

# Equity and a Healthy Planet



International Institute for  
Sustainable Development

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

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IISD is an independent, non-profit organization that provides practical solutions to the challenge of integrating environmental and social priorities with economic development.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



*Alan Young, Chair of the Board*

For those of us dedicated to advancing sustainable, fair economies and promoting ecosystem health around the planet, last year proved to be rather remarkable, and yes, rather sobering...

We experienced a collective whiplash effect in moving from the optimism inspired by the progressive agreements leading to the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, to the largely unanticipated success of populist campaigns, which have challenged the core principles of multilateralism and environmental protection—not to mention evidence-based, rational discourse as a basis for public policy.

Ironically, while our potential to achieve truly sustainable and innovative economies and communities has never been more closely

within reach, the opponents to such change have managed a surge in power that, if unchecked, will set that progress back at a crucially sensitive moment.

Change, however, has never been a linear process. Here at IISD we know that well and, over 28 years, have duly adapted and innovated to continually address new challenges, threats, and opportunities.

The good news is that IISD has never been better positioned to be part of the solution.

As part of our commitment to be at the leading edge of sustainable development thought and action, we have recently undertaken a thorough restructuring, which has significantly increased the efficiency and effectiveness of the way we execute our mission. Moreover, over the past year our extraordinary staff and Board have taken a deep dive into our Theory of Change and its relevance in this rapidly evolving world. What we do, where we do it best, how we do it, and whom we must influence for success have all come under close scrutiny and debate within our very diverse community. The results are fuelling further refinements and strategic focusing for our efforts over the coming years.

We have managed to deepen several enduring partnerships internationally and have fostered several new ones, all of which has resulted in healthy growth during a time when many of

our peers are struggling. We are particularly grateful for the ongoing support of the government and people of Manitoba who are the foundation upon which our global network is built and continues to thrive.

Such is the breadth and wide-ranging impact of our work, we don't have room to spotlight all of it in this volume. Our groundbreaking and highly lauded rethinking of how we measure wealth in Canada; our unique bridging of innovative fresh water science with governmental policy through IISD Experimental Lakes Area; our role as Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development which is working with almost 60 countries to integrate sustainable development into mining practice; our work in China on green finance, procurement and sustainable infrastructure. These are all real examples of thought leadership and practical solution building that characterize IISD's approach to lasting change.

These are indeed interesting times, and they clearly require all of us to redouble our efforts and to challenge our assumptions on what will get us through to the sustainable future we have been working towards for so long. On behalf of my fellow board members from around the world, and our dedicated staff, I can say with confidence that we are committed to and invigorated by this challenge.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Innovation is at the core of who we are as IISD—today as much as ever.

When the Earth Negotiations Bulletin (ENB) began 25 years ago, it was unique in its ability to open previously opaque United Nations negotiations to engaged citizens everywhere. Since 1992, dedicated ENB professionals have created 3,784 bulletins covering climate change, oceans, wildlife, chemicals management and other areas—each time providing reliable, impartial and insightful coverage.

Additionally, one of the world's oldest continuous science data sets exists at IISD-ELA, which will mark its 50th anniversary in 2018. Innovative research into the effects of phosphorous, nutrients, mercury and acid rain on freshwater has been instrumental in protecting communities and ecosystems worldwide. Currently, researchers at IISD-ELA are looking into the impacts of emerging challenges to our environment such as endocrine disrupters and micro-pollutants.

Another unique institution administered by IISD is the Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators, which just marked its 10th anniversary. In a year where the fabric of international cooperation may seem to be fraying, the forum is an example of IISD's firm commitment to global cooperation and a reform—rather than rejection—of multilateralism. The forum continues to showcase how more equitable, sustainable international investment laws are possible.

IISD also administers global networks sharing climate adaptation solutions and working to advance sustainable development solutions in mining. We continue as a key partner in the multi-country Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform. IISD's Global Subsidies Initiative has been instrumental not only in identifying and eliminating billions of dollars in fossil fuel subsidies, but also in framing low-carbon energy pathways in which public health, good jobs and well-being are being realized.

As we rededicate ourselves to these and other initiatives, we also continue to explore new areas of work, including tracking implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our SDG Knowledge Hub, which launched in early 2017, links global information with community-based action through different streams of knowledge. Over one million subscribers now follow IISD's daily coverage of the SDGs.

The SDGs commit countries, communities and businesses to ambitious, integrated and comprehensive action. One obstacle to holistic action is a focus on GDP as a measure of progress. This year, IISD released the world's first country-level analysis of Comprehensive Wealth, measuring not just income but human and natural capital as well as social and produced capital.

Green finance is another example of our work to unlock a new generation of sustainable infrastructure and procurement. In addition, a renewed focus on gender equity in trade and sustainable markets has assumed a new urgency with rising protectionism.

What we have achieved this year alone is surely something to be proud of, as the highlights in this report attest. For all they do, I remain deeply grateful to everyone at IISD. With their principled commitment, smart creativity and agility in advancing sustainable development, there is no doubt we will continue to innovate and ensure our work is relevant in supporting real change for many decades to come.



*Scott Vaughan, President and CEO*

# About Us

IISD is an independent think tank headquartered in Canada and active around the world. Established in 1990, IISD reports on international negotiations, conducts rigorous research, and engages citizens, businesses and policy-makers on the shared goal of developing sustainably. Our 2014–2019 Strategic Plan builds upon IISD’s core strengths in advancing integrated, multidisciplinary and leading-edge solutions to sustainability. The strategy consolidates different IISD work streams in a focused and integrated manner.

