooperation for Peacebuilding programme, Switzerland

Prof. Stacy VanDeveer, Chair of the Department of Political Science, University of New Hampshire, USA

Dr Mari Luomi, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for International and Regional Studies, Georgetown University, Qatar

Max Schön, Chairperson, Stiftung 2 Grad, Germany

Dr Marco Grasso, Senior Lecturer in International Environmental Policy, Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Cleo Paskal, Associate Fellow, Chatham House – Royal Institute of International Affairs, UK, Adjunct Professor of Global Change at the School of Geopolitics, Manipal University, India

REACHING OUT TO SOCIETIES AND DECISION-MAKERS

An appropriate response to climate change requires an international network of strong partnerships with developing countries and emerging economies. While many of the most significant climate policy challenges occur on the global stage, the key to adequate action in each region is to understand trends and responses to threats at lower levels. The consequences of extreme weather events, floods and droughts, for example, have the greatest impacts at the local level, thus requiring knowledge sharing, open debate and reflection with decision-makers, and wide engagement with a well-informed public.

In early 2011, the German Federal Foreign Office and adelphi initiated such engagement with diverse societal actors through a variety of foreign policy approaches. A comprehensive online platform, public exhibitions, and bilateral discussions through innovative projects have contributed not only to a better understanding of the characteristics of impacts in each region, but also to the establishment of dialogue between actors with different perspectives on climate diplomacy.

WITH THE ABOVE PRIORITIES IN MIND, THREE DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS ARE USED:

- › An online platform (ecc-platform.org) facilitates information exchange by creating networks among stakeholders from environmental, foreign and security, development, and economic policy communities worldwide. It has been developed into an integrated knowledge hub with diverse thematic approaches and material for policy-makers.
- › A region-specific, public exhibition on climate security risks, made available in different languages – sometimes shown alongside landmark global events – further deepens the regional focus of outreach activities.
- › The German Federal Foreign Office Climate Fund provides financing for smaller, embassy-monitored projects in numerous countries every year.

应对气候变化 中国在行动



应对气候变化的挑战，中国正采取一系列行动，包括加强法律法规建设、推动绿色低碳发展、积极参与全球气候治理等。中国将坚定不移地走绿色低碳循环发展之路，为全球应对气候变化作出更大贡献。



