

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

We are happy to present the 35th edition of the SDC Water News, which is a special edition focussing on SDC's Global Programme Water. This edition is the second in our series of special editions 2017: the last edition covered SDC's cooperation with Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and later in the year we will have a special focus on Humanitarian Aid, as well as on our Cooperation with the South.

We would like to use this opportunity to announce the release of the new GPW strategy 2017-2020, which centres on four strategic components: *Water governance, Water solutions, Water voice and young people and gender equality*, of which the second and the fourth are new developed components. The new strategy responds to emerging challenges in the water sector, for example with new programmes on Water Quality and Pollution, Water Stewardship or Green Infrastructure.

In this newsletter, you will find more details on the new strategy, a complete overview of the project portfolio of GPW, as well as up-dates on selected projects, publications, events, and our new staff members.

An important change for the RésEAU will be the departure of Christian Eggs from GPW, who will move to head the Swiss Cooperation Office in Niger. In his role as Focal Point, Christian has led the RésEAU network and shaped its activities during the past two years. We would like to thank him very much for his support and guidance, and wish him all the best and success in his new position. The Focal Point of the RésEAU will be handed over to Hanna Capeder, who has already supported Christian in this role in the past years.

At last, we would like to encourage you to share your news, project updates and experiences through this newsletter, the RésEAU mailing list (ResEAU@dgroups.org) or during one of our face to face events. After all, facilitating knowledge exchange, learning from good practices and connecting people is the main purpose of the RésEAU.

We would like to thank everybody for their inputs and contributions to this edition of the SDC Water Newsletter, and we wish you a happy reading and look forward to hearing from other regions, projects and people of RésEAU in future editions of the newsletter.



Johan Gély, Head Global Programme Water
Christian Eggs, RésEAU Focal Point

Strategy and Portfolio Overview

Global Programme Water – Strategy 2018-2020

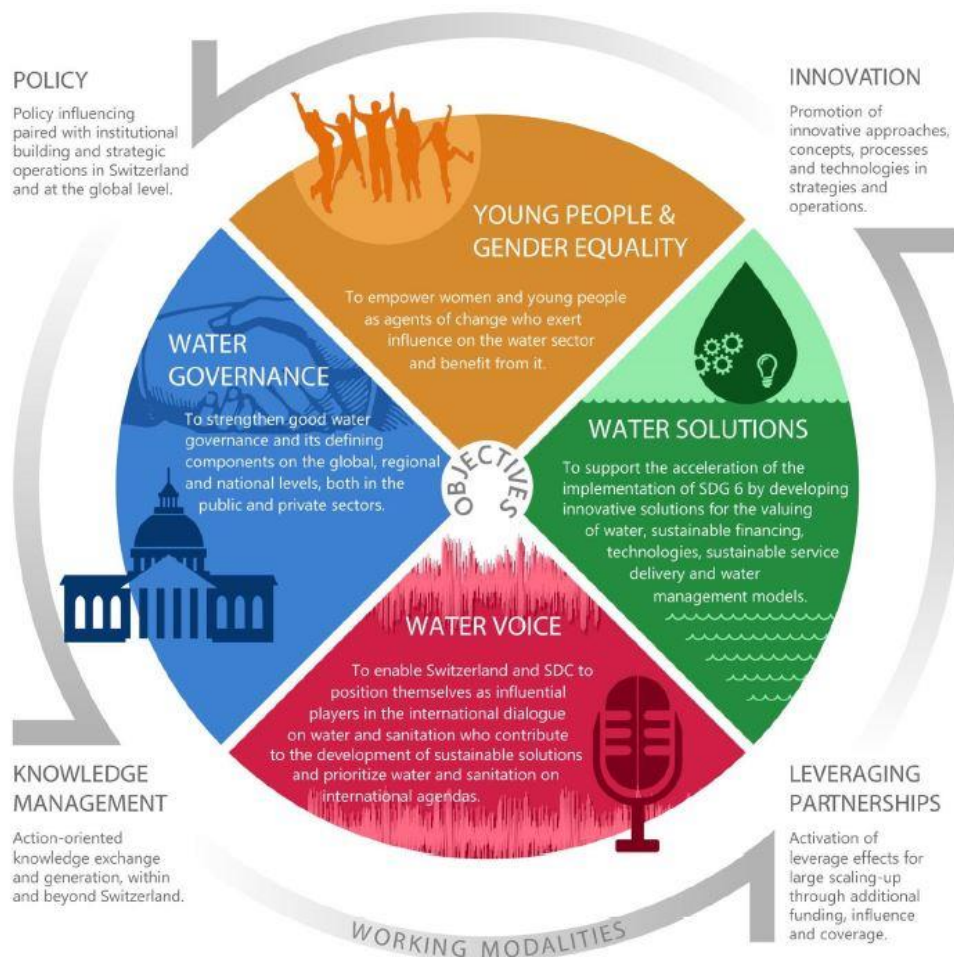
The new *Global Programme Water (GPW) Strategy* builds on the successes of the GPW's strategy 2013 – 2017 and aims to fulfil the **vision of a water-secure world**. The strategy presents the vision, mission, objectives and expected results of the Global Programme Water for the period 2018–2020.