# IISD Programs

## **ECONOMIC LAW & POLICY**

Reform economic policies to advance sustainable and equitable development

## **ENERGY**

Transform energy systems and policies to support universal access to clean, low-carbon energy

## **REPORTING SERVICES**

Provide accurate, neutral, high-quality analysis that informs decision making about multilateral environmental negotiations in order to maximize sustainable development outcomes

## **RESILIENCE**

Build and defend the resilience of communities and ecosystems to face unprecedented risks and uncertainty

## **SDG KNOWLEDGE**

Transform data and information into knowledge that supports sustainable change

## **WATER**

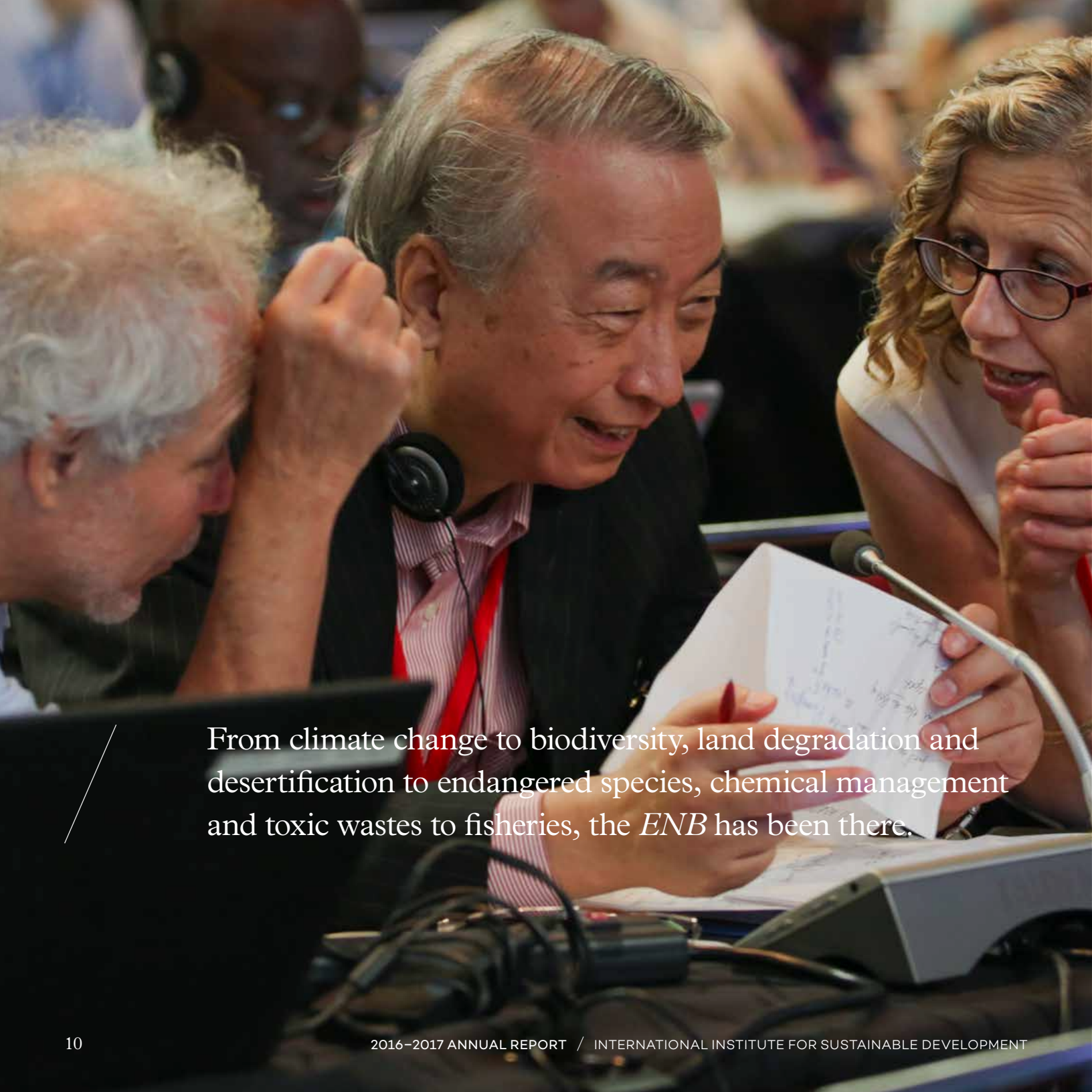
Advance science-based solutions for universal access to water and healthy ecosystems



# 2016-2017 Highlights







From climate change to biodiversity, land degradation and desertification to endangered species, chemical management and toxic wastes to fisheries, the *ENB* has been there.

## REPORTING SERVICES

# Earth Negotiations Bulletin Turns 25

In 2017 IISD Reporting Services celebrates the 25th anniversary of its flagship publication, the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (*ENB*), which has brought openness and transparency to international environment and sustainable development negotiations.

Photo: George Greene, Chair, Council Governance Committee, IUCN; Zhang Xinsheng, President, IUCN; and Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General

The world of negotiations at the United Nations can appear to be many things: inaccessible, daunting, complicated, stodgy. It certainly seemed far more so back in March 1992, when three enterprising individuals rallied to raise funds to provide daily two-page briefing notes for governments during the fourth UN Conference on Environment and Development preparatory meeting at UN Headquarters in New York City.

The resulting publication was the now world-famous and indispensable *ENB*, a daily one-of-a-kind publication that offers unique access behind the scenes of negotiations, workshops and conferences on a variety of subjects in international environment and sustainable development policy and law.

It might be hard to imagine now, but UN negotiations were once much less transparent. The *ENB* set out to challenge that. “The *ENB* was crucial in creating transparency by opening up the doors of multilateral negotiations at the United Nations,” explained Langston James “Kimo” Goree VI, Vice-President, Reporting Services and United Nations Liaison, and one of the founders of the *ENB*. “For the first time, anyone could learn about what was happening during these meetings, in real time and in an accessible format. As a result, everyone can hold their governments accountable on these issues that have a direct impact on the lives and well-being of millions of citizens around the world.”

Now 25 years and 3,784 issues later, the *ENB*, published by IISD Reporting Services since 1993, has become one of the world’s leading up-to-the-minute records of major multilateral negotiations on the environment and sustainable development. From climate change to biodiversity, land degradation and desertification to endangered species, chemical management and toxic wastes to fisheries, the *ENB* has been there.

But don’t just take our word for it. Ask the individuals from all walks of life and levels of government who benefit daily from the unique insider perspectives that the *ENB* provides.

Take delegates from developing countries, for example, who, when entering multilateral negotiations, cannot draw on the informational resources of their developed country peers. That is where the *ENB* comes in. “We are normally handicapped in such situations,” says Zakri Abdul Hamid, PhD, Science Adviser to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. “It is in this context that the *ENB* plays a crucial role in providing an up-to-date, incisive, transparent and objective reporting of all the ongoing sessions of each meeting. It is not only an almost blow-by-blow account but objective and balanced analysis of each issue, controversial or otherwise.”

