

A photograph of a woman in a shop handing a product to a man through a window. The scene is lit with a warm, yellowish light. The woman is wearing a patterned shirt and is smiling. The man is wearing a dark shirt and is looking at the product. The shop is filled with various items, including jars and containers. The text "BIKASH" is written in large, bold letters above the window, and "Money, My Vay" is written below it.

BIKASH

Money, My Vay

Delivering change
IIED annual review
2019



**Our mission:
to build a fairer,
more sustainable
world, using
evidence, action
and influence
in partnership
with others.**

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Inside IIED: donors, staff and trustees

Local insights, global reach

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. We harness the power of our growing network — from grassroots communities to multilateral institutions, citizen-led social movements to policy advisors — to mobilise action at local, national and global levels. Working together, we ask challenging questions and develop practical solutions to make change happen. The highlights in this review show how we have worked in partnerships across the world to find solutions to complex and evolving global challenges.

Evaluating progress to deliver the SDGs

We won strong support at the UN High Level Political Forum in **New York** for our work with UNICEF, EvalSDGs and Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs to help countries embed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in national development plans

see p.18

Small green business takes off

In **Peru** and beyond, the Green Economy Coalition and IIED have been growing networks that support small, socially engaged enterprises do greener business

see p.16

Spotlight:
Belt and Road Initiative

China's multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative is one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects ever conceived. But is it charting a sustainable path? We've been working with the Beijing-based Global Environmental Institute and partners across Africa to find out

see p.19–20



County pilot goes country-wide

Working with the ADA Consortium we have found ways to channel climate finance to rural communities in **Kenya**. Now this project is set for national rollout, including to urban contexts

see p.8



Examining risks to workers

Alongside partners in **India** and **Zimbabwe**, IIED is documenting the health and climate risks facing informal urban workers. Together we're developing strategies to improve workers' resilience and wellbeing

see p.11

Raising women's voices in land rights

Our work with the **Tanzania** Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), the Network for Women's Rights in **Ghana** (NETRIGHT) and IED Afrique in **Senegal** has grown village-level awareness of women's rights to access land

see p.25



Financial summary and responsible operations

As part of our commitment to working in an open and accountable way, IIED publishes information on our financial activities and our actions on environmental and social responsibility.

Our finances

Our most recent financial summary including audited accounts is available at www.iied.org/finance. Detailed financial information can be found in our trustees' report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 at pubs.iied.org/G04429

Responsible operations

IIED is committed to minimising harmful emissions, waste and use of resources throughout our operations. We adhere to a strong environmental performance policy and report annually on our carbon footprint. Both are available on our website at www.iied.org/responsible-operations



BIKASH

Money, My Way

- Serv
1. Pay b
 2. Send
 3. Cash
 4. Airtim
 5. My Ba

From our chair



In 2019, hard truths made clear the inextricable links between the climate and biodiversity emergencies, with global pressure mounting to tackle these crises in parallel — urgently and immediately. Unsustainable markets continued to exhaust our fast-depleting natural capital, while unchecked urbanisation increased the risks for swelling populations in the world's towns and cities. Exacerbated by these acute challenges, inequality remains one of the greatest threats of our time.



Rebeca
Grynspan

The speed and severity of this multi-faceted crisis have profound impacts on the poorest countries, communities and people.

Against this backdrop, IIED's commitment to social and environmental justice has never been more crucial. Its resolve to find locally driven solutions enriched by the energy, expertise and experience of its partners has never been stronger.

This annual review provides powerful evidence of the deep relevance of IIED's work, from supporting the Least Developed Countries to demand just climate action, to finding shelter solutions in some of Africa's fastest growing cities; from working with citizens to generate the evidence they need to improve their diets, to developing practical ways to strengthen women's participation in land governance.

While I am coming to the end of six fantastic years as the chair of IIED's Board, I look forward to following the work of this unique organisation as it pushes ahead with its mission — more critical than ever in these unstable and challenging times.

And this June, it will give me great pleasure to deliver the [Barbara Ward lecture](#), IIED's series celebrating the institute's pioneering founder. Ward was among the earliest advocates of sustainable development and her vision continues to influence and inspire IIED's work today. These flagship lectures tackle issues at the very core of the world's most pressing problems, opening up an evening of lively discussion and debate. I look forward to seeing you there.



Rebeca Grynspan

From our director



In 2019 we saw two developments of incredible significance which, taken together, have changed the landscape IIED operates in.



Andrew
Norton

On one side, the impacts of climate change, the speed and scale of biodiversity loss, and the extent of inequality continue to worsen. In the case of climate change, some signals are now shocking in their severity and beyond what scientists 20 years ago saw as the worst possible scenarios.

This has provoked a cry — especially from young people the world over — for action that matches the scale of the planetary emergency. In the wake of the latest UN climate talks in Madrid, we know that the response from the formal political system is, as yet, woefully inadequate.

Last year we published our new five-year strategy *Make Change Happen*. This outlines the nature of the ecological and social crises we face and the areas where IIED can make the biggest difference in tackling these.

Our strategy is structured around five challenges — the climate crisis, increasing urban risk, unsustainable markets, an assault on the natural world and rising inequality.

We also challenged ourselves as a community to recognise the changing landscape for our issues — where social activism is now often the key driver for change — and to become louder and bolder in our messaging, and work out new ways to engage.

Through the lens of our strategy's five challenges, this annual review presents some of our strongest achievements over the last year and provides pointers to new areas of engagement for the years ahead.

This collection of stories shows how, with the right approaches, IIED and partners are making a positive difference to those on the frontline of complex and interlinking global crises.



