

Accelerating the Green Transition

Approach and Measures taken by the Swiss Federal
Institute of Intellectual Property



Dr. Marco D'Alessandro

Senior Policy Advisor, Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI)

1. Approach by our Institute – Sustainable Development Goals
2. Existing IP measures to support green innovations
3. New IP measures to support green innovations
4. Discussion

The Rhône Glacier in the Swiss Alps



1850

today

Source: VAW-Glaziologie, ETH Zürich (www.glaciology.ethz.ch)



Source: Lucien Chavan

$$E = mc^2$$

Albert Einstein

- From 1902 to 1909 at the Patent Office in Berne (today IPI)
- Technical expert class III; promoted to class II in 1906!

New strategic goals for IPI for 2022 – 2026

The Federal Council expects the IPI to:

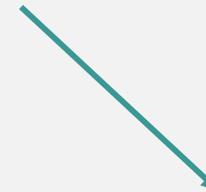
...

(13) contribute to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda by identifying areas of sustainable development on which it has a significant influence and by defining objectives based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.



SDGs that are important for IPI as an Institution → Internal effect !

SDG5, SDG7, SDG12 and others



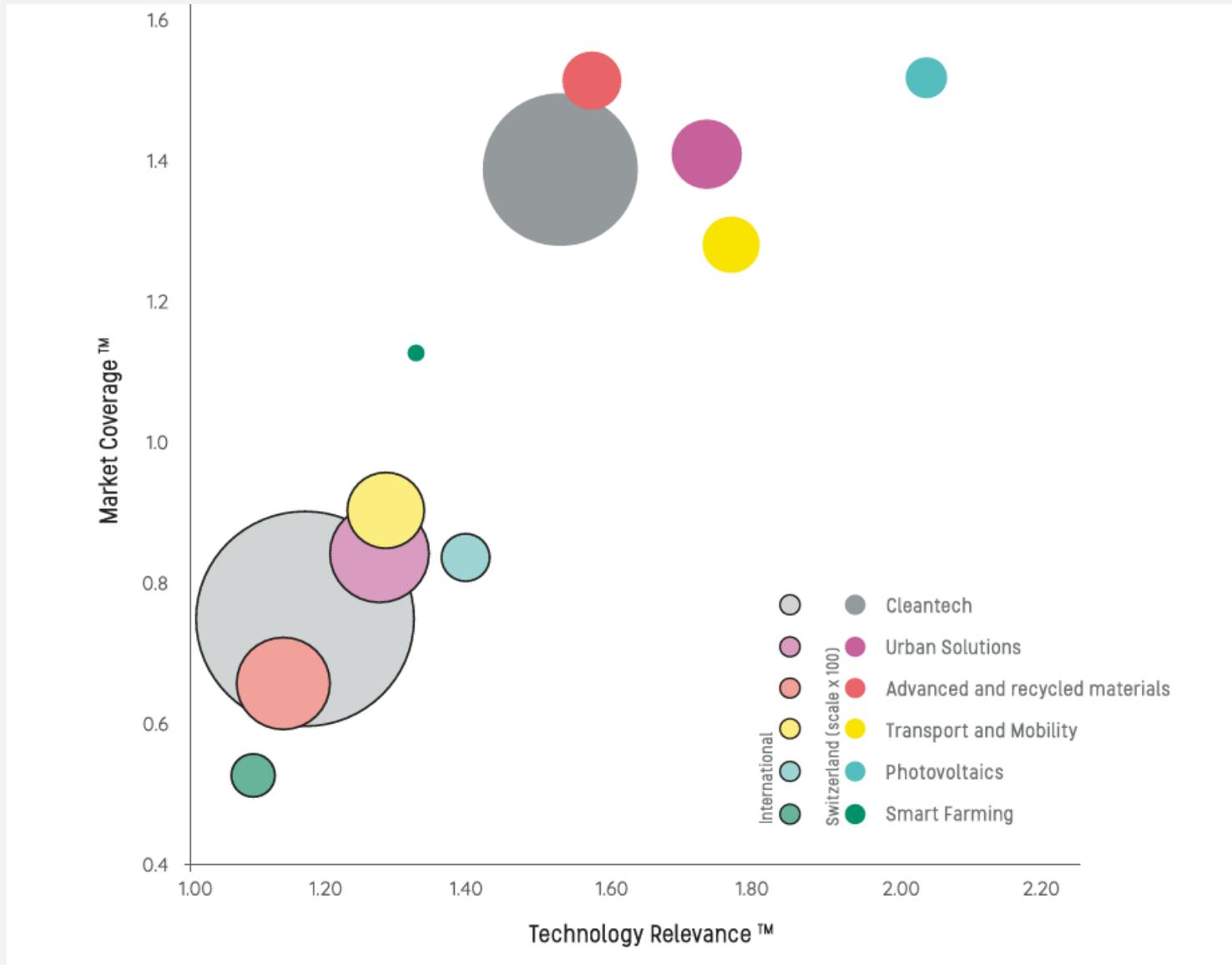
SDGs to which IPI contributes through external actors → External effect !

