



Society for International Development
Washington Chapter



FY 2019

ANNUAL REPORT

Environment & Sustainability Workgroup

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ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY WORKGROUP

The SID-Washington (SID-W) Environment & Sustainability Workgroup is a set of diverse individuals and constituencies with a common interest and engagement in promoting and enhancing development that is sustainable and environmentally sound. This workgroup intends to explore policy, programmatic, and practical issues impacting sustainability and the environment. Topics and events include risk management and development, constraints to the adoption of environmentally-sound techniques, how markets and states impact sustainability, integrating humanitarian and development approaches, and many more.



Dear Members of the Environment & Sustainability Workgroup,

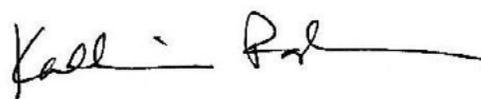
We are happy to report that we had another exciting year! As we reflect on last year, the workgroup produced several great events, ranging from [What's art got to do with it? Art, Environment, and Sustainability](#) to [Where's the New Frontier in Sanitation Service Provision?](#)

We are currently working on events for FY2020, so stay tuned for more information! We look forward to providing SID-Washington's spin on the environment and sustainability issues in international development.

Lastly, we would like to thank outgoing Co-Chair Jon Anderson. He helped us put on many fantastic events during his tenure. We wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the workgroups. We hope to see you at future SID-Washington events! If you any questions, please feel free to send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,



Katherine Raphaelson



Paul A. Sherman





Jon Anderson

Consultant,
Rural Development

Jon Anderson is a liberation ecologist intent on empowering the impoverished through expanding their bundle of rights over resources, making markets work better, and linking to technical solutions and problem-solving. He has worked for years on the linkages between nature, wealth and power in developing countries – he oversaw the creation of the Nature, Wealth, and Power framework, which he continues to evaluate, review, and adapt by incorporating lessons learned from more than 20 years of natural resource-based development, especially in rural Africa. He served with the Millennium Challenge Corporation as Resident Country Director for Mali for five years and has taught at both Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs. One of his favorite biological processes is fermentation.



Amy Gambrill

Senior Specialist,
Environmental Incentives

Amy is a Senior Specialist for Environmental Incentives, bringing nearly 25 years of experience in international environmental development and domestic water protection. Amy has spent the past 10 years supporting USAID’s water, forestry and biodiversity, energy, climate change, and engineering programs. Previously, she worked in two national parks – Gorongosa National Park in central Mozambique and the Eastern High Atlas National Park in Morocco. Amy also has experience at EPA’s Office of Water, working to curb polluted runoff and develop watershed protection plans. Amy holds a Masters in Environmental Sciences and Policy from Johns Hopkins University.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 22, 2018

12:00PM - 2:00PM | SID-Washington

What's art got to do with it? Art, Environment, and Sustainability

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

4:00PM - 5:30PM | SID-Washington

Where's the New Frontier in Sanitation Service Provision?

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

12:00PM - 2:00PM | SID-Washington

Humor in International Development



What's art got to do with it? Art, Environment, and Sustainability

Moderator: **Jerri A. Husch, PhD**, President, 2Collaborate Consulting

Speakers: **Mark Cooley**, Professor, George Mason University
Patrick Kabanda, Author, *The Creative Wealth of Nations: Can the Arts Promote Development?*
Alice Quatrochi, Artist, Environmentalist

Event Description: If the environmental challenges we are facing are largely the product of culture, then culture must be part of the response. We had a presentation and discussion of the relationship between art, music, environment and sustainability, and the concept of eco-art. How does art inform the science of sustainability? How is art essential to the empathy, involvement and activism necessary to understand and care for our planet?

Key Takeaways

1) Art can change behaviour in support of social causes, such as improving ecology and environmental protection-

Patrick Kabanda (Author) stated that economists do not always have the right solutions to social problems because they cannot entirely change habits or behavior. On the other hand, art can facilitate changes in habits and conceptions of beauty. In Paraguay, children built musical instruments from trash because they could not afford to buy ready-made instruments. These children, known as the Recycled Orchestra, helped alter the perception of trash from objects that belong in landfills to useful items that can be reused. Similarly, **Mark Cooley (George Mason University)** discussed eco art, or artists working with green materials to move out of the political and social confines of traditional gallery space. He provided the example of eco-artist Alan Sonfist who installed art projects in cities using native vegetation, causing more cities to plant trees and become more ecologically functional.

2) Science and art can collaborate to achieve global environmental goals

Science and art do not necessarily have to be incompatible. As Cooley described, in the 1990s, artist-turned-architect Friedensreich Hundertwasser built beautiful green buildings worldwide, including ones with diverse ecosystems on the roofs. He sought to integrate his buildings ecologically with the surrounding landscape to avoid excessively disturbing the environment. In Northern Virginia, **Alice Quatrochi (Artist)** supports initiatives to use native plants in beautiful wildlife corridors and more practically as devices for enhanced water drainage.

3) Art brings an interdisciplinary approach to international development issues

Ms. Quatrochi explained that scientists and economists often

claim to have only one true answer to a problem; however, art provides alternative ways to express ideas, allowing individuals to see themselves as more than consumer units and to gain other perspectives. Similarly, **Jerri A. Husch, PhD (2Collaborate Consulting)** argued that in typical cost-benefit analysis, the benefit is usually informed too much by economic cost and not enough by social impact. Mr. Kabanda advocated for challenging cost-benefit analyses in meetings and remembering that international development is not just about economics and growth. Art provides another vehicle to articulate intangible forms of value that economics struggles to explain.