MAP OF EVENTS: REACHING OUT TO SOCIETIES AND DECISION-MAKERS

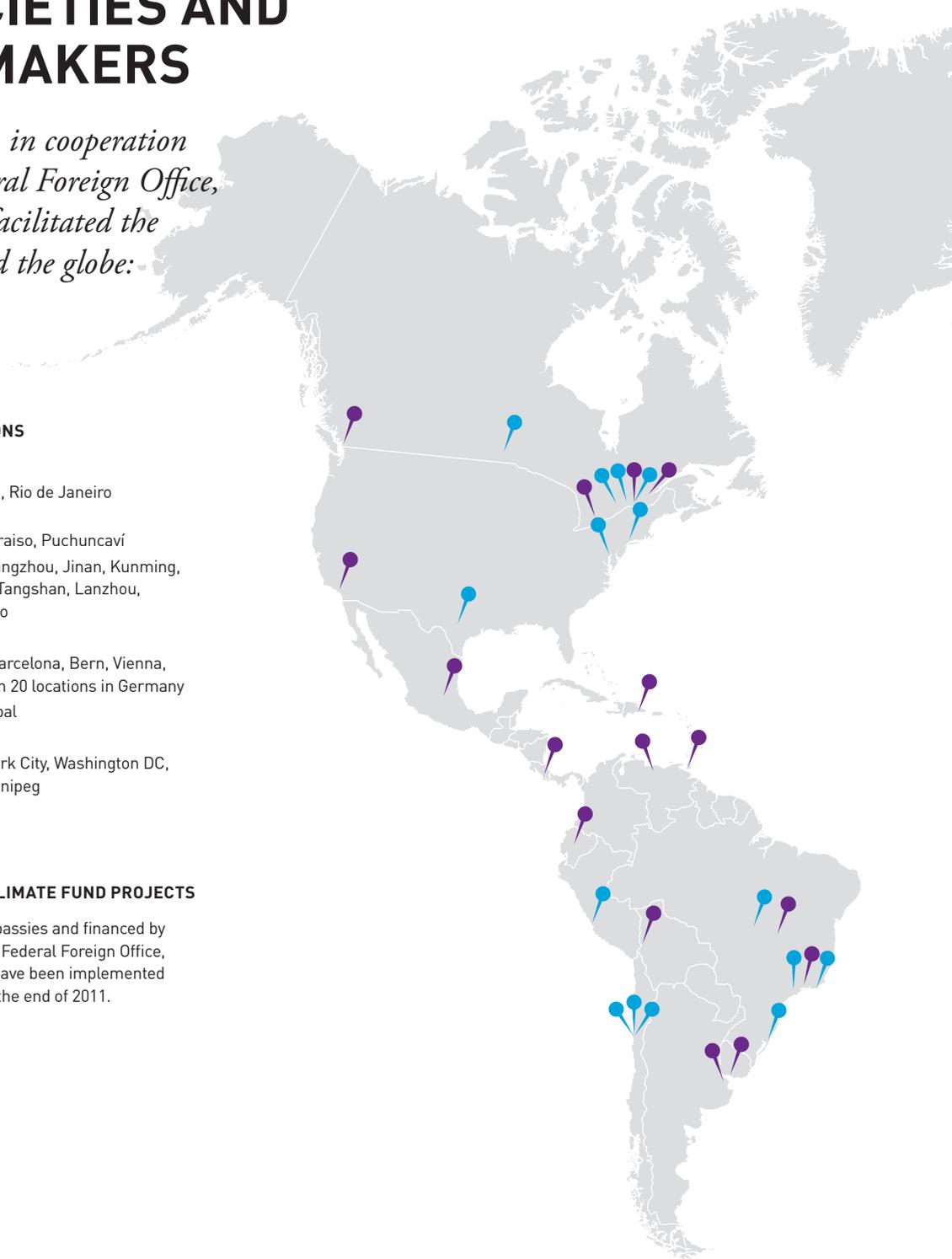
Starting in early 2011, in cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, adelphi initiated and facilitated the following events around the globe:

