

Eric Usher is Manager of Seed Capital Programmes within the United Nations Environment Programme, charged with engaging the finance sector in the shift to greener low carbon economies. This work focuses on new means for financing climate infrastructure and new approaches to delivering cleaner energy services in regions without access.

Through different approaches UNEP is helping the finance community develop new financial products, buy down transaction costs and address various other barriers to their increasing engagement in the new climate sectors. An example programme is the Seed Capital Assistance Facility, a joint undertaking with the Asian and African Development Banks aimed at increasing early stage investment activity in the clean energy sector.

Mr. Usher is Lead Author for finance of the IPCC Special Report on Renewable Energy Sources and the Global Energy Assessment. He is editor of the annual *Global Trends in Sustainable Energy Investment* report and co-author of a number of studies examining the role of public and private financing in climate mitigation. He is the recipient of various awards, including in 2007 the Energy Globe Award and in 2008 the Secretary General's UN21 award.

Before joining UNEP, Mr. Usher held the position of General Manager of Noor SA, a Moroccan solar rural electrification company. He holds an MBA from INSEAD in Fontainebleau, France, and a BSc in Electrical Engineering from Queen's University in Kingston, Canada.