The STEPS Centre

Interdisciplinary Pathways to Sustainability

Description

The STEPS Centre (Social, Technological and Environmental Pathways to Sustainability) is an interdisciplinary global research and policy engagement centre uniting development studies with science and technology studies. STEPS' cross-cutting work covers agriculture/food; energy/climate change; health/disease and water/sanitation. In an era of unprecedented change, STEPS is developing a new 'pathways approach' to understanding and action on sustainability and development, providing new thinking and practical solutions. Their work addresses two vital global challenges: linking environmental sustainability with better livelihoods and health for poor people; and helping science and technology work for poverty reduction and social justice.

Purpose

STEPS' aims:

- Address global challenges through interdisciplinary research projects which bring together development studies and science and technology studies
- Develop a theoretical pathways approach to understanding interactions between social, technological and environmental dynamics in diverse local conditions
- Link new theory with practical solutions by devising a suite of tools and methods to create more sustainable, socially just and favorable conditions for the poor
- Influence policy and generate new debate by engaging with diverse local and global audiences to help make change happen
- Train a generation of junior researchers, Masters' students, PhD students and postdoctoral fellows in the STEPS Centre's concepts, methods and approaches

Scope

Global.

Primary Funders

The Economic and Social Research Council.

Participants & Key Collaborators

More than 45 international partners participate in STEPS and can be reviewed at http://steps-centre.org/about/partners/.

Definition of One Health

None.

Monitoring & Evaluation Strategy

A variety of methods are used to try and assess the impact of STEPS' research and associated engagement and communications activities in a systematic way across all projects. For project planning and evaluation they use a practical method called Participatory Impact Pathways Analysis (PIPA), which helps map out what the research is trying to do, the actors involved, the methods by which they are seeking to exact change and which pathways to impact may be realized, among other things.

Sources of Information

http://steps-centre.org/

Contact

A variety of contact options are detailed at: http://steps-centre.org/about/contact/