

Igniting the Spark of Sustainability

The IISD Innovation Fund



At IISD, Innovation + Imagination = Realization

*“Creativity is
thinking up new
things.
INNOVATION is
DOING new
things.”*

*—Theodore Levitt, Economist and
Professor, Harvard Business School*

*That’s why the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) created the Innovation Fund in 2004. Firmly rooted in the philosophy that **Innovation + Imagination = Realization**, our Fund encourages, explores and helps bring these exciting, new innovations to life.*

Always on the lookout for innovative ideas, techniques and solutions, the IISD Innovation Fund provides people like you with the opportunity to invest in people who dare to dream and explore exciting, new possibilities as their projects go outside the realm of traditional research. And it’s innovation like this that often opens doors and jump-starts more in-depth work—which can ultimately benefit the world.

Innovation at IISD runs deep. It is the key to our corporate culture, as with many global companies today. The Institute knows that to successfully adapt to the ever-evolving global economy and environment—fresh thinking is an absolute must.

Our work protects and restores ecological systems as it enhances the well-being of people and improves economic efficiency. One of the major reasons IISD is ranked by global sustainability experts as the most effective research organization of its kind in the world—is our capacity for innovation.

Our Innovation Fund receives proposals from all levels of our organization because the Institute instills innovation in its everyday atmosphere; stimulating innovative input among staff and associates 24/7.

IISD's innovation culture is strongly reinforced by its encouragement of increased levels of integration, communication and collaboration throughout the Institute. It is integral to the ongoing growth and success of all our programs, and our specialized centres of excellence:

- *The Sustainability Leadership Innovation Centre (SLIC), and*
- *The Water Innovation Centre (WIC)*

For more information about IISD's centres of excellence, please visit www.IISDisBridgingTheGap.org

“Never before in history has INNOVATION offered the promise of so much to so many in so short a time.”

—Bill Gates, Chairman, Microsoft Corporation

Meet the human face of IISD innovation—dedicated researchers responsible for vital projects designed to ignite the *spark of sustainability*.

The people on these pages are not afraid
to ask the hard questions

Anne Hammill: *Exploring the links between climate, resources and conflict in Sudan*



Sudan has been in a near-constant state of civil war since gaining independence in 1956. While the different conflicts are rooted in many issues, access to and degradation of natural resources has played a significant role in both triggering and prolonging violence. In 2005, thanks to support from the Innovation Fund, Anne Hammill convened a group of researchers to begin examining how climate change is potentially exacerbating the links between environment and security in this troubled nation.

Anne's project brought together researchers from the University of Khartoum, Sudan's Higher Council on Environment and Natural Resources, the Centre for Unconventional Security Affairs, Stockholm Environment Institute—US (SEI-US) and IISD. Their discussions zeroed in on climate change impacts in Sudan, how they amplify conflict risks, and the role of sustainable natural resource management in building resilient livelihoods and conditions for peace. This led to the development of a detailed research program to further explore these links and policy recommendations to advance environmental sustainability and peace-building.

"In June 2009, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution recognizing climate change as a possible threat to security—a landmark moment in the debate on climate-security links. IISD's ongoing work in this field, including our preliminary review of the issues in Sudan, has allowed us to make useful contributions to the debate."

—Anne Hammill, IISD Senior Researcher

IISD has since expanded its climate change and security work, with IISD researchers Oli Brown and Alec Crawford conducting detailed assessments and on-the-ground-consultations in West Africa and the Middle East, as Anne Hammill continues to explore the links between climate change adaptation and peace-building.

Graham Ashford: *Building capacity for Sustainable development in North Korea*



In 2004, North Korea's Ministry of Land and Environment Protection requested IISD's help to address environmental issues in their country. With support from the Innovation Fund, IISD Associate Graham Ashford worked side-by-side with officials from the Ministry and experts from the Chinese Society for Environmental Sciences. Together, they designed a program that would build North Korea's environmental policy capacity while also responding to broader sustainable development goals.

"The Innovation and Development Fund provided the means to move a challenging project idea beyond the concept stage. As a result, our proposal secured funding from the International Development Research Centre and became a stepping stone for a positive relationship with North Korea."

—Graham Ashford, IISD Associate

Mark Halle, Oshani Perera and Clarita Martinet-Fay:

Environmental and socially responsible public procurement policies



An Innovation Fund grant made possible a global survey of Sustainable Procurement Practices by Mark Halle, Oshani Perera and Clarita Martinet. Based on the results of this survey, their further work focused on research and country interventions with assessments in Chile, India, Vietnam and South Africa. As a result, national sustainable procurement policies were established in those nations. Each one featured capacity—building of public procurement agencies, national treasury and fiscal policy-makers—with special emphasis on efficiency, transparency and accountability.



When it comes to innovation, the work of Mark, Oshani and Clarita expands on IISD's efforts to develop procurement programs—including promotion of energy efficiency and adaptation to climate change while lowering Green House Gas emissions at the same time. Designed to address prevailing knowledge gaps, it also provides technical assistance to procurers worldwide plus carefully-crafted sustainability practices designed to benefit the natural environments and economies of lower income countries.



“Sustainable procurement is about doing business with taxpayers’ money in a way that truly benefits society. It is also an effective way to build national competitiveness on sustainable goods and services and promote sustainable consumption at large.”

—Mark Halle, IISD Director of Trade & Investment

Alec Crawford and Oli Brown: *Resource rights in the aftermath of natural disasters*



In the wake of the 2005 Asian Tsunami Disaster, the Innovation Fund made it possible for IISD's Alec Crawford and Oli Brown to investigate the importance of resource rights in relation to poor communities' resilience to natural disasters; and the speed at which they can recover.



Oli and Alec scrutinized the ways in which humanitarian agencies tackle land tenure issues that occur in the aftermath of disasters—including ownership, redrawing of boundaries, prevention of unscrupulous “land grabs” and resettlement of displaced people.

“After speaking to key professionals and wading through piles of post-disaster **What Went Wrong** assessments, we built a convincing picture of the importance of resource rights to effective disaster management.”

—Alec Crawford and Oli Brown, IISD Associates

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The Innovation Fund is the vehicle by which IISD encourages, energizes and expedites innovation in sustainability



Our Innovation Fund Campaign Goal is
\$500,000 (CDN)*

To contribute online, please visit:
www.IISDisBridgingTheGap.org
OR www.iisd.org and click on
Donate Now/CanadaHelps.org

IISD needs your support now. With you on our team, our Innovation Fund will continue to attract and advance more innovative, sustainable development projects like the ones described in this booklet. Together, we can make a world of difference.

**Support for the IISD Innovation Fund is part of Phase II of our "Bridging the Gap between Knowing and Doing" Capital Campaign which has a private sector goal of \$5 million (CDN).*

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Established in 1990, IISD is a non-partisan, charitable organization specializing in research, analysis and information exchange. Through our offices in Winnipeg, Ottawa, New York and Geneva, we apply human ingenuity to improve the well-being of the environment, economy and society.