

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOP RESEARCH
SOCIETY



SUMMARY

2023 was a year of transition for the ISDRS. After the impactful Covid years, we have been working on the ISDRS organization which has led in 2023 to some decisions and changes that prepare our society for the future. Board members are motivated to take on tasks and challenges to make our society stronger.

Thanks to a selected and dedicated team of board members, the journal project has been developed as a major focus for our society besides the conference.

The conference hosts of ISDRS 2023 built on the hybrid experience from the 2022 conference in Stockholm while reaching out to local and regional sustainability scholars. In the end, we had a very successful experience with 331 participants roughly half on campus and half online, a diverse group of keynote speakers and a high number of traditional and new tracks. With this positive experience in Malaysia, we are looking forward to our next conference in Nepal.

The membership base seems to stabilize with the group of followers still increasing. The institutional members have decreased. All in all, we will review our membership system to improve it for the years to come.

At the end, the board was very happy with the positive outcome and evaluation of ISDRS 2023. Many scholars of the ISDRS community are very active and we are happy to see members aiming for publications in books in our ISDRS Routledge Series on Sustainable Development Research and special issues in several journals.

DR. SJORS WITJES,
PRESIDENT ISDRS

MISSION

- To generate research and knowledge about sustainable development. As a research society, we have an obligation to facilitate the work of those who labour to create new knowledge regarding sustainable development, as broadly defined.
- To disseminate knowledge about sustainable development. Consistent with knowledge generation, the Society also obligates itself to the task of spreading knowledge worldwide for the benefit of those with a similar interest.
- To educate others about sustainable development. Sustainable development places multiple and urgent demands upon global and local societies who will eventually determine the degree to which the Earth's resources are sustained. Thus, the ISDRS feels compelled to become involved in the practical work of sustainable development.
- To establish an information exchange for sustainable development. Given the proliferation of sustainability entities and venues, the Society will strive to provide a coordinating role for linking all these efforts together.

ISDRS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

At the beginning of 2023, new members that had been elected in 2022 joined the board. We were very happy to welcome Dr Katarzyna Cichos, Dr Olga Cam, A/Prof. Olufunke Alaba, A/Prof. Reeti Kulshrestha and Dr Saurabh Biswas as new board members!

On commencing or during 2023, a number of board members left the ISDRS board, being: Prof. Francisco Comin, Prof. Janaina Macke, Prof. Pauline Deutz (Past President) and Dr Olwale Olayide (Secretary). Many thanks to them for many years of services to ISDRS, some in various capacities in the executive board and on committees.

For the year of 2023, we thus had the following board members as shown in Table 1.

This takes the number of women to eight of twenty-one, the number of people based outside of Europe to nine of twenty-one, and mostly from high-income countries. We are grateful to the Election Committee for their work identifying potential new board members and preparing the elections.

On Dr Olwale Olayide exiting as Secretary late 2023, Prof. Simon Lockrey was elected as Treasurer from January 1st 2024.

Also, Dr Charlotte Mummery (Assistant) finished up at the end of 2023. A special thank you must be extended to Charlotte, for her extended tenure in this position (having begun in March 2017) and for her contribution to the ISDRS in this crucial role.

TABLE 1

	Name	Function	(Re-) election?
1	Sjors Witjes	President	Up to 2026
2	Gyula Zilahy	Vice-president	Up to 2028
3	Simon Lockrey	Secretary (on Olawale Olayide's exit late 2023)	Up to 2025
4	Olawale Olayide	Secretary, Best Article Award	Up to 2023 (Exited)
5	Marlen Arnold	Treasurer	Up to 2024
6	Peter Dobers	Past-president	Up to 2024
7	Olga Cam	Best Article Award	Up to 2024
8	G. Shainesh	Director Membership	Up to 2025
9	Saurabh Biswas	New Professional Group Lead	Up to 2024
10	Prajat Pradhan	Director Communication	Up to 2025
11	Olufunke Alaba		Up to 2024
12	Marc Wolfram		Up to 2024
13	Sebastian Thomas		Up to 2025
14	Roberta Salomone	Best Article Award	Up to 2024
15	Gustavo Nicolas Paez Salamanca		Up to 2025
16	Roberto Merli		Up to 2024
17	Reeti Kulshrestha		Up to 2024
18	Rasyikah Khalid		Up to 2024
19	Francisco Comín		Up to 2023 (Existed)
20	Katarzyna Cichos		Up to 2024
21	Alex Franklin		Up to 2024
22	Richard Welford	Hon. Member	Honorary Member

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BOARD

During 2023, we saw some rotation among the executives of ISDRS. New incoming from January 1, 2023 were Gyula Zilahy as Vice President, Marlen Arnold as Treasurer, and Prajal Pradhan as Director of Communications. And from October 1, 2023 Sjors Witjes stepped up as President surpassing Peter Dobers, who became Past President as of the same date.

