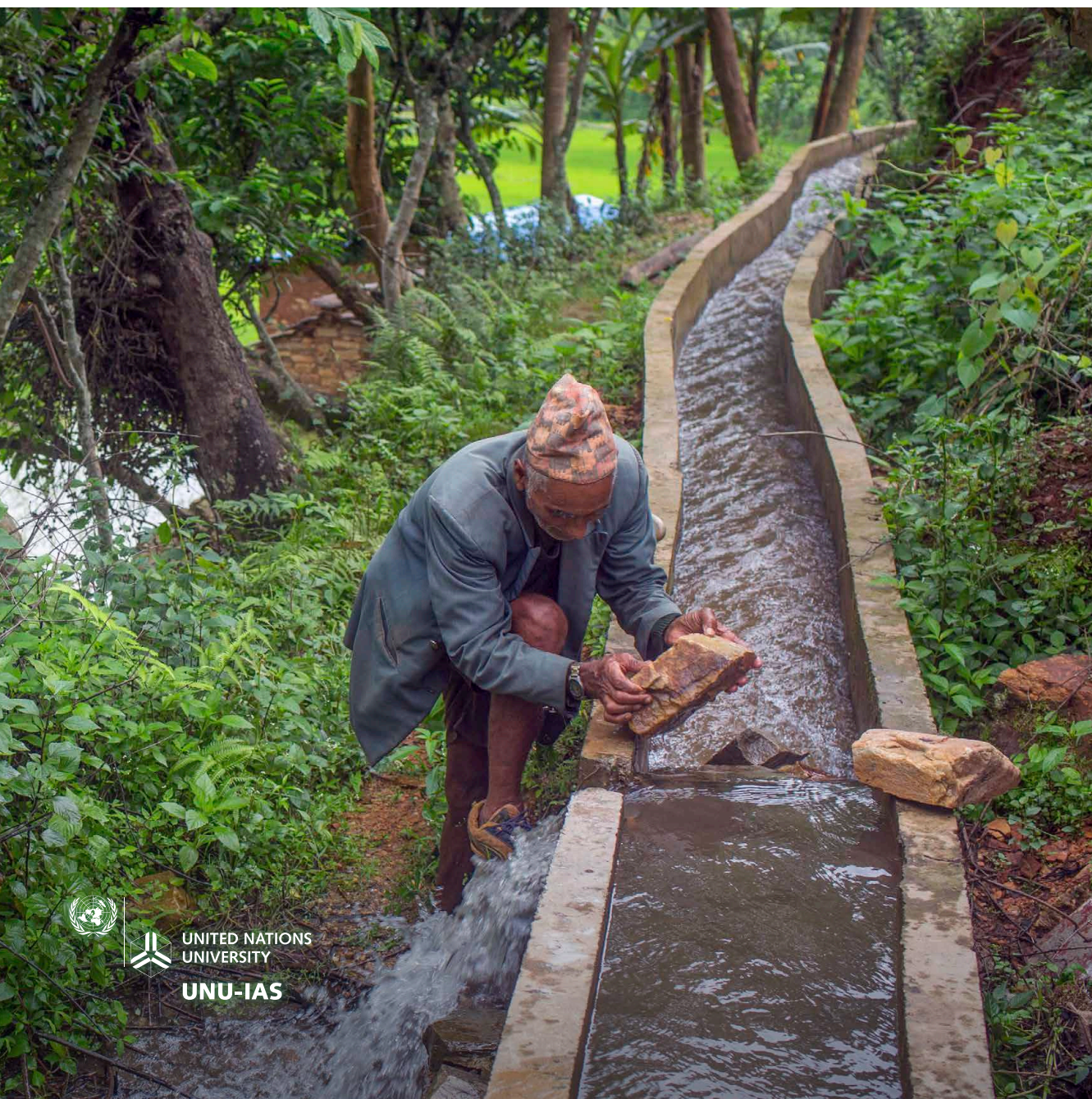


**United Nations University**  
Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability

**2021 Annual Report**



UNITED NATIONS  
UNIVERSITY

**UNU-IAS**

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UNU is committed to the ideals and practices of environmental sustainability, and is an ISO140001 certified institution.