The *ENB* does not just inform governments: it also ensures that interested citizens, who would never attend a multilateral meeting, understand the decisions that are being made about them that could affect them directly.

“*ENB* makes an invaluable contribution to enhancing public awareness,” said Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. “The *Bulletin* allows all parties, the media, civil society, the private sector and general public to be kept up-to-date on climate change negotiations. *ENB* is a balanced and independent source of information that gives voice to the views of all parties in an impartial manner, including the least developed countries, who often must fight to have their voice heard.”

As impressive as the numbers are, and as vital and extensive as the reach may be, the *ENB* has always been about the people. The writers, editors, photographers, translators and other staff members (270, in fact, throughout the years) who work tirelessly and around the clock at international negotiations around the world are to thank for the *ENB*’s continued success, and for it reaching 25 in such style.



## IISD INVESTMENT FORUM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The [annual forum](#) is a platform for discussing current trends and perspectives aimed at ensuring that the developmental goals and objectives of developing countries are promoted by international, regional and bilateral investment agreements.

In 2007 IISD convened the First Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators, with the aim of creating an opportunity for developing countries to freely consider and develop their own negotiating priorities and goals in relation to international investment treaties. The 10th Annual Forum was held November 7–9, 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

## ECONOMIC LAW AND POLICY PROGRAM

# Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators



*Guest contributor:  
Roslyn Ng'eno, Manager –  
Policy Advocacy, Research,  
Policy Advocacy and Planning Department,  
Kenya Investment Authority (KenInvest)*

Before I encountered IISD, I didn't know what investment agreements were all about. I didn't know that a bilateral investment treaty (BIT) is a double-edged sword that can benefit and harm at the same time, depending on how the articles are negotiated and formulated.

The experiences of other countries show that if just one case goes to a tribunal, Kenya could be required to pay an investor the equivalent of our entire education and health budgets combined. However, BITs help to make the investment climate conducive to attracting much-needed foreign direct investment. Thus, negotiating treaties requires a delicate balance to ensure that we maintain regulatory space to meet national development goals.

Kenya Investment Authority has benefitted immensely from the support of IISD, which has provided technical training and assisted us in developing the Kenya Model Investment Treaty, the East African Community Investment Treaty and the draft Kenya Investment Policy.

IISD is more than just trainers. Their support does not stop when the workshop is over. If I find myself stuck during a negotiation, help is just an e-mail away. When we are negotiating with countries that have a difficult approach to the formulations proposed, especially countries that are more developed than us, colleagues at IISD will send me case law to highlight potential problems and provide an alternative formulation.

This kind of support led to significant improvements in the terms of treaties Kenya negotiated with some critical economic partners.

With financial support from IISD, I have been able to travel to the Annual Forum of Developing Country Investment Negotiators. This has helped develop not only my own capacity, but also the technical skills of my colleagues.

Attending these meetings is not an academic exercise. Some of the reports submitted have led to adoption of changes at the regional level, including a review of COMESA's Common Investment Area Agreement and the development of a draft East African Community cooperation agreement for investment facilitation as an alternative to a BIT for the region to consider. The interactions I had at the 2016 forum contributed to the content of the draft Kenya investment policy.

All of us in Kenya look forward to hosting the 2017 forum. We welcome the IISD community to experience the country's warmth and hospitality.



## SDG KNOWLEDGE PROGRAM

# Introducing the IISD SDG Knowledge Hub

IISD's SDG Knowledge Program ensures that policy-makers, focal points and other stakeholders have access to the most up-to-date knowledge on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a trusted information source: the SDG Knowledge Hub ([sdg.iisd.org](http://sdg.iisd.org)).

The 2030 Agenda was adopted in September 2015 and comprises a Declaration and sections on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership, and Follow-up and Review. It will serve as the overriding framework for domestic and international development over the coming years. The 2030 Agenda is comprehensive and has reinvigorated the sustainable development community, but implementing it will be a complex task. Keeping track of and finding ways to support the implementation efforts of 193 countries and hundreds of intergovernmental and civil society organizations who will assist in this effort will not be easy.

The SDG Knowledge Hub aims to make that job a bit easier. A flagship project of the SDG Knowledge program, it provides policy-makers and practitioners with information, as well as policy and implementation tools, to aid them in delivering the 2030 Agenda. Through this project, IISD researches, writes and publishes news stories, guest articles and policy briefs regarding sustainable development policy and implementation efforts by intergovernmental and national actors. The SDG Knowledge Hub also contains an extensive calendar of SDG-related events. Most importantly, we distribute this information, through newsletters and social media, to a large audience of sustainable development stakeholders to ensure that

participants in SDG decision-making and implementation processes are better informed, and stakeholders are better able to hold their governments accountable for their commitments.

Over 2,000 articles are published on the SDG Knowledge Hub each year and distributed to IISD's extensive list community and social media audiences. In 2015, our knowledge base project received over two million page views per year from readers throughout the world. As a result of this curated, focused flow of information, respondents to our annual survey indicate that the SDG Knowledge Hub contributes to informed stakeholders who are better able to contribute to SDG implementation processes.

## WHAT DO READERS SAY ABOUT THE SDG KNOWLEDGE HUB?

Harro van Asselt, University  
of Eastern Finland and Stockholm  
Environment Institute

IISD's SDG Knowledge Hub offers an unmissable one-stop shop to find the latest news, views and in-depth reflections on the implementation of the SDGs. Understanding interlinkages between the SDGs is an essential prerequisite for their effective implementation. Moving away from the silo approach to environmental issues, the SDG Knowledge Hub brings together information on a variety of interconnected topics, offering policy-makers and other stakeholders insights into the various interlinkages between the global goals. A great resource for sustainable development experts and non-experts alike.

Ayman Cherkaoui, Special Advisor  
for Climate Change and Negotiations  
to the COP22/CMP12/CMA1 Presidency

As Special Advisor for Climate Change and Negotiations to the COP22/CMP12/CMA1 Presidency, I particularly value the SDG Knowledge Hub. It is a world-leading source of timely, reliable and precise information that is critical to disseminate among all. In the Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development, 197 parties to the UNFCCC clearly indicated that “our task now is to rapidly build on that momentum, together, moving forward purposefully to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to foster adaptation efforts, thereby benefiting and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.” The SDG Knowledge Hub is a key enabler of such universal forward momentum to the inclusive benefit of all. With hundreds of news articles, policy briefs and events listings available for each of the SDGs, the SDG Knowledge Hub is at the core of our global plan of action for the people, the planet and prosperity. Interlinkages and interconnections between the SDGs are not only a mental construct, they are a fundamental imperative for success and already a concrete reality. The SDG Knowledge Hub is a lean tool to help evidence that important point.

