

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

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Swiss partners



University of  
Zurich <sup>UZH</sup>

**ETH**

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Berner  
Fachhochschule

**Z**

hdk

Zürcher Hochschule der Künste  
Zürcher Fachhochschule

International partners



UNIVERSIDAD  
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DE COLOMBIA



PONTIFICIA  
UNIVERSIDAD  
CATÓLICA  
DEL PERÚ



ज्ञानपीठ  
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# Rationale

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

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

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

Knowledge and education are critical resources for CCA.

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



## Vision and objectives

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

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

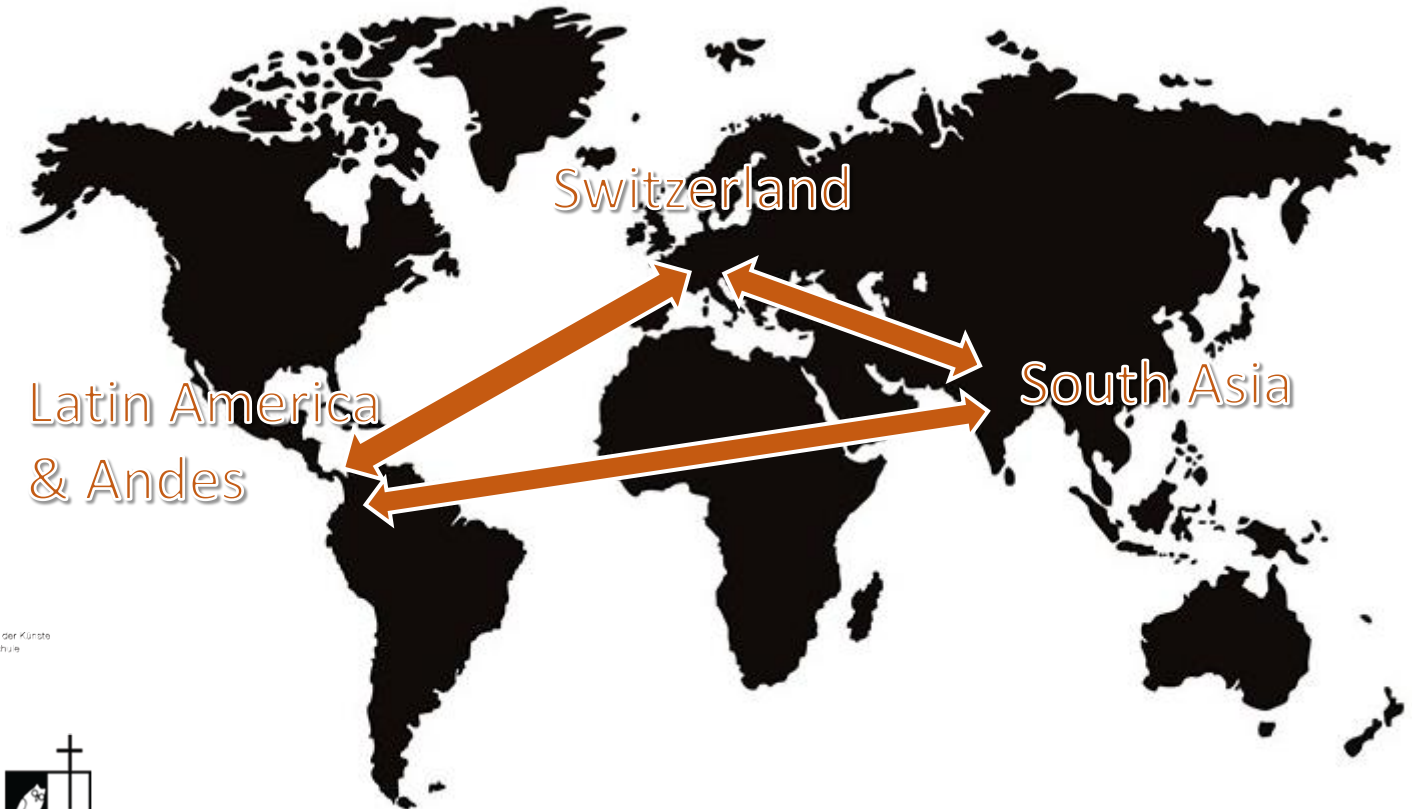
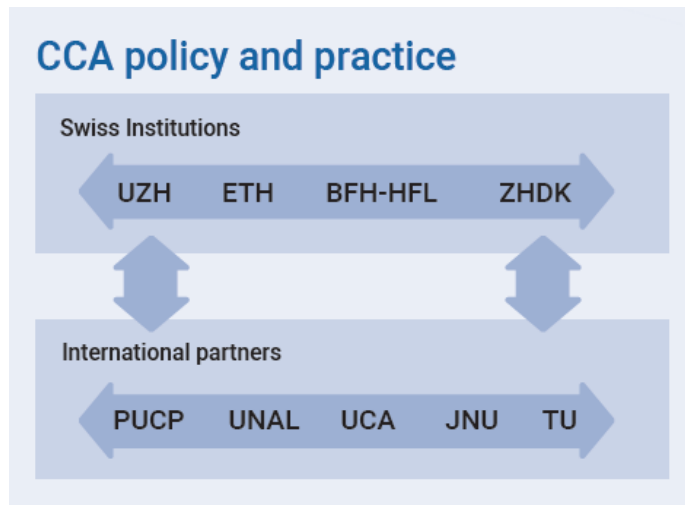
**knowledgeforclimate.net** contributes to SDG 13 and SDG 4 through strengthening research, improving education, raising awareness, and building human and institutional capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change and increase country-wide resilience and adaptation.