The board assistant continued providing a critical continuity over the years, and ideally will do next time as well during 2023.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

ISDRS has two categories of Memberships – Individual and Institutional. Institutional members are equivalent to individual members (e.g. eligible to stand for office, and vote).

ISDRS Conference fee includes membership – so everyone who registers and pays for the conference becomes a member if they weren't one already. Conferences are an opportunity to increase the number of individual members. Memberships should be explicitly offered to non-member delegates when they register for the conference. Offering membership (for GDPR reasons) to non-member delegates is

Table 2: Executive board members

Role	2019-2020 Holder	2019-2020 Holders
President	Walter Vermeulen	Pauline Deutz
Vice President	Pauline Deutz	Peter Dobers
Executive Secretary	Rupert Baumgartner	Volker Mauerhofer
Treasurer	Martina Keitsch	Sigurd Vildasen
Communication Officer	Olawale Olayide	Olawale Olayide (Due for re-election end 2019)

required for them to know that they are joining ISDRS. Instead of a 'non-member' conference fee, switch to a 'conference plus membership fee'.

Individuals benefitting from institutional members will have to identify themselves and register on the website for ISDRS to get an idea (& count) who they are.

Current membership rates are Euros 95 (high income economies), Euros 55 (for other economies and PhD students), and Euros 20 (other economies students).

- Discussions on a 20 euros option for students from other economies.
- Option not listed on the membership site <http://isdrs.org/membership-options-2/>

The number of paying members joining directly through the ISDRS website appears to have declined this year (Table 3). This reflects ongoing issues in determining the precise number of members. This year also the non-member fee explicitly includes membership for the 12 months following payment (also estimated in Table 3). Note that the number of individuals shown as members includes members benefiting from an institutional membership (see below). We have a total membership of 291 persons including board members.

The discount rate for the conference was changed from its previous basis of whether the country of residence is a member of OECD to whether or not it is a high-income country in the World Bank classification. This will also be changed on the ISDRS website for those joining/renewing directly as individuals or institutions.

The number of followers (registered on the website but not paying) has increased.

This is good of course, but we need to be careful to avoid calling followers 'members'. There is confusion amongst the followers as to whether they are or are not members. For example, non-members have volunteered for roles (such as the audit committee), despite the call for volunteers explicitly stating that only paying members were eligible.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Currently ISDRS has 6 institutional members as compared to 8 last year (and 16 in 2020-2021) (Table 4). If the maximum number of individuals at each institution took up their right to register on the ISDRS website, this would provide 57 members. More than 12 have claimed the members' discount for the conference, however. It will in due course be possible to identify those individuals and either contact them to encourage them to register, or (if allowable under data protection rules), manually register so that they have to opt out rather than opt in to receiving the newsletter

Table 3: Membership Levels from 2017-23

Year	Member HIE	Member OE	Member by conference HIE	Member by conference OE	Board HIE	Board OE	Total Members	Followers
2017	53	65	n/a	n/a	16	2	136	1731
2018	58	49	n/a	n/a	18	2	127	2362
2019	69	37	n/a	n/a	16	3	125	2439
2020	22	17	43	45	17	4	148	2658
2021	37	8	79	22	18	3	167	2889
2023	22	18	107	123	18	3	291	2995
2023	15	4	55	141			215	3111

and other communications. At the moment these institutional memberships look like a good source of income for ISDRS, but it would be highly preferable if they also yielded active members.

Table 4: nstitutional members (Feb 2023).		
Name	Membership Level	High Income Economy
Södertörn University (Complimentary membership for 2022)	Large	Yes
Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Hungary (complimentary membership up to and including 2027)	Medium	Yes
Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development	Medium	Yes
Sustainable Europe Research Institute (SERI)	Small	Yes
Universidad De Navarra	Small	Yes
Universita' Degli Studi G. D'annun	Small	Yes

* UNIVERSITY OF SÖDERTÖRN MEMBERSHIP WILL BE VALID FOR 2024 TOO.