The GPW Strategy document comprises a Results Framework based on the 4 components which are guiding the strategy implementation process:

- Water Governance
- Water Solutions
- Water Voice
- Young People and Gender Equality

The GPW will maintain its three-pronged approach of **policy influencing** (paired with institution building and strategic operations in Switzerland and globally), **innovation** (promotion of innovative approaches, concepts, processes and technologies in strategies and operations) and **knowledge management** (action-oriented knowledge exchange and generation, within and beyond Switzerland). In addition, the GPW aims to **leverage partnerships** (activation of leverage effects for large scaling-up through additional funding, influence and cover-age). The new strategy will also boost the activities of the SDC water network ([RésEau](#)).

See the full document [GPW strategy](#)



Peer-Review of the SDC Global Programme: Bringing together SDC's Global Vision for Water

The 9th Peer-Review of the SDC Global Programme Water (GPW) was convened in Bern over three days from 15th – 17th March. It brought together over 60 water experts representing all the projects, programmes and networks that receive support from GPW. It was a valuable opportunity for GPW Chief, Johan Gély to present the new water strategy, for participants to share innovation and progress, and to provide an opportunity for new collaborations to emerge. In previous years there have been separate peer-reviews for the more water-diplomacy related initiatives and the more WASH related initiatives. Bringing everyone together gave more opportunity for cross-fertilisation of ideas. As just one example, the meeting brought together the Global Hydrometry Support Facility of World Meteorological

Organisation ([HydroHub](#)), and the Rural Water Supply Network ([RWSN](#)), which after the Peer-Review convened an online meeting of leading hydrogeological researchers, from the [UPGro programme](#) and [IGRAC](#), who are also working on strengthening groundwater monitoring and data use in decision-making across the Eastern African region.

As was emphasised during the peer-review, achieving the challenging Sustainable Development Goals will need more of this kind of interdisciplinary thinking and action.

For more details, please contact [Ms Sandra Brühlmann](#) or download the full [report](#).

Portfolio 2017 of the Global Programme Water

SDC Global Programme Water (GPW)

Transboundary Basins/Aquifers

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Colón Basin | 9 ICAD-Region |
| 2 Gooscarán Basin | 10 Lake Malawi/Nyasa/Nyasa |
| 3 Ocopeque-Citá Aqifer and Sumpul Basin | 11 Pungwe, Save and Buzi Basins |
| 4 Sixacoa Basin | 12 Kalahari-Karoo (Stampriet) Aquifer |
| 5 Zarumilla Basin, Catamayo-Chira Basin | 13 Yamouk Basin |
| 6 Lake Titicaca | 14 Tigris Basin |
| 7 Mano Basin | 15 Pretrakent Aquifer |
| 8 Lake Chad | 16 Sesan, Sre Pok and Sekong Basins |

