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Celebrating Twenty Five Years

**International
Institute for
Environment and
Development**

This brochure gives a flavour of the wide and constantly evolving scope of the International Institute for Environment and Development. IIED is an independent, non-profit organisation which promotes sustainable patterns of world development through research, policy studies, consensus-building and public information. In its 25 years, IIED has accomplished much in an astonishing number of countries. Focusing on the connections between economic development, the environment and human needs, IIED's principal aim is to improve the management of natural resources so that countries can improve living standards without jeopardising their natural resource base. Work is undertaken with, or on behalf of, governments and international agencies, the private sector, the academic community, foundations and non-governmental organisations, community groups and the peoples they represent.



Celebrating Twenty Five Years

**International
Institute for
Environment and
Development**

	Contents
2	The beginning
4	The early years
6	Information
8	Research and policy studies
11	Aid policy
12	The development triad
15	Working with others
17	Sound economics
18	Participation by communities
20	The Earth Summit
22	The present and future
24	Board members
24	Finances
25	Our thanks

The full names of organisations denoted by acronyms in the text can be found on page 25

The International Institute for Environment and Development is 25 years old. This is cause for great satisfaction for me because it was in a very real sense both an important contributor to and a product of the first UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972. Formed initially as the International Institute for Environmental Affairs on the initiative of Robert O. Anderson, the IIED was reconstituted following Stockholm to reflect in its name and its purpose the need for a positive synthesis between environment and development. This had emerged as one of the principal insights of Stockholm.

We owe a deep and abiding debt of gratitude to Barbara Ward who launched the IIED on its present course in the period following the Stockholm Conference and set the tone for the high quality which has been the hallmark



of its service to the international community since. This visionary and wonderfully creative lady influenced so many. She helped John F. Kennedy frame his foreign policies towards justice and peace. She inspired Robert McNamara to lead the World Bank's crusade against poverty and her influence on the Roman Catholic Church was a profound and enduring one. IIED has become a thriving, living memorial to her and one of

the most effective practical instruments for realizing the kind of secure and equitable future for the human community to which she aspired.

IIED was central to the World Commission on Environment and Development under Gro Brundtland. Its work was pivotal to the preparations for the second Earth Summit in 1992. It has been the source of great ideas and best practice in the field of development assistance.

We would not have the gathering momentum for participatory styles of development without IIED; environmental economics was pioneered by its networks; it is influential in many forestry debates and it is a constant source of help for the ever growing mass of urban poor. IIED, small as it is, is a wonderful institution.

But most significantly of all I believe it has lived up to the ideal Barbara set for it in her book *Only One Earth* (with René Dubos): "Man must accept responsibility for the stewardship of the earth. The charge (is) clearly to define what should be done to maintain the earth as a place suitable for human life not only now, but also for future generations".

That is sustainable development, which is the very thing IIED has been promoting consistently for 25 years.

Maurice Strong

HONORARY SENIOR FELLOW, IIED

25 years of IIED:

a catalyst for action in environmental affairs

In its 25 years, IIED has accomplished much in an astonishing number of countries. It has worked with governments and aid agencies, with politicians and with villagers. Some projects have been international in scope and involved millions of dollars; others have been community based and funded on a shoestring budget.

The following pages can only give a flavour of the unusually wide and constantly evolving scope of IIED's activities. They also look forward and sketch plans for the future.

The development equation

Ironically as information and people travel around the globe with growing ease, more and more people are being 'left behind'. We face unprecedented polarities of wealth and capacity.

Similarly as we become more aware of the importance of the natural environment to our future security and to the quality of life, it continues to be threatened by the pressures of both increasing poverty and increasing affluence - by need and by greed.

The need for organisations who seek ways out of the dilemma is as apparent today as it was 25 years ago.

The 1970's 71

In the early years, IIED's basic theme was to clarify: the Earth's resources, if properly managed and fairly distributed, can sustain the planet's entire population with sufficient food, uncontaminated water, education, employment and shelter.

Development without proper regard to environmental constraints is both unsustainable and wasteful.



IIED was founded as the International Institute for Environmental Affairs under the sponsorship of the Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Colorado.

Robert O. Anderson, then of ARCO, was the all-important catalyst. It was he, with Jack Raymond, who began IIEA in New York.

During the first decade, Barbara Ward and IIED developed three powerful instruments for influencing the global agenda: the symposium at key UN meetings, the book and the press briefing.

IIEA

The Institute was a critical partner in the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. It mobilised senior politicians, industrialists and scientists from both sides of the Atlantic in support of the event.

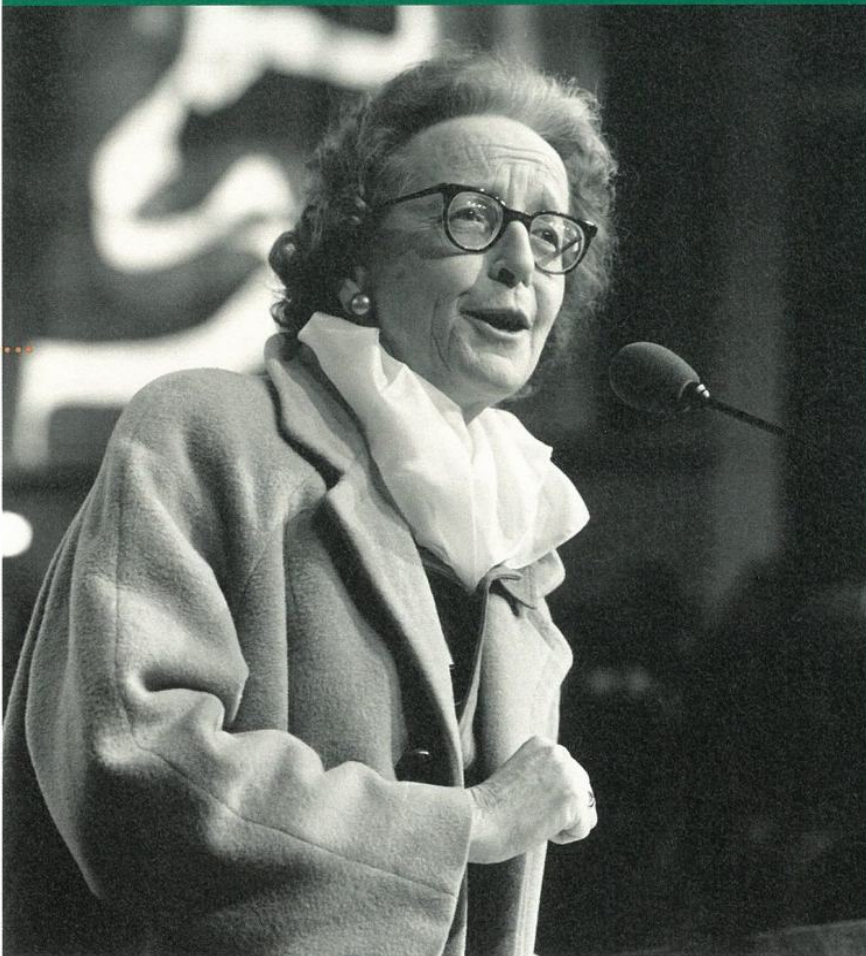
After the conference, Barbara Ward (Dame Barbara Jackson) was asked by Robert Anderson and Maurice Strong

