



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

NEWSLETTER

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Diploma program participants spreading environmental knowledge in Madriz, Nicaragua	2
Creating sustainable employment opportunities for mountain residents in Nicaragua	3
Farming redeems vulnerable households from water availability in Merti, Kenya	4
Training of communities in contingency planning in Mopti, Mali	5
PfR Philippines team participates in games development workshop.	6
Inter-institutional coordination in the municipality of El Estor, Guatemala .	7
Academic high-level forum in Guatemala	7
Community initiated rangeland reclamation in Ethiopia	8
Women self-help groups among pastoralists in Ethiopia	9
Understanding climate change through climate games in India	10
Radio talk show to support knowledge and information sharing in Sikka, Indonesia	11
Eco-criteria now available in 4 languages	11
Global learning: PfR writeshops in South-East Asia and Latin America	12
Partners for Resilience active role during the regional platform for disaster risk reduction in Guayaquil, Ecuador	12
Publications and updates	13

Diploma program participants spreading environmental knowledge in Madriz, Nicaragua.

In the latest PfR newsletter, the PfR team in Nicaragua reported on the start of a diploma program on environmental management for community leaders of the sub-basins of the rivers Inalí and Tapacalí in the northern region of Madriz, Nicaragua. This program was run in parallel with a higher academic diploma targeting technicians in government and non-governmental organizations. In December, both programs concluded with a graduation ceremony held in the city of Somoto, with 30 technicians and 34 community leaders being awarded their diplomas.

The diploma programs were an innovative way of realizing the right to education of community leaders. Jayme Antonio Vilchez Escalante, a farmer from the community of Miramar, says that this was the first time that whole communities were involved in environmental education. This was done through community workshops organized by the participants of the higher academic diploma. These workshops reached over 1,000 community members, and so they substantially supplemented the community diploma program. Reyna Isabel Báez Muñoz, who represented the indigenous community of Cusmapa at the community diploma program, said that this was her first opportunity to participate in this type of environmental education.



Fig. 1 Mr. Escalante in his yard in Miramar.



Fig. 2 Ms. Muñoz in her office at the Cusmapa town hall.



Fig. 3 Mr. Hoyes in front of the Cooperative 5 de junio.

The participants highlighted that the program showed them the interconnected character of their sub-basin. Fredman Vásquez Hoyes, an agricultural engineer who works at the coffee cooperative *Cinco de junio* and participated in the higher academic diploma, said that although he had some knowledge of climate change before the program, he saw different parts of the sub-basin as isolated and disconnected from his own work at the coffee cooperative. Now, he has a better understanding of how the sub-basin operates, and how his work has consequences across the basin. Ms. Muñoz praised the practical component of the program. For example, the participants visited protected areas and witnessed the difference in the health of the wildlife and vegetation in protected areas compared to unprotected sites. In this way, the effects of deforestation and contamination of water became tangible to the participants.

An important outcome of the programs was establishing networks of environmentally-aware leaders across the sub-basins. For Mr. Escalante, it felt good to share experiences with others from the sub-basin as almost all participants shared the same objective of managing the river basins in a more sustainable way. Mr. Hoyes echoed the importance of networks, saying that before, he did not know most of the other people participating in the course, and they did not have a natural nexus through which to meet. As the course provided this opportunity, he is now in a better position take these relationships further and work together with other professionals in the area to manage the sub-basin in a sustainable manner. Both Mr. Hoyes and Ms. Muñoz highlighted the crucial role of the local and national governments in supporting the sub-basin management committees and others involved in managing the sub-basin.

Mr. Escalante, Ms. Muñoz, and Mr. Hoyes were all optimistic about the capacity for action of those who participated in the diploma programs. They all recommended that similar initiatives be realized in other PFR countries. After all, as Mr. Escalante emphasized, “our world is our home”.

For more information on the diploma programs, view the [video](#).

Micro projects to create sustainable employment opportunities for mountain residents in Nicaragua.