MEMBERSHIP
MANAGEMENT
SOFTWARE

We held initial discussions with CommunityBrands and they had shared their proposal.
<https://www.communitybrands.com/company/about-us/>. The commercials appear to be expensive for our current usage. We will explore other options including Salesforce's Non-profit Cloud
<https://www.salesforce.org/nonprofit/> and MS Dynamics 365 for Non-profits
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/nonprofits/dynamics-365?activetab=pivot1%3aprimar3>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This financial report outlines the income, expenditures, and financial position of the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) for the calendar year 2023. Figures are based on Stripe, bank, and conference reconciliation data, as well as the formal 2023 closure report. Some liabilities were deferred to 2024, including host transfers and journal coordination fees.

Table F1 – Income (2023)

Source	Amount	Notes
Stripe - Membership Fee	8210	From conference closure doc: 182 non-member registrations with embedded membership
Stripe - Conference Fee	16963	Stripe revenue minus membership allocation
Bank Transfers	15831	Received directly to ISDRS EUR account
Royalties from Taylor & Francis	24.67	Royalty statement in NOK converted using 11.3
Direct payments to host (UKM)	1525	Not part of ISDRS income; listed for reconciliation only

Table F2 – Expenses

Category	Amount (EUR)	Status	Source / Notes
ISDRS Administrative Support Deduction	6850	Paid	MoA deduction listed in final closure report
ISDRS 10% Revenue Share Deduction	2703	Paid	10% net deduction from Stripe and bank transfer revenue
Journal Coordination – IOER Dec 2023 Invoice	17671.5	Pending	IOER invoice #60299 dated 15 Dec 2023
Conference Host Transfer (UKM)	22798.17	Pending	Allocated for payment in 2024 (confirmed receipt by UKM in May 2024)
Bank Fees / Stripe Fees	24	Paid	Approximate DNB EUR account fees over year

Table 3 – Financial Position

Account	Opening Balance (1 Jan 2023)	Closing Balance (31 Dec 2023)	Surplus / Deficit	Currency
DNB EUR Account	74780.77	91399.85	16619.08	EUR

Documents and Sources:

Data documentation and sources for the ISDRS financial information for 2023 are:

- Stripe receipts and summary revenue from closure report
- Bank transfer reconciliation and DNB balance
- MoA-determined ISDRS support and 10% deductions
- Royalty transfer summary
- Deferred journal invoice and host payment receipts in 2024

Discrepancies and Uncertainties

The following summarises remaining discrepancies and uncertainties related to the ISDRS financial information for 2023:

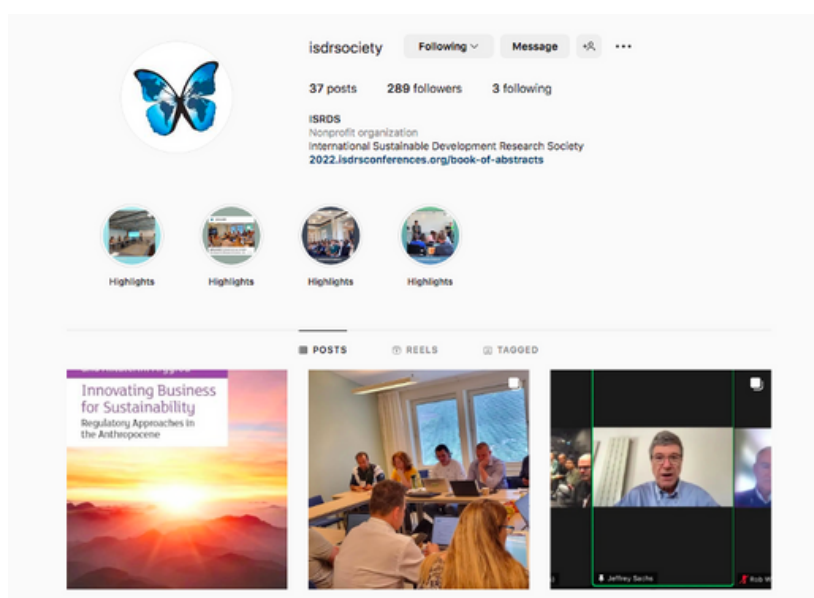
- I membership opportunities and a diamond open access journal platform.

