

International Institute for Sustainable Development



Our vision: Better living for all—sustainably
Our mission: To champion innovation,
enabling societies to live sustainably.

iisd International
Institute for
Sustainable
Development Institut
international du
développement
durable

IISD – Innovative. Energetic. Effective.

The world is challenged by a changing climate, biodiversity loss, abject poverty and environmental degradation. What can make a difference? Good ideas. Creativity. Passion. Innovation. The achievement of change.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development is in the business of promoting change towards sustainable development. As a policy research institute dedicated to effective communication of our findings, we engage decision-makers in government, business, NGOs and other sectors in the development and implementation of policies that are simultaneously beneficial to the global economy, the global environment and to social well-being.

In the pursuit of sustainable development, we promote open and effective international negotiation processes. And we believe fervently in the importance of building our own institutional capacity while helping our partner organizations in the developing world to excel.

Established in 1990, IISD is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organization with a diverse team of more than 150 people located in more than 30 countries. Through our dynamic portfolio of projects, we partner with more than 200 organizations throughout the world.

IISD is an innovative, energetic and, above all, effective institute. In fact, IISD is ranked by sustainability experts as the most effective sustainable development research organization in the world (see www.iisd.org/media/2005/feb_11_2005.asp).

Learn more about our specific work by visiting www.iisd.org and by perusing the pages that follow. Ask how you can help us make a difference.



INNOVATIVE

ENERGETIC

EFFECTIVE

Reporting Services

Promoting transparency on the world stage

Launched as the *Earth Summit Bulletin* in 1992, IISD's *Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB)* continues to cover multilateral negotiations on environment and sustainable development. The *ENB* is an objective, balanced, independent reporting service that has opened up these processes to the world. Through electronic mailing list subscriptions, Web readership and pass-along copies, more than 45,000 people—including UN delegates, NGOs, UN staff and policy-makers—follow the *ENB*'s coverage. And the audience is growing. The *ENB*, IISD's flagship publication, is funded by numerous governments eager for clear, current and accurate information. Building on the success of the *ENB*, IISD's Reporting Services program also generates reports from conferences, workshops and symposia by request; manages "Peer to Peer" distribution lists allowing subscribers to post messages on subjects related to climate, water and forests; and publishes a bi-weekly e-newsletter containing updates on the newest information on international environment and sustainable development. For more information and to receive free subscriptions, visit the IISD Reporting Services Web site "*Linkages*" at www.iisd.ca.



Climate Change and Energy

Promoting actions to address climate change: reducing emissions and facilitating adaptation

Climate change, one of the world's most significant challenges, affects the health and well-being of the Earth's ecosystems, our economic enterprises and social relationships. Creative responses based on solid research, shared knowledge and the engagement of people at all levels is required to meet the challenge. Since 1992, IISD has sought to provide these responses through policy analysis; intelligence gathering; impacts assessment and modelling; and public engagement and



"IISD Bulletins combine thorough expertise in environment and sustainable development issues with an excellent understanding of international multilateral negotiations, presented in a clear and concise way."

Corli Pretorius,
Head of Global
Communications
IUCN – The World
Conservation Union

outreach. With the Kyoto Protocol now in force, IISD is addressing new challenges such as developing the emerging global carbon market, helping countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change and the development of scenarios for action after the first Kyoto period ends in 2012. Once again, our approach recognizes the need for constructive global engagement at the international level in combination with strong national policies and individual action. IISD believes that the most effective actions for addressing climate change are those that promote economic stability, enhance social equity and complement other environmental initiatives.

Trade

Helping to make international trade supportive of sustainable development

IISD's work on trade and sustainable development began in 1991. It seeks to identify those areas of synergy where trade, environment and development can be mutually beneficial, and to help policy-makers take advantage of those opportunities. It seeks to identify areas of conflict among the three policy spheres, and find ways to minimize them. And it seeks to increase public understanding of the issues, and create mechanisms through which that understanding can lead to better policy. Our work on trade has a special emphasis on defending the interests of developing countries in the trade and sustainable development debates.



Investment

Understanding how investment and the investment rules can advance sustainable development



Without investment, economic growth is impossible. Well-planned and high-quality foreign investment in developing countries can help make economic practices more sustainable. Inappropriate investment, however, can undermine communities and the environment. IISD examines how the institutions that govern international investment flows can be improved so as to help developing countries attract the sort of investment that promotes sustainable development. Prospects for this kind of change are strongly affected by investment patterns. In developing countries, where domestic sources of capital are scarce, foreign direct investment will play a significant role. IISD promotes processes and institutions that respect the basic democratic principles of transparency, accountability and legitimacy.

"IISD has gained a well-deserved global reputation for a soundly thought out, constructive and practical approach to sustainable development issues. This allows the institute to work all around the world with governments, business and other civil society organizations towards practical solutions which balance the needs of the different players, with the institute often supplying the fundamental thinking and analysis."

Sir Mark Moody-Stuart
Chairman of Anglo
American plc.,
United Kingdom
IISD Board Member

Sustainable Natural Resources Management Change is always with us

IISD's Sustainable Natural Resources Management program recognizes that ecosystems are in a constant state of change, and the capacity to cope with change is *resilience*. Building resilient communities, which is the goal of the Sustainable Natural Resources Management program, requires that policy-makers understand change; adapt to it; and learn to anticipate and plan for the changes that inevitably lie before us, particularly in the case of climate change. The impacts of these changes will intensify, affecting our forests, our agriculture and our water. The SNRM program promotes a reorientation toward "adaptive management"—in Canada and around the world—and promotes new thinking on management tools and institutions. The program's current primary priorities are on water and agriculture issues, and on the relationship between environment and security. The team also possesses extensive expertise in the area of mining and sustainable development.