## Photography

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**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

## Director's Message



As we enter the third year of a global pandemic, the international community faces deep challenges in delivering on the promise of a sustainable future for people and our planet. There is a vital need for a science-based and inclusive approach to tackle the multiple crises facing the globe. The far-reaching human, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19 threaten to derail efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), halt biodiversity loss, and address the climate emergency – which remains the greatest threat to sustainable development.

Overcoming these crises requires a deep transformation in our economic and social systems, which will bring new opportunities but also new challenges. We must ensure that the transition to a carbon-neutral world, in which nature and its benefits are secured, is an inclusive process that lives up to the 2030 Agenda's principle of "leaving no-one behind". Realising this transformation will require solution-oriented research and education, as well as multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilise action across society.

UNU-IAS is playing a crucial role in these efforts, driving progress towards sustainability as an international think tank developing solutions for the SDGs and other key policy agendas. During 2021 the institute made important contributions to policy processes focused on sustainable development, biodiversity, education, climate change, and water, among others. Through a series of side events at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July, we advanced policy dialogue on the SDGs and showcased our research in governance, higher education, biodiversity, and climate change. UNU-IAS continued to strengthen leadership for the SDGs at the local level in Asia and the Pacific through the Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development. In Japan, we provided inputs for the country's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) and worked with Kanazawa City to develop local SDG indicators. Our SDG-Universities Platform mobilised efforts by 31 Japanese universities through a series of workshops that exchanged good practices and developed collaboration.

At the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 in Glasgow, UK (UNFCCC COP26), we organised a side event engaging leading experts to discuss carbon neutrality and the SDGs, and announced a new postgraduate degree specialisation on the Paris Agreement – the first of its kind to be offered by a UN organisation. We also delivered science-based inputs to further develop the new global framework for biodiversity, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Knowledge generated through our International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative was published in several policy briefs and the sixth Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review.

UNU-IAS played a prominent role in education for sustainable development (ESD), mobilising our higher education networks across the globe to advance the new ESD for 2030 agenda. We contributed to the flagship UNESCO report on Futures of Education, which guides the transformation of education for peaceful, just, and sustainable futures for all. UNU-IAS also led collaboration by UNU institutes on water issues as chair of the UNU Water Network, including a joint session at World Water Week in August.

The UNU-IAS postgraduate degree programmes were delivered through innovative online and hybrid teaching approaches, and we welcomed a diverse group of new students in September. We introduced two new courses, focusing on the SDGs and climate change, and inclusive learning technology. A new intensive course on sustainable finance and ESG investing was also launched in collaboration with the business community in early summer.

One of our new initiatives for capacity development was redesigning the long-running Global Leadership Training Programme in Africa (GLTP) as an online course, in collaboration with New York University and the University of Johannesburg. An expanded intake of 31 postgraduate students developed skills and strategies for advancing sustainable development in Africa.

These are only a few highlights from the many activities and achievements of UNU-IAS during 2021, all of which depend upon the support and commitment of our valued partners, donors, and friends. I would like to extend our deepest appreciation for your invaluable contributions, which enable and enhance our research, policy engagement, and teaching.

We very much look forward to working with you this year and beyond, as UNU-IAS continues to advance the transformative action that is urgently needed across society to change the current global trajectory.

**Shinobu (Yume) Yamaguchi**

Director, UNU-IAS

# About UNU-IAS

The United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) is a research and teaching institute dedicated to realising a sustainable future for people and our planet. Based in Tokyo, Japan, UNU-IAS serves the international community by producing evidence-based knowledge and solutions to inform policymaking and address priority issues for the UN system.