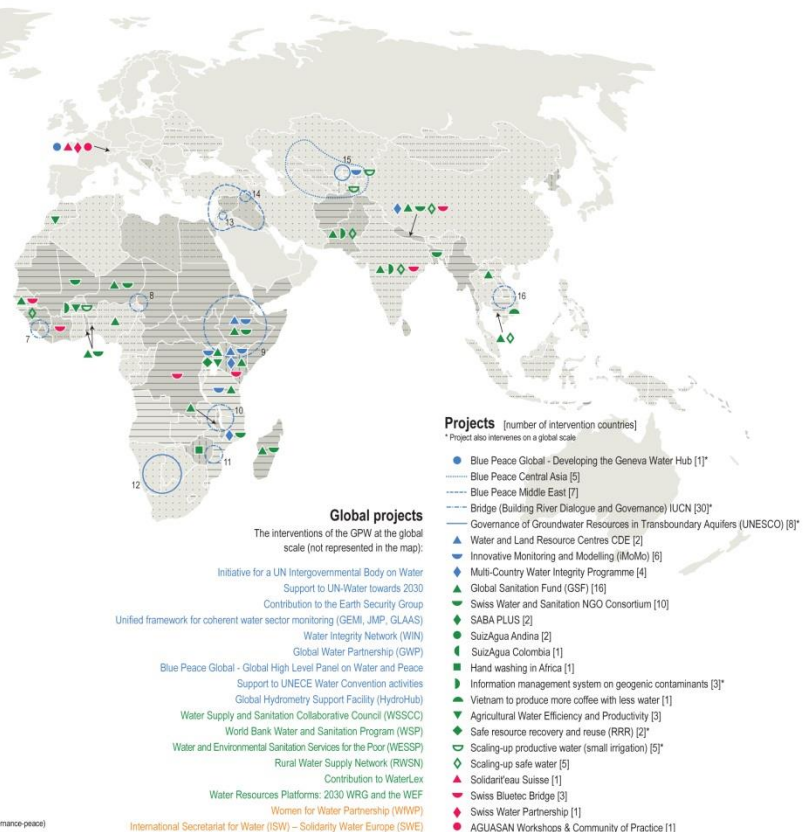
GPW Objectives

- Water Governance
- Water Solutions
- Water Voice
- Young People & Gender Equality
- Transboundary Basins/Aquifers

Low income countries

- Least developed countries
- Other low income countries
- Lower middle income countries
- Upper middle income countries
- Fragile countries

Source: OECD, DAC List of ODA Recipients (→ www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm); OECD, States of Fragility 2015 (→ www.oecd.org/dac/governance/peace)
Map produced by ZOI Environment Network, January 2016 / revised by SDC in June 2017



The [Portfolio 2017 of the Global Programme Water](#) gives an overview on the full project portfolio of GPW: It includes fact sheets of each GPW project divided into the GPW components: Water

Governance, Water Solutions, Water Voice, Young People & Gender Equality. The next section provides updates on selected projects of the portfolio.

Up-dates from selected projects

SDC's Blue Peace Programmes

Blue Peace Global

The Blue Peace Global project is composed of the Geneva Water Hub and the Global High Level Panel on Water and Peace. The Panel on Water and Peace will finish its report in September 2017, after two years of work. Their recommendations focus on means to prevent and resolve water-related conflicts, and facilitate the use of water as factor for building peace. The Geneva Water Hub, acting as Secretariat of the Panel, was established in 2015 with the aim of preventing water-related conflicts at an early stage. It has three components, a think tank, a network and a knowledge component.



For more information about the Panel and on the [Geneva Water Hub](#), or contact [Ms Noura Kayal](#)

Blue Peace Middle East

In the Middle East, the increasingly precarious situation of water resources demands stronger regional cooperation than ever before. Set against this background, the programme aims at contributing to peace building through combined political and technical dialogues, which are substantiated in 6 concrete regional projects and direct impact activities on the ground.

For instance, one project launched under the current phase trains and supports start-ups in the field of water and sanitation in Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq. In Jordan, 12 start-ups have just been selected for the first one-year program. The project will help strengthen the role of the private sector in sustainable water management. It is also about attracting young talent to the water sector and contributes to building a stimulating environment in which they can flourish, kept in the sector and become future agents of change.



For more information, please contact [Ms Eileen Hofstetter](#)

Blue Peace Initiative in Central Asia

Inspired by the Swiss Project “Blue Peace” in the Middle East, the “Blue Peace” Initiative Central Asia was launched. In the scope of this initiative Switzerland supports reforms in the water sector, as well as projects for a transparent data exchange. It promotes the political dialog among the parties involved and enhances capacity development of the new generation of water experts. After the visit in 2014 of Federal Council Didier Burkhalter in Central Asia, representatives of the states came together at a conference in Basel. The participants agreed to develop a regional, high-level dialog structure. The representatives met again at the 18th – 20th June 2017 in Astana for the “Blue Peace Central Asia: Dialogue for 2030 - Water Security and Inclusive Growth”



For more information, please contact [Ms Hanna Capeder](#)

Swiss Federal Council Didier Burkhalter opens the Water conference “Blue Peace Central Asia”

From 18th till 20th of June the “Blue Peace Central Asia: Dialogue for 2030 - Water Security and Inclusive Growth” took place in Astana. The conference on trans-boundary water management was held in the presence of Federal Council Didier Burkhalter and representatives of the five partner countries of the region, namely Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan.