Andrew Norton

CONFRONTING THE ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL EMERGENCY

The facts are indisputable. Our ecological and social systems are in deep, unprecedented crisis.

Climate disasters causing death, disease, displacement and widespread economic damage are occurring at an estimated rate of one a week. In the world's towns and cities, these climatic shocks combine with rapid growth to deepen risks to citizens, hitting the poorest and most vulnerable the hardest. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns are speeding mass extinction, wildlife population decline and the collapse of vital ecosystems with grave impacts for our societies, our economies and our food systems. Vast inequality, driven by growing levels of elite wealth, undermines the global solidarity needed to create a future where both people and nature can survive and thrive.

THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere have reached their highest in **3 MILLION YEARS** and are still growing rapidly; experts have warned that even the current level of over **407 PARTS PER MILLION** is incompatible with long-term economic and social stability.

More than **TWO THIRDS** of people killed in climate-related disasters over the past **50 YEARS** were living in the world's poorest nations.

Less than **10%** from international climate funds is intended to reach the local level where communities are feeling the worst effects.

INCREASING URBAN RISK

Over **HALF** of the world's population lives in urban areas and **TWO THIRDS** will be living in towns and cities by 2050; most of this growth will be in countries with low levels of capacity to plan and manage an equitable and sustainable urban transition.

By 2025, **100** African cities will have more than **ONE MILLION** inhabitants. Major shortfalls in infrastructure spend leave cities increasingly at risk: around **TWO THIRDS** of urban infrastructure investments needed by 2050 have not been made.

Displaced populations are increasing urbanisation: **60%** of all refugees and **80%** of internally displaced people live in urban areas.

INCREASING INEQUALITY

The world's **MILLIONAIRES** are rising in number and own nearly **HALF** of global wealth.

After decades of decline the numbers of people worldwide suffering from hunger and undernourishment rose by **40 MILLION** over **TWO YEARS** according to the latest data, driven by sharp increases in hunger levels in sub-Saharan Africa.

ONE IN SEVEN people still lack electricity, and most live in rural areas of the developing world.

UNSUSTAINABLE MARKETS

The extraction and processing of materials, fuels and food contribute **HALF** of total global greenhouse gas emissions and to over **90%** of biodiversity loss and water stress.

Informal employment represents as much as **80%** of non-agricultural jobs in developing countries and up to **90%** of all employment in West Africa, with informal jobs being particularly important for women's livelihoods. Informality also accounts for up to **TWO THIRDS** of GDP in countries including Bolivia, India and Peru, and a similar proportion across sub-Saharan Africa.

49% of major international companies are failing to assess the risks to human rights in their supply chains.

AN ASSAULT ON THE NATURAL WORLD

Conversion of forests to commodity production (notably industrial-scale palm oil and soy for export) has been the **BIGGEST DRIVER** of annual global forest loss since 2001.

More than **A QUARTER** of the world's people rely on forest resources; those with greatest direct dependence on the natural world for their livelihoods tend to be among the poorer and more vulnerable. Over **THREE BILLION** people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods.

ONE MILLION animal and plant species are at risk of extinction and more than **A THIRD** of all marine mammals are threatened.

TWO THIRDS of the Earth's ecosystem services are threatened or in decline.

Our 2019–24 strategy *Make Change Happen* sharpened our focus, identifying where we can make the biggest difference in addressing five of the world's most pressing challenges. The stories in this annual review show how we are delivering our ambition.

Global climate action remains wholly inadequate to meet the scale of the challenge. We responded by collaborating with progressive voices to drive rapid change, and we trained women climate negotiators from developing countries to reflect national ambition at the highest levels. With climate finance still failing to reach those experiencing the harshest realities of the climate crisis, we advanced our ‘money where it matters’ work — providing a model for shifting funds to community level.

Bold vision challenges world to reset climate response

The climate change narrative has long been skewed towards mitigating emissions; adapting to the impacts has come in a distant second. But 2019 saw adaptation climb the political agenda — and we seized the moment to take practical, locally tested solutions from the climate frontline to the forefront of global policy.

We accelerated our support to the world’s Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as they continued to champion the needs and priorities of people who have contributed least to the climate crisis but are suffering the most.

The LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) calls for a radical new approach to climate action — away from short-term thinking to long-term planning.

Together, we built a rich evidence base of locally driven and durable adaptation interventions. This underpinned the LDC 2050 Vision — a bold, ambitious plan for achieving climate-resilient development,

allowing LDC societies, economies and ecosystems to thrive.

Working with the LDCs and wider partners, we deepened the evidence during our annual flagship community-based adaptation event. The ‘talanoa’ open dialogue session — talanoa being a Pacific word that describes story-based problem solving — was a highlight, where a largely southern community of adaptation practitioners, researchers, grassroots representatives and local government planners shared first-hand experience of adaptation initiatives that work.

LDC chief negotiator Tenzin Wangmo and Sheela Patel of Slum Dwellers International and the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA) chaired the session. As with LIFE-AR, we are working with the GCA to steer greater attention to locally led adaptation action; moving the emphasis from planning and coordination to tangible delivery, where clear mechanisms are in place to ensure that women and men living in poverty, young and old, able or differently abled,





A man waters his crops, Indonesia

get the support they need to respond to climate shocks and stresses.

On the international stage at September's UN Climate Action Summit we supported the LDCs to land their message with force. As nations gathered to showcase their commitments to tackling climate change, the LDCs took their place as leaders, standing united behind their vision and coming forward with commitments for enhanced nationally determined contributions — five-yearly plans for how countries will achieve their climate targets — and national adaptation plans.

