

## *The Citizen is Willing, But Society Won't Deliver: The problem of institutional roadblocks*

NEW E-BOOK EXPLORES WHY SYSTEMS OFTEN FAIL  
TO MOVE US TOWARD SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Government systems are often blighted by “institutional roadblocks” (IRs). These phenomena are profound and pervasive, and growing worse in many sectors. They apply especially to environmental problems, stemming as they often do from a lack of integration—whether economic, political or otherwise—among our principal institutions of governance. Plainly the environmental cause is failing. After decades of efforts by governments, businesses, media and others—and despite many success stories—we are losing ground faster than ever. Problems proliferate, leaving us trying to push ever-larger rocks up ever-steeper hills. How can we get ahead of the game and prevent problems from becoming problems in the first place? A key answer is to tackle the IRs.

This free electronic book by Norman Myers and Jennifer Kent, published by IISD in November 2008, looks at why institutional systems prove singularly unsystematic, and why they often fail in spectacular fashion on environmental matters. Why should this be so? What can we do about it? What are some success stories to point the way ahead?

***The Citizen is Willing, But Society Won't Deliver*, by Norman Myers and Jennifer Kent, is available for free download at <http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/thecitizeniswilling.pdf>**

Watch a short video of Javed Ahmad, Communications Director of IISD's Global Subsidies Initiative, talking about the book at [http://www.iisd.org/governance/javed\\_geneva\\_myers\\_video.asp](http://www.iisd.org/governance/javed_geneva_myers_video.asp)

### Climate Conference



Read IISD's Reporting Services coverage of the Poznan (Poland) Climate Change Conference, held Dec. 1-12, 2008, at <http://www.iisd.ca/climate/cop14/>. Photo courtesy IISD Reporting Services.

## IISD Co-hosts Second Forum for Developing Country Investment Negotiators

By Damon Vis-Dunbar

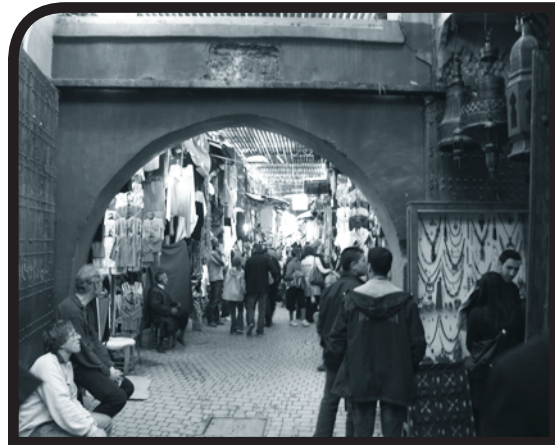
On November 2–4, 2008, IISD held a forum for developing country investment negotiators, in partnership with the South Centre and the Moroccan Department of Investment. This is the second forum of its type to be organized by IISD. The first was held in Singapore in October 2007. The annual forum brings together government officials responsible for negotiating international investment agreements, as well as leading experts in the field from civil society and private practice. Currently, there are over 2,500 bilateral investment treaties, and hundreds of investment chapters in free trade agreements. These treaties hold important implications for sustainable development.

The Marrakesh forum attracted 49 participants from 35 developing countries and featured presentations and discussion on key issues in the international investment law regime, including: the changes in this field at the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels; the role of development policy space and home country and investor obligations; and the link between investment agreements and climate change.

**Background reading is available at**  
[http://www.iisd.org/investment/capacity/dci\\_forum\\_2008.asp](http://www.iisd.org/investment/capacity/dci_forum_2008.asp)

*Damon Vis-Dunbar is a Communications Officer at IISD.*

MARRAKESH WAS THE SITE OF THE NOVEMBER MEETING OF 49 INVESTMENT NEGOTIATORS FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.  
 PHOTO BY BILL GLANVILLE.



THE IISD TEAM IN MARRAKESH.

## Selected Upcoming Meeting Coverage on IISD Linkages

**Twenty-fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC-25/GMEF)**

February 16-20, 2008, Nairobi, Kenya

**Sixteenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16) Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM)**

February 23-27, 2008, UN Headquarters, New York

**First Meeting of the Friends of the Co-chairs on Liability and Redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**  
 February 23-27, 2008, Mexico City, Mexico

To follow coverage of international meetings on the environment and development, visit IISD's Linkages Web site at <http://www.iisd.ca> or subscribe to the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* at <http://www.iisd.ca/enbvol/enb-electronic.htm>

## Jeffrey Sachs and Yvo de Boer Discuss Climate Change Solutions

By Rick Groom

Photos by Mark Inglis, The Earth Institute

### EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF A CARBON MARKET AND CARBON TAXES

IISD and the Earth Institute partnered to present "The Kyoto Mechanisms – Key to Combating Climate Change?," a discussion at Columbia University in New York on October 9, 2008. An audience of 140 invited guests, media, faculty and students watched as Dr. Jeffrey Sachs and Yvo de Boer shared their views on cutting greenhouse gas emissions through a carbon market and carbon taxes.