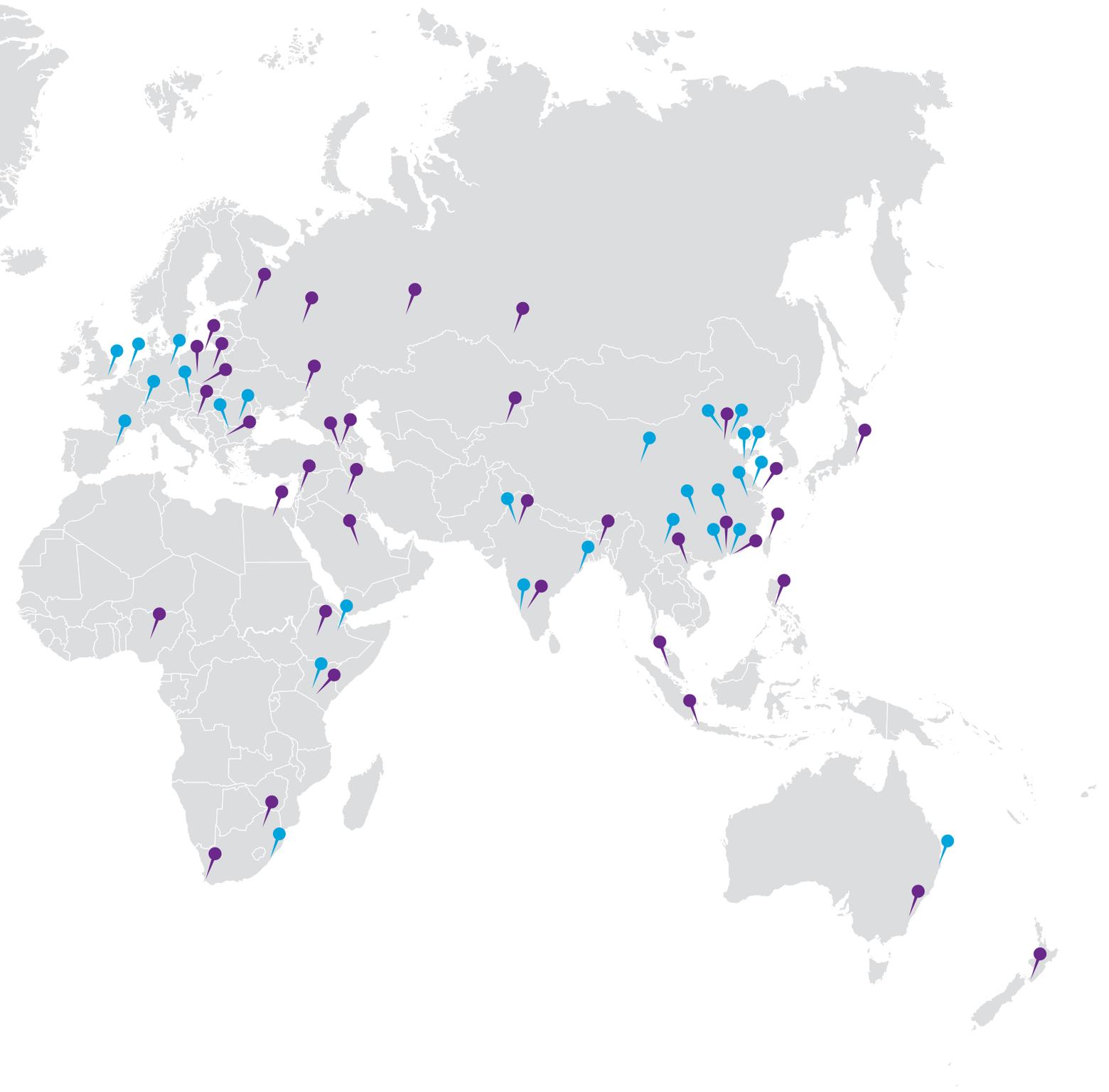
SELECTED PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

- > Australia: Brisbane
- > Brazil: Porto Alegre, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro during Rio+20 and Brasília
- > Chile: Santiago de Chile, Valparaiso, Puchuncaví
- > China: Beijing, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Jinan, Kunming, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Changsha, Tangshan, Lanzhou, Tianjin, Wuhu, Nanjing, Qingdao
- > Ethiopia: Addis Ababa
- > Europe: London, The Hague, Barcelona, Bern, Vienna, Bucharest, Sofia and more than 20 locations in Germany
- > India: New Delhi, Orissa, Manipal
- > Kenya: Nairobi
- > North America: Austin, New York City, Washington DC, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg
- > Peru: Lima
- > South Africa: Durban

FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE CLIMATE FUND PROJECTS

In partnership with German Embassies and financed by the Climate Fund of the German Federal Foreign Office, projects on climate and energy have been implemented in more than 40 countries since the end of 2011.





COMMUNICATION TOOLS: INFORMING THE DEBATE

Engaging the wider public in the debate around climate diplomacy is a strategic objective. adelphi and the German Federal Foreign Office have devised an integrated communication concept that provides comprehensive information to societies and decision-makers, with the overall aim of facilitating the debate. Importantly, the structure of the communication products facilitates and supports the formation of regional perspectives, and allows climate diplomacy to be viewed through different lenses to ensure its relevance in various contexts. This is an essential element of our overall approach.