Ireland stepped forward in support, pledging €1 million to LIFE-AR with Austria, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Malawi, Sweden, the Gambia, the United Kingdom and Uganda joining the endorsement.

In another major success this year, the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

responded to calls from the LDCs and wider social movements for a shift away from the business-as-usual climate response. Under the Community Resilience Partnership Program, ADB, social coalitions such as the Huairou Commission of women leaders and think tanks including IIED will work with governments to help countries in Asia and the Pacific develop ways to scale up investment in local priorities to tackle poverty, climate and disaster coherently.

Now the focus is 2020: the first moment for accountability post the 2015 Paris Agreement, when countries will be asked to step up action to bring climate change under control. In this make-or-break year for global climate policy, IIED and partners are ready to push hard for a locally informed, and locally led, response to the climate emergency.

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A seat at the table: equipping women for climate negotiations

The burdens and risks of climate change hit women and men differently, making it crucial that the needs, perspectives and ideas of both groups are heard in forums where decisions on tackling this global threat are made. For International Women's Day, we analysed our progress towards ensuring women reach an equal footing with men at the UN climate negotiations.

Under the European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI), IIED trains officials from the LDCs to maximise their influence in negotiating spaces. In 2019 we all but hit our goal of a 50–50 gender split: we trained 45 women and 47 men.

“In 2019 we hit our goal of a 50–50 gender split of climate negotiators trained.”

Our numbers stand up well compared with those inside the negotiating rooms, where only 37% of decision makers are women.

Through the ECBI initiative we encourage countries to send even numbers of women and men not only to our workshops but to the actual negotiations. And our approach is working: of those national climate representatives we train, the same proportion of women and men go on to attend the climate talks.

We will enrich these numbers by tracking the issues women and men specialise in. Do women negotiate on gender issues, while men follow finance discussions? This granular data will further support our work to boost equal representation at these crucial climate negotiations.

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New ways to capture unheard voices in climate planning

For decades, women in Zanzibar have been farming seaweed to support household incomes. But as the climate changes, seaweed now grows better in cooler, deeper waters. Women recognise they must learn to swim or be paired up with a competent swimmer to avoid losing out, and they must participate in planning and decision-making forums so these and other specific needs can be addressed. In Tanzania and Zanzibar, IIED and the Climate Justice Resilience Fund are working through this and other examples as we find ways to make sure local governments and cooperatives hear the needs of women and young people when developing climate resilience strategies.

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Woman seaweed harvesting at an underwater farm, Zanzibar



Market traders close up their stores, Garissa, Kenya

Taking it to scale: new contexts for climate finance in Kenya

I IED has worked with partners in Kenya as part of the ADA Consortium for more than eight years to get climate finance to the local level. The consortium has piloted the county climate change fund mechanism (CCCF) across rural areas of five counties; now the lessons from this experience are being applied to the whole country. From 2019, the National Drought Management Authority is leading the rollout of the mechanism nationwide.

The counties of Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Makueni and Wajir have shown what is possible within Kenya's decentralised system of government, when money gets to where it matters. Under new legislation,

“Lessons from the counties pilot are being applied to the whole country.”

CCCF helps local governments and communities to decide together on the investments that will build people's resilience to the effects of climate change.

Scaling out the scheme to 42 more counties includes taking the mechanism to the context of towns and cities. This presents new challenges: higher population densities, a heavy reliance on infrastructure and a range of organisations and institutions already working with the local authority.

I IED's years of work in informal settlements tell us that climate impacts such as flooding and heat stress will be particularly significant for low-income urban residents. This scale-out will use that experience as these communities start to decide with municipal authorities how climate finance should be spent.

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From 2020 to 2030, Kenya is expected to add 7.4 million people to its towns and cities.

Exploring equitable climate action through private finance

B usinesses have as much of a role to play in tackling the climate crisis as governments do. Knowing that, how can what we've learnt from getting public climate finance to the local level be useful for business? I IED is talking to tech entrepreneurs

about how they could put their money where it matters, designing new finance systems that respond to local contexts and knowledge, and support equitable climate action.

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INCREASING URBAN RISK

With steep urban growth comes risk, especially for those on low incomes, migrants and refugees. This year, we worked with partners at community level in East Africa, seeking solutions to evolving shelter needs. New work on air pollution will complement our 2019 analysis of health threats to urban workers.

Q&A: unlocking safe shelter for Mogadishu's most vulnerable

Having a place to call home, to gather, to cook, to rest and feel safe are the most basic of human needs. IIED and partner research supported by the East African Research Fund is examining the systems governing access to shelter in three of Africa's fastest growing cities — Hawassa in Ethiopia, Mogadishu in Somalia and Nairobi in Kenya. Erik Bryld from our partner Tana describes the challenges facing groups on the sharp end of Mogadishu's shelter squeeze and the policy shifts needed to help these groups find a safe place to live.

Q | Why is demand for shelter in Mogadishu so acute?

Mogadishu is urbanising faster than any other African city and the pressure on informal settlements is intense. Push and pull factors add to the pressure: drought drives rural populations to the city in search of work while vast numbers continue to flee Somalia's decades-long conflict. At the same time, the city's thriving economy offers migrants a huge casual labour market.

Q | What factors determine access to safe and affordable shelter?

Most people who move to Mogadishu find shelter in some form or another. The question is, how secure is that

shelter? Kinship and clan identity play a major role here: the better connected you are, the more likely you will find a place that is secure and affordable. On the flipside, people from minority groups are exposed to less secure shelter at higher costs. And money, of course, is a dominating factor — wealth opens most doors.

Q | Which groups struggle most to find secure shelter?