In the mountainside community of El Castillito in Las Sabanas, Madriz, it is not easy to find livelihoods that provide sufficient income for people while being aligned with the needs of the protected environment of Tepesomoto La Patasta, and conforming to the restrictions posed by the risk of landslides. While beans and corn used to be the staple crop of the area, Luis Alberto Mendez and Cristian Antenor Fernando, who have lived in the area for 55 and 34 years respectively, recount that ten years ago, these harvests had become so poor that they decided to switch to strawberry growing. Strawberry production was an initiative supported by INPRHU, a local NGO that is a member of the Partners for Resilience Alliance in Nicaragua. Strawberry production has some considerable advantages in comparison to other possible crops; Mr. Fernando highlights that planting strawberries does not require forest to be cut down. Moreover, as strawberries are a relatively new crop, it is not yet plagued with diseases that would require heavy use of agrochemicals.



Fig. 4 Ms. Fatima Andrada at her home in El Castillito.

However, Fatima Jesus Palma Andrada, who sells the strawberries that Mr. Mendez and Mr. Fernando produce, voiced a concern that perhaps too many people are now growing strawberries, which may make them harder to sell. Indeed, a further increase in strawberry production would increase the risk of a monoculture, endangering production by making strawberry plants more vulnerable to disease. The ensuing increased need for agrochemicals would be damaging to the protected natural area. Moreover, agricultural practices and the production of livestock has increased the community’s vulnerability to landslides to the point that the families of El Castillito

were already once relocated. Yet, as their livelihoods depend on their land, the families returned. Fatima also emphasized that women need more and better jobs in the area. The Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (VCA) of El Castillito that was completed in February 2012 with the support of the Nicaraguan Red Cross confirms this concern, as unemployment and weak community organization were identified as two of five key problems in the area.

To respond to these concerns, the micro project in El Castillito will provide employment specifically for women by engaging them in growing flowers for sale in nearby Somoto. The project is being implemented by Partners for Resilience, with the support of the municipality of Las Sabanas. The Program will fund approximately 7,500 USD of the project's total cost, and the community will provide the remaining 13,000 USD (land and manpower).

Objectives are threefold: to create community gardens for 20 women heads of household in relation to all aspects of flower growing, to stimulate enhanced resilience of livelihoods through environmental awareness, agro ecological knowledge and community development and to strengthen local capacities for business management.

Flowers are a suitable initiative for the area, as it does not require permanent infrastructure and therefore is allowable in a risk zone. Moreover, the flowers that are to be grown are native to the area, and do not threaten the local ecosystem. El Castillito has a microclimate that is specifically appropriate for growing these types of flowers. Finally, there is a good market in nearby cities. Flowers will also be sold to tourists, who will visit the gardens as part of a planned sustainable tourism initiative. The project plan includes a comprehensive marketing strategy, one component of which is to advertise the initiative through a website produced with the support of the SONATI environmental network.

Moreover, the re-establishment of vegetation on the slopes that are vulnerable to landslides helps to mitigate the impact of deforestation and agricultural use, and improves the safety of the whole community. Finally, the experience of El Castillito can serve as an example for other vulnerable mountainside communities searching for sustainable livelihoods, and is being documented by a group of young people from Las Sabanas through a participatory video.



Fig. 5 The youth network of Las Sabanas is documenting the experience so it can be shared with other communities.

Farming redeems vulnerable households from reduced water availability in Kenya

It's a windy, sunny and hot day in Merti, Kenya. Different types of birds species, cows, goats and a few camels roam around in the fields searching for pastures and water. The road network is not very good, four wheel drives and motorbikes are needed to navigate through the tough terrains. Merti is

known for drought and lack of food. As a result, many families depend on relief food as their only source of livelihood during these times. But amidst these dry and hot conditions, the area also hosts a green carpet of vegetation. The area is not an oasis, as one might think, but the results of successful efforts to grow vegetables along the riverbanks of the most important river in the region, Ewaso Nyiro.