The conference aims to support the political dialog between those involved and to promote the development of sustainable water practices in trans-boundary water basin. Furthermore, Switzerland places importance on the involvement of the new generation of water experts in the region. Therefore, Federal Council Burkhalter used the opportunity to interchange with young people who are interested in the water sector and discuss new solution approaches.



The Swiss Pavilion in Astana welcomed around 700 visitors on its test day © 2017 - DFAE/PRS

For more information, please contact: [Ms Hanna Capeder](#)

Peru: Collaboration between Development and Humanitarian Aid

The massive floods earlier this year in Peru, caused by “El Niño Costero”, have affected 1.2 million people. They are facing huge challenges in terms of recovery of infrastructure in basic services (transportation, health, and housing, water and sanitation), productive capacity and resilience of future events driven by climate change.

As SDC Global Programme Water through its SABA PLUS Project has been working during the past years on improving access to rural water and sanitation in both regions, the additional humanitarian emergency support provided by SDC’s Humanitarian Aid division of 220,000 CHF was targeted to the most vulnerable areas in these two departments. In close cooperation with the regional and local governments, the humanitarian aid contribution, composed by the delivery of WASH kits and the supply of water purification plants – was implemented by CARE Peru and Caritas Peru and reached about 2,700 people. A second contribution will focus on a needs analysis of rural WASH systems, the technical support for the rehabilitation of rural WASH

systems as well as the mobilization of public and private financing for WASH reconstruction under a DRR mainstreaming approach.

This reconstruction support is expected to reach 7,500 people directly, and 15,000 indirectly.

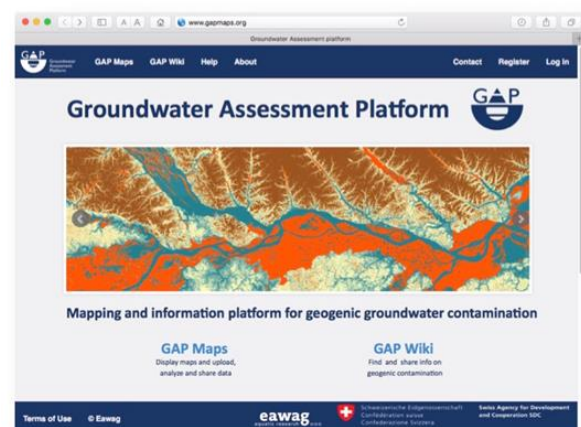


For more information, please contact [Ms Cesarina Quintana](#)

Groundwater Assessment Platform (GAP)

Over 300 million people worldwide are exposed to elevated concentrations of arsenic or fluoride in groundwater supplies (geogenic contaminants), which can over time cause severe health effects such as cancer or fluorosis. With the support of SDC, Eawag developed the Groundwater Assessment Platform (GAP) – an online open-source data and information portal that provides decision makers with an interactive knowledge hub and source of expertise for analysis and recommendations for action. Developing countries have little capacity to systematically collect, store and analyse data or have access to a convenient means of sharing information on drinking water quality. GAP’s vision is to assist communities, national and international institutions, civil society and research organisations in having access to maps, data and relevant information to enable all people and the environment to have an equitable and safe access to groundwater. GAP contributes to awareness creation and improved capacities to plan and manage mitiga-

tion strategies for geogenic contamination in groundwater.



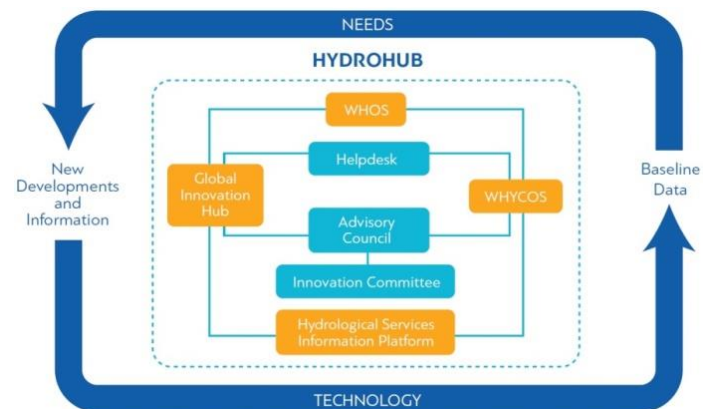
[Online GIS platform to assist management of naturally contaminated groundwater](#)