Our research has highlighted three vulnerable groups. Women in Somalia are susceptible to gender-based violence and other kinds of exploitation. Single, widowed



The majority of the city's internally displaced people living in informal settlements are housed in Buuls — temporary shelters made from sticks, plastic and fabric





or divorced women are particularly at risk and finding shelter that offers enough security is a major challenge. Single young men are labelled as troublemakers and often suspected of being connected to al-Shabaab. Sitting at the bottom of the social hierarchy, they are regularly denied shelter access. Poor infrastructure in settlements cannot cater for people living with disabilities. This group is vulnerable and isolated.

Q | Based on this research, what policy interventions will help these groups find safe shelter?

Our research shows between half and two thirds of migrants want to reside in Mogadishu permanently. So we need to move away from short-term humanitarian responses — supplying settlements with food, water and latrines — and recognise this is an urban development issue needing a longer-term approach. Ultimately, land control and ownership drive the fierce competition for shelter; effective land

Somali women walk past destroyed houses, Mogadishu, Somalia

governance systems are needed before tenure security can be addressed. But in the short- to medium-term, we need to focus on livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable groups. This touches on many aspects, such as enabling access to banks and credit; providing public transport between settlements and the city; making settlements more secure for single women entrepreneurs; and improving school access so that parents — mothers in particular — can find work outside the settlement.

Q | How will the findings from the research help to make that shift?

We're working on two levels. The international donor community informs the relief programmes delivered by UN agencies and international NGOs so we're working to raise donor awareness that we need durable, rather than simply technical, solutions to the shelter challenge. Through a series of policy briefings, we're highlighting the challenges that poor, displaced and vulnerable groups face in accessing shelter, and convening development practitioners to discuss recommendations.

At the local level we're working closely with the mayor's office — the Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) — to develop settlement management guidelines. These provide a framework to support access to safe shelter and services, and we've been advocating for the voices of these groups to be included in the drafting process. We've also connected BRA officials with Slum Dwellers International (SDI). This network has a deep-rooted history of supporting locally informed housing solutions, co-produced between government and informal settlement residents in Nairobi. SDI's knowledge and experience of getting ground-level realities recognised in policy would be invaluable as we go deeper into exploring the barriers to shelter for Mogadishu's most vulnerable.

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Let's breathe

The three-year TUPUMUE project — 'tupumue' meaning 'let's breathe' in Swahili — takes IIED's renowned urban research into a new area: air pollution. We will work with local and international researchers and communities in Kenya to determine the origins and effects of air pollution and lung disease on people in low-income neighbourhoods, especially young people. Project findings, and participatory solutions, will reach communities through a range of creative media.

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Climate change: a risky business for urban workers' health and livelihoods

Informal workers are the backbone of many urban economies. But without legal or social protection they face low pay, gruelling hours and hazardous conditions. Few can access healthcare or much-needed protective equipment.

There is scant data about the impact of workplace risks on informal workers' health, such as the number of injuries and toxic exposures experienced by waste pickers, or the hand burns and heatstroke suffered from firing bricks in searing kilns.

Even less is known about how climate change is compounding their health risks. Outdoor workers, including street vendors and construction workers, are particularly affected by flooding and heatwaves. Inadequate shelter in informal settlements, not designed to withstand extreme

weather events, leaves home-based workers vulnerable.

As long as data on workers' illness, injury and premature death go unrecorded, policies to keep this workforce healthy and resilient will be ineffective.

IIED and partners are working alongside informal workers in Indian and Zimbabwean cities to document their unsafe working and living conditions and to analyse how these are amplified by climate change.

Together we are gaining new insights into the many and complex occupational health risks and using these to generate inclusive, innovative strategies for improving the resilience and wellbeing of this crucial urban labour force.

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“Without legal or social protection informal workers face low pay, gruelling hours and hazardous conditions.”



Smoke from brickworks, Rajasthan, India

Towards zero-carbon cities

Cutting-edge grassroots research and thought-provoking films are just two of the transformative approaches we will bring to five cities across Argentina, Brazil and Mexico from 2020. Working with partners and urban communities, the Transformative Urban Coalitions project seeks to shake up traditional roles, shifting the deeper social, technological and political systems

that shape urban planning, investment, form and resource use. As part of this consortium, IIED will work closely with our longstanding sister organisation, IIED América Latina, to green slum-upgrading processes already under way in Buenos Aires. Our goal? More inclusive, sustainable and biodiverse cities.

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Slum in Buenos Aires, Argentina



UNSUSTAINABLE MARKETS



Inequitable markets undermine efforts to preserve biodiversity, reduce poverty and combat climate change. In 2019 we worked at multiple levels to support green transitions, from supporting small, sustainable businesses to grow and thrive, to working with the World Benchmarking Alliance on measuring how well business goals align with the SDGs.

Supporting citizens to transform their food system

Our food system is under the spotlight — and not for good reasons. The world's diet is leaving billions of people obese, or malnourished or affected by ill health; it is eroding soils, depleting water sources and collapsing ecosystems. In 2019, numerous global

studies warned that we need a radical shift in the way we produce and consume food.

But food and nutrition policies that are proposed to address these problems often fail to recognise the realities of life for poor and marginalised people. Our Sustainable Diets for All (SD4All) programme,



a partnership with Hivos and local civil society organisations, supports low-income communities to lobby for better access to diverse and nutritious foods that meet their needs. Our work encompasses the whole food system, from farming and markets to the everyday diets of people living in poverty.

We started by listening to smallholder farmers, food processors, traders and stallholders, and poor women and men in rural and urban communities, to identify and support pockets of innovation and action.

