

COFER Strengthening Capacities and Resilience in Climate Adaptation

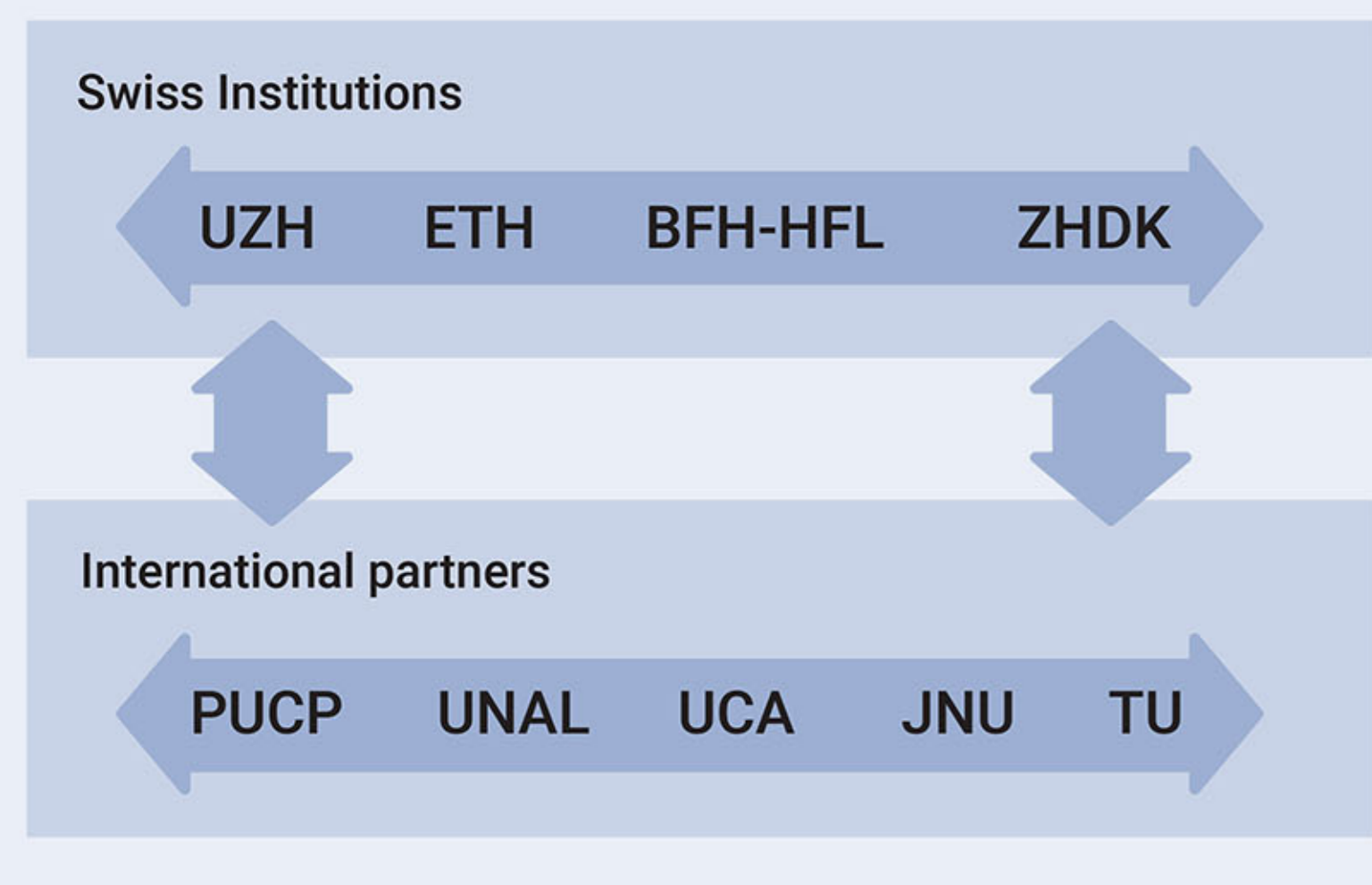
# Knowledge For Climate

An international network on climate change adaptation teaching and research

[www.knowledgeforclimate.net](http://www.knowledgeforclimate.net)



## CCA policy and practice



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 relevant for achieving sustainable development.

### Rationale

The UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 on "Climate Action" recognizes climate change as one of the greatest challenges of our time, fundamentally undermining the ability of all countries to achieve sustainable development. While climate change affects all countries on all continents it disproportionately affects the developing world, with unprecedented and increasing risks to life, livelihoods and ecosystems. Adaptation to changing and new environmental conditions is therefore of fundamental importance to sustainability and implies interdisciplinary scientific knowledge. However, climate change adaptation (CCA) is not a straightforward but a complex and interwoven process. The current translation from research to CCA practice shows important limitations. Moreover, it is widely recognized that human capacities and knowledge, and thus education, are a critical resource to address CCA, but comprehensive teaching curricula at the university level are missing in Switzerland and countries in the South.

### Objectives

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 will make a contribution to the achievement of SDG 13 (Climate Action), as well as to SDG 4 (Quality education), i.e. to 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

Coordinated by the University of Zurich, knowledgeforclimate.net includes four academic institutions in Switzerland, and universities in Latin America (Peru, Colombia, El Salvador) and South Asia (India and Nepal). These institutions form the core consortium, committed to achieve the objectives. 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

Our approach acknowledges that for more effective CCA collective responses of researchers from different disciplines, policy makers and groups of the civil society are needed. We apply JKP processes implying that researchers, policy makers and actors of the civil so-

ciety cooperate in the production, dissemination and application of knowledge that is based on mutual recognition and learning. JKP accommodates diverse forms of knowledge.

We adopt an 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 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.

Knowledgeforclimate.net responds to the currently scattered and uncoordinated landscape of education in climate adaptation in Switzerland and beyond and bundles available expertise in the different institutions to produce comprehensive education material and courses to strengthen the Swiss position in this field and build capacities to work both in Switzerland and in an international context. Knowledgeforclimate.net will facilitate reforming university teaching in CCA and enabling new centers and collaborations of education and research with the international partners.

Funding: Swiss universities, Development and Cooperation Network (SUDAC); University of Zurich; ETH Zurich; Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH), School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences (HAFL); Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK)  
International partners: Pontifical Catholic University of Peru; National University of Colombia, Bogota; Universidad Centroamericana "José Simeón Canas", El Salvador; Jawaharlal Nehru University, India; Tribhuvan University, Nepal

