

Sustainability Challenge Foundation

Our Mission and Services





In a new era of global agreements on sustainable development and climate change, the question remains:

How can we advance economic growth, environmental protection, and demographic participation without being paralyzed by conflict?

To resolve conflict and create solutions, we need unprecedented forms of negotiation and collaboration at every level—from local to global—that can harmonize the varied interests of government and the private sector, science and society, and wealth and poverty.

SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE FOUNDATION (SCF)

offers a suite of dynamic, high-impact services on conflict resolution and consensus building that assist practitioners in creating and implementing sustainable, just, and effective strategies for confronting these issues.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



13 CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



15 LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Why Us? Power and Participation in Sustainability

Our planet is under multiple pressures. In an increasingly globalized and interconnected world, it is no longer possible to make economic and environmental decisions without engaging stakeholders and advocating for many different interests.

Governments, development agencies, donors, and private-sector actors are increasingly aware of the socio-

political and economic complexities embedded in economic and natural resource management. There is overwhelming evidence that sustainability is not only an environmental and economic challenge, but also a challenge of power, where poverty, identity, gender, and politics influence the voice of stakeholders. In contexts of competing or conflicting interests, it is often the case that power overrides participation, resulting in unsustainable outcomes, characterized by further disadvantages to vulnerable communities.


Within this complex global setting, the needs of a growing number of people fleeing from natural and conflict disasters must also be considered. With a global community of 65.3 million displaced—one in every 113 people—migrant communities and their interests must be factored into development strategies. Concurrently, the particular burdens faced in asylum hotspots of the severe competition for resources can lead to hostile environments for migrants.

In order for the concept of sustainability to succeed in its mandate of inclusive, pro-poor growth, it is critical that actors be equipped with the necessary skills to balance and integrate the interests of a wide range of local and global stakeholders.


SCF is the only international not-for-profit organization of its kind. Our mission is to build and strengthen the negotiation and diplomacy skills required to create meaningful solutions in the realm of global sustainable development, with a particular focus on improving the sustainability of policies and projects targeting climate change, biodiversity and biosafety, forests, environment and trade, food security, and water.

Based in the Netherlands, SCF hosts a core team of technical experts in negotiation and consensus building for sustainable development and an extensive global network of advisors, who have been trained through our programs in negotiation and diplomacy. Our services are enhanced by our vast intellectual and practical-oriented personnel resources from partner organizations, including internationally esteemed academic institutions, organizations, businesses, and research bodies.

Challenges We Face




More than **50 countries** on five continents face water disputes **unless agreements are negotiated.**




40% of interstate conflicts linked to **natural resource scarcity** since 1960.

That link **doubles the risk** of relapsed conflict within **five years.**



Every minute the global population **rises by 145 people.**

In 1800, **2%** of the world's population **lived in cities.** Today, **that figure is 50%.** Every week, through a combination of migration and childbirth, urban populations **increase by about 1.5 million people.**



3.5 billion people live in oil, gas and mineral rich countries.

75% are among the world's **most fragile countries.**

In Africa alone, this amounts to an export value of **US\$216 billion worth of fuel.**

What We Offer

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATION AND DIPLOMACY

SCF offers three inter-connected services that can be delivered individually or as a package. These services build and enhance the essential skills for sustainable development, particularly the following core capacities:

Capacity Building / Building and strengthening negotiation and diplomacy skills.

Technical Advice / Designing and implementing development policies and projects applying the Mutual Gains Approach

South-South Cooperation / Exchange of knowledge and experience on shared regional/sub-regional challenges and solutions



SCF programs are aimed at integrating a diverse range of stakeholder interests—including vulnerable communities—into public, private, and non-profit sector development projects.

SCF programs are synergistic with international cooperative commitments, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. SCF recognizes the ambitious intentions of these agreements and the related challenges associated with accomplishing the goals they contemplate.

These services build and enhance the essential skills for sustainable development, particularly the following core capacities:

Assessing the underlying causes of development and conservation disputes and conflicts;

Identifying the interests (not positions) of multiple stakeholders with diverse interests;

Creating “mutual gains” solutions;

Building multi-stakeholder consensuses on innovative solutions through the Mutual Gains Approach to negotiation; and

Ensuring “robust” agreements by including joint monitoring provisions and contingency plans.

