



IIED Board of Trustees

Trustee vacancy – based in China

Unpaid position – 3 year term commencing
November 2017

The type of person we are looking for:

The International Institute for Environment and Development is an independent action research organisation that works to promote global social and environmental justice. IIED has an international board with representation of relevant experience and skills from all the major regions where we work or have important partnerships.

We are looking for a Chinese national based in country who has extensive experience of working in the field of international environment and development. Someone with wide ranging strategic experience at board level who has ideally fulfilled a trustee role in a not-for-profit organisation. The ideal candidate will have a very good understanding of IIED's business, is able to clearly articulate our mission and values and demonstrate what and how they can contribute towards steering the organisation through the challenges ahead.

Essential

- Chinese national based in country with extensive experience of working in the field of international environment and development and with knowledge and experience of one or more of the sectors in which IIED works;
- Ability to display a clear understanding and interest in the mission, values and substance of IIED's work;
- Extensive experience in strategy and management at board level;
- Experience of the context within which international NGOs and think tanks operate, including especially those funded by combinations of government agencies, international institutions, private trusts and foundations, and private sector businesses;
- Ability to dedicate sufficient time to the role, a minimum of six days per year, including attending a two day meeting in London twice a year in June and November (premium economy air fare, accommodation and a small per diem is provided);
- Ability to develop positive relationships with management and board members;
- Ability to work as part of a team taking account of the diversity and different cultures of board members.

The board is keen for the board as a whole to reflect the diversity of IIED's partners, networks and audiences.

How to apply or nominate

Applicants: The deadline for receipt of applications is **5pm Friday 24 March 2017 (UK time)**. Applications should be in the form of a covering letter, where the applicant sets out how they fulfil the person specification for the role, along with a CV. The letter should be addressed to the Nominations sub-committee (NSC), and emailed Liz Aspden, at liz.aspden@iied.org

Nominations: People wishing to nominate other individuals are invited to submit a covering letter to liz.aspden@iied.org in support of their nominee by **5pm Friday 24 March 2017 (UK time)**. The Nominations sub-committee will decide whether to approach the nominee and invite them to apply.

Selection process:

Interviews take place during April and election take place at the June Board meeting.

Board of Trustees

IIED's Board of Trustees is legally responsible for all the activities that we undertake. The Trustees are all unpaid volunteers who are responsible for ensuring that IIED abides by its charitable aims, works within the law and delivers its mission effectively by overseeing our overall policies and objectives and ensuring our work is monitored and evaluated effectively. Currently chaired by Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary General SEGIB, the IIED Board of Trustees is presently made up of 14 representatives from ten countries around the world who serve for a three-year term, which can be renewed for a further three years.

The duties of the trustees are:

1. To ensure that the organisation complies with its constitution/memorandum and articles of association, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
2. To ensure that the organisation pursues its objects as defined in its governing document
3. To ensure the organisation applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects
4. To contribute actively to the Board role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
5. To safeguard the good name and values of the organisation
6. To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation
7. To ensure the financial stability of the organisation
8. To protect and manage the property of the organisation and to ensure the proper investment of the organisation's funds
9. To appoint the Director and monitor his or her performance

In addition to the above statutory duties of all trustees, each trustee brings their specific knowledge and experience to help the board reach sound decisions. This will involve scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, and providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues relevant to the area of the charity's work in which the member has special expertise.

The Board of Trustees meets twice a year in June and November. Members of the board serve on the four sub-committees:

- The board delegates its powers in between board meetings to the Executive Committee to direct and govern the organisation effectively, to ensure legal and moral accountability, statutory compliance and managerial competence.
- The Finance Audit and Risk Assessment sub-committee reviews financial and risk management at IIED and thus frees up time for the board agenda to discuss strategic issues.