THE KEY COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS ARE:

- › A regularly-updated booklet on recent project activities, outcomes and policy recommendations
- › An online information platform and newsletter
- › An interactive tool featuring environmental conflicts (Factbook)
- › A touring exhibition with accompanying online version and brochure
- › A publication series:
 - climate diplomacy briefs focusing on regional and sector climate risks
 - climate diplomacy reports exploring the foreign policy dimension of sector policies in depth
 - climate diplomacy proceedings on regional consultations and briefings

THE HUB OF OUR COMMUNICATION STRATEGY: THE ONLINE PLATFORM

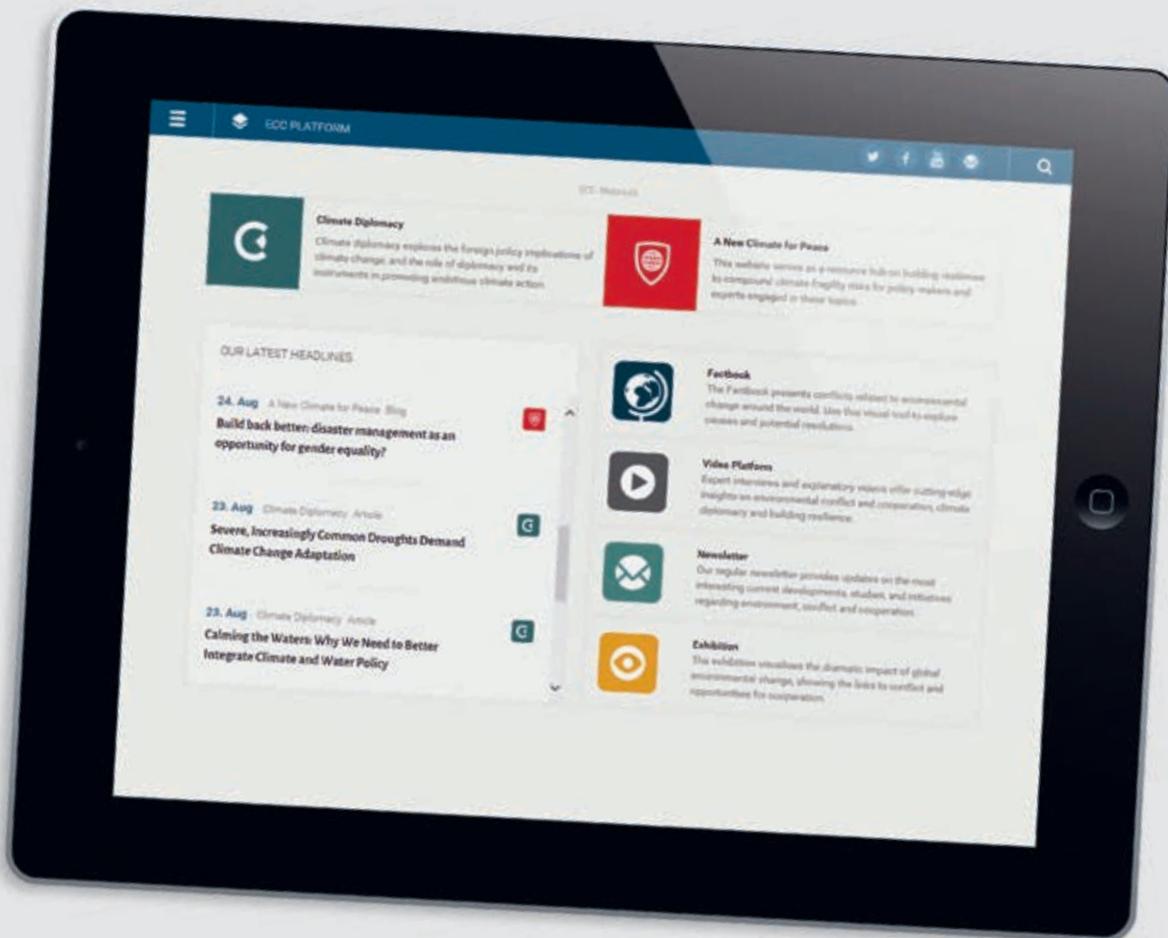
The knowledge platform is designed to facilitate further discussion of topics related to climate diplomacy by providing additional analysis and eliciting broader engagement with relevant issues, including by civil society actors and partners. The website www.climate-diplomacy.org comprises information on all of our activities related to climate diplomacy, including electronic versions of all reports, briefs and documentation. It is embedded within the broader www.ecc-platform.org website, which functions as a clearing house for resources and exchange on environment, conflict and cooperation (ECC) theory, policy and practice. Since 2015, the platform also hosts the knowledge platform on climate-fragility risks that was developed as an accompanying exchange forum for the G7 report *A New Climate for Peace* (www.newclimateforpeace.org). It provides a space to share analysis, research and emerging thinking on climate change impacts and climate change responses in fragile states, as well as on the actions necessary to build resilience and stability. The platform also prominently features factbook.ecc-platform.org, an interactive map with a comprehensive database of conflicts related to environment and security.