(the conference secretary general and the first executive director of UNEP) to become president of the Institute. They saw the need for an international non-governmental organisation to act as an intellectual spearhead to carry forward the Stockholm agreements. Barbara Ward accepted on one condition: that the name was changed to include the word 'development',

"Without which", she said, "the concept of preserving the environment has no real meaning for the poorer two-thirds of mankind".

IIED was one of the first organisations to demonstrate the interdependence of the issues of environment and development, and to press for concerted policies at all levels.

More than anyone else, it was Barbara Ward who shaped IIED in the early years.



"We need good planetary housekeeping for a future six billion people..."

Barbara Ward
IIED's President, 1973–1980

At the 1972 Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment it was Barbara Ward who captured the spirit of the event. Her phrase 'sustainable development' was then before its time, but her parallel idea of 'only one earth' was not. She urged all nations to cooperate to rid the world of poverty, greed, uncaring growth and the tyranny of unrepresentative governments.

Above all she saw clearly the positive links to be made between development and the protection of the environment: *"An environment in which no creative acts of development have occurred may well be especially threatened and vulnerable."*

IIED moved to Washington DC in 1973 and soon established a London office. This arrangement continued on both sides of the Atlantic for fifteen years when, in 1988, the Washington operation

was merged with the World Resources Institute. Both organisations continue to co-operate closely. In the early years IIED was generously supported by several US foundations, the

Governments of Canada, Denmark and Sweden and the UN Environment Programme.

IIED

The first IIED symposium was held at the UN World Food Conference. This issued a declaration that was front page news in three continents. Global food supply has been an IIED issue ever since.

Barbara Ward }

In May 1980 Barbara Ward, as president of the IIED, was awarded the Albert Medal by the UK Royal Society of Arts in recognition of her leadership in the field of international cooperation in economic development. She was too ill to attend but delivered the message:

"Give them my thanks for this honour, particularly because it is for what I care about most: the conservation of the world in which all of mankind may have a decent life and have it more abundantly.

Tell them that the development and betterment of the poorer two-thirds of the world is the most important task before us all in the remainder of this century. We still have a choice: to go the way of 1931 in competitive enmity, finishing up in darkness, death and war; or the way of 1947, when the Marshall Plan was a symbol of cooperation between those with surpluses and those with deficits - a plan which gave to the world a quarter century of unexampled economic growth and prosperity.

That is the message I want to give as long as I live, and through our Institute for longer."

Extract from
Barbara Ward's Obituary,
The Economist, 1981

Barbara Ward's continuing message was, against all the odds, one of hope. "We still have a choice, we are the fortunate minority, we dare not forget the really poor." She brought people to face up to the world as it really is...and to accept that matters could not be left there; effective action had to be instituted...For the last decade of Barbara Ward's life the IIED was perhaps her first secular interest. She worked for it unremittingly with an energetic staff.

Critical Environmental Issues on the Law of the Sea was published prior to the UN Law of the Sea Conference. It helped to ensure that the event at least began to tackle a number of

environmental problems such as effective regional and global approaches to landbased pollution, deep seabed mining, and fisheries management.



During her presidency of IIED, Barbara Ward wrote three major books. Their influence - especially on the group of national and global decision makers who were Barbara Ward's friends or admirers - was profound.

Only One Earth (1972)

"So locked are we within our tribal units, so possessive over national rights, so suspicious of any extension of international authority that we may fail to sense the need for dedicated and committed action over the whole field of planetary necessities. Nonetheless there are jobs to be done... For instance, it is only by forthright cooperation and action at the global level that nations can protect mankind from inadvertent and potentially disastrous modification in the planetary weather system over which no nation can assert sovereignty. Again, no sovereignty can hold sway over the single, inter-connected global ocean system which is nature's ultimate sink and man's favourite sewer".

The Home of Man (1976)

The Unofficial Report commissioned from IIED for HABITAT, the UN Conference on Human Settlements, argued against pessimism in the face of the 'overwhelming' pressures on the environment in a world of decreasing resources and increasing pollution.

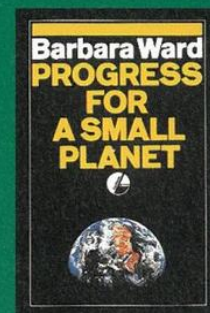
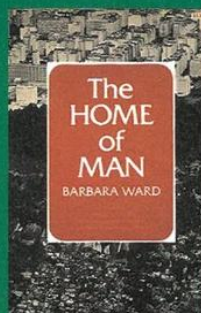
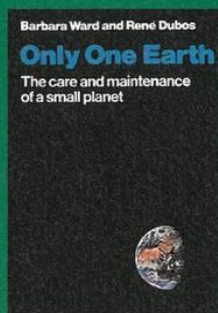
Twenty years later IIED was the principal author of the official report for the second UN Conference on Human Settlements, **An Urbanising World.**

"It provides a thought provoking analysis that goes to the heart of the dilemmas now confronting all human settlements...": Boutros-Boutros Ghali, Secretary General UN.

Progress for a Small Planet (1979)

This pioneering and classic account outlines a strategy to meet the basic needs of the world's poor. It describes the planetary bargain that must be sought to bridge the widening gap between rich and poor nations - in wealth, technology and access to resources.

"No society in history before our own has ever even thought that perpetually rising living standards were conceivable, let alone a basic right. Indeed, perhaps half the world's peoples still have no larger material ambition than assured survival. Is the vision of affluence now to be snatched from those who have briefly enjoyed it and from the rest who hear of it for the first time? It is hard to imagine a more formidable obstacle to the acceptance of less ambitious visions or less self-centred concerns."



As a way of increasing public awareness of key global environment issues, IIED established Earthscan as an independent news and information service. It provided accurate environmental information directed at leading media around the world. The Earthscan group

subsequently separated from IIED in 1986 to become the Panos Institute. Earthscan continued as an environment and development publishing house. Now it is independent of the Institute although IIED still owns the name and it still publishes its books.



