

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF)** is a research institute at the University of Technology Sydney that creates change towards sustainable futures by conducting independent project based research for Australian and international clients.

Our researchers come from varied backgrounds, including engineering, architecture, management, economics, science, the social sciences, international studies and political studies. We work in a number of different research areas. This capability statement outlines our expertise in the field of international development.

## WHAT WE OFFER

The Institute is recognised for its research leadership in aid effectiveness and international development to address the global challenges of sustainable and equitable development.

Through research, innovation and partnership we work with government, donors, non-governmental organisations, international agencies and the private sector to address the complex challenges in Asia and the Pacific.

Our award winning projects have earned ISF an international reputation for excellence in interdisciplinary research.

We offer:

- > Academic independence, quality, credibility and rigour combined with a practical, applied approach
- > Research outcomes and latest thinking that are translated into accessible, usable formats
- > Experience working at both strategic and project levels, linking evidence from the field to influence policy
- > Innovation in research approach and methods
- > Leadership in participatory research design
- > Commitment to ethical principles of participation and equity
- > Training, process design, capacity building and facilitation
- > Cross-cultural participatory research experience
- > Links to partnerships with a strong network of local research partners in many countries of Asia-Pacific

We contribute to development theory, policy and practice across six key areas.

### 1) Development effectiveness and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)

We work with clients to develop and innovate their development approach, including M&E systems. ISF leads independent evaluations, and specialises in promoting and evaluating gender outcomes, citizen voice, institutional capacities and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDGs) agenda.

### 2) Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and water security

ISF provides evidence and analysis to support better policy, practice and advocacy in water and sanitation. As a recognised global leader in this area, our thought leadership has led to improved strategic engagement of civil society organisations, sustainable WASH delivery policies, effective roles for private sector and social enterprises and improved attention to gender equality.

### 3) Resilient adaptation to climate change

ISF engages with community, local, national and regional-scale initiatives to improve people's resilience to risks of climate change and disasters. We help shape policies and practices to reduce people's vulnerability to climate change, particularly for the most marginalised communities.

### 4) Sustainable energy policy and planning

ISF specialises in the technical, market, policy, planning and community dimensions of sustainable energy futures. We model future sustainable energy scenarios; engage participation; and assess policies and programs in relation to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and demand management.

### 5) Food security and resource recovery

ISF engages with industry, government and stakeholders to increase the resilience of urban food systems and farmer livelihoods, through the promotion of efficient reuse of resources including managing sustainable phosphorous cycles.

### 6) Urban planning and city development

ISF works with partner governments to prepare strategic plans for sustainable, liveable cities and urban developments that incorporate participation, enhance governance and cross-sectoral coordination.

# ISF: RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## RECENT SUCCESSES

ISF has delivered on diverse projects for bilateral and multilateral agencies, civil society organisations and government agencies in Australia and developing countries. Research projects include:



### **Enterprise in WASH**

Client: DFAT - Australian Development Research Awards  
Year: 2013-2017

Location: Indonesia, Vietnam and Timor-Leste

The research is informing the emerging role of micro, small and medium enterprises in sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services for the poor.

### **Pacific Risk Resilience Programme Evaluation**

Client: United Nations Development Program (UNDP)  
Year: 2016

Location: Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu

Mid-term evaluation of the Pacific Risk Resilience Programme (PRRP) implemented in partnership with four Pacific Island countries to mainstream disaster and climate risk in development.

### **Child and Youth Participation and Development Effectiveness**

Client: ChildFund, Transform Aid, Live and Learn  
Year: 2013-2017

Location: Laos, Nepal, Fiji

This research examines links between child and youth participation and development effectiveness across NGO programs in three countries.

### **Addressing Gender and Equity in Water Safety Planning**

Client: World Health Organisation (WHO)  
Year: 2013 – 2016

Location: Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal

Collaborative research to assess and strengthen practice, outcomes and monitoring of Water Safety Plans (WSPs) in relation to gender equality and inclusion of broader equity considerations in policy and practice.

### **Research into Civil Society Organisations' learning for impact in WASH programming**

Client: DFAT - Civil Society WASH Fund Management Facility/Palladium  
Year: 2016

Location: Australia

Research explored how civil society organisations learn and improve WASH programming to align with evidence-based approaches, including the most effective communication materials, formats and mechanisms.

### **Aid Choices in Decentralised Governance Contexts**

Client: DFAT – Office of Development Effectiveness  
Year: 2012 – 2015

Location: Indonesia, PNG and the Philippines

An assessment of the effectiveness of Australian aid support to service delivery in health, education and infrastructure in contexts where subnational authorities have significant roles in service delivery.

### **Climate Change Adaptation in the Philippines: Children and their Communities**

Client: Plan International Australia  
Year: 2012 – 2014

Location: Philippines

ISF was the research partner on this collaborative community-based and child-focused project, and developed community-defined indicators for use in the monitoring and evaluation framework. The project has a focus on building knowledge and capacity among affected communities and local government partners.