The ISDRS board is confident that the Society's financial position remains sound and is exploring opportunities to invest in future growth, particularly through enhanced membership opportunities and a diamond open access journal platform.

COMMUNICATION

This section highlights the activities of the communications section of ISDRS since the last conference. The communication channels engaged during this period include the quarterly newsletter, LinkedIn group, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, website posts, and blogs.

The periodic newsletter goes to all members



- IOER journal invoice 60299 (€17,671.50) was issued 15 Dec 2023 but not paid until 2024
- Payment to 2023 host (UKM) was calculated at €22,798.17 but remitted in May 2024
- Stripe income was previously bundled; this report uses disaggregated totals based on ticket categories
- No complete NOK account reporting was available for 2023

and followers and has continued consistently, with two issues released in 2023 (Table 8). The editorial committee members (Prajal Pradhan and Marlen Arnold) continued overseeing and supporting the making of the newsletter with assistance from Waqas Mazhar. The social media platforms were used continuously for promotional purposes and to elicit feedback from readers. Keyvan Hosseini is now assisting with ISDRS social media and managing the Instagram and

Facebook pages. With slightly increased membership (including followers), we would be able to significantly increase and improve our outreach without much expense.

Table 8: Newsletter Statistics 2023 - 2024

2023					2024
Item	Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3	Issue 4	Issues
All Sent	2031	x	3037	x	x
Unsubscribed	0.10%	x	0.20%	x	x
Clicked	2.10%	x	2.10%	x	x
Opened	5.20%	x	18.40%	x	x

NOTE: INDIVIDUALS CLICKING MORE THAN ONCE ARE NOT COUNTED IN THE % COUNT, ONLY THE NUMBER OF CLICKS.

The number of subscriptions to the newsletter has increased while the proportion of active engagement (clicked and opened) remained static. The number of recipients unsubscribing remains low. An issue with Mailpoet meant that only a proportion of members and followers were receiving the newsletter. This is now resolved. The list of subscribers has been updated during 2024.

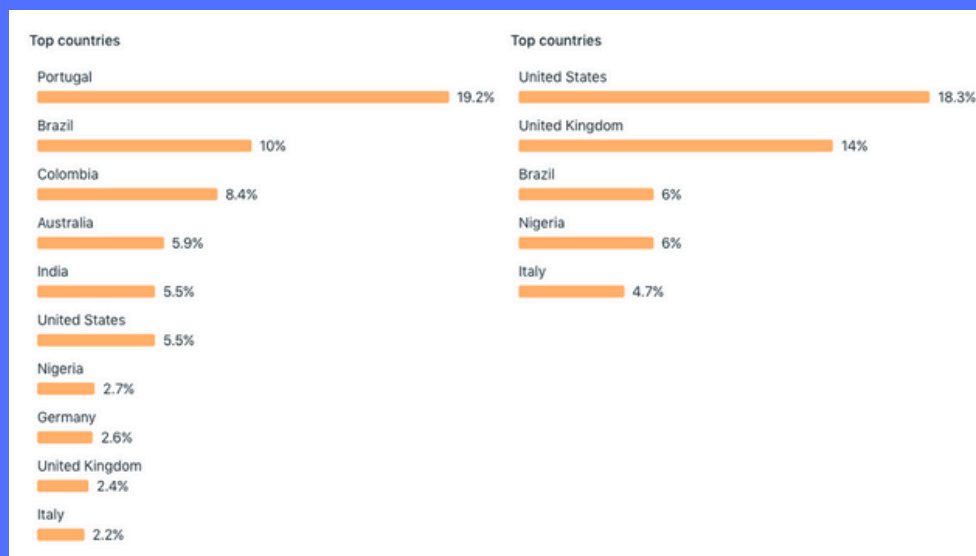
The ISDRS LinkedIn group has continued to increase from 3080 in 2022 to 3180 in 2023. LinkedIn engagement has increased due to greater content being shared and the promotion of the newsletter on LinkedIn. During the month of May 2023, post views increased by 53% compared to the previous month. Whereas, the comments and reactions remained low throughout the year.