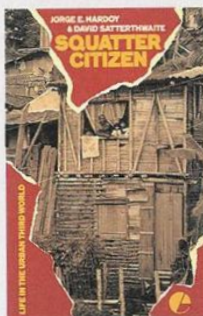
Earthscan

Earthscan

IIED launched Earthscan in cooperation with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP). Over ten years it was directed with great flair by Jon Tinker and, under the patronage of UNEP and many other aid agencies, it became the world's leading information house on environment and development.

Earthscan was an outstanding success of this phase of IIED's growth, and its feature service and briefing documents were central to the Institute's overall purpose and advocacy work. It also helped produce many TV and radio programmes. Earthscan exposed the roots of the African crisis of 1984, highlighted water supply issues and drew together reports on many issues such as gender, biodiversity, climate change and poverty linked to the environment.

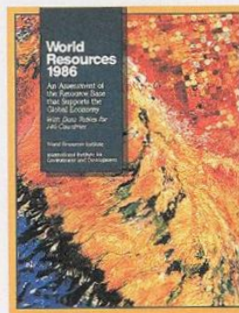
IIED continues to put a high priority on information and communication activities. Its resource centers - related to the programme areas - answer an enquiry, on average, every five minutes of every day. It publishes over 100 titles a year as books, journals and research reports.



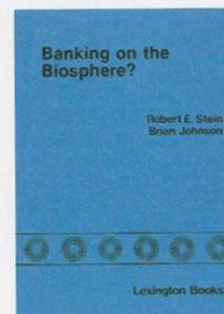
Squatter Citizen
One of a number of important urban titles.



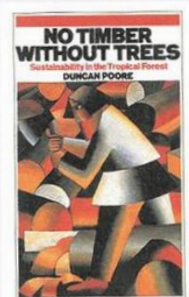
Carbon Dioxide, Climate and Man
An early Earthscan briefing document that helped open the debate on global warming in 1981.



The World Resources Report
Initiated by IIED and WRI in 1986, this has gone on to become the leading source of data on environmental trends in the world.



Banking on the Biosphere?
An important book as it was the first to critique the lending agencies' poor environmental record.



No Timber without Trees
The book that still sets the tone for forestry management around the world.

Providing information for change.



IIED, through its information and media arm Earthscan, suggested the idea of a 'Drinking Water Decade' at HABITAT, the UN Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver in 1976.

Dirty water and inadequate sanitation is linked in one way or another to 80% of the world's disease, but there is a complex web of causality, and a wide variety of factors to be successfully tackled if better health is to result. Public education on the links between clean water, sanitation and primary health care is vital if more than one in three Third World children are to live to see their fifth birthdays.

The UN General Assembly launched the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade in 1980. Millions had no access to clean drinking water or adequate sanitation. In such appalling circumstances, how the limited funds should be spent was of crucial importance.

Earthscan played an important part in the Decade's progress. Its role was to create awareness of these issues amongst journalists, and to supply some of the ammunition the press used to persuade governments and people to take action.

76

IIED played a central role in HABITAT, the first UN Conference on Human Settlements held in Vancouver in 1976. The Institute was commissioned to write the Unofficial Report, *The Home of Man*. Some 20 years later, in 1996, it was responsible for editing the official report for the second UN human settlements conference.

76

IIED staff assisted in the UN's attempts to curb oil pollution at sea. Working on both sides of the Atlantic IIED was heavily involved in US and UK delegations to intergovernmental conferences on the topic at the time.

The way we work

Our concern is to address two interrelated issues - poverty and the state of the environment - to achieve sustainable development.

Our starting point is in rigorous research and policy studies, founded in specialist sector programmes and disciplines; sustainable agriculture, drylands, climate change, environmental planning, forests and land use, environmental economics, and human settlements. Other programmes have come and gone such as those on energy, marine issues, and technology choice.

The research leads to interaction with those who can effect change. Thus we work directly with the bilateral and multilateral aid community; industry; the various UN agencies; and with many government departments. Such liaison is not only in the form of 'public interest consultancies' but also as an advocate for a more sustainable approach to development.

But the most important work is in the field, where IIED works directly with communities and professionals who *do* effect change. The methods involve training, acting as an 'honest broker' with the donors and governments, and as an adviser.

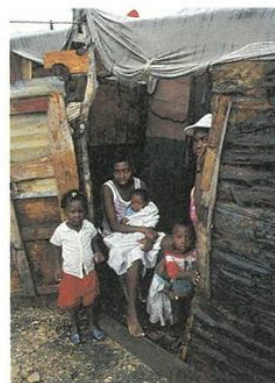
All this first-hand experience feeds back into an enriched research agenda and any number of publications, meetings and events to spread the lessons learned and the policies that work.

77

Human Settlements Programme initiated: IIED coordinated an international study of human settlements policies in 17 Third World nations, as well as setting up a network to study the inner city problems of Federal Germany, the UK and the USA.

At IIED's 25th anniversary, the Human Settlements Programme and the problems it tackles are as urgent and central as ever.

Building international networks and a reputation based on research and a leadership role demand slow patient work. Between 1977 and 1983 IIED laid down the foundations of its human settlements, marine, energy and aid quality programmes.



The Human Settlements Programme seeks to persuade national and international authorities that one of the basic needs of all is shelter - not only from the elements but also from disease. It is in settlements, from the mega-cities to the smaller towns and the remotest rural villages, that the most acute problems of the environment - the human environment - must be faced.

Getting health onto the urban agenda.



IIED has long sought to get the environmental priorities of low-income households moved up the international environmental agenda. Environmentalists have neglected the priorities of urban dwellers, because these are not about resource use but about inadequate provision for water, sanitation and drainage and poor quality housing.

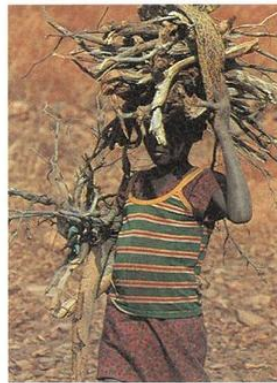
The low priority given by aid agencies to water and sanitation was confirmed by IIED research in the late 1970's. The findings of further research on housing and health problems in illegal settlements in Allahabad, Buenos Aires and Lagos were published in 1990 in ***The Poor Die Young***.

Human Settlements programme staff have also worked with many groups, including the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, to promote a greater interest among urban specialists in the health problems associated with poor quality housing. Two recent books look in more detail at the links between environment and health:

Environmental Problems in Third World Cities (1992) and ***The Environment for Children*** (1996).