4) Artists can raise interest in and awareness of complex issues

Whereas science and data can often be too dense for the average individual, art tends to appeal to people. For example, Ms. Quatrochi used cable wire to create a sculpture of the hippocampus, a part of the brain that might not usually fascinate people. However, to attract people, she added glass beads and copper wire, making the model more beautiful and generating more attention. On a global level, Professor Cooley discussed one of Vik Muniz's most famous projects. Muniz constructed portraits of the workers at one of the world's largest landfills in Rio de Janeiro out of trash and then took aerial photographs of the artwork. Bringing the photographs to London, Muniz auctioned off said photographs and gave the proceeds back to the community near the landfill. This artistic venture brought increased media attention to the issues surrounding landfills and the workers.

Where's the New Frontier in Sanitation Service Provision?

Moderator: **Judith Hermanson**, President and CEO, IHC Global

Speakers: **Michael Blair**, Associate Program Manager, AECOM
Rebecca Gilsdorf, Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist in the World Bank's Water Global Practice, World Bank
Joel Kolker, Program Manager of the Global Water Security and Sanitation Partnership (GWSP), World Bank
Eddy Perez, Technical Director, WASH and the Health, Global Communities
Ruthie Rosenberg, Director of Citywise Advisory Services, Sanergy
John Sauer, Senior Technical Advisor, WASH, Population Services International (PSI)

Event Description: Every year, the U.N. calls for increased awareness to address the challenges associated with sanitation services delivery through its World Toilet Day. In 2018, World Toilet Day takes on the theme of "When Nature Calls" and seeks to convey progress toward meeting the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG), Target 6.2 - ensuring access to basic sanitation services for all. A staggering 4.5 billion people do not have access to a safe toilet and 62.5% of the global population do not have access to safe sanitation.

Since 1990, the number of people gaining access to improved and safely-managed sanitation has risen from 54% to 68%. However as the urban population grows, cities are struggling to deliver safely-managed sanitation services. In rural areas, access to sanitation facilities has contributed to ending open defecation, but other factors affect open defecation-free conditions such as high maintenance and repair costs of latrines, poor latrine quality, and inconsistent facilitation and monitoring. There are, however, increasing opportunities for disruption to allow 'leapfrog' moments that rapidly increase access to safely-managed sanitation services through technology, software approaches and the economic value proposition of the sanitation management chain.

Through a moderated panel discussion, this event sought to convey lessons learned around sanitation services delivery, in both urban and rural areas, and recognize how technological/non-technological innovations and a circular economy approach may close the gap to meet SDG 6.2. The panel discussion provided an overview of approaches that have worked, share field-based experiences, highlight ongoing technical solutions and policy lessons to deliver sanitation services, and identify opportunities for valuing by-products from effective sanitation treatment processes.

This event was followed by a reception sponsored by AECOM and IHC Global.

This was a joint event with the Infrastructure & Urban Development Workgroup

Key Takeaways

1) Sanitation affects many international development sectors; thus, sanitation interventions require a holistic approach

Joel Kolker (World Bank) explained that water is interconnected with many of the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and works across multiple sectors, such as the environment, health, education, and economic development. As a result, international development actors must examine and address the entire sanitation supply chain, including housing, solid waste, and drainage. **Michael Blair (AECOM)** discussed that the remoteness of rural communities in Ethiopia compounded sanitation issues because they were so disconnected from infrastructure and resources. Similarly, **Rebecca Gilsdorf (World Bank)** added that local water utility actors and municipalities must communicate better about their work because their work affects one another.

2) Changing community norms matter in sanitation interventions

Eddy Perez (Global Communities) argued that the power of behavior change and social norms is often underestimated. While providing access to sanitation is a necessary step, educating trainers and educating the community ensures that individuals use the new sanitation resources and services. For example, to truly improve sanitation, communities should perceive it as wrong for anyone to dump waste into freshwater sources. Mr. Blair described the focus on increasing demand for sanitation products and services in AECOM's rural sanitation work in Ethiopia. The interventions included the training of rainers, hygiene promotion, and other awareness-raising programs to help change individuals' outlook on hygiene and sanitation so that they use the available products and services

EVENT SUMMARIES

3) Because of high private-sector engagement in sanitation services, finding new sources of local financing is vital to address the whole sanitation economy.

Ruthie Rosenberg (Sanergy) explained that while people might have toilets in Nairobi, Kenya about 60% of the waste is never treated. Therefore, in Nairobi, Sanergy incorporates a full-value-chain approach, selling “Fresh Life” toilets that are hygienic and easy-to-use, and Sanergy collects and treats all the waste. The sanitation plants use personal protective equipment and community-based organization support for the emptiers, which further grows the sanitation economy. Mr. Sauer highlighted the untapped market potential in many of these countries that lack formal sanitation services. For example, in Vietnam, Population Services International (PSI) partnered with ROTO tank manufacturer to increase the use of septic tanks in home. However, Mr. Sauer argued that PSI could have possibly diverted more resources to convince ROTO to invest more in rural markets and expand even further.

4) Using market-based approaches and engaging the private sector are necessary to address supply-side issues in nutrition

Ms. Gilsdorf explained that a holistic approach to sanitation must address the enabling environment in the different regional areas,

which includes regulation, policy, and funding. Because the private sector provides most of the sanitation services in certain countries, governments must be able to regulate the sanitation provision and ensure that they meet specified criteria. For example, in Ethiopia, the government requires waste emptiers to meet a certain level of quality to dump at treatment plants. Sauer provided an example of a funding issue that affects the enabling environment: in India, consumers do not have access to sanitation finance because of the high costs for microfinance institutions to offer sanitation loans. While addressing this market failure of sanitation loans is important, Mr. Sauer emphasized that international development actors must address all the market failures, not just one at a time.





For more information, contact us at events@sidw.org.

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