How We Offer Our Services

CAPACITY BUILDING

SCF offers three cross-sectoral training programs that develop the capacities of leaders to sustainably and justly manage sustainable development. Capacity building

programs are designed to develop the skills and techniques necessary to convene diverse stakeholders, identify shared and complementary interests and values, and create mutually beneficial solutions.

Because our capacity building programs cultivate the foundational skills for negotiation and diplomacy, they are relevant to actors in a wide range of sectors. Thus, drawing from our substantial network of esteemed experts, we offer capacity building services to all development organizations and institutions interested in inclusive decision making for sustainable development.

Our capacity building offerings incorporate the following diverse learning methods to benefit participants from diverse technical and practical backgrounds:

Learning Methods	What	How	Benefits
Presentation	Conducted by a network of esteemed faculty from partner universities, including, MIT, Tufts, Tilburg, and Wageningen on a wide range of interrelated topics.	From a theoretical and evidence-based lens, faculty review the challenges inherent in balancing the legal, economic, environmental, and social goals for sustainable development. Also focus on the theory and practice of the mutual gains approach for building consensus in multi-stakeholder and interdependent areas.	Develop participant skills in employing context-specific tools and techniques, including, among others, stakeholder assessment and joint fact finding (impact and risk assessments, cost-benefit analyses, and interactive modeling).
Simulations	Worlds away from traditional lectures, our simulations focus on active learning through the use of interactive tools and exercises.	Challenge participants to apply the mutual gains approach in multi-stakeholder simulations.	Test and strengthen skills in negotiation through practical exercises that highlight the importance of process, dialogue, and stakeholder participation.
Case Clinics	Interactive forum where participants test their skills at applying fundamental negotiation and diplomacy principles and strategies to their own on-going work.	Applying learnings to participant's own situations.	Enhances skills and develops practical, context-specific steps and solutions that participants can use to improve sustainable development management within their own countries and organizations.

Ongoing Support: Once the training is complete, SCF continues to provide its clients with year round access to its network of faculty and subject matter experts for ongoing support in applying learned skills.

SCF employs these techniques within its three core sustainability management training programs outlined below.

1

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY (IPMS)

IPMS was created to assist professionals and leaders around the world in meeting the central challenge

of sustainable development: overcoming disagreement on how to balance economic, environmental, and social priorities. IPMS does this by developing and strengthening the skills of its participants. At the core of IPMS are three vital skill sets: Mutual Gains negotiation, multi-stakeholder consensus building, and multi-disciplinary analysis of sustainable development issues. With these skills and the support of the SCF curriculum, our participants are empowered to create, and build consensus around, innovative solutions that simultaneously sustain people, the planet, and shared prosperity.

IPMS is tailored to the proficiency requirements of senior and mid-career level officials whose positions necessitate a sound understanding of stakeholder engagement and diplomacy in negotiating sustainability; as such, the seminar is a relevant capacity building opportunity for senior officials from public, private, and non-profit sectors, including, scientists, civil servants, NGO leaders, politicians, and business executives. In addition to the skills that they develop through the program, the SCF learning environment also gives participants opportunities to learn from and build networks with each other.

AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

.....
Understand how demonstrating a stronger and applicable understanding of the mutual gains approach to negotiation can strengthen their work with other sustainable development stakeholders.
.....

Constructively analyze conflict situations, including issues, stakeholders, and their interests, and use that assessment to develop options and proposals that favorably meet stakeholder needs.
.....

Demonstrate significant improvement in their negotiation and facilitation skills.

2

REGIONAL PROGRAMS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SUSTAINABILITY (RPMS)

RPMS programs are custom-fitted to the context-specific needs of local and regional development institutions

and partnerships, with examples and problem solving exercises relevant to each area. RPMS programs are tailored to improving participants’ capacities in applying the Mutual Gains Approach to address their organizations’ and partnerships’ most pertinent issues. RPMS programs are also designed in congruence with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The programs convene and engage participants from one or more countries in a region with mutual interests in developing a specific sustainable development solution.

RPMS also act as a practical space for sharing SCF knowledge products to improve on the ground performance.

RPMS programs are organized at request of organizations and institutions interested in bringing the lens of sustainable development to their sectors or areas of interest.

AT THE END OF THE RPMS, PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

.....
Integrate key strategies for negotiating sustainable development partnerships into their work environments.
.....