Recognized by experts the world over as authorities on climate change, Professor Sachs is the Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Mr. de Boer is Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Over the course of a two-hour event which was webcast, the pair examined a range of related issues including the pluses and pitfalls of governments working to establish frameworks to address climate change amid a global financial crisis and market uncertainty.

"Given the limits of the carbon market, it is clear that we need two sets of tools. The first relates primarily to the private sector and here, we are talking about cap and trade and market-based mechanisms," said de Boer. "The second relates to what

governments can do especially through government-to-government cooperation. And here, we're essentially talking about taxes, standards and subsidies. In short, we need different horses for different courses."

"I'm not convinced that the current architecture is getting us all that far. That's the basic problem," commented Sachs. "I think we are making small steps in the right direction. But I don't really see us in the current path as really turning the trajectory as sharply and dramatically as we need to.

"You'll have seen the budget deficits coming. So we're actually going to grow up a little bit and start talking about taxes again in this country (the U.S.) because we're trying to run a country without taxation and we just went broke doing it. We tried to run without personal saving and we tried to run it without taxation. Now we've hit the wall. We haven't yet discussed these things. But we will discuss them in this country and then a price on carbon is not going to look so bad. Because taxing the bad instead of the good is going to become a good political argument as well."

The architect of the Sachs/de Boer meeting was IISD Climate Change and Energy Director John Drexhage. As host and moderator of the discussion, Drexhage brought the two together, as he put it, "by cornering Jeff and Yvo after I saw them trade views on this very subject when we met in Geneva last spring."

Other event participants were Henry Derwent, President and CEO of International Emissions Trading Association, and Dr. Klaus Lackner, Director of the Lenfest Center for Sustainable Energy, Professor of Geophysics in the Department of Earth and Environmental Engineering, and a member of the Earth Institute.

The successful and stimulating dialogue has been described by some experts as a preview of the next round of the global climate change negotiations which are slated to culminate in a new international agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009.

To view the Sachs/de Boer Climate Change discussion online, see [http://www.columbia.edu/acis/networks/advanced/ei/fall2008/1009\\_arch.ram](http://www.columbia.edu/acis/networks/advanced/ei/fall2008/1009_arch.ram) (RealPlayer is required).

*Rick Groom is Development and Communications Officer at IISD.*



UNFCCC'S DE BOER (LEFT) AND THE EARTH INSTITUTE'S SACHS SHARE THEIR VIEWS IN NEW YORK.

## IISD Launches New Announcement List with the UNCCD

### LAND-L WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENTS ON DESERTIFICATION AND RELATED LAND ISSUES

IISD, in cooperation with the Secretariat for the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), is pleased to announce the launch of the LAND-L announcement list.

This new distribution list, similar to IISD's other announcement lists—CLIMATE-L, FORESTS-L, WATER-L, CHEMICALS-L, MEA-L, OCEANS-L, ENERGY-L and AFRICASD-L—has been launched in conjunction with the new Comprehensive Communication Strategy of the UNCCD.

The purpose of LAND-L is to provide a free, moderated, community communications tool, allowing subscribers to post announcements related to desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) as well as sustainable land management (SLM) events, policy developments, publications and new initiatives. LAND-L is not a discussion list and is limited to non-commercial, non-political announcements.



LAND-L JOINS IISD REPORTING SERVICES' FAMILY OF LISTS. ISTOCKPHOTO.

After signing up for LAND-L at <http://www.iisd.ca/email/subscribe.htm>, please check your e-mail folders after subscribing and respond to a confirmation e-mail.

Any subscriber may use this new list to send announcements to the other subscribers on the list by sending e-mails to [LAND-L@lists.iisd.ca](mailto:LAND-L@lists.iisd.ca)

For assistance in subscribing to LAND-L, please send e-mail to IISD Reporting Services Digital Manager, Diego Noguera, at [diego@iisd.org](mailto:diego@iisd.org)

## Global Connectivity Focused on New Challenges for Sustainable Development By Nona Pelletier

IISD announces the new "Global Connectivity" program, a name that more accurately describes our ongoing focus on new and emerging challenges for sustainable development.

Global Connectivity builds on our former Knowledge Communications program, to incorporate how technology, particularly communications technology, is supporting and changing how we organize our governing systems, our economies and our cultures in unprecedented ways. The program looks at how massive social networks of people are emerging with their own ability to influence priorities and planning, for better or worse.

There is great potential to transform sustainable development through the interface of technology and social organization; but also great risk that the technology may drive unsustainable practices instead.

### Three broad areas of work are:

1. Networked governance principles and practice
2. Internet sector engagement and policy support
3. Sharing leadership for the networked age

For more information, contact Heather Creech, Director of the Global Connectivity Program at [hcreech@iisd.ca](mailto:hcreech@iisd.ca)

*Nona Pelletier is Media and Communications Officer at IISD.*

## Recently Published

To keep track of IISD's publications and other Web postings, subscribe to the IISD RSS feed. See [http://www.iisd.org/rss/rss\\_iisdnet.aspx](http://www.iisd.org/rss/rss_iisdnet.aspx) for details.



