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 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 policymakers, donors, non-governmental organisations, the private sector and communities to address complex socio-economic, institutional and environmental global development challenges.

Committed to ethical principles of participation and equity, we provide knowledge and know-how to support technical, economic, environmental and social sustainability across both urban and rural contexts.

Our award winning projects have earned ISF an international reputation for excellence in interdisciplinary research. We pair superior project delivery with a solid record in communicating outcomes in an accessible and engaging way.

ISF contributes to development theory, policy and practice across five key areas:

**Development effectiveness and monitoring and evaluation (M&E)**  
Working directly with clients to develop, undertake and innovate M&E systems, ISF builds partner capacity while supporting improvements in aid modalities, program design and development approaches. ISF also frequently leads independent evaluations.

**Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)**  
ISF provides evidence and analysis to support better WASH policy, advocacy and practice. Our thought leadership has resulted in more strategic engagement of civil society organisations, policy and institutional development that supports sustainable water and sanitation services, effective roles for enterprise and improved attention to gender equality. ISF is a key actor internationally in this sector and a partner in Sanitation and Water for All.

**Climate change adaptation (CCA) and mitigation**  
ISF engages with community, regional and national-scale climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives to develop and incorporate climate change policies into planning and implementation instruments. ISF has worked extensively on the international development aspects of CCA and disaster risk management at both policy and practice level, including with communities on resilience building activities.

**Energy policy and planning**  
ISF specialises in the application of Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) principles based on consideration of demand and supply side options to the engineering, economics and politics of de-carbonising electricity supply.

**Urban planning and city development**  
ISF works with partner governments to prepare strategic plans for sustainable cities and urban developments that incorporate participation, enhance governance capacity and encourage cross-sectoral coordination.
RECENT SUCCESSES

Over the past ten years, ISF staff have been engaged on diverse projects for organisations including bilateral and multilateral agencies, non-government organisations and government agencies in Australia and developing countries. ISF has also worked on award winning research grants, contributing to learning in the international development sector.

Enterprise in WASH
Location: Indonesia, Vietnam and Timor-Leste
Client: AusAID - Australian Development Research Awards
Year: 2013-2016
Outcomes: This research provides insight into the role of private and social enterprise in water and sanitation services for the poor, and how such roles are best supported.

Disaster Response and Climate Change in the Pacific
Location: Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu
Client: National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF)
Year: 2012-2013
Outcomes: This research contributed to the latest thinking and best practice on climate change impacts on adaptive capacity in responding to disasters in the Pacific.

Governance for Decentralised Sanitation
Location: Indonesia, Vietnam
Client: AusAID - Australian Development Research Awards
Year: 2013-2015
Outcomes: This research engages with the question of how to enable effective governance and management for decentralised sanitation service delivery in poor urban areas.

Aid Choices in Decentralised Contexts
Location: Indonesia, PNG and the Philippines
Client: AusAID – Office of Development Effectiveness
Year: 2013
Outcomes: An assessment of the effectiveness of Australia support to service delivery in health, education and infrastructure in contexts where subnational authorities have significant roles in service delivery.

Local-level indicators of climate change adaptation in the Philippines
Location: Philippines
Client: Plan International Australia
Year: 2012-2014
Outcomes: Research focused on child- and community-identified indicators, drawing on the evidence base generated from Plan and Save the Children’s child-centred, community based climate change adaptation project in the Philippines.

Equity in water safety planning
Location: Philippines, Bangladesh and Nepal
Client: World Health Organization (WHO)
Year: 2013
Outcomes: The equity analysis strengthens water safety planning processes, guidance materials and practices to meaningfully address gender and equity considerations.

Cost-effectiveness and sustainability of sanitation options for Can Tho
Location: Vietnam
Client: AusAID Australian Development Research Awards
Year: 2009-2011
Outcomes: The innovative decision-making tools to guide sanitation infrastructure investments received the 2011 International Water Association Project Innovation Award.

Monitoring Review Panel for the AusAID Civil Society WASH Fund
Location: Australia and in-country components: Bangladesh, Vietnam and Nepal
Client: AusAID
Year: 2010-2012
Outcomes: Independent review and capacity building support to improve the practice and outcomes of work undertaken under this large-scale fund.

Strengths-based development approaches
Location: Solomon Islands
Client: AusAID-Solomon Islands NGO Partnership (SINPA)
Year: 2011 and 2013
Outcomes: Improved use of strengths-based approaches, participation and accountability based on participatory research and analysis.
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, governance and development effectiveness. Her 20 years' experience in the sector includes work with AusAID, NGOs and consultancies across the Asia-Pacific. She leads and conducts interdisciplinary, outcome-focused research that influences policy and practice and promotes sustainability.

Professor Cynthia Mitchell
Cynthia’s expertise in development research spans WASH, Monitoring and Evaluation, community development, and institutional, economic and policy analysis across the Asia-Pacific region. Her extensive experience in taking a collaborative, transdisciplinary approach has been recognised with local, national and international awards. Moreover, it means her work finds the right balance between rigour (so the work makes a difference) and relevance (so the difference it makes is useful).

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 at the University of Sydney’s Australian Mekong Resource Centre.

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. Jo previously worked for the Australian Government Department of Environment and Heritage and has volunteered and consulted for IUCN –The World Conservation Union.

Anna Gero
Anna joined ISF in 2011 and works across the Institute’s Climate Change Adaptation and International Development research areas. 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.

Katie Ross
Katie works predominantly on projects promoting social and technical system transformation. Her research seeks to strengthen the long-term performance of decentralised sanitation in Indonesia, and improve equity consideration in technical processes such as Water Safety Planning in South East Asia and the Western Pacific. Katie is also leading a team to develop innovative ways to design and evaluate water demand programs in remote indigenous communities.

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 in the International Development field within the Fiji Department of Energy and with the Samoa electricity utility.

Janina Murta
Janina is a Research Consultant at the Institute for Sustainable Futures with five years’ experience in environmental consultancy and research. With a background in environmental engineering and a master’s degree in integrated water management, she has both the strong technical and qualitative research skills needed to investigate complex cross-disciplinary challenges in the development sector.
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 approach 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).

CONTACT US

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