78

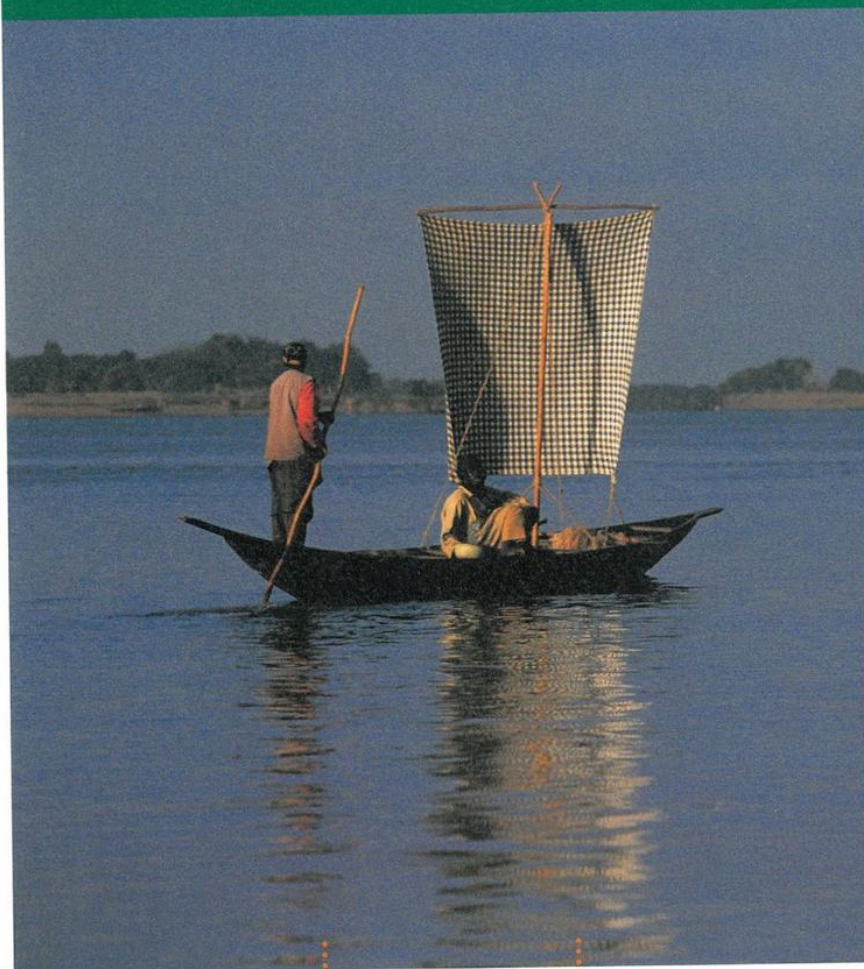
IIED continued its Energy Programme with a study of the role of international institutions and bilateral aid programmes in encouraging research and development of renewable energy resources in the Third World. It also prepared an energy strategy for President Nyerere of Tanzania.



"Deprived of their already meagre supplies of fuel oil, poor people are reverting to wood for heating and cooking, cutting down the forests that clothe their mountains and thus letting their fertile soil be swept away...that way disaster lies, and lies not far ahead."

William Clark, who followed Barbara Ward as President, in his inaugural address to the IIED board.

An environmental disaster avoided: the Sélingue dam scheme, West Africa.



In 1979, it could have been an ecological disaster: environmental factors were supposed to have been taken into account by the Sélingue dam's engineering consultants, but the flooding of 430 square kilometers of shallow, well-wooded valley floor would have destroyed many tons of firewood, vitally needed by energy-starved Malians. The flooded vegetation, moreover, would have rendered the man-made lake a stinking, eutrophic mass of algae - useless as a fishery, too hazardous for navigation.

An IIED report to the European Development Fund helped to avert these consequences at Sélingue, recommending an emergency wood clearance project for charcoal to remove a substantial part of the timber and so averting acute eutrophication and alleviating to some extent the fuel shortage, followed by an extensive re-afforestation project.

Such problems, once common, are a rarity today when official aid is involved; something IIED can take some credit for.

79

Publication of *A Low-Energy Strategy For The UK* which pushed energy policy planning in Europe from supply-side to demand-led thinking. This issue was to revisit IIED two decades later: in the 1990's IIED worked with the OECD to examine the idea of sustainable consumption based on needs and numbers. IIED has only occasionally worked on European domestic policy issues.

The 1980's

By 1980 IIED had established a special role in the international arena. It was linked closely with three centres of power and influence: with the UN agencies and other international institutions; with national governments and their agencies, especially those concerned with environment and development assistance; and with

national and international non-governmental organisations. A major part of IIED's work has been to influence the OECD countries' spending of over \$50 billion a year on aid. Helping them achieve the highest quality - reaching the poor and rehabilitating degraded environments - is one of IIED's greatest achievements.

The way we work

How can a small group of researchers hope to influence the way the world sorts out its environmental and development difficulties? It has to rely on:

- having good ideas based on original research;
- basing all its work on direct experience of people's real needs and motivations;
- and giving leadership by speaking out in all its communications.

The formula must have worked, for IIED's ideas are spoken of in many documents and speeches, put into practice in the field and even enacted in treaties, conventions and national law.

This process does not only involve the fifty full time staff and consultants but a network of friends, collaborators, and students of our work. For example, only three people work on 'human settlements' in London but, at any one time, over twenty five work directly on the programme's projects abroad. In turn, over three thousand subscribe to the journal 'Environment and Urbanisation', and many more directly make use of the work.

"IIED works on environment issues in ways that make sense to, and offer sound guidance for, policy makers. It is a first class organisation whose work I greatly value."

CHRIS PATTEN
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
1989-90

80

Banking on the Biosphere was an assessment project in which ten multinational aid agencies co-operated fully with IIED in examining in depth the environmental criteria used in various development projects. This IIED study subsequently sparked a revolution in the environmental performance of multilateral

and bilateral aid agencies. The major focus of attention was the World Bank.

IIED has never been a campaign organisation in a public sense but has conducted scores of studies and evaluations for the aid agencies. It seeks to influence from within whilst maintaining its full independence.



80

IIED completed a two-year study: **The Management of the Southern Ocean**, in association with IUCN, UNEP and WWF. This looked at the political, legal, biological and economic problems inherent in harvesting the ocean's living resources. It was acknowledged as an authoritative guide on the subject.