Furthermore, the platform supports a regionally focused debate, not only by providing region-specific information, but also by fostering and including a global network of partners with regional expertise – part of a three-pronged approach to cooperation:

- › Institutionalised partnerships with regular contributions to the website from expert organisations around the globe
- › News partnerships with other platforms to exchange knowledge and relevant content
- › Mailing lists that allow for targeted dissemination of information (e.g. regionally)

THE PLATFORM SERVES AS A HUB FOR SEVERAL SPIN-OFF PRODUCTS:

- › A regular newsletter with several thousand subscribers, providing articles and information on important current developments, studies, events, and initiatives
- › Video interviews with distinguished experts worldwide
- › The blog *Resilience Compass*, featuring news, reflections and opinions on climate change and fragility, with contributions from adelphi, its partners and guest authors
- › A Twitter account (@ClimateDiplo) to inform followers about the latest news with relevance for climate foreign policy
- › A Facebook page (facebook.com/ecc.platform) to keep subscribers posted on current developments around environment, conflict and cooperation

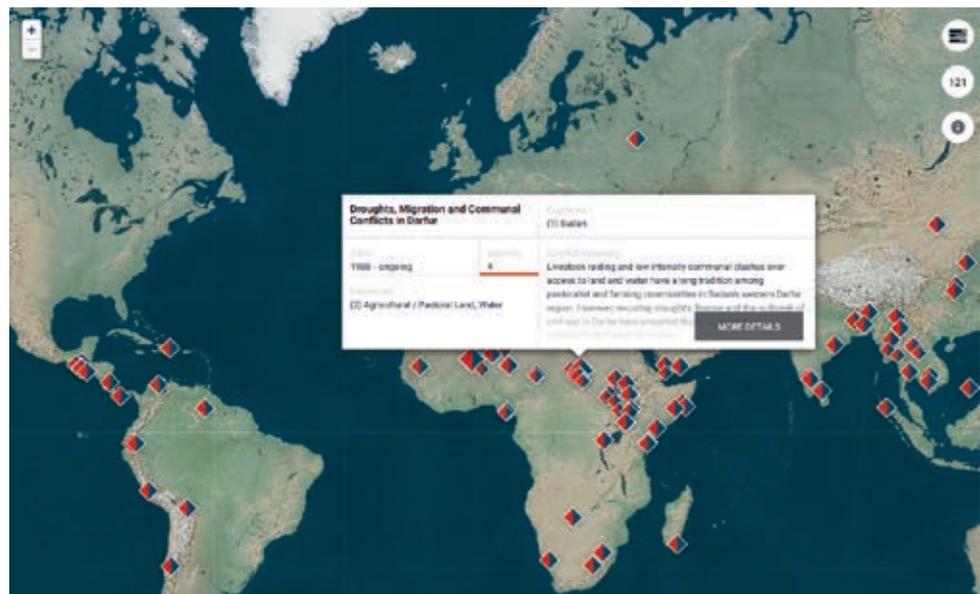


THE ECC FACTBOOK

The ECC Factbook is an interactive online map and encyclopaedia analysing more than 100 conflicts with an environmental dimension. Its fundamental purpose is to provide an overview of conflict and cooperation around the world relating to environmental change, and to allow diplomats, policy-makers and the public to search, access, understand and compare instances of conflict, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. By serving as a knowledge platform that helps users to better understand the drivers behind environmental conflict and cooperation, and to harness the lessons learned from earlier (non-)interventions, it ultimately seeks to contribute to preventing, transforming and resolving these types of conflict.

To fulfil this purpose, the Factbook combines a map with numerous filtering options with in-depth factsheets that contain case studies on conflict origin and resolution, quantitative indicators, and infographics and tables on the mechanisms driving conflict as well as the strategies available for its resolution.

As an example of such a conflict, see the case on the role of climate change in the Syrian Civil War below. A visual diagram – the conceptual model – helps to understand how environmental and social drivers interact in triggering conflict, illustrating a nuanced discussion of the debate of the multiple causes leading to this conflict’s emergence. Some of the most prominent cases are also accompanied by a video that presents the most important findings as a visual narrative.



The Factbook worldmap as a visual entry point with locations and short overviews.