The Facebook membership count stayed at 1.6K in 2023. Keyvan Hosseini is now managing the Facebook page, and the number of posts has increased significantly in the 2022 period, resulting in increased followers. The ISDRS New Professionals Group (NPG) Facebook page has had no activity in 2023. Moreover, NPG groups have also been created on LinkedIn which is managed by Saurab Biswas, Hanna Ahlstrom, Agnieszka Stefaniec, and Waqas Mazhar.

Similarly, the number of Twitter followers increased from 718 in 2023 to 751 at April 2024. The followers on Instagram have increased from 289 in 2023 to 295 in April 2024. The activities of social media reflect the potential to get more promotional value when pursuing this more actively. We still require members (especially board members) to demonstrate more support by 'liking' and reposting messages and targeting posts they send ISDR social media handlers. There is also a request with the call for Newsletter content to provide social media content and a new ISDRS media email has been set up (socialmedia@isdrs.org). While the social media team has been finding content to use, only a small amount has come from members or board members. We have the support in place for improving ISDRS social media, we just need members to provide content.

Facebook statistics include demographic information, such as the top countries visiting ISDRS Facebook page, see figure 2. ISDRS has recently increased Facebook posts by linking them to Instagram. The NPG group page needs a lead person managing this.

Figure 2: Facebook page visits by country



Most engagement on ISDRS's twitter feed happen during the conference, see figure's 3 and 4. The most impressions from a tweet in 2024 was from the announcement of 2024 conference. It reached to 631 impressions. This is because the winner shared within their network and the tweet reached further engagement. This is evidence of the benefits of sharing tweets among members networks.

TOPIC GROUPS

Topic Groups of ISDRS based on the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals have not been changed from previous years as they form the backbone of discussions at conferences and other ISDRS related activities.

Currently 9 themes (+1 special theme for the year) including 26 Topic Groups form the basis of Tracks at the annual conference.

Additionally, an exceptionally high number (5) of special Tracks were announced for the Conference in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, of which only one (Sustainability in Africa) has been organised before:

- 1.Sustainability and Africa
- 2.Sustainability and ASEAN
- 3.One health, SDGs, and ethical conflicts
- 4.Religion and Sustainable Development
- 5.ICT for Sustainable Development in IR4.0 Era

Special Tracks either concentrated on topics especially relevant to the Host and the South East Asian region or on emerging issues relevant to all delegates.

A high number of Track Chairs assisted the work in each Track, many of them personally present at the conference. In Tracks where no international Track Chair could attend off-line, local Track Chairs facilitated the discussion.

On-line meetings for Track Chairs have been organised by the Vice President, which served with useful information to Chairs as well as a platform for informal discussion.

Prior to the Conference, Track Chairs were motivated to reconsider the objectives of their Tracks and with a few exceptions, Topic Group descriptions were updated based on their suggestions.

CONFERENCES

ISDRS 2023 Conference

The 29th annual ISDRS conference was held between July 11-13, 2023 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and gathered researchers from all continents through-out the world within the field of sustainability, in a total of 331 registrations. The theme for the 2023 conference was “Half-way through Agenda 2030: Assessing the 5Ps of SDGs (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership)”. A happy team at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) under the leadership of associate professor Rasyidah Md Khalid created a very welcoming and memorable event.

A detailed conference website has been created (<https://2023.isdrsconferences.org/>) and associated conference proceedings. 331 participants made it to the hybrid conference roughly half on campus and half online. With strong support by many sponsors at UKM such as The Faculty of Law UKM, UKM Graduate School of Business, UKM Strategy Center, The Institute of Malay World and Civilization, UKM Centre for IDEA, The Fuel Cell Institute UKM, Institute of IR4.0 UKM, Institute of Climate Change and Institute of Islam Hadhari. Thanks to all institutes and centres helping out at ISDRS 2023!

