



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ABOUT ISF

The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) is a research and consulting organisation at the University of Technology, Sydney. We work with industry, government and the community to help create sustainable futures through research, consultancy and training. Our excellent reputation across Australia and internationally is for innovative, solution-focused interdisciplinary consultancy projects.

We work in a number of different research areas using a variety of approaches. This capability statement outlines our expertise in the field of international development. Capability statements for the other areas we work in are available from our web site.



WHAT WE OFFER

The Institute provides independent research and services for donors, contractors, non-government organisations (NGOs) and other international agencies across five core areas:

- > Development Effectiveness and Monitoring and Evaluation
- > Integrating sustainability
- > Urban planning and city development
- > Water, sanitation and total water cycle management
- > Energy policy and planning

In development effectiveness and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), we conduct robust, independent research and evaluations informed by the latest development practice, theory and sustainability thinking utilising qualitative and quantitative approaches. We offer expertise in conceptualisation of effective performance frameworks and M&E systems, including capacity building for improvement in M&E practice and in organisational learning for development effectiveness.

We see sustainability as an imperative to act to end poverty, to improve social justice and gender equality, and to protect the environment for future generations. Our research services support others to simultaneously address and integrate multiple dimensions of development programs, including cultural, ethical, gender,

institutional, technical, ecological and economic aspects. To this end, we offer robust approaches to analysis, consultation and decision-making about synergies and trade-offs across these dimensions.

In urban planning, we have experience preparing consultative strategic approaches for sustainable, healthy cities and urban development, such as the City Development Strategy methodology used by donors such as Cities Alliance, World Bank and UN-Habitat. We are guiding this methodology's evolution and its integration of sustainability criteria, for example through Strategic Environmental Assessment.

In water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), we are leaders in policy and planning for rural, city, regional and national scales. As a founding member of the Australian Water and Sanitation Reference Group, our research informs best practice WASH promotion in Australia and internationally. With our expertise in integrated resources planning, we are leaders in the design and evaluation of the effectiveness of different approaches in terms of cost-effectiveness, social responsibility and environmental sustainability.

In energy services, we have extensive experience in demand forecasting, promoting sustainable energy policies, and are at the forefront in innovative ways to manage energy demand in municipal, commercial, residential and industrial sectors.

RECENT SUCCESSES

Over the past ten years, ISF staff have been engaged on diverse projects by organisations including bilateral and multilateral agencies, non-government organisations and government agencies in developing countries:

Donors and International Organisations

Australian Development Research Awards – With Can Tho University and Can Tho Water Supply and Sanitation Company, investigate sanitation options for an unserved peri-urban area in Can Tho, southern Vietnam

Australian Development Research Awards – With the International Women's Development Agency assess and integrate strategies for gender quality in WASH approaches in the Pacific and develop indicators for measuring gender outcomes

AusAID – Research NGO partnerships and capacity building in the WASH sector across 10 Southeast Asian and Pacific nations in collaboration with the International WaterCentre.

AusAID – Independent review the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI) People's Survey

AusAID –Independent Completion Report for the Philippines Local Government Development Program

AusAID, Office of Development Effectiveness – Evaluation advice for the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene program evaluation in East Timor and Indonesia

AusAID – Evaluate and conduct quality assurance for the Philippine/Australia Local Sustainability Program

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) – Review progress of City Development Strategies (CDSs) in Vietnam and prepare guidance material for further CDSs in the Mekong Region

United Nations Development Program – Conduct local capacity assessment for planning, budgeting and managing public resources in Vietnam

UN-Habitat – Develop proposal for a City Development Strategy for Than Hoa, Vietnam

Cities Alliance – Evaluate the impact of CDSs globally and develop a monitoring and evaluation framework

Asian Development Bank – Institutional Support for Governance Reform at the national level in Nepal

ILO – Research the implications for industrial relations of the privatisation of utilities in the Asia-Pacific region

World Bank – Prepare City Development Strategies for Halong and Can Tho, Vietnam

International Water Association and WEDC (Loughborough University, UK) – Develop an international demand management framework for use in both developed and developing countries

Non-Government Organisations

CARE Australia – Appraisal, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation planning for the AusAID regional program on Community-Based Approaches to Avian Influenza Risk Reduction and Prevention

Adventist Development Relief Agency – Evaluate the ADRA Laos qualitative participatory monitoring system 'Most Significant Change'.

World Vision Australia – Evaluate the Andean Permaculture Project in Ecuador and Peru using innovative visually-aided dialogic approaches

World Vision Australia, Water Aid Australia – Assess progress toward water and sanitation targets in South East Asia and the Pacific region

AidWatch – Study the impacts of water service delivery privatisation in the Asian region

Government Agencies in Developing Countries

Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Jordan, US AID, Academy for Educational Development – Conduct workshops on innovation in water efficiency including demand forecasting with an end-use basis

Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources in the Sultanate of Oman – Study water resource management and planning for the Salalah Region in the Sultanate

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam – Capacity building for Monitoring and Evaluation



OUR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM



Mick Paddon

Assoc. Professor Paddon leads ISF's international development team. Mick has 25 years experience in urban strategic planning within a development context. He has worked with bodies such as the UN, ILO, World Bank, Swiss Development Agency, AusAID and Public Services International in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly Vietnam and the Philippines.