Rémi Parmentier, The Varda Group

The SDG Knowledge Hub brings much-needed transparency and public engagement, and it provides bridges between New York and the rest of the world (and vice versa)—bridges that would otherwise be missing. Like all IISD products, it is one of the best innovation tools by and for policy practitioners. As someone who does not reside in New York permanently, I don't know how I could operate if it did not exist.



**Michael Bergöö, Policy Advisor**  
Agenda 2030, Biovision

**Konkankoh Joshua Ngwa**

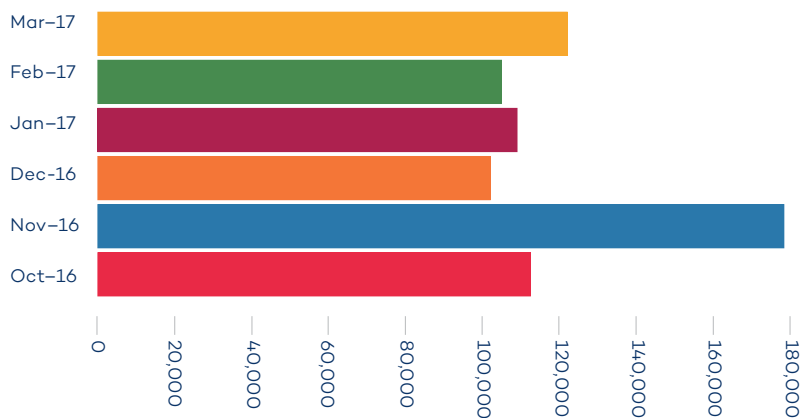
**Patrick Newton, Bondo Executive Director/Main NGOs Representative to the United Nations, South Africa**

The IISD SDG Knowledge Hub has become my go-to platform for information and insights on UN negotiations and conferences. The analyses are always very concise and the reports from negotiation rooms and UN corridors very timely. The SDG Knowledge Hub also frequently highlights the linkages between the SDGs, which is crucial for the achievement of the Agenda 2030. I can warmly recommend everybody working on the implementation of the SDGs to use the resources made available.

The SDG Knowledge Hub helps me in my work as GEN Ambassador, Global Eco Village Network, Cameroon.

The SDG Knowledge Hub ensures that the needs of the most marginalized are brought to the forefront of policy and are recipients of the resources and programs being mobilized under the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and 2030 Agenda, which offers an historic opportunity to eradicate extreme poverty and ensure no one is left behind.

#### SDG KNOWLEDGE HUB – PAGEVIEWS / MONTH



#### PERCENTAGE OF PAGEVIEWS BY REGION (OCTOBER 2016 – MARCH 2017)

GEOGRAPHICAL REGION	SDG KNOWLEDGE HUB
Europe	30%
Americas	32%
Asia	22%
Africa	12%
Oceania	3%



Empowering citizens to learn more about their surroundings and giving them the tools to explore it themselves.

## WATER PROGRAM

# Empowering Citizen Science

The world of freshwater science (limnology), and the world of science more broadly, is often considered one of exclusivity: filled with disciplines that are difficult to understand, take years of work to enter and master, and are concerned with lofty pursuits that do not connect with everyday life.

This is an unfortunate assumption, because science really is the study of everyone and everything. It explores systems, places and beings that are part of everyone's daily existence, and results in findings that can affect us all. That is why there has been a growing movement within the scientific and limnology communities to engage interested citizens in scientific concepts, processes and data collection. This is what we call "citizen science."

Citizen science is particularly necessary when studying expansive watersheds, because there are so many spots across a basin that need to be studied and sampled, not all of which can be reached on a regular basis by researchers themselves. Imagine, therefore, an army of representatives from the public, dotted across a basin, who have basic training in collection methods, and can contribute to a large dataset from their backyard.

Here at IISD, we have been collaborating to champion citizen science for several years, particularly across the Lake Winnipeg watershed. For example, we have partnered with Canadian Geographic Education to engage with schools in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and North Dakota, all of which contain parts of

the Lake Winnipeg basin. Students explore land and water linkages by collecting aquatic and terrestrial data in spots close to them, then send them away to be analyzed and interpreted by larger, established citizen science programs.

At **IISD Experimental Lakes Area** (IISD-ELA) we take a similar hands-on approach, inviting youth and representatives from local communities to visit the site, learn from our researchers and the unique science conducted there, and then return to their communities armed with new skill sets.

Last June we invited youth from Eagle Lake First Nation and Naotkamegwaning First Nation to participate in a four-day interactive field course. In addition to speaking to the scientists and visiting the lakes at IISD-ELA, the young people learned vital skills that they could take back home and implement in their local communities.

"It was a really awesome experience," said Devon Pitchense, one of the young participants from Eagle Lake First Nation. "We learned so many useful skills, such as kicknetting and different methods of lake sampling that, in addition to being fun, I will be able to use back in my community. I also

feel as though I could take the skills I have learned ... and teach them to other people in my community so they could do them too."

Eagle Lake First Nation will soon be putting their newly honed citizen science skills to the test. In partnership with IISD-ELA, they are embarking on a project to test the levels of mercury in their lake.

"Relatively little is currently known about the levels of mercury in Eagle Lake," said Jordan Gardner, Lands & Resource Coordinator of the Eagle Lake First Nation. "We don't know how much our fish or the water itself have been polluted by mercury, and so we are setting off to explore what the makeup of the lake is like, using the citizen science skills we developed at IISD Experimental Lakes Area."

This is what citizen science is all about. Empowering citizens to learn more about their surroundings and giving them the tools to explore it themselves—moving us away from the idea that science is only for scientists, and limnology can only be carried out by limnologists.



IISD highlighted opportunities for financial service providers to adjust existing products to incentivize climate risk management by farmers.

