

Brief Bio Dr. Camilla Toulmin

Camilla Toulmin is Director of the International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED), having formerly run the Drylands Programme from 1987-2002. An economist by training, her work has focused on social, economic, and environmental development in dryland Africa. This has combined field research, policy analysis, capacity building and advocacy, with strategic management of the programme. It has involved engaging with people at many different levels from farmers and researchers, to national governments, NGOs, donor agencies and international bodies.

As Director of IIED since February 2004, Camilla has focused on developing the institute's strategy and encouraging greater cohesion between the diverse areas of IIED's work. She has initiated a process of re-structuring which will bring together ten smaller programmes into four larger groups, working on: human settlements, natural resources, climate change, and sustainable markets. She has organised a major conference on Land and property rights in Africa, feeding into the Blair Commission for Africa's work. She has also been consolidating the institute's funding base, through stronger relations with our principal donors. Further attention is being focused on achieving a better match between IIED's findings and external events and opportunities to influence policy.

In her role as Director of Drylands, set up by her in 1987, she oversaw its growth into a well-established centre, with a strong reputation carrying out a broad programme of work, at different levels, with 11 permanent staff based in London, Dakar and Edinburgh. It aims to:

Strengthen *local* capacity for sustainable, equitable and decentralised resource management, by building effective and representative local institutions

Identify and promote *national* policies and institutions that legitimise local-level decision making and authority, such as decentralisation and community-based land management

Build strong links between English and French speaking organisations, to exchange lessons, ideas and experience on land and natural resource management in Africa, joint research, capacity building and policy engagement

Argue and lobby for *global* policies and institutions that support the development needs and priorities of dryland peoples, such as trade.

IIED collaborates with many partners around the world. Such partnership is based on establishing relations of confidence and trust. Principal donors to IIED are currently the UK, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Swiss and Norwegian governments, Rockefeller Foundation and the European Commission. Camilla has also worked with a number of multilateral agencies, such as the UN Development Programme, the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, and the OECD. She has chaired and been a member of many committees handling research and development funds, such as WWF-UK, ISNAR, the UK's Economic and Social Research Council, DFID's Natural Resources Systems Programme, Oxfam and Comic Relief. She is also involved in communicating ideas and information about environment and development issues, through writing articles, giving talks, and broadcasts.