Through policy-oriented research and capacity development the institute drives progress in four thematic areas: governance for sustainable development, biodiversity & society, water & resource management, and innovation & education. UNU-IAS creates new value by integrating expertise across these areas, in both academia and policymaking, to mobilise knowledge for sustainability and advance the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. It applies innovative approaches and research methods to challenge conventional thinking and develop creative solutions to emerging issues of global concern. The institute's research, education, and training engage a global network of scholars and partner institutions, driving interconnectedness between policymakers and the science and academic communities to realise sustainable solutions. Through field-based research, including an operating unit in Kanazawa City (Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan), UNU-IAS is developing models for localising the SDGs and other global agendas by building multi-stakeholder partnerships.

UNU-IAS postgraduate education advances the broader transformation towards sustainability in society – producing the policymakers and researchers of tomorrow, who will be at the forefront of global efforts for sustainability. The institute offers master's and doctoral degrees, postdoctoral fellowships, and innovative short courses, in close collaboration with leading universities in Japan and other countries.

## Thematic Areas

### 1. Governance for Sustainable Development

Advancing sustainable development depends on translating the global vision of the SDGs and related agendas into practice, and ensuring their effective implementation. UNU-IAS mobilises knowledge, expertise, and partnerships to strengthen governance and policymaking processes for sustainable development and localise these urgent global agendas.

### 2. Biodiversity & Society

Action on biodiversity is urgently needed to sustain a healthy planet and the lives that it supports. UNU-IAS advances human-environment solutions to accelerate transformational change toward living in harmony with nature. The institute's research provides evidence-based inputs for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, with a focus on sustainable management of production landscapes and seascapes.

### 3. Water & Resource Management

Water is at the core of sustainable development, linking livelihoods, health, ecosystems, and infrastructure. Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation for all requires a transformation in the way we manage water resources. UNU-IAS is developing sustainable, decentralised approaches to overcome the water crisis, enhance resilience, and help build decarbonised, circular economies.

### 4. Innovation & Education

Building more sustainable societies relies fundamentally on fostering creative, innovative solutions and empowering individuals through education. UNU-IAS accelerates knowledge generation and lifelong learning for a sustainability transformation, through policy-oriented research, capacity development, and partnerships.

#### An Institute of the United Nations University

UNU-IAS is an institute of the United Nations University (UNU) with a specific mandate to address sustainability issues. UNU is a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organisation comprising 13 institutes, located in 12 different countries.

#### Organisation

UNU-IAS was inaugurated on 1 January 2014. The institute is based at the global headquarters of UNU in Tokyo, and it has an operating unit located in Kanazawa City in Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan (UNU-IAS OUIK).

#### Staffing

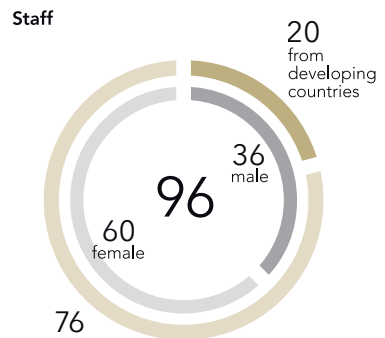
As of 31 December 2021, UNU-IAS had a staff of 96, comprising nationals of 16 different countries. Women constituted 63% of UNU-IAS staff. UNU-IAS is committed to achieving gender balance and ensuring gender equality. UNU employment practices also strive to ensure equality of opportunity and treatment for persons with disabilities and to prevent any form of disability-based exclusion or discrimination.