## RESILIENCE PROGRAM

# Private Sector Investments in Climate Risk Management in Uganda

IISD, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda, and the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) partnered to explore the question: how can domestic private sector investments support climate risk management along agricultural value chains in Uganda?

Climate change impacts pose a serious threat to Ugandan livelihoods, with nearly 80 per cent of households involved in agriculture.

Our research shows that climate hazards—especially drought and floods—already have negative impacts on all actors along agricultural value chains, from input suppliers to farmers, processors, transporters and consumers. Service providers such as commercial banks are also negatively affected. We illustrated challenges and opportunities along the value chain through two case studies.

First, we worked with Equator Seeds—a domestic seed company that invests in producing, processing and marketing quality seeds, including climate-resilient varieties.

“We are investing in foundation seeds. We want to ensure we have climate-smart attributes in the seeds,” said Tonny Okello, Managing Director of Equator Seeds. “We are [also] investing in demonstrations so that farmers can see the benefits of climate-smart agriculture.”

Equator Seeds is one example of a small enterprise that already supports climate risk management along value chains by investing in new products and complementary services that reduce the negative impacts of climate change on its suppliers and clients. But to fully

realize the potential of these products and services, value chain actors also need to access affordable finance. Our project helped connect the company with private sector finance that could support their investments.

“When IISD came, they opened my eyes—I can see banks are even willing in some places to participate in [supporting my investments],” Okello said.

One example of such a private sector finance actor is the Centenary Bank, a Ugandan commercial bank that invests in credit and savings services including for agricultural value chain actors.

“For farmers to be sustainable, elements of climate risk management need to be embedded in this [agricultural value] chain,” said Evans Nakhokho, Head of Agricultural Finance at Centenary Bank. “We have about USD 1.5 million that we have lent out to rice-related activities. We are able to finance the entire value chain, basically from farm to fork.”

IISD’s work highlighted opportunities for financial service providers to adjust existing products to incentivize climate risk management by farmers. As a result, the Centenary Bank is now piloting a new scheme that provides preferential interest rates on loans for farmers who buy climate-resilient varieties of seeds and/or who invest in irrigation kits.



## ADVANCING THE PARIS AGENDA

President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement came after the end of our fiscal year, but had been anticipated for months. While we at IISD are deeply disappointed by this ill-informed decision, we are also heartened by the immediate response from other major countries, coalitions of states, cities and businesses all of whom are determined to proceed with climate action. For example, India, the European Union and China have pledged to accelerate their efforts, and Canada will co-host a ministerial summit with China and the European Union in September to advance action on the Paris Agreement. At IISD we will also continue to work across the world—including the United States—and at every level of government to help implement climate action.

## ENERGY PROGRAM

# Climate Insights: A trusted partner

The world of climate policy is changing quickly, and IISD's **Climate Insights** service keeps subscribers up to speed on what is happening and why it matters. For more than 15 years, IISD has been working with Canadian government officials and industry leaders to provide real-time reporting and detailed analysis on major policy developments and how they affect our clients. As these clients come from across the country, the service ensures that the decision makers who work to protect citizens from the effects of climate change are aware of the impact it is having in all parts of the nation.

“One of the real strengths of the program is our roster of experts,” said Climate Insights manager Melissa Harris. “Clients have access to experts who have worked for government and have a detailed understanding of the policy process; experts who have helped develop climate action plans and policies domestically and abroad, as well as experts with first-hand experience in carbon trading, sustainable resource development and clean energy deployment.”

As part of the service, IISD also produces a monthly newsletter rounding up key climate and energy policy announcements and events at the municipal, provincial/territorial, federal, North American and international levels.

Climate Insights keeps track of relevant climate and energy developments at the G7, G20, Arctic Council, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

and many other international forums. As part of the subscription, IISD provides briefings, training and analysis on international climate negotiations, as well as support for client participation in meetings. This enables effective engagement for subnational and private sector partners, and encourages innovative political and business solutions for climate change challenges.

# IISD in Canada: Celebrating Canada's 150 and beyond





This year, Canada marks 150 years since its confederation. A celebration that contains mixed emotions, Canada 150 must afford us an opportunity to pay homage to those First Nations who have lived in this land for generations, to recognize the imperative for reconciliation, and to forge a new path of sustainable development and prosperity for all.