All our work tells us that for development to work people have to participate and directly benefit. And for that to happen, there has to be a mix of market mechanisms as private capital and management is needed, a strong civil society including community organisations and local institutions organised into some kind of accountable and representative structure and, of course, a governmental system of support and law. All three parts of the development equation need each other.

The business of development cannot be left to just the NGOs, or the market, or governments. All three sectors must be involved in a partnership. It is not easy to work with all three groups but it is essential.

As the globalisation of the world economy progresses, without some deliberate mechanisms to bring the three together the dangers of fragmentation grow. IIED, with its experience and many networks and partnerships, is one of those 'deliberate mechanisms'.

Working with the Development Triad

- IIED has just completed a major research project ***Towards a Sustainable Paper Cycle*** for the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. Through this, IIED has established an approach to working with the private sector which we wish to extend into other areas. Possibilities include work in the agricultural/food sectors and in urban environmental investments.
- IIED plans to do more with corporate clients in areas where there are major disputes over the management of natural resources and the need to accommodate the needs of local stakeholders.
- IIED puts a premium on communicating its research in a form that is understandable to all three groups - governments, private sector and non-governmental community.

81

Third World rural energy options: IIED projects included a study of the problems of solar energy technology transfer, another on firewood problems in Senegal for IFAD, and a third on biogas options in China with UNEP. IIED organised a major symposium in Mexico on Third World rural energy options and the results were presented to the UN Energy Conference in Nairobi.



82

IIED could see how private sector consultants were moving into its field and so began to expand its monitoring of the links between national and international authorities to private sector institutions. In conjunction with IUCN it established a Joint Environmental Service to under-

take consultancy assignments designed to help governmental and private concerns adopt more conserving patterns of development. The initiative failed and it was to be ten years before IIED once again concentrated *directly* on market 'solutions'.

IIED participated in a major project sponsored by the EU that compared the energy consumption of five developed countries, five semi-industrial countries and five developing countries. The comparison was intended to highlight opportunities for energy

conservation, fuel substitution and alternative energy sources.

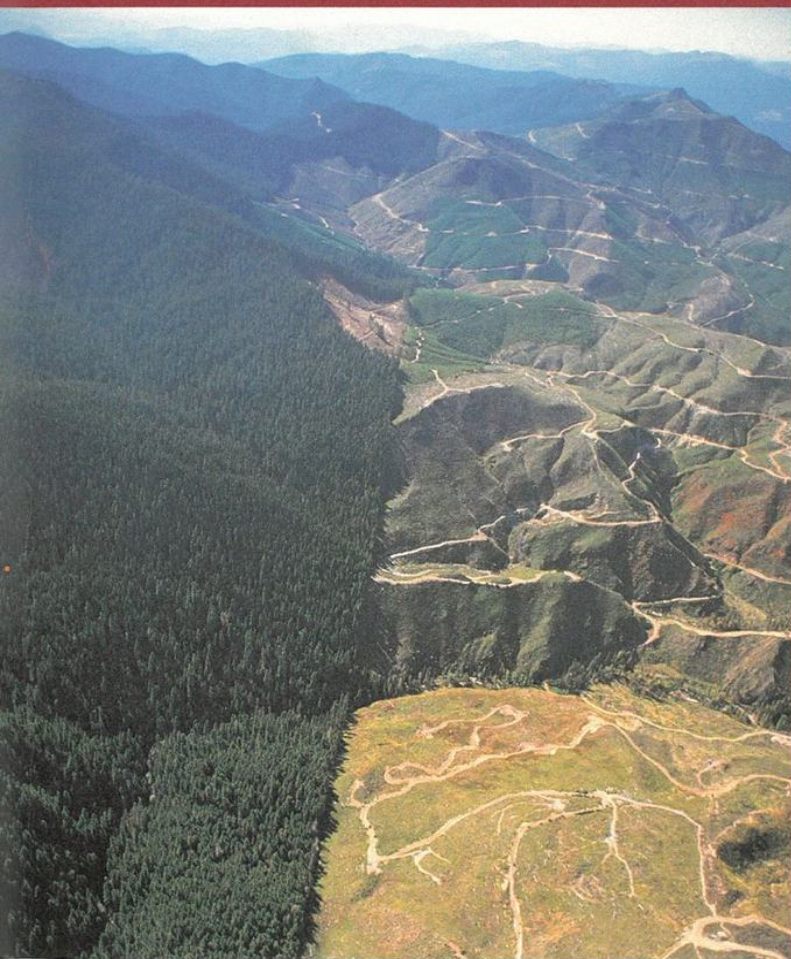
IIED then designed a travelling workshop series to test new ideas in the workplace, and to promote particular policies, with particular emphasis on the private sector and alternative energy sources.

In 1984 the seminal book ***Beyond the Woodfuel Crisis*** was published. This analysed the failure of attempts to tackle fuelwood shortages in Africa without also addressing land-use and tenure issues. It had a major impact on development thinking.

By 1984 IIED's forestry programme was well established. It had prepared detailed forestry

policies with local partners in Indonesia, Cameroon and Ecuador. The conflicts over land tenure, the role of the private sector and the capacity of governments to cope were all apparent. These early approaches at integrated forestry management led directly on to the ***Tropical Forestry Action Plan*** of WRI and the World Bank in 1985.

No timber without trees: furthering the better management of forests.



IIED became interested in the International Tropical Timber Agreement, negotiated in 1983, in the belief that it could be used as an effective instrument in furthering the better management of tropical forests.

By spring 1985 the Agreement was in grave danger of lapsing because too few governments supported it. IIED, using its own resources, called a seminar in London, inviting senior representatives of the main producing and consuming countries, of the UN, the timber trade and chosen NGOs. As a result, the necessary outstanding signatures, numbering about 12, came in within the next fortnight and the future of the Agreement was assured. A simple but highly effective catalytic process!

Since then, IIED has been deeply involved in sustainable forest management. First was a survey in all producer countries, published as ***No Timber without Trees***. This led to the preparation of the ITTO Action Plan and indicators to assess progress. It also led to a scheme for forest resource accounting. IIED is now acting as one of the principal advisers to the international forestry panel, chaired by IIED's chairman Sir Martin Holdgate.

Sustainable Agriculture Programme - a working partnership.



In 1988, the Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya adopted the new catchment approach for soil conservation. At first seen as a way of concentrating technical effort, this approach has evolved to be highly participatory and community-based. Conservation coverage must be complete if it is to be sustainable, something requiring the participation of all actors at local level.

In 1988/89, the Sustainable Agriculture Programme, with the support of the Swedish aid agency, Sida, began a partnership with the Ministry to develop and institutionalise participatory processes for the catchment approach. National training courses were held over several years, and capacity developed at many levels of the Ministry. IIED also assisted with the development of self-evaluation methodologies.