Our work in Uganda has made tangible progress to improve diets. While the

Fresh vegetables on display for sale at Lusaka City Market, Zambia

country produces a wealth of diverse local food, nearly half the population consumes fewer calories than they need, and the majority of those consumed come from starchy staples. Almost a third of children under five years old have stunted growth. Diversifying diets could play an important part in improving nutrition.

In Buikwe district, where more than two thirds of people eat less than two meals a day, IIED, Hivos and Slow Food Uganda worked together to promote healthier local diets.

This started with setting up 'Food Parliaments' — open discussions involving local people. These followed a 'parliamentary' procedure, with a chair and clerk, and women and men getting equal time to speak about their concerns. This helped identify the pressure they face to replace their diverse products with cash crops, and the pressures on the availability and cost of nutritious food. Slow Food then worked with the communities in six sub-districts to draft bylaws to promote growing indigenous vegetables. Two of the six bylaws drafted were passed in 2019; the remaining four are expected to be passed this year.

In Kabarole district, IIED and local partner Kabarole Research and Resource Center (KRC) supported a citizen science approach, with people gathering and interpreting information about their diets. This included 'citizen advocates' — community members promoting traditional nutritious foods among their neighbours and families.

Now, with our partner Food Rights Alliances, we're taking local insights to policymakers and the government, pressing for commitments to improve food and nutrition across the country to be delivered. Specifically, we're lobbying for the government to prioritise indigenous and traditional foods and highlight their potential to improve nutrition in the Uganda Nutrition Action Plan.

BOOSTING REACH AND IMPACT

We amplified our work to promote sustainable, healthy and diverse diets through high-impact communications including a suite of short films featuring voices from Bolivia, Indonesia, Uganda and Zambia, and our Voices and Choices photography exhibitions capturing citizens' views on food choice and the changes needed to improve food systems.

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Community forest businesses take off in Congo Basin

Forestry worker, Cameroon

Community forestry products such as timber and foraged or crafted items are usually sold locally and vulnerable to fluctuating demand and the vagaries of weak forest governance.

But since 2016, a consortium of local and international organisations — the CoNGOs project — has worked in Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), Gabon, Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to support producers and civil society reach far wider markets and improve local access and control over forest resources.

Alongside local partners, IIED led on in-country investment and training, covering community forestry management, organisational development, policy advocacy, marketing and more.

REAL CHANGE FOR REAL PEOPLE

Training in conservation and packaging technologies helped one group of DRC producers to form a cooperative selling traditional medicines. With a shopfront in a nearby town, some members have seen their monthly income grow from approximately US\$100 to US\$500.

By 2019, project results were remarkable.

In DRC, 16 enterprises grew their incomes by 50–900%, thanks to new technology, diversification and greater productivity. Ten artisanal logging businesses doubled their efficiency and production capacity. In Cameroon, bush mango producers accessed foreign buyers; prices rose by 150%.

In CAR, where forest producers' land rights were not even recognised, the first-ever official community forest was allocated. Three communities now manage 15,000 hectares and have the stability necessary to make long-term plans and start or grow businesses.

Local people know how to harvest forest goods sustainably but need backing to reach the next level. The many locally controlled enterprises are now skilled up, able to access better markets and set to keep growing. And with increased economic clout, they are well placed to influence policies affecting community forest land and livelihoods.

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Small green business goes big in Peru

Small businesses are engines of growth. In emerging markets, they generate almost half of all jobs and a third of national income. We can't build a green and fair economy without them.

But these enterprises often face an uphill struggle to get their contributions recognised and supported. Business regulations are often designed for large companies, blocking smaller operations from accessing services, markets and legal support.

The Green Economy Coalition (GEC) is a global network of organisations promoting economic reform. Together with IIED researchers, the GEC and partners across the Caribbean, India, Peru and South Africa are supporting eco-entrepreneurs building a greener way of doing business.

In Peru, the GEC has grown a network of over 170 small, socially engaged and sustainable firms including Tinku, which employs people with learning difficulties to make organic shopping bags, and EcoBrasa, a thriving start up producing fuel free from harmful chemicals.

The network allows innovators to swap ideas, share investor contacts and push for supportive regulations. Their online platform — economieverde.pe — provides resources, including tools on how to make operations more sustainable.

These small businesses are making big strides. In 2019, the network successfully campaigned for the legal recognition of social enterprises. And their success is attracting attention: the EU has asked the GEC to develop a similar approach to advance sustainable finance and investment models.

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In Peru, GEC and partners support a network of small sustainable businesses and social enterprises

Helping corporates and investors make SDGs their business

As the corporate world ramps up pledges to go beyond delivering profit for shareholders and to address their social and environmental impacts, business and investors are looking at the SDGs as a way to frame their renewed purpose. But how will companies turn their commitments into action,

measure progress and be held to account? This year, IIED began work with the World Benchmarking Alliance to develop their methodology to rank companies on how far their business goals align with the objectives of the SDGs.

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Crucial conversations

For IIED, listening, learning and exchange are ingrained in our organisational DNA. Our partnership approach, expertise in difficult dialogues and commitment to lifting up under-represented voices informs and strengthens our approach to communications. This year, exciting strategic communications work included exploring new channels and audiences. From filmmaking to Facebook content and innovative event design, our communications prove that open minds and ears achieve impact.



Computer user, Ghana

We sought to hear and promote the powerful ideas coming out of youth movements and kicked off a **monthly Facebook blog series**. So far, we have focused calls for blogs in the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and Tanzania where young people's engagement with Facebook is particularly strong.