#### Financing

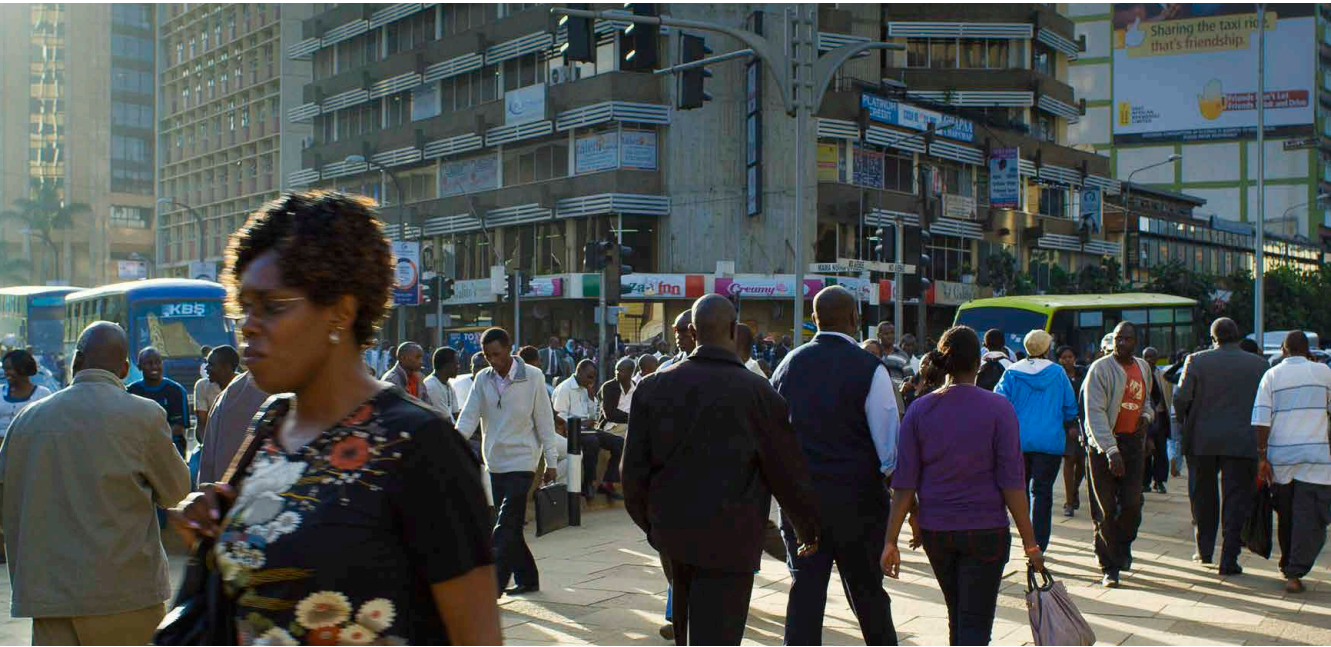
UNU-IAS is financed entirely by voluntary contributions from governments, agencies, international organisations, and other sources. A list of major financial contributors is provided on page 29.

#### Board

The role of the UNU-IAS Board is to provide guidance on the strategic orientation of the institute and its academic and policy work, and ensure scientific excellence. The Board advises on management issues such as budgeting and staffing, and reviews the institute's activity reports, strategic plans, and work programmes. During 2021, meetings of the Board were held on 8 April and 16 November. A list of board members is provided on page 29.



# In Focus



## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

### UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

UNU-IAS advanced global policy dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the 2021 meeting of the HLPF (6-15 July) – the main UN platform for sustainable development and reviewing progress on the goals. Organising a series of online side events, the institute mobilised knowledge and expertise to inform policy debates around issues of governance, climate change, higher education, and biodiversity, among others.

Drawing on its policy-oriented research, UNU-IAS underlined the vital need for a science-based and inclusive approach in tackling the multiple crises facing the globe – including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

#### Carbon Neutrality & Social Transformation

In this side event leading experts discussed the social and economic transformation needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. It focused on how to ensure a transition that is just and inclusive, by exploring pathways to a transformation that stays true to the principle of leaving no one behind. The event was organised with two UNU institutes (UNU-EHS & UNU-INRA), the UN Department for Economic & Social Affairs (DESA), and the UNFCCC Secretariat.

*Carbon Neutrality & Social Transformation: Are We on Track to Arrive at a Justice-based Transition? (6 July)*

### Further Education

This Special Event highlighted the critical role of further education in achieving sustainable development and ensuring a sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19. It discussed how education could be redefined to bring about collective systemic change and deliver on these critical agendas. UNU-IAS co-organised the event as a founding member of the Higher Education Sustainability Network (HESI), which brings together the United Nations and higher education networks to deliver on the SDGs.