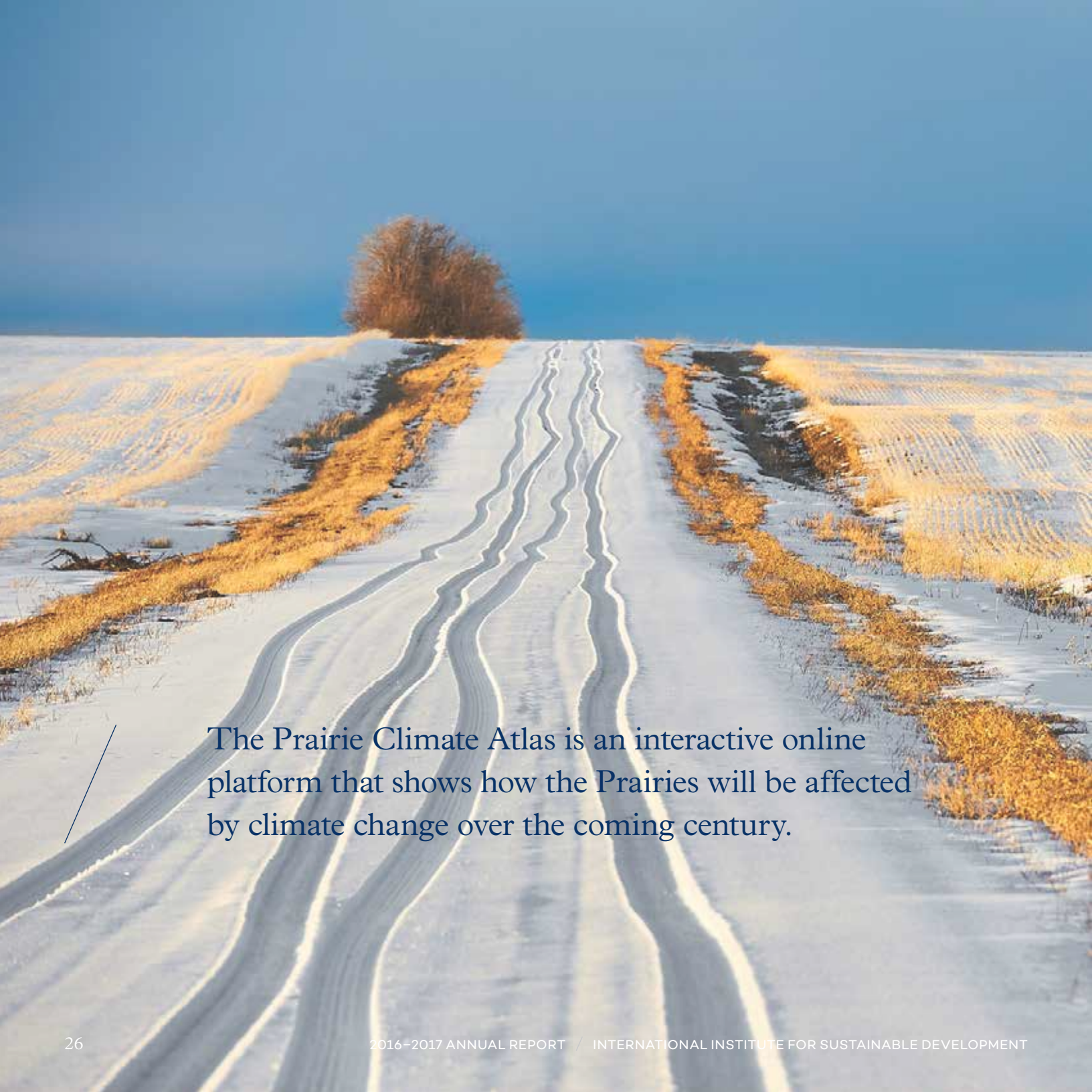
At IISD Experimental Lakes Area, our unique freshwater research station in northwestern Ontario, we have been building relationships with our local First Nations through community engagement and incorporating traditional knowledge into our approach to researching phenomena such as climate change. Indeed, in this 150th year, the onus is on Canada, home of 7 per cent of the world's renewable freshwater supplies, to prove itself as the vanguard of freshwater stewardship.

The battle against climate change anchors much of our work in Canada, from our innovative Prairie Climate Centre—the first centre to bring together expertise and skills to help the Canadian Prairies weather the already evident effects of climate change—to our work advising all levels of government on the most effective forms of climate action, and our crucial role informing the public on questions such as fossil fuel subsidies.

IISD recognizes that these challenges must bring all players to the table, each with their respective expertise, to solve these problems collaboratively. And we must innovate—from how we measure the wealth of our country, to how we experiment on and understand our ecosystems.

As Canada prepares a path for the next 150 years, IISD's role is to ensure that the future is one where our environment is protected and our cultures thrive—a future that is sustainable for all.





The Prairie Climate Atlas is an interactive online platform that shows how the Prairies will be affected by climate change over the coming century.

# Canadian Highlights 2016-2017

## Prairie Climate Centre: Collaboration at work

The **Prairie Climate Centre** (PCC) is a collaboration of the University of Winnipeg and IISD. It works to enable governments, businesses and community members across the Canadian Prairies to reduce their vulnerability to climate variability and change. It does this by acting as an innovative, stakeholder-driven hub for data, guidance, research, knowledge exchange, training and capacity building.

The “Building Climate-Resilient Cities” series of white papers, prepared through a partnership between the cities of Calgary and Edmonton, covers a range of topics including agriculture, transportation, water and disaster risk management—and recommends actions that cities can take to foster climate resilience. The **Prairie Climate Atlas** is an interactive online platform that shows how the Prairies will be affected by climate change over the coming century, in an attempt to make climate change relevant for Canadians in their day-to-day lives.

## Beyond GDP: How to accurately measure wealth in Canada

It is becoming increasingly clear that measuring the wealth of a country by tracking Gross Domestic Product is insufficient. IISD’s **Comprehensive Wealth project**, established by our Knowledge team, encourages Canada to move “beyond GDP” as the fundamental measure of societal progress. It broadens the definition of “wealth” to include natural, human and social capital in addition to produced and financial capital.

If a comprehensive wealth portfolio is growing over time, national development is likely sustainable, and well-being should be stable or increasing. If it is not growing, development is on an unsustainable path and well-being will certainly decline at some point.

When IISD released its findings at the end of 2016, our peers, stakeholders and the media warmly received the innovative approach to measuring wealth, helping to shift the focus toward a more balanced and comprehensive view of what progress really looks like.

## Unpacking Canada’s Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Leading up to its election, the current Canadian government promised to phase out fossil fuel subsidies as part of its approach to climate change—in keeping with a commitment made by the G20 countries.

Keeping the government accountable on this promise, however, is complicated. Subsidies are a notoriously complex topic, with totals that are difficult to calculate and definitions that are easy to obfuscate.

To cut through the noise, the Global Strategic Communications Council collaborated with IISD’s Global Subsidies Initiatives team to simplify and better **explain fossil fuel subsidies**, particularly for advocates and journalists. We explained what fossil fuel subsidies are, what they cost Canadians (CAD 3.3 billion), and what that sum of money could pay for instead (e.g., education, job training, health care).

The public response to this simple approach was incredible. The work influenced civil society and the political discourse in Canada. Organizations cited it when arguing that fossil fuel subsidies undermine carbon pricing in Canada. One organization even bought a full-page newspaper ad reiterating our “social math” as a pressure tactic in advance of the 2017 federal budget.



# Our Team



## IISD STAFF

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# Financials





# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS ON THE SUMMARIZED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

To the Members of the **International Institute for Sustainable Development**

The accompanying summarized consolidated financial statements, which comprise the summarized consolidated statement of financial position, summarized consolidated statements of operations and changes in unrestricted net operating assets and related notes, are derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of the **International Institute for Sustainable Development** for the year ended March 31, 2017. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 26, 2017.

The summarized consolidated financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summarized consolidated financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited consolidated financial statements of the **International Institute for Sustainable Development**.

### **Management's responsibility for the summarized consolidated financial statements**

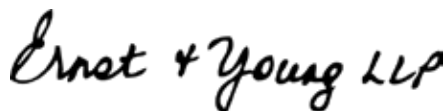
Management is responsible for the preparation of the summarized consolidated financial statements.