Part of the illustrations from the Towards an inclusive blue economy event

Our **Communications Learning Week** was one of this year's highlights. Alongside partner organisations from Africa, Latin America and Asia, we explored opportunities, barriers and tactics for connecting with different audiences in different regions. Popular IIED training sessions in video making, social media and writing skills met participant and staff learning goals and were shaped by 2018 feedback. Our 'alumni' Facebook group grows every year, forming a supportive global network of communicators.

CBA13 brought together over 300 participants from 42 countries to exchange knowledge about community-based adaptation. This year, the conference welcomed more indigenous voices than ever before. We shared their insights globally by live-tweeting and real-time web posting of session highlights. IIED staff also captured practitioners' voices through videos and blogs and promoted their vital perspectives in the run-up to the UN Climate Action Summit.



Agnes Leina, executive director of Ilaramatak Community Concerns, being filmed at CBA13

In one of our **biggest programmes yet**, we combined communicating a set of strong messages on ocean and small-scale fisheries sustainability with listening to the evidence of others, ranging from fisher folk in Costa Rica, to technical specialists in Edinburgh, to government staff in New York. Their views informed our final event where all participants looked to the future and discussed priorities for action.



A group of women gather for a discussion, Ghana

Listening was fundamental to our gender and land governance work. IIED's communications team guided partner organisations in Ghana, Senegal and Tanzania to carry out in-depth journalistic interviews, forming the basis of the 2019 **long read**, *Making their voices count*. The project focused on helping African women find space for their voices in land rights and governance decisions; many are now fully heard community members.

Listen with us! Our **podcast** 'Make Change Happen' launched in 2019 with a deep dive into ocean economics. Each episode invites listeners into lively discussions about pressing topics led by IIED experts. And we encourage you to tell us what you think via Twitter or other channels. Search 'Make Change Happen' on podcast platforms or visit iied.org.

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Recording the first episode of IIED's 'Make Change Happen' podcast

Achieving the SDGs: one language, many lessons

IIED and partners are supporting strategies for making development sustainable, but achieving this, in the face of so many global challenges, is far from straightforward.

The UN's 2030 international development agenda anchored in the SDGs gives us a common language for interacting and planning across sectors and levels of government. Assessing progress to achieve the goals and extracting lessons on which strategies do and don't work is not only demanded by international bodies, it's crucial for helping countries advance their own development plans.

This year, IIED has been working with UNICEF, EvalSDGs and Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Office of the Prime Minister to develop a unique model for making this process easier and country focused. In April, national government representatives met up with evaluation specialists at a retreat in Helsinki. The task? To discuss how evaluation can connect national priorities with SDG planning.

Finland is the first country in the world to lead its own SDG evaluation. Another retreat participant, Nigeria, has started using this approach to assess its contribution to the SDGs. It's weighing up how its policy priorities of education, wellbeing and poverty reduction fit with Agenda 2030 and whether it must take different actions or make compromises to make the fit better — the first country in the global South to do so.

Finland and Nigeria presented their experience at July's UN High-Level Political Forum during a side event hosted by UNICEF and organised with EvalSDGs and IIED. What they learnt will be shared in a co-produced toolkit on commissioning evaluation to connect national priorities with the SDGs.

At the same forum, the contribution made by IIED in working through what evaluating progress towards the SDGs entails was recognised with an award from EvalPartners, a collaboration chaired by the International Organization for Cooperation in Evaluation (IOCE) and the UN Evaluation Group.

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IIED's contribution on evaluating progress towards the SDGs was recognised with an award from EvalPartners.

Environmental justice will elude us as long as the people closest to local land- or seascapes are overlooked. We made the case for linking biodiversity and development more strongly than ever in 2019. We also forged links between Chinese and African policymakers, seeking benefits and protections for communities and ecosystems targeted by colossal development.

Q&A: securing local benefit from the Belt and Road Initiative

China's epic Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is investing heavily in Africa. But what of sustainability? And local benefits? In 2019, we sought to understand BRI's impacts on people and ecosystems in Cameroon. James Mayers, director of natural resources research at IIED, tells us more.

Q | Why the focus on BRI?

BRI is the biggest global development project ever, comprising a 'belt' of land corridors and a maritime 'road' of shipping lanes. It could support African sustainable development, *if* investments are right and are carefully negotiated at local level.

But this infrastructure surge involves huge emissions and some of it wipes out forest. And while African states are not passive recipients of BRI initiatives, their leaders' decisions are often short-term, with little citizen engagement.

We partnered with the Centre for Environment and Development (CED) to research how BRI was — or wasn't — supporting sustainable development, and what might be done differently.

Q | What impact have IIED and CED achieved?

Working with Beijing-based NGO the Global Environmental Institute and Cameroonian government representatives, we made some progress in securing commitments from Chinese businesses to respect local laws and increase local engagement. Gaining voice and protections for local people is crucial if they are to benefit from BRI.

We also discovered the potential for dialogue with forums for community engagement, and with associations of small enterprises (small-scale ventures account for the majority of Chinese investment). One group of Chinese enterprises responsible for much of the timber heading to China was motivated by our work to register as an association and collectively commit to engage with government and work within local laws.

Q | What's the bigger picture of BRI's influence in Cameroon?

Cameroon hosts one of China's largest port investment projects and a range of dam-building, road construction and agribusiness initiatives. Our study of two





Tengchong, China

ACTION RESEARCH HUB

To access the knowledge IIED has built up with partners, visit www.iied.org/china-africa-forest-governance-project

major rubber plantations, taken over by a Chinese company, found some improvements to local jobs and corporate responsibility; it also revealed a web of problems including political manipulation, community displacement, illicit timber trading and environmental costs. This illustrates the need for more and better dialogue between all parties.