For more information, please contact [Mr Andreas Steiner](#)

HydroHub – the Global Hydrometry Support Facility of WMO

Availability of water is a basic requirement for agriculture, ecosystems, energy and industry. The inclusion of water in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has made it evident that water must be effectively managed to be of maximum benefit to society. Effective management, in turn, is predicated upon effective monitoring and data sharing. The challenge is to acquire, maintain and share hydrological data on a regular and sustainable basis across economic sectors and national borders. Therefore, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established the [HydroHub](#) (Global Hydrometry Support Facility) to build a sustainable foundation for evidence-based policy, decision-making and conflict resolution in water resources management. With the support of SDC, the HydroHub will provide the institutional mechanism for undertaking action that consolidates national monitoring capabilities and their regional and global integration; develops products

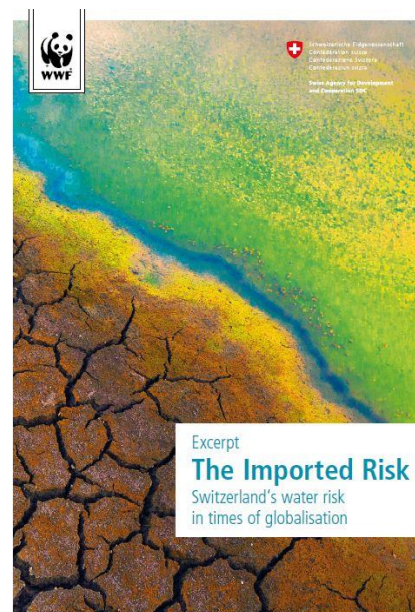
and tools that support data and information analysis at national, regional and global levels; and focuses on innovation and research leading to improved, sustainable and fit-for-purpose monitoring capabilities globally.



For more information, please contact [Mr Andreas Steiner](#)

New report on Switzerland's Water Risk

In collaboration with WWF Switzerland, SDC has recently published a report on Switzerland's water risk that is now available in [English](#), [French](#), [German](#) and [Italian](#) in the document library of the [RésEau](#) Water Network. This excerpt of WWF's comprehensive report on Switzerland's water risk in times of globalisation outlines the main challenges in different sectors and includes selected case studies on water risks in rice production in India, cattle and soy oilcake production in Brazil, and textiles and apparel production in Bangladesh. The publication highlights tools that foster efficient use of water, improved water quality and good water governance and calls for collective action to mitigate water risk by involving all stakeholders on local, national and global levels, ultimately to the benefit of people, nature, agriculture and businesses.



For more information, please contact [Ms Sandra Brühlmann](#)

Worldbank Global Water Practice

Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP)

To tackle the global water security and sanitation challenges effectively the Worldbank Global Water Practice has set up a multi-partner trustfund (GWSP). The objective of the Trust Fund is to help governments achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 and other water-related SDGs through innovative global knowledge and partnerships as well as country-level support that leverages World Bank Group financial instruments. Whereas the MDGs focused on increasing access to water and sanitation, it has become increasingly clear over the years that service delivery cannot be addressed independently from the safe management of water resources. The SDGs seek to address this with SDG 6 covering the entire hydrological cycle. GWSP as a new multi-partner trustfund partnership consolidates the previous Water and Sanitation Program

(WSP) and the Water Partnership Programme (WPP) into one new integrated partnership.



For further information please contact [Isabella Pagotto](#) (SDC) or [Françoise Salamé](#) (SECO)

Events

Past events

Arab-Swiss Water Day 28 March 2017, Bern

On the occasion of the Arab-DAC Dialogue on Development, SDC organised the Arab-Swiss Water Day as a second conference day. It brought together high-level representatives of the Arab Coordination Group institutions, Switzerland and other DAC member states for a knowledge exchange on approaches to achieve the water-related targets of the 2030 Agenda. The key issues discussed were the sustainability of investments, supporting private sector participation, and promote joint action and partnerships on water and sanitation. Regarding the question of private sector involvement, SDC shared its experience on triangular cooperation facilitated by the cooperation office in Central America.



