



IISD Measurement and Assessment:
Working to **inspire**, **inform** and **manage change**




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The work of our Measurement and Assessment Team is designed to inspire, inform and manage change

Navigating the journey to sustainability requires accurate and effective instruments to tell us where we are, where we are going and what our options are for the future. These instruments help us set goals and targets—which are essential for realistic, effective sustainable development and adaptive management strategies. Why? Because these same instruments ultimately inform and influence political debates, discussions, and decisions about the environment, the economy and society.

IISD Measurement and Assessment projects are directly linked to decision and policy-making

We apply our expertise and experience by partnering with organizations the world over. Our staff and associates build capacity to establish integrated monitoring, assessment and reporting systems and sustainable development strategies that make use of them. We also contribute to improving governance, monitor performance and assess advances made toward sustainable development. This way, society as a whole, can ensure that its progress remains on track today and far into the future.



Since 1994, IISD's Measurement and Assessment program has been developing concepts, tools and processes to mark and navigate the path to sustainable development

Indicators are signs of economic, environmental and societal change

Identifying vital indicators related to health, education, employment, crime, ecosystems, climate, population, poverty and prosperity allow IISD Measurement and Assessment experts to effectively gauge a given country, region or community's path toward sustainable development.

We specialize in building tools, methods and capacity in the areas of indicator system development, integrated assessment and reporting as well as strategies in sustainable development.

Our M&A Team also brings its expertise to bear on the design, monitoring and evaluation of key sustainability initiatives where they can make a real difference.

“Measurement provides a way to better understand the impact of our activities on our environment, our economy and on our society,” says Dr. László Pintér, IISD Director of Measurement and Assessment.

“Measurement also helps us to learn from our past and present activities in so we can achieve our future goals.”

Working with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on improving the way societies measure progress | The challenges of the 21st Century require that we redesign the system of mainstream indicators used to set goals, manage development and report on performance. This is a long-term task of major strategic importance for sustainable development. Through its Measurement and Assessment program, IISD is an associate member of the OECD's global project on Measuring the Progress of Societies-which helps advance this issue both in terms of science and policy.

inform



Working with the United Nations to build capacity in developing countries | For

over a decade, IISD has been working in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to design and deliver a capacity-building and training program to contribute to the establishment of national integrated environmental assessment and reporting processes. While the Global Environment Outlook assessment provides an overview of environment and development trends and interactions, more assessments are needed to provide better information at national, regional and ecosystem levels for both decision-makers and the general public. For training materials, a developing e-learning course and the International Energy Agency (IEA) Community Platform, visit <http://www.iisd.org/measure/learning/assessment/iea.asp>



'Beyond Business as Usual' focuses on how indicators can be used in business decision-making

While preparation of Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) Reports is common for many businesses, it is unclear how indicators are being used to inform decisions at the board and corporate levels as well as at both the strategic and supply chain management levels. The *Beyond Business as Usual* project includes surveys and interviews with executives from several major Canadian corporations and leading CSR experts to identify opportunities for improving governance through the better use of measurement.

IISD leads Integrated Vulnerability Assessment in Lake Balaton, Hungary

Together with the Early Warning and Assessment Division of the UN Environment Program, the Lake Balaton Development Coordination Agency and GRID-Geneva, IISD heads an integrated vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning initiative in Hungary's Lake Balaton region—the largest lake in Central Europe. It engages the regional community in the development of an indicator system to diagnose the area's key sustainability issues. In addition, it helps identify major adaptation needs and options for the future as it helps integrate adaptation criteria into major funding and policy mechanisms.

IISD Measurement and Assessment partners with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

to develop the capacity of First Nations communities in Manitoba. Starting with a series of workshops in Winnipeg, it is a grassroots process to raise awareness of concerns, assists in priority-setting, planning and resource allocation. Launched in October 2007, it frames, identifies and measures the well-being of the community as it reflects issues of First Nations people, and is designed to achieve positive change far into the future. For details, visit http://www.iisd.org/measure/knowledge/community/first_nations.asp



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The Canadian Sustainability Indicators Network (CSIN) connects IISD with international, national, provincial, regional and local communities

Housed in the Measurement and Assessment program area at IISD Head Office in Winnipeg, CSIN's aims are: to encourage improved sustainability reporting, stronger accountability in setting goals, tracking progress and learning from outcomes, and greater consistency in indicator development locally, regionally, nationally and worldwide.

Today, CSIN has members in every region in Canada and has a growing number in the USA, Europe, Asia and Australia. Established in 2003, membership now numbers over 800 and represents all levels of government, academia, NGOs and consulting organizations. For details, please visit <http://www.csin-rcid.ca>

IISD and United Way: focusing on quality of life

Locally and regionally, IISD is involved with community members through its development of a system of community indicators for Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. In partnership with the United Way, it will measure and report on the progress of the quality of life for the city's population.