- The Nominations sub-committee supports the board in the execution of its responsibilities to establish a formal and transparent procedure for the appointment of new Trustees.
- The Fundraising sub-committee reviews the fundraising and business development work and thus gives the board more time to discuss strategic issues,

Board of Trustees:

Bios

- Rebeca Grynspan, Chair, Costa Rica
- Ian Rushby, Vice Chair, UK
- Angela McNaught, Treasurer, UK
- Lisa Beauvilain, UK
- Filippa Bergin, Sweden
- Somsook Boonyabancha, Thailand
- Fatima Denton, The Gambia
- David Elston, UK
- Ahmed Galal, Egypt
- Michael Horgan, Canada
- Tang Min, China
- Lorenzo J de Rosenzweig Pasquel, Mexico
- Tara Shine, Ireland

When IIED was established forty years ago, its founder Barbara Ward recognised the value of an independent but engaged research institute, able to inform and influence the politics and practice of development. She promoted analysis combined with advocacy, and ever since, IIED has been an active presence and voice in the global arenas where big questions around forests, cities, land, climate, green economy and sustainability are debated.

Learning is at the heart of IIED's work, and we seek to test out ideas in practice and feed lessons from such experience back into the world of ideas. We've learnt that context is hugely important, so a 'good idea' in one place may not work well elsewhere. Equally, we know that it's important to engage with the people who count, moving beyond 'book-learning' and getting stuck into practice, if lessons are to become well rooted.

There is an African proverb: **I am because we are**. As we strive to achieve our mission to build a fairer, more sustainable world, using evidence, action and influence in partnership with others, we will keep this in mind. We will argue, based on our research and our partners' work, for better, fairer governance based on metrics that value people and resources at their real cost, and on values that reinstate our collective hopes for the future over the individual needs of today.

[More information about IIED](#)

Who we are

IIED is a policy and action research organisation. We promote sustainable development to improve livelihoods and protect the environments on which these livelihoods are built. We specialise in linking local priorities to global challenges. IIED is based in London and works in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific, with some of the world's most vulnerable people. We work with them to strengthen their voice in the decision-making arenas that affect them — from village councils to international conventions.

What we do

IIED carries out research, advice and advocacy work. We carry out action research — generating robust evidence and know-how that is informed by a practical perspective acquired through hands-on research with grassroots partners — and we publish in journals and maintain high research standards. We advise government, business and development agencies, and we argue for changes in public policy. We focus on bottom-up solutions, stay open to flexible, adaptable solutions and are marked by a tradition of challenging conventional wisdom through original thinking.

Who we work with

Partnerships are key to the way we work at IIED. By forging alliances with individuals and organisations ranging from urban slum dwellers to global institutions, we help strengthen marginalised people's voices in decision-making and ensure that national and international policy reflects the agendas of poorer communities and countries. Some of our partners are people working in other nongovernment organisations, governments, academia, indigenous people's groups, global institutes and multilateral agencies such as the UN. Others are alliances that we either steer or work very closely with, often at the grassroots level in developing countries. We also play an active role in international networks, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Organisation of IIED

We currently have 120 members of staff from a wide range of countries and backgrounds, and we are growing. Approximately 10% are from the Global South, representing 16 different nationalities and speaking 29 different languages other than English.

The Institute has three leadership teams:

The strategy and management team's purpose is to refine and deliver IIED's strategy in relation to external needs and opportunities, as well as internal resources and capacities ('what' & 'how')

The operations and management team's purpose is to put the strategy into operation and maintain a sustainable institute (the 'how')

The research and strategy team's purpose is to steer the content of IIED's strategy, maximising the potential of collaborative work (the 'what')

Our research is organised into four groups – Natural Resources, Climate Change, Human Settlements and Sustainable Markets. More information on [the work of our four groups](#) can be found on the website.

Trustees' report and accounts 2015 -16

[The Trustees' Report and Accounts](#) sets out our activity and financial overview for the period.

IIED 2014-2019 strategy

Our five-year strategy, along with a ten-year vision, on steering demonstrable change towards sustainable development through practical engagement. Our four research groups provide the bedrock for our continued legitimacy and expertise in the core areas of sustainable development and engage internationally to link local priorities with global challenges.

The signing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 and the ratification of the Paris Agreement on climate change in 2016 mark a fundamental shift in the global development agenda. Development is now recognised as a universal enterprise involving all countries, rich and poor. And sustainability has been placed at the heart of this agenda. In light of these major changes we will take stock at the mid-point of our current five-year strategy, and update our plans to take into account the new context. We will have a fresh strategy in place for our next financial year, starting in April 2017.

Our communications strategy combines positioning IIED and our partners as leading voices in global sustainability debates with a focus on influencing and mobilising for change in national and regional policy spaces. And a separate business plan sets out the operational aspects of the strategy, including funding and growth, and a change management plan.