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Germanwatch

Executive Director of Policy Christoph Bals discusses Germanwatch`s role in finding solutions to climate change and other global issues.



Christoph Bals

Executive Director Policy, GERMANWATCH

Anthropogen atmospheric CO2 enrichment and Global Climate Change have the potential to violate Achilles' heels of the earth system: direct acidification of the oceans, collapse of the North-Atlantic Thermohaline Circulation (THC), collapse of Amazonian Forest, Bistability of Saharan Vegetation, Indian Monsoon Transformation, Triggering of El-Nino events, Instability of the Greenland and the West Arctic Ice Sheets, disappearance of glaciers e.g. in China, India and Peru with heavy consequences for the drinking water are some of the critical elements, most susceptible to triggering by human actions.

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Its entries are underpinned by research results of rather varying conclusiveness. But no doubt, while experiments with human beings are ostracized today, we have started a huge experiment with mankind. Our challenge is it to find ways to integrate scientific knowledge into the logic of politics, financial markets, the entire economy and technological development. We have to avoid the unmanageable and to manage the unavoidable (Schellnhuber).

About Germanwatch

Germanwatch is an independent, non-profit and non-governmental North-South Initiative. Since 1991, Germanwatch has been active on German, European and international level tackling issues such as trade and food security, climate change and North-South relations. Germanwatch works in close coordination with organizations and people from developing countries, creating platforms for them and giving them support. In order to reach the organisation's goals, Germanwatch networks with other organizations in Germany, Europe, the US and in the South. They also try to develop and implement intelligent solutions in targeted strategic alliances with constructive partners in companies and trade unions.

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