For information in the event, please visit the SDC [website](#)

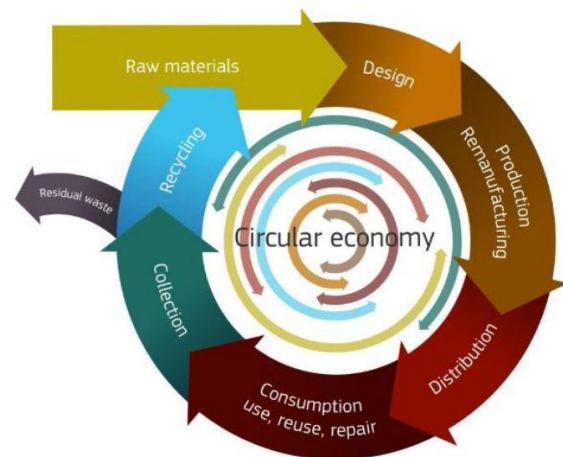
Up-coming Events

Aguasán Workshop series

For the duration of one week from the 26th till the 30th of June the 33rd **AGUASAN Workshop** gathers 50 water and sanitation experts from all over the world in Spiez, Switzerland to reflect on a cutting-edge topic. This year, the focus is on **Circular Economy – transforming waste into resources**. The choice of topic for the AGUASAN Workshop 2017 aligns with the UN World Water Day theme of “Wastewater” and the next Stockholm World Water Week’s topic of “Water and waste – reduce and reuse”. The workshop seeks to use synergies and provide an opportunity to participants to prepare and build relevant knowledge to better engage in the international dialogue at major water and sanitation sector events such as the World Water Week in Stockholm.

In the context of this workshop, a **networking apéro** will take place on **Thursday, June 29th** to which you are cordially invited. On this occasion, Mr. Heinz-Peter Mang from the University of Science and Technology Beijing will share his experi-

ences on the transformation towards circular water and sanitation in China. Programme: 18:00 – 18:15 Input by Heinz-Peter Mang, University of Science and Technology Beijing, 18:15 – 20:00 Apéro riche in a relaxed atmosphere at “[Schloss Spiez](#)” on the shores of Lake Thun. If you are interested in participating in this event, please send an email to Luisa Muentner (luisa.muentner@seecon.ch) indicating your name, organisation and email address.



World Water Week in Stockholm, 27 August – 1 September

Again this year, a delegation of SDC’s Global Programme Water will participate at the World Water Week from 27th August to 1st September in Stockholm. SDC will be present at the booth of the Swiss Water Partnership. On this occasion, the Embassy of Switzerland and SDC invite you to the Swiss reception on Monday evening, 28th August, 17:45. The Global Programme Water will present its new publication “Water and Security – Atlas of Risks and Opportunities” and inform about its activities in this complex sphere.



Prior registration is desired under:
info@swisswaterpartnership.ch

Personnel News

News on Personnel in RésEAU

As already announced in the editorial, Christian Eggs will hand over the position of the RésEAU Focal Point to Hanna Capeder.

There are also important changes in the RésEAU Core Group: Patrice Moix (Regional Water Advisor for Middle East), Thierry Umbehr (Regional Water Advisor for Central Asia), Frank Wiederkehr (Regional Water Advisor for the Western Balkans) and Manfred Kaufmann (GPW Water Policy Advisor in Ethiopia) will all complete their assignments in June 2016 and move on to new positions.

New members of the RésEAU core group will be **André Wehrli (Regional Water Advisor for Central Asia)** and **Cliff Hammer (Regional Water Advisor for the Western Balkans)**. The represen-

tation of the African and MENA regions in the RésEAU Core Group still needs to be defined.

Thierry, Frank and Manfred successfully linked the RésEAU colleagues in their respective regions with the Focal Point and represented them in the discussions and decision making in the RésEAU Core Group. In particular, they were instrumental in developing the regional sub-networks (Sub-RésEAU). We would like to thank them very much for their excellent work, and wish their successors all the best in continuing this important work.



News on Personnel of the Global Programme Water

Stéphanie Piers de Raveschoot holds a master degree in Environmental Sciences (EPFL, CH) and a specialised master in Interna-

tional Project Management (ESCP, Fr.). Stephanie started her career at SDC as a Junior Project Officer in Uzbekistan. Before that, she worked for an engineering office in Switzerland as a hydraulics / civil

engineer, for a French NGO in Haiti as a WASH programme officer, and in Lesotho for a French consulting office as a hydraulics engineer.

We would like to welcome Ms Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot in our team. We are looking forward working with her and wish her a good start.

[Stephanie Piers de Raveschoot](#)