Here is an overview of all the panels and their themes, including keynote persons and panelists:

Keynote Address:

Matthew Baird
Director, Asian Research Institute for Environmental Law

Plenary Session 1: People and Planet

Moderator: Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlin Bin Mokhtar
Director, Ecological Studies SDSN, Sunway University

Panelist 1: Datuk Dr Ahmad Parveez Hj Ghulam Kadir, Director General, Malaysia Palm Oil Board

Panelist 2: The Hon Karlene Maywald South Australian Water Ambassador

Plenary Session 2: Planet & Prosperity

Moderator: Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr. Mazlin Bin Mokhtar
Director, Ecological Studies SDSN, Sunway University

Panellist 1: Prof. Ir. Dr. Siti Kartom Kamaruddin
Director, Fuel Cell Institute, UKM

Panellist 2: Prof. Lance Manuel
Texas Atomic Energy Research Foundation
Professor of Engineering, University of Texas at Austin

Panellist 3: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Weena Gera
Associate Professor of Political Science, University of the Philippines Cebu

Plenary Session 3: People & Partnership

Moderator: Prof. Peter Dobers
President, ISDRS and Professor of Business Administration of Sodertorn University, Sweden

Panellist 1: Prof. Dr. İlknur Öner
Head of Disaster Research Center, Firat University, Türkiye.

Panellist 2: Nini Shazrina Ahmad Shamli
Director of Corporate Service, Landasan Lumayan, Menteri Besar Incorporated

Panellist 3: Antonio Oposa Jr.
Environmental Law Advocate

Plenary Session 4: Peace & Partnership

Moderator: Prof. Stella Emery Santana
Professor of Environmental Law, FAESA Centro Universitario Brazil

Panellist 1: Atty. Rose Liza Eisma Osorio
Professor of Environmental Law, University of Cebu

Panellist 2: Olena Shevtsova
Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden

Panellist 3: Olawale Olayide
Faculty of Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria

ISDRS 2024 Conference

The ISDRS community is now most warmly welcome to Nepal and the celebratory 30th annual conference, which this time around will take place at Mid Western University nearby Katmandu in Nepal.

<https://2024.isdrsconferences.org>.

BEST PAPER AWARD 2022

The committee was once again led by Marlen Arnold with the assistance of Charlotte Mummery. The committee continued with the new procedure evaluating submitted paper suggestions by the following selection criteria: (i) about sustainable development, (ii) inter- or transdisciplinary, (iii) contribute to academic debate on Sustainable Development (SD), (iv) shows awareness of complex nature of Sustainable Development, and (v) contribute to solutions for Sustainable Development.

6 papers were shortlisted. The distribution of votes showed a very clear winner and the next papers close with each other. Non-board member on the committee was Walter Vermeulen - we are grateful to all the committee for its work

LINK TO RESULTS: [HTTPS://ISDRS.ORG/2022-BEST-ARTICLE-AWARD-RESULTS/](https://isdrs.org/2022-best-article-award-results/)

PARTNERSHIPS, PUBLICATIONS, NETWORKING AND ELECTIONS

ISDRS Partner Institutions and Organisations

The International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS) operates in partnership with various institutions and organisations. There are currently six partner institutions and eight partner organisations across the globe. Some of the institutions have also served as hosts of the annual ISDRS conferences. Specifically, the 28th annual ISDRS conference which held in Stockholm, Sweden during 15-17 June 2022 involved a consortium of six universities: Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College, Stockholm School of Economics, Swedish Defence University, Stockholm University of the Arts, Södertörn University and University College Stockholm.

Best Article - (137 votes, 37.7%)

Exploring evolving spiritual values of forests in Europe and Asia: a transition hypothesis toward re-spiritualizing forests

Jeanne-Lazya Roux¹, Agata A. Konczal^{1,2}, Andreas Bernasconi³, Shonil A. Bhagwat⁴, Rik De Vries^{5,6}, Ilaria Doimo⁷, Valentino Marini Govigli⁸, Jan Kalpar⁹, Ryo Kohsaka¹⁰, Davide Pittenella¹¹, Tobias Plieninger^{12,13}, Zahed Shakeri^{1,14}, Shingo Shibata¹⁵, Kalliopi Stara¹⁶, Takuya Takahashi¹⁷, Marie Torralba^{12,13}, Liisa Tyrväinen¹⁸, Gerhard Weiss¹⁹ and Georg Winkel¹²