Studies showed that the most significant impact had been where there had been interactive participation. In these communities, crop yields are increasing, farmers are growing a greater diversity of crops, there are more trees and ground cover, groundwater resources are being recharged, land prices and labour rates are increasing, and communities are actively replicating successes to neighbouring communities.

The Ministry of Agriculture in Kenya is now one of the world's leading government organisations engaged in participatory activities at local level.

In keeping with the catalytic nature of its role, during the second half of the 1980's much of IIED's expertise was used to support the work of other institutes in the north such as the Stockholm Environmental Institute (energy); Imperial College, London

(marine resources); and IUCN in Switzerland (environmental strategies). In the south IIED had established an office in Buenos Aires (human settlements) and began a series of partnerships with a group of like-minded institutions. These included

the Centre for Science and Environment in Delhi, the Universities of Khartoum and Lagos, and many others spread around the globe.

IIED has never wanted to establish an office where a potential partner already exists. To do so is to waste human resources.

85

The job of helping the aid agencies come to grips with the 'environment' continued. Many environment profiles and strategies were prepared (later to become national sustainable development strategies). In addition IIED was working closely with the foundations - such as Ford - around the world. In 1985 it established an agriculture programme to cement this particular relationship.

We are not an academic institution: our aim is to have practical impact. We have developed approaches to research and policy analysis which are action-oriented. The methods are collaborative: they develop capacity and involve the major stakeholders around a problem. They push out the boundaries of local understanding.

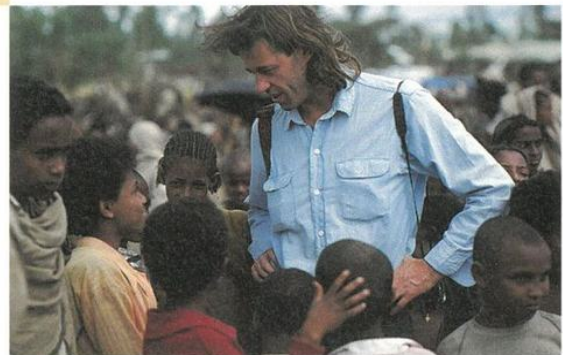
Our 25 year history has demonstrated that our collaborative style of work through partners and networks is effective. We deliberately mix insights from the north and the south and we combine sectoral perspectives, disciplines and approaches (from participation to planning to economics). It is the combination of theory and practice together with a respect for the capacities of others that makes IIED a broker or linking organisation.

IIED will continue to be one of a small cadre of organisations with its roots in both the environmental and developmental NGO camps. We are well-respected by our fellow NGOs and our corporate partners for this bridging role.

In short, the 'acid-test' of our work is its practical use for the groups we cooperate with.

"Indignation and outrage are a good motor for change. But to argue for that change requires information and facts. IIED provides both, to us and to other do-gooder organisations. Gawd bless 'em!"

BOB GELDOLF, BAND AID

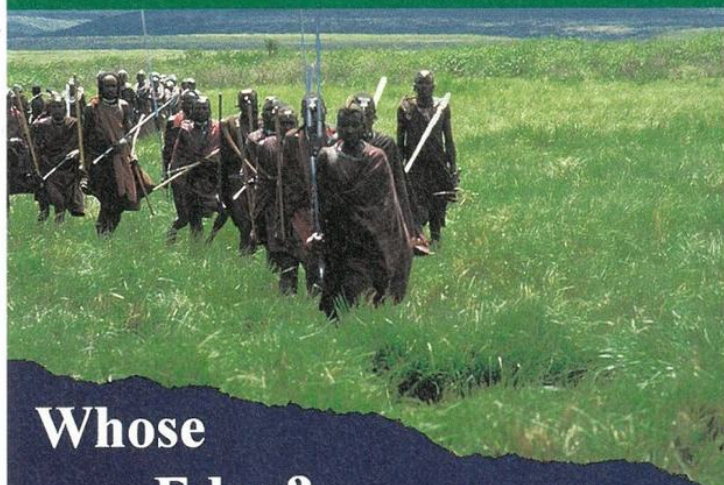


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The Earthscan Sahel and Ethiopian tour in 1984 had led to enormous media interest in the drought and in turn to the founding of Band Aid which raised £78 million. Bob Geldof invited a team of 12 volunteer experts to advise, allocate funds and manage a programme of

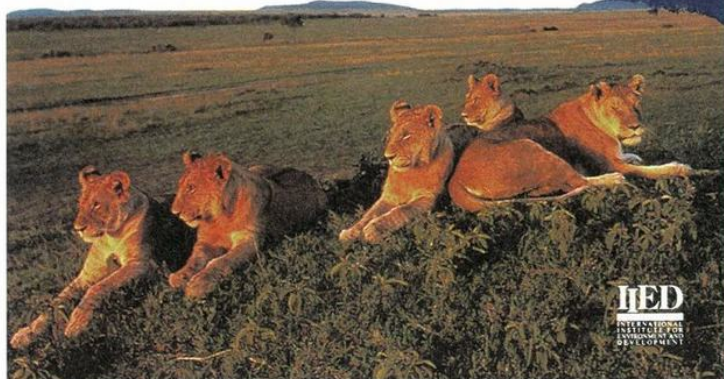
long-term development, working with a small full-time secretariat. IIED's third president, Brian Walker, was invited to chair the group, and the Institute's writer in residence, Lloyd Timberlake, was asked to be a member. IIED subsequently helped process 600 applications for funds.

Community approaches to wildlife management.



Whose Eden?

An Overview of
Community Approaches
to Wildlife Management



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DEVELOPMENT

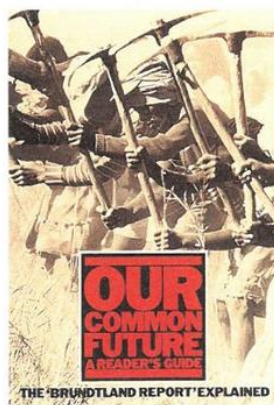
IIED has always recognised that destruction of the diversity of nature has to stop. It has been concerned with the links, positive and negative, between development and biodiversity. By 1994 it had enough experience to undertake a landmark study of African experience in community approaches to wildlife management, publishing a much acclaimed report entitled **Whose Eden?** This report galvanised thinking about community wildlife management. It came at a time when debate on the future of Africa's wildlife had been intensifying sharply and when opinions had become polarised between those who favour sustainable use by local communities, including consumptive use, and others who oppose such approaches and press for conventional conservation.