Q | Did you discover scope for action from China too?

In exploring China–Africa forest partnerships, we found Chinese companies that could be innovators in sustainable land use. If locally negotiated deals and responsible investments are achieved, Chinese businesses could hugely advance sustainable development. NGOs and governments must keep improving evidence, dialogue and capacity, and work towards structural reforms supporting pro-poor sustainable land use.

Within China, markets should commit to sustainability and scrutinise development activities by Chinese companies abroad. Initiatives shaping a leading role for China in a new global ten-year framework to tackle biodiversity loss should help; the framework for this should be signed in 2020.

Q | Can you summarise IIED's contribution to BRI thinking so far?

Alongside partners, we have helped link policymakers in Africa and China and created a valuable body of action research: from facilitating NGO–government–company dialogues in Uganda, to ensuring investments in Mozambique are based on strong local livelihoods and sustainable forest use.

We raised awareness of our findings through Chinese press and websites. We made some short films in Chinese and English — and these have got great viewing figures in China. We will keep communicating inventively as BRI turns its attention to South Asia.

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Fisherman, Indonesia

Making the link between biodiversity and development, loudly

I IED has long argued that biodiversity is a critical resource for the world's poorest people, for food, livelihoods and climate resilience. Strong ecosystems on land and at sea underpin nature-based solutions to core development challenges.

In 2019, we took our call for greater collaboration between the biodiversity and development sectors to its widest audience yet.

In April, we published *Biodiversity loss is a development issue: a rapid review of the evidence*. Within six months, this issue paper had been downloaded over 2,370 times; a related blog was viewed over 1,800 times. We also contributed an [article](#) on the topic to respected journal *The Lancet Planetary Health*.

In May, a landmark UN report warned of the need to safeguard biodiversity.

A statement from IIED director Andrew Norton, highlighting the crisis and the role for development, received extensive media coverage, including the BBC, Channel 4 News and Reuters.

Our thinking also helped underpin the new cross-party People and Nature campaign calling on the UK government to make all its aid nature-positive.

We will keep engaging effectively with policymakers and development organisations, arguing for the post-2020 biodiversity framework to include development issues such as social justice, human rights and poverty alleviation, and for the international development agenda to recognise the critical role of biodiversity.

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“In 2019, we took our call for greater collaboration between the biodiversity and development sectors to its widest audience yet.”

Rethinking investor–state dispute settlement

International arrangements that allow businesses to bring arbitration claims against states can affect wide-ranging sustainable development policies — from the fossil fuel phase-out, to protecting communities and the environment affected by natural resource investments. Seizing

new opportunities for reform at national, regional and global levels, IIED and partners are generating evidence, exploring reform options and feeding into policy processes that matter.

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New insurance initiative to cover elephant tracks

Across Africa and Asia, elephants impose major economic and human costs on low-income farmers — trampling crops, damaging property and causing human injury or death. In an innovative project, IIED is researching, designing and piloting private insurance schemes to compensate small-scale farmers for wildlife damage in Kenya and Sri Lanka. Next, we'll be taking this country-level work global with an international insurance initiative.

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People and elephants share space across roughly 44% of Sri Lanka



INCREASING
INEQUALITY

In a polarised world, inclusion and justice are touchstones across our work. This year, we amplified voices for fairer representation: preparing negotiators from developing nations to argue for a fairer share of ocean resources and supporting African women to be heard on land governance issues. We also pursued our ambition of sustainable energy access for all.

Troubled waters spell deep problems for people too

In 2019, public concern for the ocean's health spiralled. Harrowing images of plastic-choked turtles went viral. Shocking reports exposed how expanses of water are left poisoned and barren after absorbing carbon emissions and from overfishing. Leading scientists made the bleakest ever predictions of marine species extinction.

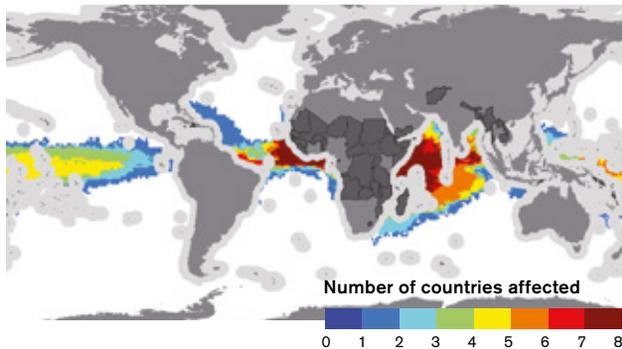
As one interconnected body of water, reckless abuses of the ocean can cripple coastal communities far from the original source. But government pledges of greater action to protect and restore the ocean are mostly silent

about the people whose livelihoods rely on our seas.

This year, our policy interventions and action research forced a more people-centric approach into the ocean governance debate.

Building on long experience of supporting the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in global climate talks, we provided legal, technical and strategic advice to these and other countries taking part in negotiations for a new international treaty that seeks to govern the high seas. These vast reaches of the ocean belong to us all and should benefit everyone. But with

Map of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) connectivity to the LDCs' (shown in dark grey) coastal waters



Adapted from: Popova, E et al. (2019) Ecological connectivity between the areas beyond national jurisdiction and coastal waters: Safeguarding interests of coastal communities in developing countries. *Marine Policy* 104, 90–102. Available via Creative Commons (CC BY 4.0)

The ocean is one interconnected body of water. The colour scale shows the number of LDCs that each ABNJ is connected to within a six-month timescale. Grey coastal regions indicate Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of each state (up to 200 nautical miles from land). This map assumes that all states have established EEZ and that all territorial disputes have been resolved.



greater economic and technological strength, it is chiefly richer nations that exploit the high seas. Coastal communities in developing countries — where millions depend on the ocean for jobs, income and nutrition — are left behind.