ABSTRACT. The development of societies, including spiritual development, is closely connected to forests. The larger interrelations among changing societies, transforming forest landscapes, and evolving spiritual values related to forests have yet to be extensively considered. Addressing this research gap is important to avoid the neglect of spiritual values in forest policy and management. Our exploratory study investigates spiritual values of forests from European and Asian perspectives, assessing 13 countries. Based on expert knowledge from 18 interdisciplinary experts, we first define forest spiritual values (forest spirituality). We then elaborate on the idea that forest spirituality evolves as societies and landscapes change, and propose a transition hypothesis for forest spirituality. We identify indicators and drivers and portray four stages of such a transition using country-specific examples. We find that during a first stage ("nature is powerful"), forest spirituality is omnipresent through the abundance of sacred natural sites and practices of people who often directly depend on forests for their livelihoods. An alternative form of spirituality is observed in the second stage ("taming of nature"). Connected to increasing transformation of forest landscapes and intensifying land-use practices, "modern" religions guide human-nature interrelations. In a third stage ("rational management of nature"), forest spirituality is overshadowed by planned rational forest management transforming forests into commodities for the economy, often focusing on provisioning ecosystem services. During a fourth stage ("reconnecting with nature"), a revival of forest spirituality (re-spiritualization) can be observed due to factors such as urbanization and individualizing spirituality. Our core contribution is in showing the connections among changing forest perceptions, changing land-use governance and practices, and changing forest spirituality. Increasing the understanding of this relationship holds promise for supporting forest policy-making and management in addressing trade-offs between spiritual values and other aspects of forests.

Key Words: cultural ecosystem services; relational values; sacred forests; spiritual values of forests; spirituality; transition hypothesis

First Runner up (97 votes, 26.7%)

What theories of value (could) underpin our circular futures?

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:
Circular economy
Classical political economy
Ecological pricing
Sraffa economics
Subjective preference value
Sustainability transition

ABSTRACT

The transition to a circular economy is often presented as a straightforward, neutral and apolitical process, characterised by an implicit techno-optimistic and eco-modernist stance. However, in their recent paper on 'circular futures', Bauwens et al. (2020) illustrate that the circular economy is best understood as an umbrella term that might come to define very contrasting visions of sustainable development. Despite this, there continues to be a lack of discussion about the basic assumptions regarding social and economic structures on which the circular economy should be based, with research predominantly focusing on technical and practical questions. Therefore, in this conceptual paper, we assess the a priori compatibility of different plausible configurations of the circular economy with the principal theories of value found in mainstream and heterodox economics. We argue that these futures are themselves value articulating institutions that implicitly adhere to a theory of value even if this is not recognised. Moreover, given that theories of value go to the heart of how economies and societies function and reproduce themselves, we argue that circular economy research should recognise the importance of value and acknowledge how value theory might enable or contradict the visions of sustainable development articulated.

Second Runner up (77 votes, 21.2%)

Synergies and Trade-offs between Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

A systems model of SDG target influence on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as part of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and aim to address issues ranging from poverty and economic growth to climate change. Efforts to tackle one issue can support or hinder progress towards others, often with complex systemic interactions. Thus, each of the SDGs and their corresponding targets may contribute as levers or hurdles towards achieving other SDGs and targets. Based on SDG indicator data, we create a systems model considering influence among the SDGs and their targets. Once assessed within a system, we find that more SDGs and their corresponding targets act as levers towards achieving other goals and targets rather than as hurdles. In particular, efforts towards SDGs 5 (Gender Equality) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) may accelerate progress, while SDGs 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) are shown to create potential hurdles. The model results can be used to help promote supportive interactions and overcome hindering ones in the long term.

Keywords Sustainable Development Goals · Agenda 2030 · Synergy · Trade-off · iMODELER · Systems model

ISDRS Partner Institutions and Organisations

- World Sustainability Forum (WSF)
- The Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI)
- UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- International University Network on Cultural and Biological Diversity (IUNCBD)
- World Student Community for Sustainable Development (WSCSD)
- Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
- League of Professional Women (LPW)
- Interconnections for Making Africa Great Empowered and Sustainable (IMAGES) Initiative

We are open to have discussions with potential partner institutions and organisations. For more information on how to be a partner organisation, please contact the Secretary via secretary@isdrs.org.

PUBLICATIONS (PROCEEDINGS, BOOKS AND SPECIAL ISSUES)

The major publication from the ISDRS in 2023 was the [Proceedings of the 29th ISDRS Conference](#), which was held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (The National University of Malaysia) during 11-13 July 2023.

