SEI Stockholm Environment Institute

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How we bridge science, policy and practice



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Stockholm Environment Institute

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Who we are

Our principles, assets and approach

Stockholm Environment Institute is a global, independent research institute established in 1989. It is founded on the principles of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in 1972 and the Stockholm Declaration.

SEI works at the intersection of human development and the environment, and operates through eight centres on five continents.

SEI's vision is a sustainable and prosperous future for all.
Our work drives impact by connecting science to policy and practice: it spans climate change, natural resources, water, air, and health, and addresses questions of governance, innovation, finance, poverty and social equity.

To achieve this, we seek to change agendas and discourse, empower communities, organizations, businesses and governments, inform decision makers, and help to convert policies and targets into effective action for people and planet.

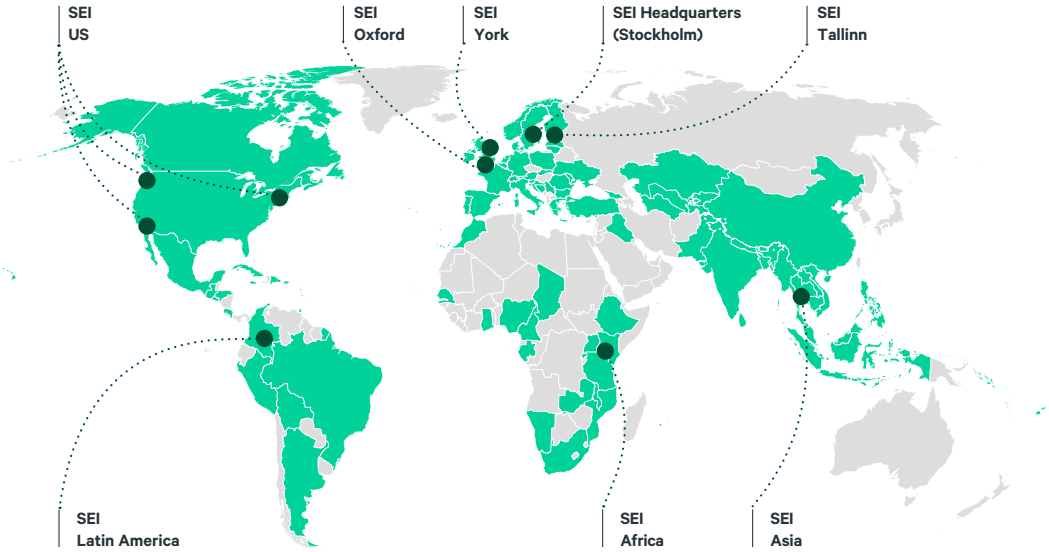
> *The selection of stories in this brochure highlight some of SEI's key achievements from past to present, and illustrate our approach to delivering results and impact.*

Scaling impact globally

257
active projects

90+
countries

SEI's global centre structure enables us to draw on deep reserves of global expertise as well as local knowledge and networks. This means our research is anchored in local realities, cuts across silos, and delivers durable solutions.



A growing and diverse funding base

*Sums converted to US dollars from Swedish kronor on 01-10-2026.

$46.7m
total financial turnover, 2025

SEI receives funding from a wide variety of sources, including government departments, development agencies, NGOs, businesses, financial institutions, philanthropic organizations, and academic and research groups.



1. **17m**
   All other sources
2. **12.4m**
   Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida
3. **3.4m**
   Swedish Ministry of Climate and Enterprise, via Formas
4. **2.6m**
   Formas
5. **2.4m**
   Federal Republic of Germany, represented by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
6. **2.3m**
   European Commission
7. **1.6m**
   Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
8. **1.5m**
   Norad, The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
9. **1.3m**
   Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australia's development program
10. **1.2m**
    United Nations Environment Programme
11. **1.2m**
    California State Water Resources Control Board



Wayuu Indigenous community members and SEI researchers in La Guajira, Colombia. Photo by Eduar Monsalve / SEI

Putting communities first in Colombia's energy transition

In La Guajira, Colombia's windiest region, more than 40 proposed wind farms promise to power the country's shift to renewables. But the territory they are reshaping includes the ancestral lands of the Wayuu Indigenous people. Lack of transparency and meaningful community engagement has led to project delays and cancellations.

SEI is changing that by putting communities at the centre. Working with the University of La Guajira and local stakeholders, SEI has trained over 40 Wayuu leaders in the technical, legal, economic and social dimensions of wind development, from free, prior and informed consent to benefit-sharing models. With this knowledge, participants now advocate directly for their community's interest when negotiating with companies and sparked a community-led Consultative Committee for the Energy Transition in La Guajira.

"These projects truly improve our quality of life."