### **Auditors' responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarized consolidated financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the summarized consolidated financial statements derived from the audited consolidated financial statements of the **International Institute for Sustainable Development** for the year ended March 31, 2017 are a fair summary of those consolidated financial statements.

The logo for Ernst & Young LLP is written in a black, cursive script font.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Winnipeg, Canada

June 26, 2017

**CONSOLIDATED  
STATEMENT OF  
FINANCIAL POSITION**

*Year ended March 31, 2017*

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	5,602,103	2,618,651
Restricted cash	442,650	315,018
Accounts receivable	18,791,872	18,966,491
Prepaid expenses	293,627	423,850
<b>Total current assets</b>	25,130,252	22,324,010
Accounts receivable	18,836,954	19,706,315
Investments	5,725,525	4,970,754
Capital assets, net	1,159,959	688,309
Intangible assets	25,985	—
<b>Total assets</b>	50,878,675	47,689,388
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,018,193	2,208,274
Deferred contributions	20,322,957	18,670,857
Deferred capital contributions	871,395	405,969
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	23,212,545	21,285,100
Deferred contributions	20,409,916	20,280,736
<b>Total liabilities</b>	43,622,461	41,565,836
Commitments		
<b>Net assets</b>		
Net assets invested in capital assets	288,564	282,339
Reserve for program development	3,249,589	3,249,589
IISD ELA Sustainable Future Fund	750,000	500,000
Remediation fund	442,650	315,018
Unrestricted net operating assets	2,525,411	1,776,606
<b>Total net assets</b>	7,256,214	6,123,552
	50,878,675	47,689,388

**CONSOLIDATED  
STATEMENT OF  
OPERATIONS  
AND CHANGES IN  
UNRESTRICTED NET  
OPERATING ASSETS**

*Year ended March 31, 2017*

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Designated grants	22,973,564	21,745,902
Operating grants	1,124,540	1,124,540
Other	515,493	1,329,259
IISD ELA Sustainable Future Fund	197,360	56,841
Investment income	164,619	83,509
	<b>24,975,576</b>	<b>24,340,051</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Programs		
Economic Law & Policy	5,887,167	4,722,996
Reporting Services	3,987,525	4,697,583
Energy	3,984,328	3,742,440
Experimental Lakes Area	3,223,976	2,894,262
Resilience	1,813,750	1,302,989
SDG Knowledge	1,117,710	856,747
Water	765,673	964,149
China	39,742	792,107
	<b>20,819,871</b>	<b>19,973,273</b>
Corporate and shared services	3,273,043	3,553,590
	<b>24,092,914</b>	<b>23,385,863</b>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	<b>882,662</b>	<b>954,188</b>
Appropriation (from) to unrestricted net operating assets		
Change in net assets invested in remediation fund	(127,632)	(126,841)
Change in net assets invested in capital assets	(6,225)	66,542
<b>Increase in unrestricted net operating assets</b>	<b>748,805</b>	<b>893,889</b>
Unrestricted net operating assets, beginning of year	1,776,606	882,717
<b>Unrestricted net operating assets, end of year</b>	<b>2,525,411</b>	<b>1,776,606</b>

## NOTES ON FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

IISD receives funding from a variety of public and private sources to finance specific projects relating to its strategic objectives. Projects may carry on over more than one year. The related grants are recorded when the funding commitment is made and recognized in revenue as the projects progress. A comparative summary of the consolidated schedule of designated grants committed during the year is as follows:

	FUNDING COMMITMENTS	
	2017 \$000'S	2016 \$000'S
Governments and agencies		
Canada	4,675	22,811
International	15,109	12,006
	19,784	34,817
United Nations agencies	708	1,938
International organizations	1,667	1,144
Philanthropic foundations	2,767	1,286
Private sector and other	1,616	2,589
	26,542	41,774

### Operation Grants

IISD has funding agreements with the Government of Manitoba and the International Development Research Centre ["IDRC"] for six- and five-year periods ending March 31, 2019 and June 30, 2018, respectively. Both of these agreements provide for a blend of operating grants and contributions in support of research that is consistent with the interests and priorities of these funders. In March 2013, the IDRC agreement was amended to extend it for five years and three months to June 30, 2018 for a total of \$5 million over the extension period. In August 2013, the Manitoba agreement was renewed for a further six years for a total of \$6 million over the term of the agreement.

A summary of the operating grant funding is as follows:

	FUNDING COMMITMENT \$000'S	FUNDING RECORDED		FUNDING COMMITMENT REMAINING \$000'S
		2017 \$000'S	PRIOR YEARS \$000'S	
Government of Manitoba	4,347	725	2,174	1,448
International Development Research Centre	2,000	400	1,200	400
<b>Operating grants revenue</b>	<b>6,347</b>	<b>1,125</b>	<b>3,374</b>	<b>1,848</b>

**CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE  
OF DESIGNATED GRANTS  
COMMITTED DURING THE  
CURRENT YEAR**

*Year ended March 31, 2017*

*Expressed in thousands of dollars*

		\$
<b>Government of Canada (and Agencies)</b>		
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)		1,103
International Development Research Centre (IDRC)		625
Natural Resources Canada		163
Environment Canada		105
National Energy Board		40
Federation of Canadian Municipalities		34
Global Affairs Canada (GAC)		22
Employment and Social Development Canada		12
Western Economic Diversification Canada		11
		<b>2,115</b>
<b>Governments of provinces or territories</b>		
Ontario		2,023
Manitoba		339
Quebec		121
Alberta		51
Nunavut		13
Nova Scotia		5
Northwest Territories		4
Yukon		4
		<b>2,560</b>
<b>Governments of other nations</b>		
<b>United States of America</b>		
US Fish and Wildlife Service	13	
Department of State	7,727	7,740
<b>Norway</b>		
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing (MFA)	2,199	
Norwegian Environment Agency	29	2,228
<b>Denmark</b>		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	942	
Danish Embassy	86	1,028



		\$
Switzerland		
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	559	
Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)	135	
The Swiss Confederation	36	730
Saudi Arabia		
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	700	700
Italy		
Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS)	575	575
Sweden		
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)	302	
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	139	
Energimyndigheten	82	523
Germany		
Deutsche Gesellschaft Fur Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	287	
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	179	466
United Kingdom		
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	155	
Department for International Development (DFID)	81	236
Mexico		
Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources	197	197
Finland		
Ministry of Environment	153	153
European Union		
European Union	88	88
France		
Ministry of Ecology	72	
Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Sea	13	85

**CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE  
OF DESIGNATED GRANTS  
COMMITTED DURING THE  
CURRENT YEAR**

*Year ended March 31, 2017*

*Expressed in thousands of dollars*

		\$
Australia		
Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade	70	
Department of Environment and Energy	7	77
New Zealand		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	66	66
Taiwan		
Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office (TECO)	65	65
Monaco		
La Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco	32	
Principality of Monaco	15	47
Hungary		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade	37	37
Austria		
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water	29	29
Japan		
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)	23	23
Belgium		
Directorate-General for Environment (DG Environment)	9	9
India		
Wildlife Institute of India	7	7
		15,109
United Nations [and UN agencies]		
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)		259
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)		186
UN Habitat III Secretariat		117
The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)		55
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)		41
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)		38
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		12
		708

\$

International organizations	
Oil Change International	483
World Bank	232
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	161
United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)	94
OXFAM Hong Kong	86
Adam Smith International	78
Sustainable Development Strategies Group (SDSG)	71
VITO NV	64
World Wildlife Fund (WWF)	56
Chatham House	43
World Business Council for Sustainable Development	29
Expo 2020 Dubai	27
Smart Development Works (SNV) Uganda	25
Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM)	23
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	22
Wildlife Justice Commission	21
Women's Environment & Development Organization (WEDO)	20
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	20
Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)	14
World Business Council for Sustainable Development	14
International Coastal and Ocean Organization (ICO)	12
Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT)	12
Others [under \$10,000]	60
	1,667

**CONSOLIDATED SCHEDULE  
OF DESIGNATED GRANTS  
COMMITTED DURING THE  
CURRENT YEAR**

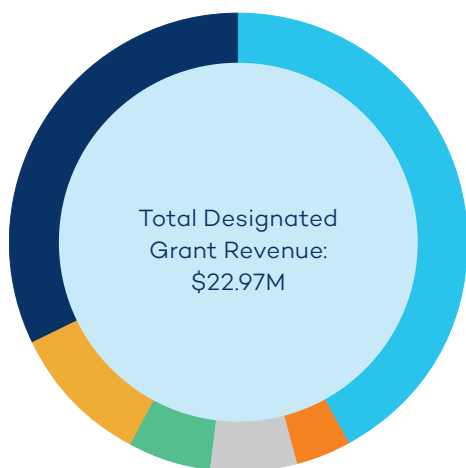
*Year ended March 31, 2017*

*Expressed in thousands of dollars*

	\$
Philanthropic foundations	
Mava Fondation Pour La Nature	1,202
New Venture Fund	376
KR Foundation	250
Open Society Foundation	197
ClimateWorks Foundation	134
Rockefeller Brothers Foundation (RBF)	130
European Climate Foundation	112
RBC Foundation	95
Richardson Foundation	75
Community Foundations of Canada (CFC)	68
United Way	54
TIDES Canada	24
The McLean Foundation	20
The Winnipeg Foundation	15
Lake Winnipeg Foundation	15
	2,767

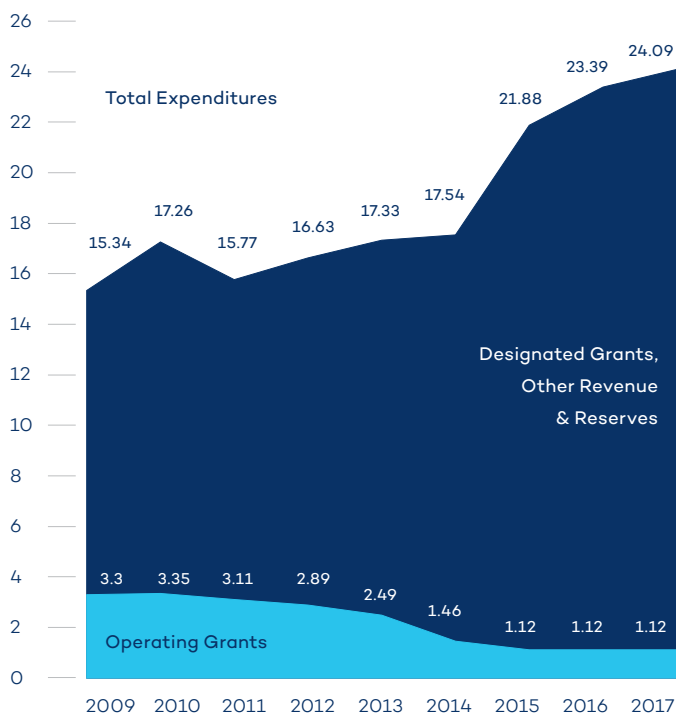
	\$
Private sector and other	
Michael Paterson and Gail Asper	585
Anonymous	250
Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research (IGNSNRR-CAS)	143
Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS)	87
University of Winnipeg	79
Boreal Songbird Initiative (BSI)	78
UT-Batelle, LLC	77
Institute de L'Énergie et de l'Environnement de la Francophonie (IEPF)	60
Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK)	52
GDF Suez Consultancy Services (GDF Suez)	45
Simon Fraser University (SFU)	40
Klynveld Peat Marwick Goerdeler (KPMG)	22
Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)	16
The Nature Conservancy	15
US Fish and Wildlife Service	13
PricewaterhouseCoopers Services Limited	10
Enbridge	10
Others [under \$10,000]	47
	1,616
	26,542

### 2016–2017 DESIGNATED GRANT REVENUE BY DONOR



- Governments & Agencies, International – 42%
- UN Agencies – 4%
- International Organizations – 6%
- Philanthropic Foundations – 6%
- Private Sector/Other – 10%
- Governments & Agencies, Canada – 32%

### 2009–2017 IISD FINANCING TREND (\$ MILLIONS)



“The people I have worked with at IISD think deeply and care passionately about their work. I have always been impressed with the depth of knowledge and professionalism that IISD brings into any project. Couple those attributes with their international experience and perspectives and you’ve got something we all should be thankful for. I’m very glad that IISD is here to help us tackle the complex issues of sustainability.”

*- Curt Hall, Manitoba Eco-Network*



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