Our support armed the LDCs to negotiate for a fairer and more inclusive agreement that will enable vulnerable coastal economies to build resilience and thrive, and groundbreaking research showed that ocean connectivity means abuses can damage communities thousands of miles away. The approach brought concrete results: the latest draft of the negotiating text was updated to recognise that the treaty must protect the many millions of people who depend on the high seas.

We explored how to embed our people-centric approach into policy and practice by holding multi-stakeholder dialogues, expert workshops and high-profile think dinners in Dhaka,

ALL CHANNELS ARE ON

We reinforced our impact with powerful, wide-reaching communications including animations, a multimedia long read and coverage in influential media including the Economist World Ocean Initiative, Thomson Reuters Foundation and Inter Press Service.

London, Nairobi, New York, San Jose and Yangon. International and national policymakers, diplomats, ocean experts, fisheries associations, civil society and small-scale fishers discussed ways to protect marine resources that ensure people do not slip through the net.

And we made strides in our efforts to gain recognition for the millions of people working in small-scale fishing. The industry provides over half of the fish consumed globally and provides jobs and income for millions. Yet these small, informal businesses are often not visible beyond the local level and their contribution to national economies goes largely unrecorded. As a result, they receive minimal attention from policymakers and minimal investment.

We worked with government officials from ten countries on how to capture information such as how many women and men the sector employs, or how much fish they catch and process. Costa Rica has begun implementing systems to determine the value of the small-scale fishing sector to the national economy, and we're working with Cambodia to better capture fishing data to inform policies that are fairer and more inclusive.

Fishers return boats to the beach after a day of fishing, Bangladesh

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Women harvesting green beans, Tanzania

A space to speak: the African women protecting their land rights

Poor knowledge of local land rights and narrow participation in land governance decision making are exacerbating inequalities across Africa. Raising up missing voices and empowering people with information can safeguard whole communities' access to land and secure livelihoods.

This concept fuelled our Gender, Land and Accountability project, which closed in 2019 having met its core aim: to increase rural women's participation in land governance. Alongside the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT) and IED Afrique (Senegal), we worked with local authorities and communities to grow village-level awareness of land rights and create spaces for women within decision-making bodies.

Methods varied by context, from initiating local bylaws on participation, to mandating

women's membership of committees; but results were consistent.

In Senegal in 2018, women joined the municipal land commission of Darou Khoudoss for the first time; these five pioneers are now applying a gender equality lens to land allocation. In Ghana, community land development committees have been established, which must comprise at least 30% women. Strong results in Tanzania saw the programme prove its potential for scaling up: local authorities requested our six-village pilot project be replicated in a further 65 villages.

Both men and women in the project locations are now far more familiar with how land is governed. Alongside greater participation from women, this new knowledge has seen villages unite to safeguard their lands and livelihoods. And young people are seeing the practical power of gender equality. We are excited to be planning a new phase of the project for 2020.

**“Our views are heard.
They are implemented.”**

Mariam Daud Said, resident
of Vilabwa village, Tanzania

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Powering investment for universal energy access

Energy transforms lives, schools, businesses and economies. But around 840 million people still live without electricity; almost three billion rely on dirty, harmful fuels for cooking. Without access to clean, reliable, affordable energy, the world's poorest people remain trapped in self-reinforcing cycles of inequality.

Getting clean energy to remote communities costs money and the financing gap is persistent and enormous: an estimated US\$50 billion is needed annually to achieve the SDGs' universal energy target.

Where energy finance *is* available, much of it goes to large-scale grid projects. This does not benefit poor or remote communities who are better served through smaller off-grid energy systems.

This year, IIED deepened its research into the potential for finance aggregators — entities that reduce costs and risks by bundling projects and capital

together — to increase public and private investment into the off-grid sector.

Our findings show the promise of aggregators. In Bangladesh, Nepal and across East Africa, they are getting more investment into off-grid markets. For example, SunFunder used first loss grants to successfully attract 11 times the amount of private money invested. This use of blended finance shows one promising way in which public finance could be used to attract more private capital for energy access. But it's not yet enough.

We plan to take our findings to policymakers, investors and enterprises to show how agile aggregators can increase the flow of public and private finance towards off-grid solutions — accelerating energy access, including for some of the world's poorest and most remote populations.

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More than
US\$50
billion
is needed
annually
to achieve
the SDGs'
universal
energy
target.

Tracking technology

While the vast potential of digital technologies is unknown, one thing is clear: technology will be at the centre of the new global order. IIED is deepening work to examine how digital advances will impact sustainable development — from imbalances in access increasing inequalities in income and power, to the renewable energy revolution supercharging low-income economies. We're starting with exploring how technology can be used to reduce costs and increase efficiencies in getting climate and development finance to the local communities who need it most and better understand its impact.

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Solar engineer, Rajasthan, India



HELP US MEET OUR MISSION

The work of IIED has never been more relevant. Nations have declared a climate emergency alongside a surge of public and political awareness that biodiversity loss, on land and in the ocean, is as dangerous as climate change. Risks rise from rapidly growing cities and unsustainable markets. There is growing recognition that environment and development policies are not viable while inequality prevails.

Our longstanding, proven approach — rooted in local agency and expertise — is gaining fresh attention.

Together with our partners, we will strive to mobilise action at every level, to play our part in making change happen. In the face of complex and connected global crises, this is a moment of hope. Join us in our mission.

Street vendors selling fruit and vegetables, Kolkata, India



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