# The network: *knowledgeforclimate.net*

## Connecting Switzerland and world regions...

A core consortium of 4 Swiss and 5 international institutions.

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



# Approach

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

## **Two levels of JKP:**

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

# Work plan

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## **Work Package A:** Assessment of needs and coordination

Across all partners, disciplines, contexts, institutions and stakeholders

## **Work Package B:** Co-production of teaching material

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

Common teaching resources on fundamentals of CCA.

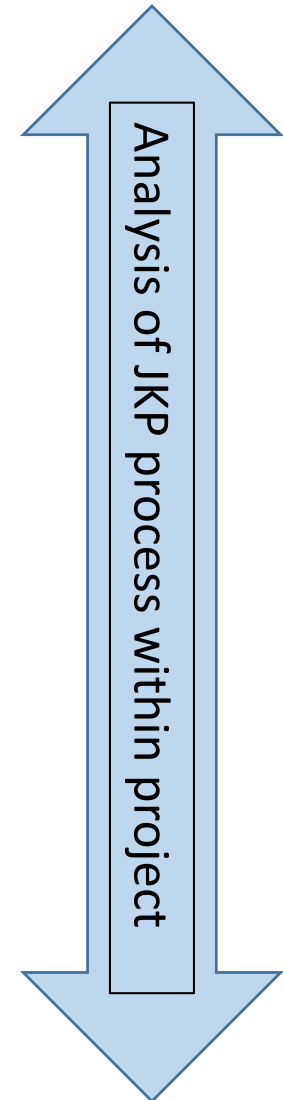
Contextualize teaching material with regional and local realities. Enhancing existing and designing new courses.

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

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

How can JKP contribute to improve CCA science and practice?

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



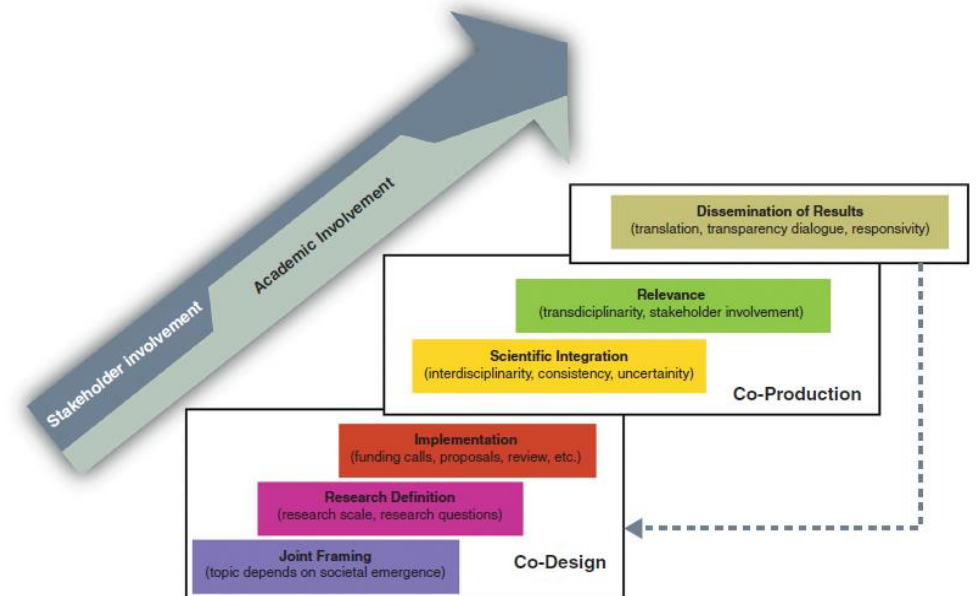
## First insights and next steps

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

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

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



Mausser et al. 2013

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



*Thank you for your attention!*