An ISDRS special issue was published by Wiley in 2023 in Sustainable Development, called 'Sustainability in Transforming Societies'. Details are as follow:

[Sustainable Development - Volume 31, Issue 6](#), Special Issue: Sustainability in Transforming Societies. Pages: 3965-4038, December 2023, Issue Edited by: Peter Dobers and Gyula Zilahy.

Routledge continued to produce the 'Routledge/ISDRS Series in Sustainable Development Research', [which consisted of two volumes from 2023](#).

Some of the papers of the 29th annual ISDRS conference 2023 were also published in various reputable journal outlets as Special Issues, as were many by our members and networks more broadly.

NETWORKING ACTIVITY

Our networking and participation at events hosted by partner organisations consisted online meetings and conferences, including at the 29th ISDRS Conference. We foresee improvements and flexibility and further opportunities for networking in the near future, as travel returns to normal post pandemic and as more events are now held in hybrid (physical and online) format.

ELECTIONS

In 2023, the Election Committee organised three rounds of elections to fill the vacant positions in the executive board. According to the Charter, the Election Committee consists of two or three members of the Board and the Executive Secretary as chair. The members of the Election Committee for 2023 were: Olawale Olayide, Prajal Pradhan, and Olga Cam. The Election Committee ensures that eligible members are invited to stand for nomination to the board, prepares a proposal to the board aiming at a balanced selection of nominees, reflecting the diversity, considering the required size of the board and formally required executive functions (making a total of 21 members and an honorary member). Below are the results of the 2023 ISDRS elections.

Table 9: Result of ISDRS Elections 2023

Name	Category	Position
Sjors Witjes	Executive	President (elected July 2023)
Olawale Olayide	Executive	Secretary (re-elected March 2023, exited 31/12/23)
Simon Lockrey	Executive	Secretary (to commence 1/1/24)

These elections of the Secretary and President was determined by the board in line with the ISDRS Charter. Please view the full list of the Executive and the Board [here](#).

All standard board roles remained the same for 2023, as they were within the tenured timeframe i.e. 2023-24, so no standard board elections were held. The next standard board election will take place in 2024.

A new executive board position being considered, in terms of publications. Considering the board is exploring a new diamond access journal, and also see a need for a role to engage with other publishing outlets as separate to the Director of Communications. This will require a change to the Charter, which is being explored by the board in 2024.

SUSTAINABILITY OF ISDRS

We need to continue to work hard at promoting the annual conference, which is both our most conspicuous activity, an important activity for inclusion and can be an excellent source of revenue. Further, the board has been working hard at the idea to expand the important research activity of conferences, by exploring and deciding upon the funding of a new and vibrant open access publication platform, which is planned to be launched in 2024.

Look out for more information. We also need to continue to refine the membership systems to enhance/protect income and to enhance our communications with members to enhance our retention rate. We will work continuously to involve the ISDRS New Professionals Group in conference preparations. In sheer numbers, the PhD Day at ISDRS online conference 2023 was successful, with about 50 PhD students participating. This growth of the number of young scholars taking part in the PhD Day, including the first round of mentorship program during 2021, is very promising to the long-term sustainability of ISDRS.

ROLE OF THE ASSISTANT

In 2023 the Assistant's role continued at 2 days per week, however they contributed considerably more than the contacts hours. Charlotte Mummery's time in 2023 was divided according to Table 8. Responsibilities in 2023 have included support for the conference organising committee.

Waqas Mazhar has taken over the assistant position since December 2023, dedicating twelve hours per week to various society tasks. The duties listed are in accordance with operations of the society. However, areas of priorities have been suggested. These include updating official ISDRS website, improving database, and supporting 2024 conference organizing committee.

The duties listed are all vital activities in our given style of operation, although improvements have been suggested such as improvements to the membership database, and to our website. Keyvan Hossein has been handling social media communication, such as Instagram, YouTube, and Facebook, for the past few months. Keyvan is very creative and has made some impressive social media posts. However, unless board members, members and followers promote these activities, they will not have the desired impact.

Table 8: The proportion of the Assistant spent on his/ her various duties (2023)

Activity	Time (%)
Assistance with conference ISDRS2022 (and 2021)	34
Email admin	30
Website	10
Board Meeting	9
Bookkeeping	6
Newsletter	5
Social Media	2
Awards	1
Institutions and Partners	1
Meetings with president	1
Member mailings	1