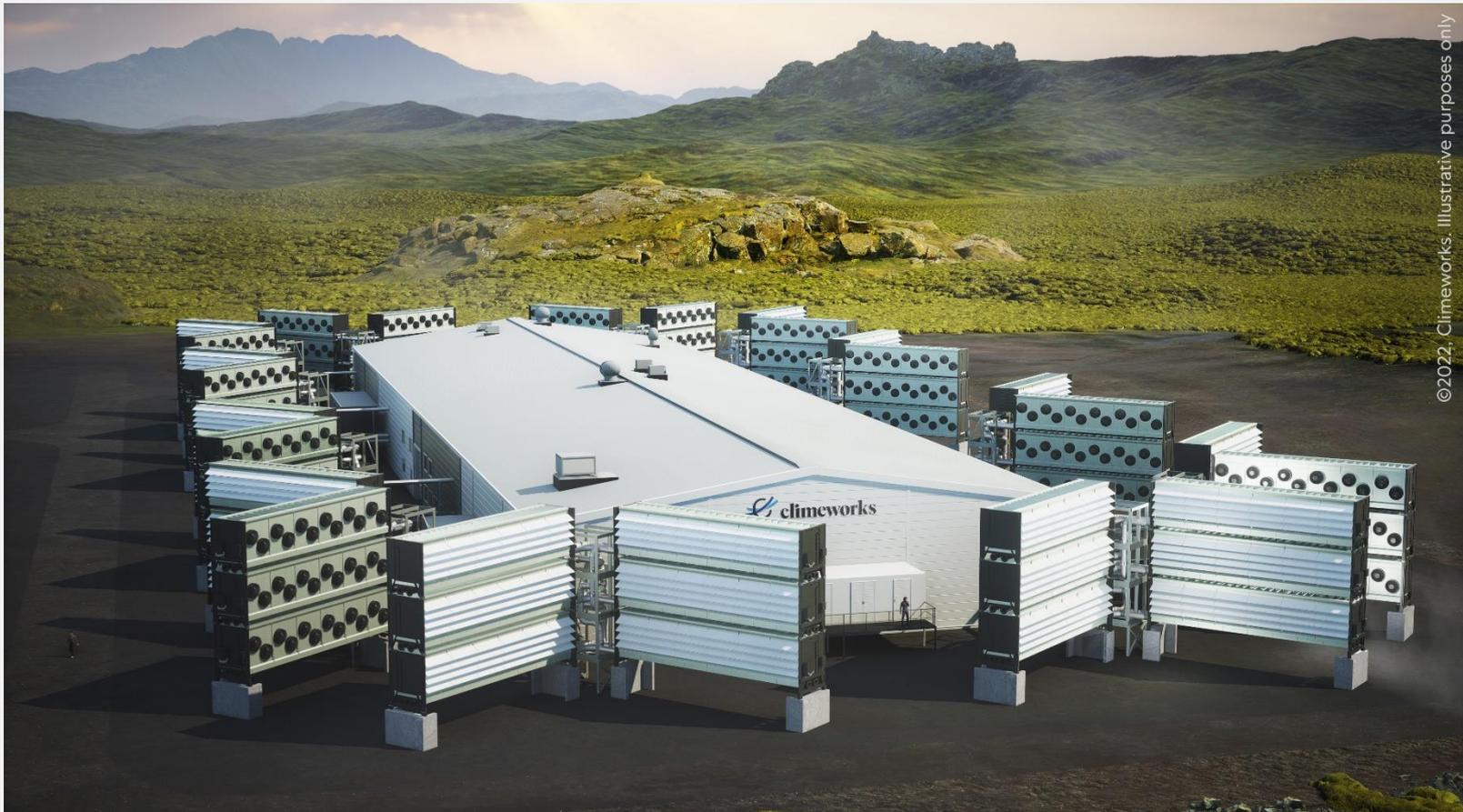
SDG9, SDG13, SDG17 and others

- **General IP services and activities** → also for green innovations !
 - IP awareness-raising and training activities
 - Possibility of accelerated patent examinations
 - Assisted patent- and other IP-searches
- **Special Unit** “Sustainable Development and International Cooperation”
 - Bilateral cooperation projects
 - Interlinkages between IP and sustainable development
 - Participates in the work of other governmental agencies
- **Partnering** with other international and national initiatives and organizations
 - **WIPO GREEN:** IPI is a partner since 2020 and a member of the Core Committee
 - National fora and initiatives, e.g.: **Swiss Innovation Forum** or the **Swiss Cleantech Report**



Selected Cleantech Sectors





Source: Climeworks AG

A Technology to Reverse Climate Change



Source: Clément Grandjean @Terre&Nature



Source: Planted Foods AG

A vegan meat substitute made from peas

All three companies:

- Are start-ups that successfully managed to put innovative “green” products on the market.
- Enjoyed at an early stage IPI’s assisted patent searches and got well aware about the importance of a good IP strategy.

But:

- They have different IP strategies (patents, license agreements, trade secrets, trade marks).
- Different products and technologies contribute towards the climate objectives and the sustainable development goals.



IP offices should support green innovations in all sectors !

- IPI internal **GreenTech Working Group** to find additional IP & greentech measures
 - Interdisciplinary approach (lawyers, economists and scientists)
 - Report presented to the Council of IPI on 2 Nov. 2022



Bericht des IGE über den Stand der Umsetzung von Punkt 13 der Strategischen Ziele 2022 - 2026 - Ziele für Nachhaltige Entwicklung