Economic Policy

Understanding the link between human well-being, poverty and the environment

Reducing poverty and fostering human development are fundamental pre-requisites for achieving sustainable development. Growing inequity within and across countries is unsustainable. If it's not addressed soon, this trend will lead to greater social conflicts and an increasing rate of ecosystem deterioration. There is a need to address these

"IISD is a unique institution which has not only been able to exhibit remarkable talent in defining priorities and focussing on meaningful areas of research and outreach, but it has also set a record among such international research institutions for a high level of productivity. As a result, IISD is truly a pioneer that clearly makes a difference."

R. K. Pachauri, PhD,
Director-General,
The Energy and
Resources Institute,
India



issues in new ways. We will need to move away from conventional responses relying on the fruits of economic growth trickling down to the impoverished, to policy responses that embrace broader participation, greater opportunities and more freedoms by the poor in their own development processes. Through innovative research and strong partnerships, IISD promotes effective policy-making imbued with this spirit.

Knowledge Communications

Promoting strong relationships and effective outreach

IISD's Knowledge Communications program works at the intersection of communications, networks and sustainable development knowledge. Our efforts are driven by the need for greater impact on national and global concerns. IISD has created one of the strongest presences on the Web for sustainable development, reaching a global audience that downloads over 2.5 million IISD reports every year. But information alone doesn't lead to change. So we investigate how to engage other organizations, businesses and communities to leverage progress by working together. We are



addressing how networks and partnerships should be established and governed; how they can most effectively influence policy-making; and how they should be evaluated and strengthened. The program also celebrates the role of young professionals in sustainable development. It is critical that we transfer knowledge and capacity to this upcoming generation of leaders, and that in turn we communicate their ideas. The institute has consulted extensively on the matter, and runs a highly successful internship program that has graduated more than 250 young professionals since 1997.

Measurement and Assessment

Monitoring our progress toward sustainable development

In contrast with a destination one could reach once and for all, sustainable development has been likened to a path one needs to navigate by monitoring progress towards agreed objectives, and staying on course through learning and adaptation. To set and keep us on course, we need social and environmental information systematically integrated into decision-making to complement economic indicators that paint an incomplete and often misleading picture. IISD works towards this objective through policy-relevant research on measurement tools and methods, developing indicator systems with strategic partners, capacity building and strengthening indicator practitioner networks. Our efforts are aimed at advancing a strategic approach to sustainable development based on setting clear goals, systematic monitoring of progress and rigorous assessment of results.

"IISD is a unique catalyst for bringing bright people from diverse backgrounds together to produce exciting and innovative policy solutions on difficult and divisive topics. Their work reflects business needs, environmental integrity and social relevance in pushing ahead the sustainable development agenda. In our complex interest-based world, IISD brings the integrity of balance, common sense and clarity, which is rare."

Bob Page
Vice President of
Sustainable Development
TransAlta Corporation, Canada
IISD Board Member

Innovation – The Essence of Who We Are

The agenda for achieving sustainable development is an agenda for change. Therefore, the challenge of achieving sustainable development means managing change on many fronts and on many levels. It takes new approaches, new tools and new relationships to stay on the leading edge.

IISD's mission is "to champion innovation, enabling societies to live sustainably." Given the complex and interconnected nature of the issues related to achieving sustainable development, innovation is necessary to develop and exploit new ideas which lead to the development of better tools and products, resulting in improvements in social, environmental and economic systems.

The new IISD Innovation Fund, an innovation unto itself, is allowing the institute's leading scholars to explore the next generation of ideas and tools. The fund allows successful internal applicants to access "intellectual venture capital" to incubate ideas that might not yet be fundable through traditional means. Ideas that are perhaps ahead of their time.



The fund also will enable IISD to expand its research base, grow its audiences around the globe and enhance its "innovation infrastructure"—the tools and resources to test new approaches to achieving sustainable development.

Donors to this fund are helping IISD to raise the research bar in a rapidly changing world.

IISD at a Glance

- Established in 1990, IISD is a registered Canadian charity with 501 (c)(3) status in the United States. The institute's head office is located in Winnipeg, with offices in Geneva, Ottawa and New York.
- IISD is funded by about 75 governments, foundations, corporations, UN agencies and individuals. About 80 per cent of revenues are project-specific; the remaining 20 per cent is core operating funding.
- The IISD team consists of 55 staff; 18 associates; 62 *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* reporters; 32 interns; and 20 board members. In total, more than 30 countries are represented.
- By statute, 50 per cent plus one of the IISD board is Canadian. Other members come from the United States, Algeria, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and other countries.
- IISD runs more than a dozen electronic mailing lists with a combined subscriber base of close to 30,000.
- While promoting the advancement of sustainable development around the world, IISD engages in sustainable practices including green procurement strategies and carbon emissions measurement. In 2004, IISD achieved carbon neutrality by purchasing offsets.
- IISD currently maintains collaborative relationships with about 200 organizations and governments around the world.

Connect with IISD

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IISD's vision is better living for all—sustainably; its mission is to champion innovation, enabling societies to live sustainably. IISD is registered as a charitable organization in Canada and has 501(c)(3) status in the United States. IISD receives core operating support from the Government of Canada, provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Environment Canada; and from the Province of Manitoba. The institute receives project funding from numerous governments inside and outside Canada, United Nations agencies, foundations and the private sector.

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