Many Europeans view Africa as a 'Garden of Eden', providing opportunity to experience the wild and natural environment that no longer exists back home. IIED's report brought analysis to the issue, highlighting the potential of a variety of approaches - from classic top-down management associated with protected areas, legislation and policing, to participatory methods involving local people. The report sets out broad principles to guide action towards achieving community-led initiatives. Since it was published, **Whose Eden?**, commissioned by the UK ODA, has stimulated policy consultations, conferences and research around the world.

87

Our Common Future, the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development led by Norway's prime minister Mrs Gro Brundtland, was published and publicly acknowledged IIED's

role. Five members of IIED's board were members of the Commission, and IIED's research teams made substantive contributions to the report. It laid down 'a global agenda for change'.



"Only a few international NGOs deal on a broad basis with both environment and development issues, but this is changing rapidly. One of them, the International Institute for Environment and Development, has long specialised in these issues and pioneered the conceptual basis for the environment/development relationship."

Gro Brundtland
Prime Minister of Norway

The language of decision making is economics. Starting with a close collaboration with University College, London and now with a much wider network, IIED has attempted to bring the discipline into environmental decision making. One of the first outputs of the joint 'London Environmental Economics Centre' was **Blueprint for a Green Economy** commissioned by the UK DOE. This has been followed by studies on topics such as trade and the environment, valuing the environment, and the impact of macro-economic policies (such as structural adjustment) on the environment. IIED now runs a series of collaborative research programmes in environmental economics in Brazil, Costa Rica, Malaysia and India that are designed to build capacity in the discipline.

Development economics has always had human welfare at its heart. Now the economics of sustainable development makes human and environmental welfare its common concern. IIED has played its part in the transition.

88

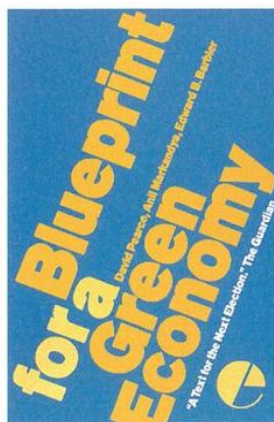
The Drylands Programme was set up to address the problems of drought and growing demands on Africa's dryland areas, and to provide a source of information and sound policy advice on drylands research and development issues.



89

The most hazardous of all hazards: IIED prepared an overview of the problems of hazardous wastes and under-investment in sanitation services in urban areas for the UK ODA, later published in the report **Environmental Problems in Third World Cities: A Global Issue Ignored**.

In April 1989 the first issue of the journal **Environment and Urbanisation** appeared (an idea imported from IIED in Buenos Aires). This journal continues to be a leading source of critical commentary and analysis on a wide range of Third World environmental topics.



89

Publication of **Blueprint for a Green Economy** in partnership with the economics department of University College, London, the most influential account available of the policies needed to achieve sustainability in a national economy, and now widely adopted as a student textbook throughout the world. The so-called 'London Environmental Economics Centre' subsequently became the IIED Environmental Economics Programme.

If development is to be sustainable, it must begin with the people who know most about their own livelihood systems. It must value and develop their knowledge and skills, and put into their hands the means to achieve self-development. This requires a reshaping of all practices and thinking associated with development assistance.

IIED has spent over six years deliberately developing techniques and ideas to reshape the development agenda along these lines. It has trained thousands in participatory techniques, issued hundreds of practical examples in 'Participatory Notes', and convened many meetings and discussions to further the approach. It is now developing, with the Institute of Development Studies in Sussex, a network of resource centres for Participatory Learning and Action.

The 1990's 90

International and national problems so often require local solutions. IIED pioneered methods that involve local 'stake holders' in developing policies and processes that work.



Alleviating poverty and conserving the environment: IIED promoted the concept of Primary Environmental Care (PEC) as a practical tool for supporting sustainable development at a community level. This progressed to the point where a major international symposium was held in 1994 on Community Based Sustainable Development (CBSD). It involves processes by which local groups and networks organise themselves for the care of the environment whilst satisfying livelihood needs.



Community-based projects involving IIED include a scheme in Honduras which tripled maize yields without any use of external farm inputs, an agro-forestry and soil conservation project in Burkina Faso which restored the productivity of thousands of hectares of land threatened with desertification, and another in Recife, Brazil, where the problem of solid waste management in urban squatter areas has been successfully tackled by the community involved.

Turning fine words into practical skills.



Community participation, planning with local people, building on indigenous knowledge - for more than a decade populist rhetoric has been blossoming on the dry plains of the West African Sahel, but the practice has often fallen far short of the hopes. Everyone has emphasised the need for village resource management and planning, but few had ideas about how to take it forward.

In 1991, IIED took up the challenge of turning fine words into practical skills in Mali, Niger, Senegal and Burkina Faso. It aimed at developing participatory planning skills amongst field workers on NGO and government projects. Now the West African trainers are keen to move onto the next step - transferring skills to community groups themselves. Based on visual tools - maps, diagrams, game playing and theatre - these skills provide a basis for sharing ideas within communities and with outside support. Five years on, these participatory planning methods are widespread through the region - a tangible gain in the process of strengthening local people's power to decide on their own future.

91

The London Environmental Economics Centre completed a major study on the linkages between ***The Debt Crisis, Structural Adjustment and the Environment*** for WWF.

91

At the request of HRH the Prince of Wales IIED prepared the agenda and background papers for a private seminar convened jointly by President Collor of Brazil and Prince Charles on board ship on the Amazon River. The purpose of the seminar was to bring Brazilian and European political leaders together with

representatives of the private sector and key development agencies to discuss the issues to be tackled at the Earth Summit in 1992. This event established understanding between the international political and corporate sectors in the Earth Summit process.

The Blue Planet Prize

One highlight of the 1992 Earth Summit for IIED was the press conference at which it was announced that the Institute had been honoured with the Blue Planet Prize, a prestigious new environmental award sponsored by the Asahi Glass Foundation of Japan, worth half a million dollars. The prize is given for 'outstanding achievement in executing environmental projects, establishing and implementing environmental policies, realising widely applicable research and development results, undertaking education and awareness programmes, and conducting environmental-related writing or media activities'. IIED was proud to be the first organisation to be honoured with the Blue Planet Prize.

This extract from the IIED Commemorative Lecture sums up the Institute's approach:

"IIED believes in community-driven development - bottom-up development enabled and empowered by top-down processes and frameworks.

IIED has seen the positive results of empowering the poor. Deserts can be turned into productive land, trees and forests regenerated, barren land made productive, water and housing supplied.