Juliet Willetts

Dr Willetts is a recognised leading researcher in water, sanitation and hygiene approaches, and as an expert in innovative approaches to evaluating development effectiveness. Her 15 years experience in the sector includes significant work with AusAID, diverse NGOs and consultancies across the Asia-Pacific. She leads and conducts interdisciplinary, outcome-focused research that influences policy and practice and promotes sustainability.

Cynthia Mitchell

Professor Cynthia has supervised aid and development research projects in monitoring and evaluation, socio-technical options for poverty alleviation in Bangladesh, sustainable sanitation for developing Asian countries and ecological principles for community development. Cynthia's practice-based work for change takes principles from her engineering training, overlaid with futures and systems thinking, economics, adult and organisational learning and strategic policy analysis to create change in water, sanitation and the built environment.



Naomi Carrard

Naomi's work focuses on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, sustainable water resources management and development effectiveness. Naomi has qualifications in Geography and Environmental Law and has worked for several years providing research and consultancy services for donor agencies, the private sector and civil society organisations in the Asia-Pacific region. Before joining ISF, Naomi worked as a Research Associate at the University of Sydney's Australian Mekong Resource Centre.

John Glassmire

John has a Masters in mechanical engineering and worked for several years as an engineer in the power industry. He has professional international development experience throughout Latin America: he has been a project manager for a sanitation project in Mexico and engaged as an M&E consultant for installed water systems in rural Honduras.

Andrea Turner

Andrea is a chartered civil engineer with a post graduate degree in environmental engineering from Imperial College, London. Andrea has extensive experience in integrated resources planning having assisted water supply-demand planning in both developed and developing cities. She has provided training workshops at international regional conferences in Jordan, Chile, Egypt and Oman. She has worked with the International Water Association and EU SWITCH to develop guides, training and tools to aid the international water industry in shifting towards more sustainable approaches.



Sally Asker

Sally has aid consulting and delivery experience with donor agencies, national governments and civil society groups throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Sally applies her sustainability communications and social research skills to training and capacity building for evaluation, rapid assessments of attitudes and perceptions, natural resource governance, education for sustainability, and gender issues in community development. Through her work Sally has worked closely with AusAID, the Asian Development Bank, the European Commission and UNESCO in the delivery of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

Ed Langham

Ed is an environmental scientist with experience spanning public, private and research sectors, focusing on the energy sphere of climate change mitigation. In recent years Ed has worked in the International Development field within the Fiji Department of Energy and subsequently with the Samoa electricity utility developing.

Kumi Abeyuriya

Kumi works on range of projects related to decentralised or distributed water, wastewater and energy infrastructure. Her PhD through ISF focused on sustainability for urban sanitation in developing Asian countries. Prior to joining ISF, she worked as a consultant in the New South Wales energy utilities sector with a focus on sustainability-related issues.



BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH ISF

Track record:

We have been conducting project based research for Australian and international clients for a decade and have an excellent reputation for innovative, solution-focused work.

Applying current thinking and practice:

Our researchers are not only up to date with best practice and current thinking - they contribute to it. Their research is published regularly in academic journals as well as industry and scientific publications and the popular media.

Practical and diverse experience:

Our researchers come from varied backgrounds, including: engineering architecture, management, economics, science, social sciences, international studies and political studies. Most have worked in both government and commercial environments, so know how to deliver independent and feasible solutions to suit the needs of a diverse range of clients. We are small enough to offer our clients personalised service and large enough to offer a diversity of research skills.

Collaborative approach:

We seek to create change towards a sustainable future by building capacity in organisations and individuals, and in the broader community. This means that we actively aim to pass on our knowledge and skills to our clients through close collaboration.

WAYS WE CAN HELP

Consulting and research services:

We can provide the research you need to move towards sustainable futures. We provide consulting services under both negotiated and tendered contracts.

Professional advice:

You may need assistance with preliminary work before embarking on a larger project or an external review of an existing program. Our professional advice is available either for an hourly rate or on a package basis.

Partnerships:

We have many ongoing partnerships across a range of technical fields and can coordinate a specialist team to meet your requirements. Our researchers are also available to join new or existing partnerships as needed.

Guest speakers:

We are experienced in communicating complex issues in an accessible and engaging way. Our researchers are often invited to speak at conferences, forums, workshops and seminars. We are also frequently called upon by print, radio and television journalists for expert opinion.

PUBLICATIONS

We are committed to sharing the results of our work in the interests of a more sustainable future for all. Many of our reports, discussion papers, journal articles and conference papers can be downloaded from our website.

CONTACT US

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