After members of the IISD Measurement and Assessment team analyze and interpret the data collect, results will be shared with the community on a regular basis. This project is designed as our example for building the knowledge base of any city anywhere in the world. It charts the progress made toward sustainable development both for present and future generations.



Helping governments incorporate sustainable development into national planning and budgeting processes

Managed by IISD and coordinated by our partners in Thailand and Costa Rica, SDplanNet is actually two networks of government professionals. The first operates in Asia and the Pacific while the other is in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their mission: to share innovative approaches and tools that bring sustainable development principles to national development plans and budgets. This includes expertise in the use of scenario analysis and indicators to understanding the future, managing multi-stakeholder sustainability councils for deliberating complex issues while employing strategic sustainability assessment tools for helping to improve government policies and programs. SDplanNet also serves to help extend the impact and reach of its advisory group members which includes the United Nations, regional economic development organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

Assessing environmental and social impacts of consumption in the United Kingdom

Of course, production and consumption play major roles in economic activity. Both contribute significantly to the challenges and the solutions involving sustainable development. For these reasons, the Sustainable Consumption and Production Program was created in the UK.

Working in concert with John Clement Sustainability Consulting, Scott Wilson Ltd. and the Global Footprint Network, IISD helped assess the environmental and social impacts of UK consumption of key commodities produced in other countries. Ultimately, IISD recommended policy actions designed to mitigate these impacts along the supply chain. For more details, visit <http://www.iisd.org/measure/knowledge/sectors/uk.asp>

International Forum on Assessing Sustainability in Agriculture (INFASA) was established by IISD

and the Swiss College of Agriculture to help strengthen the evidence base for decision-making in sustainable agriculture throughout the supply chain. INFASA's first phase examined leading measurement tools and their application from the farm level to policy evaluation by government and business. INFASA's second phase will focus on the Measurement, Reporting and Verification aspects of standards. These are essential for subsequent development of practical tools for producers and that can help deliver higher level policy outcomes. For more details, visit <http://www.iisd.org/measure/connecting/infasa/>

In 2007, IISD coordinated development of 'The Future Today' in the United Nations Environment Program's 4th Global Environment Outlook

The result of a multi-year effort with an international team, this forward-looking chapter of the above publication explores four plausible futures for the year 2050. The focus: implications of trends and choices on the environment plus the implications of the changes in the environment for society. It also highlights challenges and opportunities throughout the world in the decades that follow. For details, visit <http://www.iisd.org/measure/knowledge/global/geo4.asp>

IISD helped build capacity and understanding of environmental assessment in First Nations Communities in Saskatchewan

Under contract with Saskatchewan's Prince Albert Model Forest (PAMF), IISD has developed a resource handbook to help build the capacity and improve the overall understanding of environmental assessment in its First Nations communities. To ensure that it meets their needs, the IISD M&A Team consulted with the PAMF Aboriginal Caucus to gauge their current environmental assessment capacity needs. For details, visit http://www.iisd.org/measure/learning/prince_albert

Developing the environment domain of the Canadian Index of Well-being

The Canadian Index of Well-being (CIW) is a new tool to track progress in key domains in Canada. By helping to develop the CIW's environment domain, IISD contributes to this effort as led by The Atkinson Foundation. Composed of a specific set of indicators, the CIW provides regular updates on vital environmental trends and conditions in Canada.

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Support for the Measurement and Assessment program comes under the Community Initiatives Fund portion of the IISD *Bridging the Gap between Knowing and Doing* Capital Campaign—which has a private sector goal of CDN \$5 million.

With you on our team, our sustainable development efforts will have true global impact. Together, we can make a world of difference.

For more information and to contribute online, please visit <http://www.IISDisBridgingTheGap.org>

Or visit www.iisd.org and click on **Donate Now/CanadaHelps.org**

Or **Donate to The Legacy Fund** through The Winnipeg Foundation at www.wpgfdn.org/donors.php

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Established in 1990, the International Institute for Sustainable Development is a non-partisan, charitable organization specializing in research, analysis and information exchange. Through our Head Office in Winnipeg and our branches in Ottawa, New York and Geneva, we apply human ingenuity to improve the well-being of the world's environment, economy and society.

The Institute is dedicated to ongoing communication of our findings as we engage decision-makers in government, business, non-government organizations and other sectors in development and implementation of policies that are beneficial to the world's economy, environment and social well-being.

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For more information about the IISD Measurement and Assessment program, please visit <http://www.iisd.org/measure/>

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