The Factbook’s analysis of a broad range of historical and contemporary conflicts makes this tool a helpful resource for anyone seeking a short synthesis, or entry point for research, on a specific case, region or causal mechanism linking environmental change and conflict or conflict resolution. Its coverage of conflicts in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East are among the most popular pages of the ECC platform (with one case on South Sudan bringing over 10,000 visitors to the site in 2016).

“We used the ECC Factbook for a conference organised by Globe – an international organisation of parliamentarians involved in climate change issues. Coinciding with COP21 in Paris, the meeting was held in the Italian Parliament with major Italian institutions and aimed at highlighting the effects of climate change on global security. As communication consultants, we suggested pointing out the ECC Factbook – very positive media reception and high social media scores confirmed this intuition.”

SIMONETTA LOMBARDO
Silverback Media and
Communication Agency



PAST LOCATIONS

Australia: Brisbane

Brazil: Porto Alegre, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro during Rio+20 and Brasília

Chile: Santiago de Chile, Valparaiso, Puchuncaví

China: Beijing, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Jinan, Kunming, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Changsha, Tangshan, Lanzhou, Tianjin, Wuhu, Nanjing, Qingdao

Ethiopia: Addis Ababa

Europe: London, The Hague, Barcelona, Bern, Vienna, Bucharest, Sofia and more than 20 locations in Germany

India: New Delhi, Orissa, Manipal

Kenya: Nairobi

North America: Austin, New York City, Washington D.C., Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg

Peru: Lima (several different locations)

South Africa: Durban

REGIONAL PARTNERS

University of Queensland in Australia

Vitae Civilis in Brazil

Fundación Terram in Chile

Chinese Society for Sustainable Development (CSSD) in China

Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano in Ecuador

Institute of Security Studies in Ethiopia

University of the South Pacific in Fiji

Manipal University in India

The Energy Research

Institute (TERI) in India

Sociedad Peruana del

Derecho Ambiental in Peru

OneWorld in South Africa

PARTICIPANTS

Interested public, policy-makers, civil society, government and embassy officials

THE TOURING EXHIBITION: ENVIRONMENT, CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

In 2005, at the initiative of the German Federal Foreign Office, adelphi created a touring exhibition to increase awareness and understanding of environment, conflict and cooperation linkages, and trigger a wider debate on these issues in the public and political domains. So far, the exhibition has toured more than 40 cities in 13 countries. Informative text, photos and graphics give concrete examples to help explore the complex interactions between the concepts.

