

Research for Sustainable Development

Governance & Conflict
Livelihoods & Globalisation
Health & Sanitation
Resources & Sustainability



Approach

NCCR North-South research is conducted in a framework that combines and adapts the methods of traditional scientific disciplines to meet the needs of a changing world.

Scientists from the social, natural and engineering sciences work together as teams to define new fields of interdisciplinary research capable of addressing the complex issues of sustainable development.

By incorporating the practical understanding available through non-scientific knowledge systems into its research, the NCCR North-South promotes a transdisciplinary approach to development studies. In this way scientific methods contribute directly to the search for pragmatic solutions to the problems of developing and transition countries.



Research

Research conducted under the auspices of the NCCR North-South is coordinated through the participating institutions in nine partnership regions on four continents. Research is based on well-defined case studies conducted within the framework of individual master's and PhD theses, as well as at the senior research level. Key to this research is the continuous interaction of scientists from Switzerland with their partners in the South and East.



Socio-Environmental Contexts

Highland – lowland
Arid and semi-arid
Urban and peri-urban



The research network of the NCCR North-South is intended to provide a permanent framework for sustainable development studies at graduate and post-graduate levels both in Switzerland and in partner regions around the world. The long-term goal of the programme is to establish the foundations for advanced research in sustainable development, North and South.

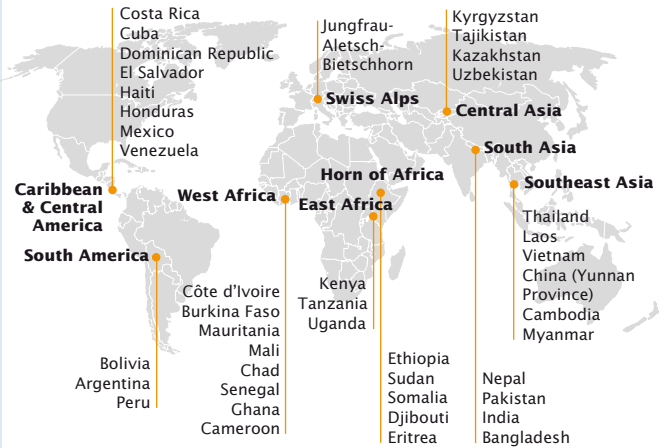
Partnership Actions (PAMS)

Selected small-scale local development projects of limited duration and financial scope constitute an innovative addition to the research activities of the NCCR North-South. Designed to address specific problems by applying research results to real situations, these “Partnership Actions for Mitigating Syndromes” provide an empirical basis for evaluating the potential of transdisciplinary research in triggering social learning processes.

Education & Training

The training programme for master's students, PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers includes basic theoretical and methodological training as well as regionally adapted courses focused on the implementation of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches at the local level. In this way individual researchers are able to both contribute to and capitalise on the overall knowledge base of the NCCR North-South and its wider network.

Partnership Regions



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Programme Management

- The NCCR North-South is directed by a board made up of representatives from the Swiss Partner Institutions together with the Regional Coordinators. It is headed by programme directors Hans Hurni and Urs Wiesmann, and coordinated by Thomas Breu.

NCCR North-South Management Centre

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and Cooperation SDC



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Research Partnerships for Mitigating Syndromes of Global Change

National Centre of Competence in Research North-South

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Global change is brought about by ecological and socio-economic processes of global scale; these processes carry both risks and potentials that vary between contexts.

Sustainable development is focused development that aims to achieve intra- and inter-generational equity by balancing ecological, economic, and socio-cultural values.

Syndromes of global change are specific combinations of problems that occur in similar patterns in different socio-environmental contexts and hinder sustainable development.

Mitigation is reduction or limitation of the negative impacts of global change by taking advantage of potentials and pathways that promote sustainable development.

The NCCR North-South is one of twenty **National Centres of Competence in Research** implemented by the Swiss National Science Foundation. It was created in the understanding that development research and cooperation are of primary concern to Switzerland. The programme receives matching funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Since its inception in 2001, the NCCR North-South has created a worldwide research network including seven partner institutions in Switzerland and some 160 universities, research institutes and development organisations in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe. Approximately 350 researchers worldwide contribute to the activities of the NCCR North-South.