## OUR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM

### Associate Professor Juliet Willetts

Juliet leads ISF's work in international development. She is a recognised expert in water, sanitation and hygiene, and also has depth of experience in civil society roles, gender equality, governance and development effectiveness. Her 20 years' experience in the sector includes work with DFAT, NGOs, UN agencies, multilateral agencies and universities across the Asia-Pacific.

### Dr Keren Winterford

Keren has extensive experience in international development within the NGO, consultancy and research sectors. She has worked in more than 20 countries globally. Her areas of expertise include community development, participation, local level advocacy and citizen participation, training and facilitation, design, monitoring and evaluation.

### 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 specific experience working at the interface of the private sector and civil society organisations in the Asia-Pacific region.

### Melita Grant

Melita has worked for over 15 years' in government and the not-for-profit sectors and is an experienced practitioner, researcher and ministerial advisor. She has expertise in water governance and policy analysis with a focus on equity and inclusion and has applied this in Australian and international development contexts.

### Janina Murta

With a background in environmental engineering and a master's degree in integrated water management, Janina has both the strong technical and qualitative research skills needed to investigate complex cross-disciplinary challenges in the development sector.

### Joanne Chong

Joanne is an environmental economist and policy analyst with experience designing, monitoring and evaluating sustainability and environmental management policies, programmes and projects. Jo works across the areas of urban water, climate change adaptation, international development, ecosystem services, and wetland, catchment and river basin management.

### Anna Gero

Anna manages ISF projects which focus on the intersection between climate change adaptation, disaster risk management and development in the Asia-Pacific region. Anna's contribution to International Development research is underpinned by strong intercultural skills and a keen willingness to ensure research informs policy and practice.

### Dr Tim Foster

Tim is a water and sanitation specialist with extensive experience as a researcher and practitioner across sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Indigenous Australia. He has a strong track record of designing, implementing and evaluating projects in partnership with donor agencies, NGOs, governments, and academic institutions.

### Freya Mills

Freya is a specialist in water and sanitation, with a career that spans multilateral development banks, non-government organisations (NGOs), research institutes and private consulting firms. She is a civil engineer with Masters in Water Resource Engineering and Management and is experienced in design, research, evaluation and analysis of water and sanitation projects with focus on improving urban sanitation for low income communities.

### Dr Kumi Abeysuriya

Kumi works on projects to influence policy related to decentralised water, sanitation and energy. Her PhD focused on improving the sustainability of urban sanitation in developing Asian countries. Kumi's previous training as a physicist and within the electricity industry gives her a good technical understanding of both water and energy systems.



### Caitlin Leahy

Caitlin specializes in working in cross-cultural contexts in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. She has recently worked for 3 years in Timor-Leste leading and mentoring local researchers to undertake participatory action research on issues of conflict, resilience, social inclusion, gender and corruption.

### Ed Langham

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

### Dr Dana Cordell

Dr Cordell leads and undertakes international and Australian research projects on sustainable food and resource futures. Dr Cordell leads the collaborative P-FUTURES project across Australia, Vietnam, Malawi and the U.S which aims to identify how urban food systems can cope or transform in response to the emerging global phosphorus challenge.

### Professor Cynthia Mitchell

Professor Cynthia Mitchell is a leading researcher and thinker with broad experience in future-oriented city and water planning, policy and assessment. In international development, her research focuses on determining which new technologies and institutional/financial/economic arrangements will deliver desired outcomes in both the short and long term.

THINK.  
CHANGE.  
DO

UTS:ISF  
INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES



INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

ISF: RESEARCH

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

## HIGHER DEGREE RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Institute for Sustainable Futures offers an award-winning higher degree research program for Masters, Doctoral and Post-Doctoral research students. Our students work at the leading edge of complex international development and human rights issues related to our six areas of research (see overleaf), supervised by experienced interdisciplinary researchers.

Further information about the Postgraduate Program can be found at [www.isf.uts.edu.au](http://www.isf.uts.edu.au)

## OUR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORK PRINCIPLES

ISF undertakes quality research for development agencies and provides higher-degree research education in international development. All our work is underpinned by the following principles:

- > Focus on ethics, poverty reduction, social justice and environmental sustainability
- > Work in value-based equitable partnerships
- > Ensure capacity building underpins all our work
- > Bridge theory, policy and practice to create change
- > Futures focus which aligns short-term interventions with long-term sustainability
- > Use interdisciplinary research approaches that draw on diverse disciplines and local knowledge



## CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

*"ISF was deeply invested in the success of our project. The staff were kind, helpful, professional, and worked collaboratively with our partners to ensure that the project outputs were owned by all stakeholders"*

Australian Council for International Development, 2013

*"It is very important research... it should be used in policies and actions at the local level [in Viet Nam]. I very much agree all findings and the recommendations of this research"* The Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development Vice Minister Hoàng Van Thang, Viet Nam, 2015

## CONTACT US

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