The exhibition illustrates the ways in which environmental change can trigger or exacerbate conflicts and lead to new security threats. Yet in addition, it also shows ways in which environmental cooperation and sustainable development can contribute to peace and stability. Different modules focus on climate change, livelihood security, conflict resources, energy security, water conflicts, environmental peacemaking, and conflict prevention and mitigation.

Most recently, adelphi and its partners developed regional modules on South America and the Pacific, in addition to the four already existing. The exhibition has thus now been showcased in English, German, Spanish, Chinese and Portuguese. Launch events were opened by embassy officials, and accompanied by public panel discussions addressing regional climate security risks. The exhibition was shown at various universities, most notably in



India, Australia and China, often accompanied by a series of events and seminars. In 2016, the Spanish version of the exhibition was inaugurated at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and subsequently shown at the National Congress building.

With its new online version (www.exhibition.ecc-platform.org), the exhibition can now be visited by anyone with internet access. It furthermore offers good opportunities to expand the exhibition material and harness synergies with the other parts of the knowledge platform. To make the most of these advantages, adelphi developed education material in English complementing the online exhibition, so that it may be used to familiarise students with the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on societies.

“Foreign Ministries – through the network of diplomatic representation – have the power to communicate not only risk analysis results but also sustainable solutions in fields such as water, energy or technology cooperation. The exhibition is one such means of communication and part of a comprehensive climate diplomacy initiative.”

VIKTOR ELBLING

At the time Director-General for Economic Affairs at the Federal Foreign Office, now Germany's Ambassador to Mexico



FOREIGN OFFICE CLIMATE FUND PROJECTS

Since its establishment in 2011, the Federal Foreign Office Climate Fund has financed projects in various countries, with the aim of raising awareness of climate change and its consequences, and with a focus on presenting possible solutions.

The current goal is to help build commitment and knowledge amongst decision-makers, scientists and the general public for a successful implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement, as well as for the development and implementation of more ambitious national climate policies pre-2020.

ENGAGING BRAZILIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

Brazil is the ninth largest energy consumer in the world. Its rising energy consumption is now at a crossroads, as hydropower, fossil fuels, nuclear and renewable sources compete to fuel the booming economy. In this context, Brazil is engaged in a vigorous search for a sustainable energy system that can meet present and future challenges. The country's leaders are therefore looking for knowledge and insights on innovative technologies for harnessing renewable energies and improving energy efficiency.

Financed by the Climate Fund of the German Federal Foreign Office, Brazilian parliamentarians were invited to Germany to exchange knowledge on the benefits of sustainable energy systems with environmental decision-makers. The knowledge exchange with German experts provided an opportunity to promote the benefits of renewable energies and prepare the ground for more fruitful German-Brazilian cooperation.



EUROPEAN CLIMATE DIPLOMACY DAY AND WEEK

On 9 September 2014, a German-British-French Climate Day was organised by diplomats of the three countries in numerous countries around the world.

In January 2015, EU Foreign Ministers agreed to transform this into a European Climate Diplomacy Day, held on and around 17 June 2015. Together with EU delegations and embassies of other EU Member States, over 50 German missions abroad dedicated this day to raising awareness about climate change and the need to act, sending out a joint European message.

In Berlin on that day, the Foreign Office, in collaboration with the French and British Embassies, organised a range of different actions including an expert panel at the French Embassy where the question “How does climate change concern you?” was discussed by the experts and around 100 guests. During the discussion, the panellists highlighted the fact that climate change is a pressing and multifaceted issue, and collective action is needed. In Ankara, German, British and French Ambassadors took part in a collective tree planting action with the slogan “Adopt a Tree!”. In Paris, the German Ambassador joined other diplomats in cycling to the French Foreign Ministry to raise awareness for climate change. And on social media, embassies used the hashtag #ClimateDiploDay to tweet their messages about climate action – in unison with a host of other activities to mark the day.

