

Capacity Building and Twinning for Climate Observing Systems

Project Overview

Phase 1, Sep 2011–Mar 2014



Systematic climate observations are an important basis to take appropriate action to detect, adapt to, and mitigate climate change. However, in certain regions the availability of high-quality data is limited.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

CATCOS
Capacity Building and Twinning for Climate Observing Systems

Federal Office of Meteorology and Climatology MeteoSwiss
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC



Atmospheric Domain

Greenhouse gases and aerosols in the atmosphere are important drivers of climate change. However, in large regions of Africa, South-East Asia,

Aerosols	Chile Indonesia Kenya Vietnam
Greenhouse Gases	Chile Vietnam

and South America, observations of atmospheric variables are not available. CATCOS establishes measurements of these essential climate variables at selected stations in four countries. In close collaboration, Swiss and international partner institutions make the measured data traceable, quality-controlled and available at the International Data Centers for aerosols or greenhouse gases, respectively.



Terrestrial Domain

Glaciers contain valuable information on the climate and have significant effects on the society and economies alike. Today, mountain regions of South America and Central Asia still show regional gaps with respect to continuous and high-quality glacier monitoring. CATCOS performs on-site

Glaciers	Colombia, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan
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measurements, installs snow line cameras, and conducts aerial surveys to obtain glacier information. Swiss partners work closely with target countries to guarantee the availability and quality of the data generated within the CATCOS project. Ultimately, the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS) in Switzerland as the responsible International Data Center provides unrestricted access to the submitted glacier observations.



Cross-Cutting

CATCOS aims at increasing the capacity in the target countries to measure, manage and analyze climate relevant data from the atmospheric and terrestrial domains. Enhancing the capacities in the target countries is key for a sustainable climate monitoring. The cross-cutting component of the project contributes to this goal by facilitating on-site trainings, workshops, and twinning activities. Swiss and international partners collaborate to

identify local operators and scientists. The visibility of the project increases through communicative efforts at meetings and conferences as well as by publishing press releases at the national and international level. In the long-term, the initiated climate observations will support local decision-makers to take appropriate action in regard to climate change related issues.