

Transdisciplinary Case Study 2018 “Sustainability in Small Island Developing States (SIDS): Waste management in the Seychelles”

Objectives

The learning objectives of the tdCS include (a) understanding a case in its context, (b) knowledge application in the real world, (c) independence in managing research activities, (d) use of transdisciplinary methods, (e) working in intercultural teams, as well as (f) adapting to foreign social, economic, cultural and political settings. In addition to these learning objectives, the case study also aims to meet the needs of its practice partners. This will be achieved by (i) joint problem framing before the study starts, (ii) mid-term validation through local waste experts, (iii) working closely with local government, private sector, community, and by (iv) research collaborations with students at the UniSey.

Study Area and Topic

The Seychelles, located in the southern part of the Indian ocean, is a small state of 450km² land mass spread over some 115 islands within a sea area of 1.4 million km². The archipelago shares most of the other Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) challenges like size; isolation from global markets; limited resources and small domestic markets. Furthermore, they are exposed and highly vulnerable to effects of climate change; they increasingly face side effects typical of rapidly developing societies; and they have limited capacities for long-term planning and infrastructure management.



Solid waste is a major issue affecting the Seychelles. Almost all goods need to be imported. Waste increased almost 100 percent in the last 15 years. The current waste management practice is landfilling on reclaimed land. All waste types are deposited on the same landfill. Waste is collected on a daily basis by a private company. There is currently no sorting system at the source.

The course builds upon the tdCS 2016 which provided a general overview of the waste management system in the Seychelles. The focus of the tdCS 2018 will be on waste sorting at the source and recycling.

Participants

Lecturers

- Dr. Pius Krütli (TdLab)
- Danny Nef (MSc Environmental Sciences ETH)
- Marius Wälchli (MSc Environmental Sciences ETH)
- Prof. Dr. Michael Stauffacher (TdLab)

Experts

- Dr. Mélanie Haupt
(Ecological Systems Design)
- Dr. Christian Pohl (TdLab)



Master Students from ETH

Pauline Béziat, Marc Chautems, Ole Frenzel, Cédric Furrer, Fiona Hornung, Lars Kaiser, Christy Kehdi, Milena Kessler, Lotta Köppel, Giulia Manzolini, Tobias Minder, Matthias Rommelspacher, Johanna Theilmann, Juanita von Rothkirch, Simon Wahl, Clarissa Wehrli, Rikushi Yasumatsu

Bachelor students from UniSey

(a similar number of students from UniSey will join the team for the field phase in July)

Dates

- Starts on 21 February 2018 and meets every Wednesday 13 – 17h
- 2 block days in Zurich (20 – 21 April)
- 3 block weeks in the Seychelles (2 – 20 July)

More Information

<http://www.tdlab.usys.ethz.ch/casestudy>

Contact

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