Fig. 6 Farmer Diba Gilaba demonstrates the trench for his farmlands' water supply

Diba Gilaba, a father of four, is a farmer in village Marta. His five acre farm which borders the river is a safe haven for his family. Water melons, maize, vegetables and sunflowers are just some of the crops he has planted. Diba is busy digging a trench in his farm that will allow easy flow of water to irrigate his crops. *"I use water from the Ewaso Nyiro, a key wetland we have in this region. Without this we are doomed. I have ventured into farming because pastoralism is not sustainable anymore. Once I had 105 pieces of livestock but they all died during the drought of 2011. We are thankful to the Kenya Red Cross for providing us with short maturing and drought tolerant vegetables and crop seeds".*

There is a simultaneous effort by WI to ensure the bank of the river is not degraded by the vegetable production. People are advised to comply with a minimum distance between the fields and the river. Due to the PfR programme in the area, farmers are aware of the importance to protect the most important source of water in this area, which is literally sustaining a life line.

Training of PfR beneficiaries on contingency planning in Mopti, Mali.

From March 24 to 28th, eight NGO's of the Platform of Stakeholders on Climate Change (PICC) and 20 village communities through the Committees for Prevention and Disaster Management (PDMC) took part in a workshop in Mopti, Mali to strengthen their capabilities in theory and practice on the elaboration of contingency plans.



Fig. 7 Community members play a game

The purpose of this session focused on the capacity building of the participants on planning tools related to climate forecasts (early warning, early action). The workshop also aimed to equip partners with knowledge on climate smart and eco-system based disaster risk reduction and to develop contingency plans. Janot Mendler de Suarez from the RCCC facilitated the training, in which games were used as a method to facilitate knowledge generation and sharing between the participants.

Community members played the game “Ready”. Through the game, teams are competing to identify, prioritize and complete actions to reduce the risk of disasters on their communities. They also discussed the difficulties related to the implementation of possible actions. As a result of the game, 30 community members of Noga village in the municipality of Dialloubé developed a contingency plan for drought and flooding.



Fig. 8 Women have a special role in the “climate game and gender” game.

Another game, “Climate Game and Gender” intended to convey to communities that forecasts are probabilities and that therefore variability in the forecast must be taken into account. It allows communities to make decisions on what actions to take and how to adapt to climate variability under time pressure. Women are heavily involved in this process to ensure their views are taken into account in decision-making.

The games proved to be an important tool in awareness-raising and for the mobilization of communities on serious and complex issues.

Partners for Resilience Philippines games development workshop.

15 project staff from Partners for Resilience Philippines participated in a games development workshop on May 16-17 to devise ways to disseminate basic Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) concepts at the community level. The workshop was organized by the RCCC through the support of Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) which aims to test the existing READY! game and conduct a co-design workshop for the PFR project staff. The workshop was facilitated by Mohini Dutta of Antidote Games and a follow-up of the first game workshop that was conducted in 2012 to which a number of project staff attended.

During the workshop, participants started with the identification of games that they played when they were young. Three local games (Hop over Cow, Patentero and Dodge Ball) were identified by the groups as possible games that can be used to measure the awareness level of the community people on key CCA messages. The group identified the key issues for awareness raising among communities such as climate projections and the meaning of global warming. The local games were then played to enable measuring communities’ level of understanding and awareness.

‘Hop over the Cow’ was used to identify individual capacity to respond to the effects of CCA and their initiative to help address CCA. The game In and Out (Patentero) will be used to educate community people on Global Warming. Climate Ball (Dodge Ball) will be used to explain the relationship of having good climate projections and individual capacities to address disasters.

The three groups enhanced the original game mechanics and incorporated the CCA key messages and the trial version was played by the participants themselves. The games were accompanied by

written instructions, which were tested with Red Cross youth volunteers. One challenge is the ability of the facilitator to respond well to questions on climate change by the game participants. Overall, the games generated many bright ideas on how to improve the mechanics and the group agreed that the games have a high potential for DRR practitioners at community level.

