

MEET A GEC RESEARCHER

Luis Mundaca

Luis Mundaca got a planning grant from SSEESS in 2015 to produce a project proposal targeting the SDSN sustainable development challenges with relevance to GEC.

How is your research linked to Global Environmental Change (GEC)?

I was trained as an environmental economist and there are three strong links between my research and GEC. In my research, I aim:

- to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge about GEC and the policies we need to implement for managing the effects of GEC
- to better understand the socio-economic drivers and consequences of environmental change; including impacts on human wellbeing
- to study changes across our economy-energy systems that take place on different spatial and temporal scales.

Why are you interested in GEC research?

It all started with my interest in the interplay between environmental degradation, economic growth and poverty in my home country Chile. I soon realised that this area was far more complex than I, naively, thought. Over time, I understood that research on GEC is rather critical for the viability of our environmental, social, energy and economic systems. And I wanted to contribute to the research needed.

What are the biggest challenges for you when working on GEC topics?

Because of the complexity of GEC and sustainability, there is a fundamental need to effectively cooperate with and integrate different scientific disciplines and methods. It is also crucial to find effective channels to

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Research area: Climate change, energy, resource efficiency and development

Favourite research trip: When there is no need to travel.



communicate complex issues, such as climate change, to policymakers in a simple language. When science speaks, we hope leaders will act. Bridging the gap between science and policy is very challenging, but also fascinating and rewarding.

Which of your projects did SSEESS support, and how?

SSEESS provided me with a planning grant for a project titled "Governance and management of low-carbon economies to promote sustainable economic welfare in megacities: Mumbai as case study". The grant has been instrumental to develop a full-scale project proposal, a process which is often underestimated but highly resource-intensive.

Most of the grant has been devoted to further develop and discuss the project idea with different stakeholders (e.g. policymakers, local authorities, researchers, businesses, NGOs, etc). In particular, the grant allowed us to organise two workshops – one in Sweden and one in India – and obtain very valuable feedback. We implemented a bottom-up stakeholder-driven approach to make the project much more relevant. The original research idea is now highly adapted to the needs of our target groups.

Read more about SSEESS planning grants and the SDSN on the next page





SSEESS Planning Grants

SSEESS has very good contact with the SDSN. In 2015, SSEESS and the SDSN awarded five Swedish scientists with a planning grant.

This grant enabled scientists to produce project proposals targeting one or several of the five SDSN sustainable development challenges that have high relevance to Global Environmental Change (GEC) and were selected by SSEESS:

- Improve Agricultural Systems and Raise Rural Prosperity
- Empower inclusive, productive and resilient cities
- Curb human-induced climate change and ensure sustainable energy
- Secure biodiversity, and ensure good management of water, oceans, forests and natural resources
- Transform governance for sustainable development

SSEESS wants to increase the participation of Swedish researchers such as Luis Mundaca in international GEC programmes.

More information at
www.sseess.org/grants-and-more



The SDSN

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was commissioned by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2012 to mobilise scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector to support practical problem solving for sustainable development at local, national, and global scales.

The SDSN operates national and regional networks of knowledge institutions, solution-focused thematic networks, and is building SDSNedu, an online university for sustainable development.



For more information please visit
www.unsdsn.org



SSEESS

The Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences (SSEESS) is a collaborative partnership between the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, FORTE, Formas, Vetenskapsrådet, and Sida.



On behalf of the members of the SSEESS partnership, the Secretariat acts as a Swedish link to Global Environmental Change (GEC) Research.

As a Swedish link to GEC research, SSEESS aims to increase the participation of Swedish researchers in international GEC research programmes and organisations.

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