



International engagement for a sustainable planet: 2015 update

Our work is focused on delivering finance where it is needed most to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year new commitments to sustainable development will succeed the Millennium Development Goals, and parties to the UN climate change convention must reach a new agreement with legal force. The outcomes of these processes will shape international co-operation on sustainable development for years to come. We want to ensure that less powerful countries and communities have an equal opportunity to shape the agendas. And we want to see financial resources allocated where they are needed most to end poverty and realise the vision of an equitable, just and sustainable world. We will work with partners to instil lessons from our work on sustainable development in these international processes and in the national and local strategies that will follow.

Given the great ambition of the proposed SDGs and the enormous toll climate change could take on development progress, it is unsurprising that most of the discussion on sustainable development finance is around the scale of finance required and where it will come from. Much less attention is given to how that finance should be designed and channelled to achieve the most sustainable development benefits for poor people and poor countries.

We are well placed to step into this critical space, having built a considerable body of evidence on the institutions and enabling conditions required for sustainable development finance to reach into households and transform the lives of poor and marginalised people. Much of this evidence runs counter to prevailing ideas on development finance that are influencing the international negotiations. By pulling together work from across IIED, we can generate new learning and help answer questions on how to design and deliver finance in ways that are demand-driven, transformative for poor households and communities, and economically efficient.

Within the next four years

We will develop and implement a strategy to increase understanding of what makes sustainable development finance most effective at local, national and international levels.

We aim to:

- Support Least Developed Countries to sharpen their arguments for increased development finance by providing evidence on how it can be deployed most effectively to meet national post-2015 goals
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of decentralised development finance by distilling and sharing learning from 15 years of IIED work on empowering and strengthening locally accountable development finance institutions and on the role of intermediaries in channelling international finance to local levels
- Draw on IIED's work on climate finance, energy access and other areas to provide guidance on how to develop international finance mechanisms and national policies and institutions that respond to the needs of poor households and communities with appropriate and accountable finance.