Inter-institutional coordination in the municipality of El Estor, Guatemala

In Guatemala, partners have undertaken different initiatives to strengthen institutions within the municipality of El Estor in relation to disaster risk reduction. In 2012, the COMRED (Municipal Coordinator for Disaster Reduction) was established, while in 2013, the first Municipal Roundtable on Climate Change in Guatemala was created. These processes enabled to bridge the gap between COMRED in the municipality and the interinstitutional municipal structure to coordinate and implement actions on DRR, CCA and EMR.



Fig. 9 Reforestation and diversification play a role in climate change adaptation



Fig. 10 Youth is actively involved in awareness raising

Among the results is the attention of COMRED for forest fires in 2013, the development of a damage and needs assessment and the evacuation of communities in urban areas due to strong winds in the first months of 2014. The municipal Roundtable on Climate Change realized the delivery of seedlings for reforestation of degraded areas in communities, undertook educative sessions on DRR, CCA and EMR directed at students enrolled in secondary school, the delivery of fruit trees for the diversification of family production, activities that mark important 'theme' days (earth day etc.) and a market on the diversification and food security at departmental level in Izabal.

Academic high-level forum in Guatemala: How biodiversity can contribute to climate change adaptation and human well-being.

How biodiversity can contribute to climate change adaptation and human well-being" was the theme of a high-level academic forum on the 20th of March at 4.30 PM in the museum of archaeology and ethnology of the city of Guatemala.

The forum was organized in the framework of the inter-institutional strategic agenda promoted by the Partners for Resilience alliance in Guatemala as a collaborative work between the different governing institutions active in risk reduction, climate change and ecosystem in Guatemala.



Different ministries and state secretaries explored the theme together with the executive secretary of the convention for the biodiversity, Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, who visited the mega diverse country for the forum.

In addition to the presentation of Dr. Braulio, the different representatives of the governmental institutions and academics informed the public on the importance of harmonizing public laws and governments efforts to reach integrated development of the country, considering the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Community initiates rangeland reclamation in Ethiopia

Melbana is among the pastoralist kebeles in Miyo district in Ethiopia. The majority of the population in Melbana (around 90%) is dependent on livestock rearing, others engage in agriculture. It is ethnically occupied by the Borena tribe of different ethnic groups. The land is partially covered with indigenous trees, bushes, grass and to some extent farming area and degraded lands. Although the kebele is endowed with rangeland, most of the key grazing sites are encroached by dense and thorny bushes. The communities indicated that they see banning of traditional burning practices in the early 80's and a change of weather conditions as the main reasons for this change.

The communities in the area face drought more frequently; more than 75% of the area is categorized as drought prone. Particularly during 2010 and 2011, recurrent drought has seriously affected the



Fig. 11 Land before reclamation



Fig. 12 Land after reclamation

pastoral livelihood through loss of livestock with urban migration and related poverty as a result. When the partners started in 2011 with the PfR program, natural resource management was one of the components of the community managed disaster risk reduction approach. Based on the community interest and their development plan, a variety of key rangeland reclamation activities has been implemented. Partners trained the communities in community rangeland management and provided them with materials for the activities.

Mr. Abakule Boru, member of the community organization of Melbana Pas says: *“We faced very frequent periods of droughts. The most important for us in times of drought is to save our livestock.*



Fig. 13 Abakule Boru CMDRR COs member

Therefore we need to reclaim a large area of land. We started to reclaim an area of 660ha. 100ha has been reclaimed through a cash for work activity, the rest was our own contribution. Satisfied with our success we immediately mobilized the community for further reclamation. A total of 1200ha has been reclaimed now. We decided to protect it from livestock intervention to reserve it for acute drought periods.