Building on the success in 2014 and 2015, the day was expanded the following year to a European Climate Diplomacy Week, which was held from 12 to 16 September. Again, German embassies, EU delegations and embassies of EU partners joined forces to organise numerous climate-related events around the globe, often supported with co-funding from the German Foreign Office climate fund.



TRANSATLANTIC CLIMATE BRIDGE: HUMAN IMPACT SALON SERIES

Germany and the United States have been strong partners in a joint effort to address the significant challenges posed by climate change. To investigate similarities, differences and areas of potential cooperation in climate action between the U.S. and Germany, the Human Impacts Institute (HII) collaborated with the Transatlantic Climate Bridge Programme – initiated by the Federal Foreign Office in 2008 – to organise a two-year national tour of Human Impact Salons. Beginning in 2013, the HII travelled to eight cities across the United States creating a platform to exchange views and share experiences in terms of climate action by bringing together unlikely allies from different sectors such as policy, design, arts, education and more. This has also been reflected in the diversity of formats used during the meetings, ranging from video and music performances, theatre and role playing, all the way to public talks and panel discussions.

On 5 November 2015, as the final stop of the tour, the Salon crossed the “Transatlantic Climate Bridge” to Berlin where together with the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the HII brought together a variety of experts from different areas. The event highlighted the work being done in the U.S. and Germany on climate, and looked at different sectors such as finance, design, communication, policy and art to examine how the issue of climate change is being addressed.

MICHAEL BOCK
former German
Ambassador to Egypt

“The international climate negotiations are crucial for the future of Egypt in particular, because we all know that if we do not reach a stop of global warming, there will be catastrophic consequences for this country, for example because of sea level rise. So we have to fight to prevent this from happening and seize the opportunities in our combat against global warming in terms of job creation and sustainable development.”

CAIRO CLIMATE TALKS (CCT)

Building on the strong partnership between Egypt and Germany in the fields of environment and energy, the local German Embassy initiated a dialogue platform in 2011 to exchange experiences, raise awareness and foster cooperation between policy-makers, businesses, the scientific community and civil society. The Cairo Climate Talks are organised jointly by the German Embassy and the Egyptian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Environment. The monthly podium discussions with leading policy-makers and experts from around the world are accompanied by capacity building workshops and roundtable discussions for practitioners from Egypt.

Ongoing talks have touched upon diverse topics, including the role of youth in facing challenges posed by climate change, the adaptation of urban communities and finding sustainable water solutions for Egypt. Talks in 2016 have focused, for example, on the topic of climate finance and how the Paris Agreement can be put into action. So far, the CCTs have attracted hundreds of participants from civil society, policy-makers, practitioners and experts from academia.





PARTNERS

AFRICAN CLIMATE POLICY CENTRE (ACPC)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

CENTER FOR NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY STUDIES (NTS)

Singapore, Southeast Asia

CHINESE SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSSD)

Beijing, China

FUNDACIÓN FUTURO LATINOAMERICANO (FFLA)

Quito, Ecuador

FUNDACIÓN TERRAM

Santiago de Chile, Chile

GEORGE V. VOINOVICH SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, OHIO UNIVERSITY

Ohio, United States

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES (IGES)

Hayama, Japan

INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES (ISS)

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

MANIPAL UNIVERSITY

Manipal, Karnataka, India

ONEWORLD

Cape Town, South Africa

SOCIEDAD PERUANA DEL DERECHO AMBIENTAL

Lima, Peru

THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES INSTITUTE (TERI)

New Delhi, India

UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

Brisbane, Australia

UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (USP)

Suva, Fiji

VITAE CIVILIS

São Paulo, Brazil

Pictures

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