Yolimar Ipuana, training program participant

SEI also co-designed an open-data GIS tool that provides easy access to public information on regional wind projects and associated infrastructure. By making data accessible and building local capacity, SEI ensures Wayuu communities directly shape their energy future.

Changing the agenda on fossil fuels

SEI has been a pioneer in spotlighting fossil fuel production and its role in global climate policy. The agreement at COP28 to transition away from fossil fuels marked a historic milestone, reflecting long-standing evidence presented by SEI and partners in the Production Gap Report.

In 2019, SEI and partners released the first edition of the report with its ground-breaking data on the fossil fuel supply gap, which gained global coverage and the attention of government ministers, UN negotiators, journalists, civil society and high-profile activists. UN Secretary General António Guterres cited key findings from the report and called for states to do more to close the gap. Several countries soon announced new commitments to phase down fossil fuel supply. Costa Rica became the first country to place limits on fossil fuel production in its climate plans under the Paris Agreement, while the Danish parliament voted to end offshore gas and oil extraction.

"One of the most important pieces of research in years."

Bill McKibben, noted climate author

Major court rulings have also relied on The Production Gap Report. For example, it was cited in Vanuatu's submissions to the International Court of Justice in its case on countries' responsibility to tackle climate change, and by the UK Supreme Court in its 2024 decision that ordered that oil projects must consider the downstream combustion of fossil fuels in their impact assessments.



"This important report shows that governments' projected and planned levels of coal, oil and gas production are dangerously out of step with the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change."

Lord Nicholas Stern, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government, LSE

Photo by Opla / E+ via Getty Images

Decision tools to achieve climate and development goals together

Meeting the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals are not competing ambitions, but governments need tools and evidence to pursue them together. SEI collaborates directly with more than 40 low- and middle-income countries, including Bangladesh, Chile, Morocco, and the Philippines, to develop strategies that achieve both.

In the case of Nigeria, SEI worked with government officials to model the health impacts of climate action, producing the first-ever quantified health statement in any country's national climate plan (NDC): implementing Nigeria's updated NDC could prevent 30 000 premature deaths by 2030. This approach can change the choices governments make and what they commit to. SEI's long-term collaborations in 40+ countries – using its energy modelling tool LEAP, the Low Emissions Analysis Platform, alongside government agencies and researchers – have raised climate ambitions and helped countries unlock the social and economic gains that can be achieved by ambitious, joined-up climate action.

"LEAP will allow Chile to compare predicted impacts of policies within specific implementation periods, and to use these results to support informed and efficient policy decisions."

Priscilla Ulloa, Ministry of Environment, Chile



Training session in South Africa on SEI's LEAP tool, with professionals from across the continent working on climate and air pollution planning. Photo by Chloe Daniel / SEI



Photo by Fellipe Abreu / iStock / Getty Images Plus via Getty Images

Tropical deforestation – making accountability possible

Trade in agricultural commodities – especially in soy, beef and palm oil – is among the leading drivers of tropical deforestation. Trase, an SEI program in partnership with Global Canopy, gives governments and companies the data they need to see exactly where deforestation risk sits in their supply chains, and to act on it.

In France, Trase supported the government's implementation of its national strategy to eliminate deforestation from agricultural imports. In Brazil, Trase insights helped mobilize leading private and public sector actors to tackle illegal deforestation in the soy supply chain, which contributed to a coalition of global food companies, including McDonald's, Unilever, and Tesco, pressing governments for stronger due diligence legislation on deforestation.

Trase has helped to shift both corporate behaviour and policy. When corporations with the combined influence of McDonald's, Unilever, and Tesco call for policy change, governments respond. Trase makes accountability possible by making supply chain risk visible and traceable.

"Working with Trase was a key part of our success in strengthening the anti-deforestation regulation (EUDR) ...We couldn"t have done it without Trase's insight."

Marie Toussaint, Shadow Rapporteur for the EU Deforestation Regulation

Stockholm Environment Institute and the 2°C climate target

The 2°C target is one of the most consequential numbers in modern environmental policy – the threshold that has anchored international climate negotiations for three decades and now underpins the Paris Agreement. Its origins trace back to a 1990 report produced by SEI researchers – Targets and Indicators of Climatic Change – under the Advisory Group on Greenhouse Gases, the forerunner of the IPCC.

That report was the first to translate the scientific evidence on warming into a concrete policy guardrail, proposing 2°C above pre-industrial levels as the limit beyond which the risks of climate change would become unacceptable.

Within a few years, the EU had adopted the same figure as formal policy, and it went on to shape the Copenhagen Accord, the Cancún Agreements, and ultimately the Paris Agreement itself, where nations committed to holding warming "well below 2°C."

Few research contributions can claim this kind of direct, traceable influence on global policy. It reflects what SEI does best: rigorous, policy-relevant science that shapes agendas and decision-making.



Photo by NASA / Kathryn Hansen

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