In addition, the community drafted a bylaw to avoid destruction of the reserved area and penalize anyone who violate the rules. Boru: *“The project has changed our perception on drought. Therefore we are now less vulnerable to drought and loss of livestock.”*

Women self-help groups among pastoralists in Ethiopia

The 2010/11 drought wiped out the livestock assets of Bouluboma pastoralist community in Ethiopia. Women were more at risk due to shortage of income and food. As a result the women organized themselves after the drought in the Kersa Chobi Jirenya saving and credit group. The women in the group aim to achieve increased social welfare and food security as well as better household expense management.

At first, the group started saving and accumulated 17.000 Ethiopian Birr (ETB). Recognizing the initiative of the group, the local partners provided training to the group members on cooperative management principles, business plan development & management. After the training the group was supported with an additional 60.000 ETB as seed money, together with standard financial documents and materials.

As a result, the group developed its own business plan and added 5 new male members. The group started to disburse loans to members in need. In the first round 20 members took the loan and agreed to return the amount in six month period with 10% interest. The credit beneficiaries engaged in petty trade business such as fattening of cattle and goats, selling them for a better price.

Karsi Waqo is member of the group: *“I am a mother of 3 sons and 1 daughter. My youngest son got sick recently and by that time I had no cash at hand. The only resource I had was one goat. Instead of selling my only goat, I immediately took a loan of 400 ETB and my son received medical treatment. Then together with my husband we paid back the loan. The benefit I got from the scheme was twofold. I saved the life of my son and my goat, which is the only property of the family. If I was*



Fig. 14 Karsi Waqo- Karsa Chobi Jirena SACCO member

forced to sell the goat at that time I would have to sell it for a low price.”

Karsi continues: *“Encouraged with this, I took a loan of 3.000 Ethiopian Birr and bought cattle to fatten and sell it with better price. Now I have my own source of income and my savings reached 3.000 ETB already. I don’t have to worry about health expenditures and about being able to send my children to school. Collectively we are planning to engage in production of the haricot bean. Individually, I want to rear more goats and cattle and free myself from debt to create a better future for my family.”*

The story shows that self-help groups form important social structures, particularly for women. They ensure that community members are prepared and have a safety net in times of crises.

Learning Climate Change through games in India

The occurrence of extreme climatic events has been more evident over the last decade. Year 2013 was a prominent year as areas where PfR India is implementing witnessed floods from the Ganges. Nearly 30 villages in Bhagalpur and Munger districts of Bihar were affected by these floods. At the same time, cyclone Phailin hit Odisha coastline in October 2013. The events proved once again that integration of climate knowledge in risk reduction measures is necessary and pivotal.

The use of games proved to be a powerful tool to make local partners and community understand what climate change is all about. The games were demonstrated to local partners and communities in the Gandak-Kosi floodplains to improve contingency planning. There was an initial apprehension among the facilitators regarding the acceptability of the games among community members with a religious bias and low education. However, after practising the games it was possible to make community understand that climate change is exacerbating the incidence and severity of disasters. This proved to be an innovative way to develop risk reduction and contingency plans with inclusion of climate change aspects. *“The climate change game with the communities is perhaps the best technique and strategy to make a suitable contingency plan for extreme events. The games not only*



Fig. 15 Climate change games conducted with community members at Chandrika Thakurka Tola village, West Champaran district, Bihar

help communities prepare plans, but also motivate them to deal with pressure, and time urgencies” said Ratnesh Osta District Project officer West Champaran. DRR committee member Mr. Naimatulla from Rampurwa Mahanwa shared that *“we must adopt this as part of our contingency plan formation. We shall play the game again not only for joy but to observe and learn from the perspective of community members belonging to different groups regarding disaster preparedness.”*

Radio talk show to support knowledge and information sharing in Sikka district, Indonesia

In Sikka district, Indonesia, several villages supported by PfR are harmed by strong winds, a hazard which has been identified as a priority for subdistrict Tanawawo.

PfR partners were invited to a radio talk show to enable wider socialization on strong winds and disseminate information regarding disaster reduction programs.