Network with South-South actors around common sustainability issues.
.....

Have a better understanding of potential clients, partners, and country resource bases.

3

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION COURSE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIPLOMACY (SDD)

In an interdependent global context, this course refocuses international resource

management topics through the lens of sustainability. The SDD is a practical, intensive 2-week program specifically designed for leaders interested in building the critical diplomacy skills necessary for day-to-day environmental negotiations and management.

Through the course, participants will have a stronger ability to understand the role of diplomacy, apply learned skills, and to identify the roles, perspectives, and interests of key actors in the international development arena. SDD mirrors the techniques and support provided through IPMS and RPMS, but offers a more comprehensive curriculum, emphasizing international, national, and organizational considerations.

The course is designed for experienced practitioners, as well as Doctorate and Master’s students. There is also an opportunity to pursue a Masters’ degree in SDD at our partner institute-Wageningen UR.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY

SCF offers technical advisory services for developing and implementing inclusive and negotiated solutions in areas of sustainable development.

These services can be utilized by governments, businesses, NGOs, partnerships, and coalitions to aid them in formulating policies, strategies, programs, projects, and/or national frameworks.

SCF experts provide support at every segment of the value chain, from diagnosis to implementation and financing, to help facilitate sustainable, mutual gains solutions to sustainable development challenges. SCF technical advisory services cover the thematic areas of climate change, extractive industries, biodiversity and biosafety, forests, desertification, environment and trade, food security, and water. SCF also offers counsel on the technical considerations associated with the cross-cutting themes of gender, disability, minorities, and indigenous communities.

To ensure equitable participation, SCF offers assistance in selecting appropriate program solutions, which include, selecting the most applicable market incentives, public policies, material substitution, recycling, and new technologies. Typical forms of support include identifying conflict drivers and key stakeholders; designing inclusive and efficient processes for dialogue, negotiation and consensus building; and ensuring participatory evaluation and learning.

One of the key elements of SCF's technical advisory services is aligning mediated solutions to the principles and targets of international cooperation, including, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. Two emerging areas of our technical advisory services that are key to sustainable development are resource conflict and migration.

CONFLICT

The competing interests over natural resources and environmental stresses are key drivers of aggravated conflict. While much is being done to alleviate the impact of conflict on communities, it is essential that conflict dynamics are addressed early on. Additionally, development projects, when poorly managed or implemented, can exacerbate conflict dynamics, thereby undermining the sustainability of development outcomes.

SCF offers technical advice to development programmers in managing and mitigating conflict through negotiated and mutual gains solutions. In areas where development projects affect natural resources—including the extractive, agricultural, hydro, and forestry sectors—SCF supports leaders in ensuring a do-no-harm approach to programming.

MIGRATION

Among displaced or migratory communities, the sustainable development concept provides the link between survival, adaptation, and resilience. Migrating communities, whether transient, settling, or resettling, have natural resource needs, including access to land and water. Addressing these needs requires strong management guarantee that local resources are not unsustainably burdened. SCF provides advice and capacity building on engaging migrants, host communities, governments and other stakeholders to ensure that the social, political, and environmental shocks of new migrations do not contribute to conflict or environmental degradation.

SOUTH-SOUTH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

SCF creates cooperative knowledge networks and partnerships, offering Southern countries opportunities for exchanging ideas, solutions, and mechanisms for driving inclusive development.

Though individually unique, Southern nations face similar challenges to sustainable development. Through our programs, SCF creates cooperative knowledge networks and partnerships, offering these countries opportunities for exchanging ideas, solutions, and mechanisms for driving inclusive development.

Utilizing our experience, as well as systematic assessments in the field of sustainability negotiation and diplomacy, SCF also creates and offers a wide range of continually evolving, cutting-edge knowledge products, including case studies, lessons learned, and best practices studies.

SCF delivers these knowledge products in a variety of formats. In the form of regional events, our knowledge products catalyze South-South collaborations while facilitating exchange and networking opportunities. Through these events, SCF plays a key coordinator role in analyzing and identifying methods for appropriate cross-pollination among South-South countries.

SCF also delivers knowledge products online through our globally accessible digital platform. This platform offers clients year round access to SCF's experts who provide technical and knowledge-sharing advice on day-to-day challenges.

Sustainability Challenge Foundation

Our Mission and Services



TIAS

SCHOOL FOR
BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

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