Inhaltsverzeichnis	
1. Zusammenfassung	2
2. Ausgangslage	3
2.1. Auftrag	3
2.2. Organisation der Arbeiten	3
3. Maßnahmen mit externer Wirkung - Unterstützung von grünen Innovationen	4
3.1. Die Rolle des geistigen Eigentums bei grünen Innovationen	4
3.2. Bestehende Ansätze des IGE zur Unterstützung von grünen Innovationen	4
3.2.1. Allgemeine Dienstleistungen	4
3.2.2. Das IGE als Partner von WIPO GREEN	4
3.2.3. Patentschutz im Sinne CleanTech Report	4
3.2.4. Die Einheit Nachhaltige Entwicklung und Internationale Kooperation (NEIK)	5
3.2.5. Rechtliche Nachhaltigkeitsmaßnahmen im Bereich des geistigen Eigentums	6
3.3. Mögliche neue Maßnahmen zur Unterstützung von grünen Innovationen	6
3.4. Gezielte Maßnahmen, welche erprobt oder nicht weiter verfolgt werden	6
3.5. Empfehlungen der AG GreenTech zum weiteren Vorgehen	8
3.5.1. Umsetzung der neuen Maßnahmen	8
3.5.2. Prüfung weiterer Maßnahmen	11
4. Maßnahmen mit interner Wirkung - Umsetzung der Ziele für Nachhaltige Entwicklung innerhalb des IGE	12
4.1. Bestehende Maßnahmen mit IGE-interner Wirkung	12
4.1.1. Personal	12
4.1.2. Gebäudeinfrastruktur und Umwelt	12
4.1.3. Beschaffung	12
4.1.4. Zugang zu Informationen	13
4.2. Neue Maßnahmen zur Stärkung der Ziele für Nachhaltige Entwicklung innerhalb des IGE	13
4.2.1. Anhang I - Projektorganisation	14
4.2.2. Anhang II - Mögliche neue Maßnahmen zur Unterstützung von grünen Innovationen	15
1. Stärkung der Thematik «Geistiges Eigentum und Grüne Innovationen» in den internationalen Kooperationsgremien und/oder der bilateralen Zusammenarbeit	15
2. Gezielte Patentrecherchen und/oder Patentfeldanalysen für grüne Innovationen	17
3. Reduzierte Gebühren für die beschleunigte Prüfung von grünen Patentanmeldungen	20
4. Unterstützung von bilateralen Veranstaltungen, Programmen, Netzwerken oder Foren einschließlich Vergabe von Awards für die besten grünen Innovationen	22
5. Aufbau eines Netzwerks von IPI & Greentech-Experten und Experten	24
6. «Upcycling» bzw. «IP-Neuaufladung» von beschlagsnahen patentierte Ware am Ziel	25
7. Sensibilisierungsmaßnahmen für geistiges Eigentum und grüne Innovationen	27

- Benefits from **WIPO GREEN**'s initiative [IPO GREEN](#)



- Joint Initiatives with WIPO GREEN
- Regional Cooperation on Green IP Matters
- IP Awareness Raising Activities
- Provision of Green Data and Analysis by the IP Office
- Upcycling Program for Counterfeit Goods
- Accelerated Patent Prosecution
- Matchmaking and Business Rounds
- Training Government Officials about Green Innovation

1. **"IP & green innovations" in cooperation projects and bil. dialogues**
 - First "greentech" component in the project with Georgia
2. **Free assisted patent searches / analyses** for "green applicants"
 - Extension to existing programs of other federal agencies
3. Development of a **national network of IP & greentech experts**
 - Start with a national event in 2023
4. **Awareness-raising** activities for IP & green innovations by the IGE
 - Start with special "greentech" page on our Webpage



Cluster 1 measures will be implemented until autumn 2023

1. A **self-declaratory system** for free assisted patent searches / analyses ?
2. Periodic publication of **patent analyses / patent landscapes for specific greentech sectors** ?
3. **Financial support** for greentech events, programs, networks or forums, including "**awards**" for the best green inventions ?
4. "**Upcycling**" or "**IP neutralisation**" of confiscated **counterfeit goods** at customs ?



Cluster 2 measures will be further evaluated until autumn 2023

1. Reduced fees for applicants of green inventions
2. Classification systems for "green" patents
3. Green Patent Prosecution Highways
4. Transparency measures / patent pools
5. **IPR insurance for "green" innovations**
6. **New legal measures to support "green" technologies**
7.



These measures will neither be implemented nor further evaluated for the moment being

- GreenTech Working Group will **continue** to search for and analyse further measures **until autumn 2023**:
 - **Further interviews** with experts and organizations from the IP and from the greentech sector
 - **National event in 2023** to bring together experts from the IP and from the greentech sector
 - **Assignment of a study** to one or more ‘disruptive’, student consulting companies (e.g. StudentImpact / ETH Juniors)



Measures which have a bigger impact and make a change ?



Source: Sarayut, istockphoto.com

- **Your views** on what IP offices can or should do to accelerate the green transition and to contribute towards the achievement of the SDGs ?