The talk show engaged the local community, officials from the Disaster Management Agency (DMA) and the Bureau of Meteorology and Climatology (BMC) in Sikka district. Many listeners responded through phone and text messages during the show and addressed inquiries related to the weather forecast, global warming effects, the district disaster management's role and coordination mechanism, impacts of strong winds and village readiness to cope. Thus the talk show engaged the public in an interactive discussion by resource persons and the public.



Fig. 16 Partners attending the radio talk show in Sikka

Femmy Bapa, the Chief of the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction unit mentioned that the talk show enabled them direct access to the community's ordeal during severe wind attacks. Broadcaster Katon concurs with her suggestion to organise similar talks regarding environmental issues and disaster preparedness initiatives on a regular basis. *"This method reaches villagers in an efficient and effective way . We can easily convey our program about 'resilient villages' and the Bureau of Meteorology and Climatology can provide weather forecasts to the community".*

Rendi from the BMC acknowledged that currently there are no media channels to disseminate the weather forecast to the community, whilst it is very important for village planning. *"The talk show is a good way of awareness-raising. We can discuss feedback from the public and answer their questions on the spot".*

Eco-criteria now available in 4 languages

The integration of ecosystems and landscape level approaches in DRR programs and policies is one of the core elements of the Partners for Resilience approach. To assist DRR practitioners and policy makers achieve such integration, Wetlands International has published *Integrating ecosystems in resilience practice: Criteria for Ecosystem-Smart Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation*. This detailed checklist of criteria describes the required steps to develop an 'ecosystem-smart' approach in the design, implementation and evaluation of risk reduction programmes. The criteria are equally applicable to guide the integration of environmental considerations into climate change adaptation planning processes.

The criteria are now available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#) and [Bahasa Indonesia](#).

Global learning: PfR writeshops in South-East Asia and Central America.

Professionally facilitated “writeshops” last June in Bali, Indonesia, and earlier this year in Guatemala and Nicaragua have generated book-length collections of case studies springing from Partners for Resilience work in those countries and the Philippines.



Fig. 17 PfR staff presents a case study during the PfR book launch in the Philippines

The South-East Asian writeshop was co-facilitated by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR), which also published the regional collection of case studies from the Philippines and Indonesia – *Creating new paths to resilience* – jointly with the Climate Centre. The book was published last April and was accompanied by a book launch last April in Manila, attended by the partners and officials from amongst others the Department of Education and the Climate Change Commission.

The writeshop materials from Guatemala and Nicaragua have been released in the end of May at the [Regional Platform](#) (see next article) for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas, in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

A writeshop, say organizers, is “an intensive writing process that aims to produce written materials by a multidisciplinary team of field practitioners, implementers, and...communities, under one roof.”

Carina Bachofen, Climate Centre Senior Policy Officer attended the writeshops in Latin America. She said: *“It was an exciting process to be a part of, with many lessons learned and new ideas for replicating the experience in other PfR countries. Partners feel very proud of the documents they’ve produced.”*

PfR teams from Guatemala and Nicaragua play active role during the regional platform for DRR in Guayaquil, Ecuador

Last May, PfR partners from Guatemala and Nicaragua actively promoted PfR’s integrated approach to resilience building during the regional platform for disaster risk reduction ([RP14](#)) in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Among others, partners presented PfR case studies during the “[Ignite Stage](#)”, manned a stand and disseminated PfR’s key messages during a radio interview.

PfR partners drafted a [declaration](#) with 3 key messages on behalf of PfR partners, which was included among the official declarations on the website. The key messages have also been integrated in the

declaration on behalf of civil society actors that are part of the Global Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (GNDR), which was endorsed by several PfR partners.

Unfortunately the consultation concluded with little attention for one of the root causes of increased disaster risk: environmental degradation. The topic received few mentions during the entire platform of three days and in the final Communiqué their role is limited as a topic to be addressed in cases of trans boundary risk management.

PfR partners will continue to emphasize the key messages during other important events in preparation of HFA II, such as the AMCDDR in Bangkok in the end of June.