*Driving Collective Action for the SDGs: The Role of Further Education – Building a Sustainable and Resilient Recovery (7 July)*

### Green & Blue Recovery

Emphasising the relationship between people and nature, this side event focused on the need for a green and blue recovery to build back better from COVID-19. It shared insights and lessons from members of the Satoyama Initiative (see pg. 15) in Ecuador, Fiji, Niger, Turkey, and Viet Nam. The event was organised with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ), UNDP, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

*Healthy Planet, Healthy People: The Role of the Satoyama Initiative for Green & Blue Recovery (9 July)*

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

### UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)

UNU-IAS contributed to high-level discussions on climate change at COP26 in Glasgow, UK (31 October - 12 November). Aiming to accelerate action on the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the summit succeeded in reaffirming the goal of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5°C. UNU-IAS organised events and outreach activities and conducted bilateral meetings to develop collaboration with UN partners. The institute's experts engaged in policy dialogue, including a forum of the Nairobi Work Programme of UNFCCC focused on climate change adaptation and biodiversity.

### Carbon Neutrality & the SDGs

This side event explored the social dimensions of the transition to carbon neutrality, and the role of education and capacity building for implementing the Paris Agreement. With speakers from UN entities, governments, and academia, it underlined the importance of engaging local communities in climate mitigation to create social co-benefits. It was organised with the Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC).

*Carbon Neutrality and the SDGs – A UNU Forum (4 November)*







### **Degree Specialisation on the Paris Agreement**

UNU-IAS announced a new postgraduate degree specialisation focused on the Paris Agreement, through a press conference on-site in Glasgow and online. To be delivered from Autumn 2023, the course will educate students and experts from across the globe, developing skills and knowledge to play a leading role in implementing the Paris Agreement. It will be the first of its kind to be offered by a UN organisation. The announcement received coverage in media outlets including the Yomiuri Shimbun.

*UN University to Launch Postgraduate Degree Specialisation on the Paris Agreement (press release, 4 November)*

### **Arts & Science**

UNU-IAS contributed to an expert discussion on communicating climate science through art, with speakers including Dirk Wilutzky, an Academy Award winning film director; and Sarah Macdonald, a BAFTA winning director and filmmaker. The COP26 side event explored how film, art, and creative communication can help to inspire hope and action. It was organised by UNU-EHS, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat, the UNFCCC Secretariat, and the CBD Secretariat.

*Arts & Science: The New Inspiration Couple? (10 November)*

### **Outreach**

Through a series of live webcasts UNU-IAS informed and engaged a broad audience in Japan throughout COP26. Implemented by the Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC), a joint initiative of UNU-IAS and MOEJ, they shared updates and commentary live from the venue in Glasgow on four occasions. In December GEOC organised two dialogue sessions on the outcomes of COP26 and the next steps for climate action, featuring experts from WWF Japan and NHK Enterprises Inc.