How has this been achieved?

By giving people the right to organise, by giving them a stake in their future and rewards for their efforts, and by providing them with a knowledge of their environment.

It all sounds straightforward, but making it happen takes persistence and commitment, and an attitude of mind that is centred on a belief in people."



"IIED has more than any other organization I know helped to prepare the way for the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro and is well placed to play a key role in its follow-up and implementation."

MAURICE STRONG, SECRETARY GENERAL
UN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

92

In the run-up to the Earth Summit at Rio, IIED played a significant role in bringing together NGOs and mobilising international interest. Preparatory work included inputs for the Biodiversity and Forestry agreements, papers for the UNCED Secretariat and the World Health Organization, and a public

forum for NGOs, government agencies and researchers in Europe and Latin America. The Institute also assisted in the production of the business sector report *Changing Course*. In these ways IIED had an important impact on the process and on the eventual shape of UNCED's Agenda 21.

The Earth Summit was very important to IIED. It still is. The follow-up programme includes action on many fronts: supporting local Agenda 21's, helping the Deserts and Forestry follow-up, mobilising the aid community to address

capacity issues, and much more. IIED strongly believes the Summit was a success in that it set out a clear agenda for sustainable development. The failure is that too few are now prepared to invest resources in it.

IIED's Climate Change Programme (a long-term partnership between IIED and the Climatic Research Unit at the University of East Anglia, UK) completed a major report on sustainable adaptation to climate change. It looked at how countries with pressing rural development problems could adapt to extremes of climate

change or at least reduce their vulnerability. The model was developed in south African countries, Costa Rica and Vietnam, and tested in a forestry project for the Himachal Pradesh, with the intention of encouraging others to explore the options for sustainable adaptation.

The Environment Planning Group published with IUCN **Strategies for National Sustainable Development**. This handbook is widely recognised as one of the most useful tools for following up the Earth Summit at national level.

Towards a sustainable paper cycle.



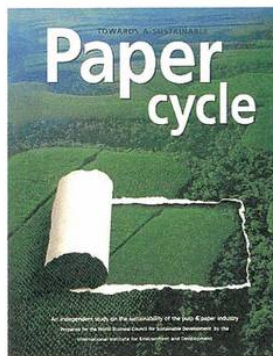
At the Earth Summit in 1992 the World Business Council for Sustainable Development set out how industry might move toward a happier relationship with the environment.

After the event it was agreed that what was needed was an analysis of how one sector could progress toward 'sustainability'. Some in the paper industry challenged IIED to conduct a worldwide review of their social and environmental performance. The study was completed in early 1996. It illustrates several important lessons. First, the idea of finding global solutions to a set of diverse local problems will not work. The trade-offs that the industry has to make place by place differ. Sometimes recycling will not be best, plantation forests can make great sense, different processes are a good idea. It also emerged that there are real conflicts between the very 'best' in environmental terms and the need for paper, as many in the world can hardly afford paper now.

IIED sets out all these and many other dilemmas. It also recommends a series of improvements for the industry, the various NGOs and governments to consider. The study has resulted in a change in forest policy in Canada, has been extensively debated in several trade associations and is to be the subject of a European Commission response. A study of this scope which cuts across so many sectors is, as the Financial Times put it, "a unique and very special contribution".

95

Each of IIED's programme areas is integrated by cross-cutting themes which include collaborative research and the development of tools for sustainable development.



96

IIED's study on the sustainability of the pulp and paper industry was published as ***Towards a Sustainable Paper Cycle***.

96

IIED was appointed as the secretariat for a major OECD workshop on Capacity Development in Environment.

The future

IIED's partners

We owe a great deal to many organisations and individuals who have worked with us over the years. In the future we plan to:

- Build on the collaboration we have with the ring of institutes similar to ourselves around the globe;
- Develop our networked services by way of information resource centres and publications;
- Continue our tradition of working in collaboration with communities and local stake holders.

IIED's agenda

There is much to do in each of the programme areas to develop sustainable policies and tools. Problems and opportunities abound in the drylands and forests, in resource poor agriculture and amongst the poor in cities and settlements. The use of economics and planning tools to solve environmental problems is fundamental. Increasingly, we will:

- Encourage the 'private sector' as well as governments and NGOs to deliver sustainable solutions;
- Carry out thematic research that builds on our sector skills to define policies that work across economies;
- Concentrate on bringing our relevant experience to bear on the richer economies of the world.

IIED's ambitions

We have many and, to mention a few, we wish to:

- Explore ways of generating new revenues to support the sustainable development agenda;
- Underpin the work of the conservation movement with a network of economics and social science;
- Place much more emphasis on building institutional capacities: through education, training and a fellowship programme;
- Redefine the strategic basis for development assistance to ensure that social and environmental stability are the result;
- **Remain, above all, a cost effective, professional and caring institution.**

IIED's income will soon exceed £5 million a year, and its professional staff number over 50. Support comes from all the governments of Western Europe, the EU, foundations and the international agencies. IIED is growing in strength and effectiveness.



Over the last **25 years**

through its research, training and publishing activities, the Institute has changed or influenced international programmes. It has ensured that many more local voices are heard in the larger decision-making process. It has altered the basis by which we understand environmental problems by emphasising the economic and social dimensions. It has shown that ultimately solving many so-called global problems really comes down to making changes locally, and that local people can be empowered to achieve their own solutions provided the right institutional framework is in place.

But we still have much to do to live up to the ideals that Barbara Ward set out at the start.

"The ability to react to new challenges, especially in the vital, unfolding, often tragic but profoundly human areas where development and environment confront or complement each other, is the real raison d'être of an Institute such as ours."

Barbara Ward



"TELL THEM... IF THEY KEEP ON MESSING IT ABOUT SO BADLY, THIS THING WON'T BE SUSTAINABLE MUCH LONGER!"

Lesley Abdela *
 Rosario Aguirre †
 Abdlatif Y Al-Hamad
 R O Anderson
 H.E. Dr Ursula Barrow *
 Henrik Beer
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 Josephine Braun de Orcoyen †
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 Eduardo White †
 Lord Zuckerman

* denotes current board member

† denotes IIED América Latina

IIED wishes to thank all those who have supported its work. Those that have contributed finances of over £5,000 are listed opposite.

IIED is privileged to receive sufficient income on a restricted basis (of £4.4 million in 1995/96) to support its diverse programmes.

But it has reserves of under £165,000. It needs some unrestricted income to support its activities in programme development and to give it more financial stability. Please be in touch with IIED's Executive Director, Richard Sandbrook, if you wish to know more.



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