Publications and updates

Forecast-based financing could 'catalyze humanitarian action', says new research | A new research paper by specialists from the Climate Centre, German Red Cross, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, and VU University Amsterdam argues that automatic triggers for emergency finance based on forecast warnings of weather and climate extremes could “catalyze humanitarian action” and increase its impact. The paper, *Forecast-based financing: an approach for catalyzing humanitarian action based on extreme weather and climate forecasts*, was published as a discussion paper earlier this week by Copernicus for the European Geosciences Union.

Its six authors present a method for developing a “forecast-based financing” system that would match agreed thresholds of forecast probability of disaster with appropriate actions. They suggest establishing standard operating procedures (SOPs) that embody a clear mandate to act when these thresholds are crossed, but *before* disaster strikes.

“Such as system can be scaled up in disaster-prone areas worldwide to improve effectiveness at reducing the risk of disaster,” says a summary of the research.

CBA8 conference ends with call for financial help for vulnerable communities to adapt | From April 24th-30rd 2014, the 8th Annual Community Based Adaptation Conference (CBA8) took place in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu. Over 400 participants from over 60 countries participated in the conference, which aimed to share the latest developments in climate change adaptation, financing, planning and best practices.



The “Kathmandu Declaration” called for increased financial support to enable vulnerable communities to adapt. The declaration pointed out that funding must reach the most vulnerable groups, and that capacity building of those groups should be strengthened and prioritized. Furthermore the declaration underlined the importance of transparent funding mechanisms. Finally, the need to guard against maladaptation was emphasized, including environmental and social safeguards and robust multi-stakeholder processes. PfR partners from India, Indonesia

and the Philippines presented their work through posters and participated actively in the conference and the field visit.

New logo Wetlands International | On the 3rd of February Wetlands International unveiled its new logo, which captures the essence of wetlands and of Wetlands International. It symbolises that wetlands occur where water meets land. At the same time the logo shows the human nature of Wetlands International's work and refers to the Earth, as Wetlands International works globally, connecting local actions to make a global difference. Watch our [logo reveal video](#)!



To reflect this change, a new PfR banner has been created. From now on, all PfR partners are requested to use the new banner and the new Wetlands International logo in all their relevant products and communication. If you need digital versions of the banner and the logo, please go to [Dropbox](#).

Wetlands International is now a member of the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) | In December 2013 Wetlands International joined [PEDRR](#), a global alliance of UN agencies, NGOs and specialist institutes seeking to promote and scale-up implementation of ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction and ensure it is mainstreamed in development planning at global, national and local levels.

PEDRR provides technical and science-based expertise and applies best practices in ecosystems-based DRR approaches. PEDRR is guided by its vision of: "Resilient communities as a result of improved ecosystem management for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA)".

One of the resources produced by PEDRR is a weekly [newsletter](#) with interesting articles, events and trainings. To subscribe to the newsletter or to send in your own news and materials, e-mail pedrr.secretariat@gmail.com.

IPCC: GHG emissions up despite reduction efforts, but pathways to substantial cuts are available |

A new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) shows that global emissions of greenhouse gases have risen to unprecedented levels despite a growing number of policies to reduce climate change. Emissions grew more quickly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades.

According to the Working Group III (WG III) contribution to the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), it would be possible, using a wide array of technological measures and changes in behaviour, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. However, only major institutional and technological change will give a better than even chance that global warming will not exceed this threshold.

Global Forecast June - September | Please find the latest global climate forecast and guidance note attached to this newsletter. It is extremely likely that there will be an El Niño in the coming months,

with many impacts already predicted for Indonesia and northern South America. Past the next few months, we would also expect continuing impacts over the course of the year, and several new regions could expect to have unusually wet or dry seasons. See this [map](#) for more information on when impacts might be expected in your region and when; it is good to monitor the upcoming forecasts for more information on exactly what could be expected in this particular El Niño.