

Media release

Successful initiatives from Liechtenstein - together with clean energy on the “serious side of life”

Masisea is located in the region of Ucayali in the western part of Peru. The village, which is home to about 3,000 people, can be reached only by river. The journey by boat from Pucallpa, the capital of Ucayali, takes about two hours. The region is one hour by plane from Lima and is located in the middle of the Peruvian Amazon region. In 2015, the government of Peru began the Plan Selva project, whose goal is to renovate obsolete educational facilities in the Amazon. Masisea and other locations were selected during the pilot phase, in which old rooms would be replaced with school buildings that were specially designed for the rainforest. Construction was completed at the beginning of 2016. However, Masisea had no access to the power grid - the sole source of power was a diesel generator that only provided the administrative buildings of Masisea with electricity. Masisea thus had a lovely new school, but could not use the computers, fans, refrigerators and lamps that had also been provided. The water pump that was connected could not be used, either - at least not without an additional energy source. Neither the Peruvian Ministry of Education nor the village commune of Masisea had a budget for opening up new energy sources.

At the same time, in Vaduz, the Foundation Board of the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein decided that future climate projects outside of Liechtenstein should be implemented with more involvement from partners from Liechtenstein. The message was that synergies should be used to promote efficient implementation of projects. This is a strategy that is also pursued by the Association of Liechtenstein Charitable Foundations (VLGS) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (AAA). Through the international network of the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein, the first exchange between the representatives of Peru and the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein took place in June 2016. The first thing that needed to be checked was whether the newly constructed school in Peru could be supplied with renewable energy instead of using the diesel generator.

With the help of the AAA, the VLGS and the Liechtenstein Development Service, LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein contacted foundations in Liechtenstein that have experience with projects in South America. Thanks to these contacts, the company Delta Volt SAC, a small but highly-skilled company with proven expertise, was recruited to the project. One advantage here was that Delta Volt had already participated in projects involving Liechtenstein. Peru2021 was commissioned to take care of monitoring and financial management on site. It is an organisation that, among other things, increases sustainability awareness in Peruvian industrial companies.

In November 2016, LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein, the Lotex Foundation, the MariaMarina Foundation and the Thoolen Foundation agreed to cover half of the total costs, amounting to CHF 100,000. The other half was financed by the Nation of Liechtenstein within the scope of international humanitarian cooperation and development.

The 36 photovoltaic panels and the inverters with a total of 24 batteries were brought to Masisea in May 2017 and then installed at the beginning of June. Due to the design, which features a two-day reserve, power supply to the school is guaranteed around the clock and with absolutely no diesel.

Starting on 10 July 2017, the facility in Masisea was inaugurated during a large village festival in the presence of the mayor, the national head of the Plan Selva programme and a representative from Liechtenstein in addition to over 200 village inhabitants.

Sven Braden from LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein was there and happily remarked, "It is pretty great that everything went so quickly - it took only eight months from the decision on financing to commissioning the plant! You have to remember that Masisea can be reached only by river, which is not exactly easy."

Miguel Corneo, head of the Plan Selva programme and employed by the Peruvian Ministry of Education, thanked Liechtenstein for its commitment and added, "The use of renewable energy here in Masisea will be valuable to us as a reference case, especially where the next phase of Plan Selva is concerned. An additional 79 schools are to be built. Thanks to Masisea, renewable energy has certainly appreciated in our eyes."

Panagiotis Potolidis-Beck from the Department of Foreign Affairs is also satisfied. "This is the first development project that we have realised together with several charitable foundations. I consider this project to be a great success. It demonstrates how efficient collaboration between the government and private persons can be. Internationally speaking, the project can be seen as a positive example. It underscores Liechtenstein's commitment in international climate politics and helps strengthen the philanthropic location."

The **LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein** is a non-profit foundation established in early 2009 under Liechtenstein law. The goals of the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein are to raise awareness and promote all aspects of sustainability and climate protection in order to protect our environment for future generations – “for a better life”. The foundation’s supporters include the Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Liechtenstein Bankers Association, the Liechtenstein Institute of Professional Trustees and Fiduciaries, the Liechtenstein Investment Fund Association, the Liechtenstein Insurance Association LVV and the University of Liechtenstein. Bringing together the worlds of business, academia and politics, the LIFE Climate Foundation Liechtenstein has become a driving force and a private-public partnership that reaches out to key sustainability players and brings them all together.

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