### MARKET MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A POST-2012 CLIMATE REGIME: IMPLICATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT DIVIDEND

By Deborah Murphy, Aaron Cosbey and John Drexhage

[http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/implications\\_dev\\_dividend.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/implications_dev_dividend.pdf)

This paper appeared as a chapter in UNEP Risø Centre's A Reformed CDM – Including New Mechanisms for Sustainable Development.



### ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY IN A CLIMATE-CHANGING WORLD

By Alec Crawford, Arthur Hanson and David Runnalls

[http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/arctic\\_sovereignty.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/arctic_sovereignty.pdf)

The authors assert that, with a multi-stakeholder approach, Canada can provide economic, environmental and strategic leadership for the Arctic.



### PIMACHIOWIN AKI WORLD HERITAGE PROJECT AREA ECOSYSTEM SERVICES VALUATION ASSESSMENT

By Vivek Voora and Stephan Barg

[http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/ecosystem\\_valuation.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/ecosystem_valuation.pdf)

This report estimates the economic value of the ecosystem services provided by a 40,000 km<sup>2</sup> area being considered for UNESCO World Heritage Site designation across Eastern Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario.



### ECOHEALTH AND WATERSHEDS: ECOSYSTEM APPROACHES TO RE-INTEGRATE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT WITH HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

By Margot W. Parkes, Karen E. Morrison, Martin J. Bunch, Henry David Venema

[http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/ecohealth\\_watersheds.pdf](http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/ecohealth_watersheds.pdf)

Our health and well-being are linked to the watersheds in which we live, but our experience with managing watersheds for health is limited. This publication, prepared by the Network for Ecosystem Sustainability and Health for IISD, presents a new field of research, policy and practice that is addressing this challenge by focusing on watersheds as settings to integrate ecosystem management and public health.

## IISD Re-launches investmenttreatynews

Since 2001, ITN has offered news, analysis and opinions on international investment law and its implications for sustainable development. The service began as a list serve where information and views were shared among members, before becoming an electronic newsletter produced by a small editorial team. In its present form, ITN combines these functions by serving as a Web-based platform for discussion and debate, as well as providing regular reporting on developments and trends in international investment law.

Follow ITN and become a subscriber at <http://www.investmenttreatynews.org>

## What We're Reading at IISD

Here's a quick look at what some IISDers have been reading—for work and for pleasure...

**Chris Spence**, Deputy Director, IISD Reporting Services/Earth Negotiations Bulletin



**Book: *Cosmos*, by Carl Sagan (1980)**

Re-reading Carl Sagan's classic for the first time in 20 years reminded me how fascinating science can be in the hands of a skilled writer. Sagan combines powerful insights about life, the universe and (quite literally) everything else with compelling prose

and an infectious enthusiasm for understanding the world we inhabit. His comments on climate change resonate powerfully even three decades later. With remarkable prescience, Sagan wrote:

"Our intelligence and our technology have given us the power to affect the climate. How will we use this power? Are we willing to tolerate ignorance and complacency in matters that affect the entire human family? Do we value short-term advantages above the welfare of the Earth? Or will we think on longer time scales, with concern for our children and our grandchildren, to understand and protect the complex life-support systems of our planet? The Earth is a tiny and fragile world. It needs to be cherished."

**Sabrina Shaw**, Associate, Bangkok



**Book: *From the Land of Green Ghosts: A Burmese Odyssey*, by Pascal Khoo Thwe (2002)**

Khoo Thwe's account of his journey from a Mandalay tea house through the Burmese jungle to Cambridge University goes beyond the personal triumph that this

represents; it brings to life the desperate reality of a once-rich country following nearly half a century of forced isolation. While far too many choose to focus on the downsides of being included in the global community, this story poignantly illustrates how hard those who are left out of this process are willing to fight to be part of it.

**Bill Glanville**, VP, Chief Operating Officer



**Book: *The Gargoyle*, by Andrew Davidson (2008)**

The Gargoyle is the first book of Manitoba author Andrew Davidson. I read it as a selection of a book club to which I belong. The basic theme of the novel is about a

man who is badly burned in a car accident and his recovery. But, this book is fundamentally about love, a topic which is dealt with at different levels and in different settings. One unusual element of the story is a woman who looks after the burn victim and tells him the story of her love for him... beginning with their first meeting in the early 1300s!! For me, this actually works as a very engaging tale, primarily due to the author's ability to write very precisely and descriptively about an extremely diverse range of topics and characters.

**Terri Willard**, Associate, Winnipeg



**Book: *1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus*, by Charles C. Mann (2005)**

I picked this book up as a fun summer read. Mann does a good job highlighting new research into pre-Colombian demographics, origins and

ecology. The emerging picture is vastly different from the one still taught in most American and Canadian schools. My only complaint was that the ecology section was too short! He did a fair job arguing that the Amazon used to be a heavily populated and managed region, but I wanted more on the decimation of traditional ecosystem management in North America.

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The International Institute for Sustainable Development contributes to sustainable development by advancing policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change, measurement and assessment, and sustainable natural resources management. Through the Internet, we report on international negotiations and share knowledge gained through collaborative projects with global partners, resulting in more rigorous research, capacity building in developing countries and better dialogue between North and South.

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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