*Livecasts from COP26 (4, 5, 8, 10 November)*

*After COP26: What Are the Next Steps for Climate Change? (10, 14 December)*

## PROJECT

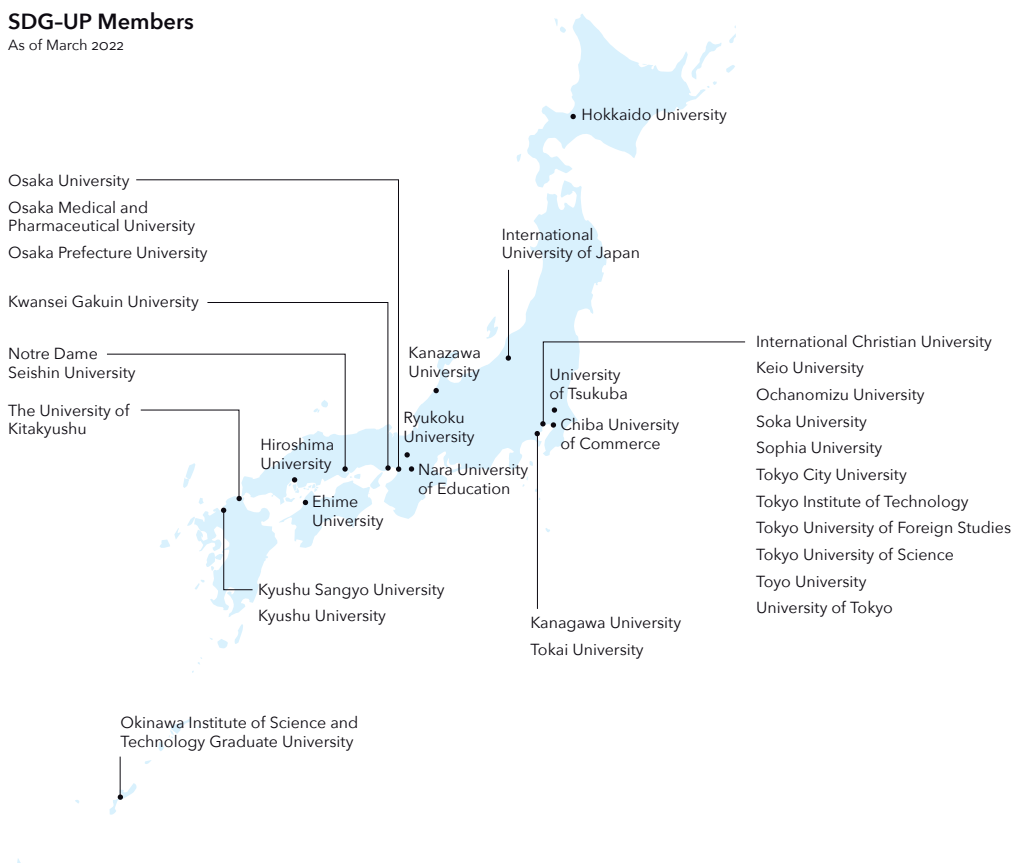
### SDG-Universities Platform (SDG-UP)

UNU-IAS mobilised efforts by 31 Japanese universities towards achieving the SDGs through this initiative, launched in October 2020. The platform engages member universities to advance local and international contributions on the global goals, through collaboration and exchange of good practices. SDG-UP is supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan.

Ten SDG-UP Workshops were organised during 2021, focused on topics such as redefining the role of universities, SDGs curriculums, and impact evaluation. The project produced the report *Recommendations for Transformational Changes in Universities for Building a Better Sustainable Society*, published in English and Japanese in September. A series of webinars for students was implemented in collaboration with the SDG Corporate Strategy Forum, exploring “purpose driven management” by companies. SDG-UP was also featured prominently in a special edition of *Toyo Keizai*, a leading business and finance magazine in Japan (“The Next Generation of After-Corona – Transforming Society through the Practice of the SDGs”; 26 June).

### SDG-UP Members

As of March 2022



# Research & Policy Development

UNU-IAS generates interdisciplinary scientific knowledge to inform policy-making, advancing the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Our research and policy development activities address specific goals as well as the interconnections between them, helping to translate the global agenda into action at the regional, national, and local levels. Combining in-house expertise with a diverse network of partner institutions, UNU-IAS bridges the developing and developed worlds and strengthens the links between science and policy that will be critical for achieving the SDGs.

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs inspire global action to overcome the world's related challenges – from hunger and poverty to equality and peace. Governments, businesses, civil society, and the UN system are working together to achieve the goals by 2030 and improve the lives of people everywhere.



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development



# 1 Governance for Sustainable Development

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

### Carbon Neutrality & the SDGs

The transition to net zero emissions is essential to achieving the SDGs. UNU-IAS contributed to global policy dialogue by advancing effective governance and integrated solutions to realise synergies and address trade-offs between these agendas. New research was launched to analyse the contribution of climate change initiatives towards achieving the SDGs. A side event of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF; 6 July – see *In Focus*) discussed the social and economic transformation needed, and how to ensure equity and justice. At COP26 (4 November – see *In Focus*) UNU-IAS organised a side event exploring challenges and good practices for realising synergies, including interventions and institutional mechanisms.

## RESEARCH

### Global Goals & National Development Plans

UNU-IAS analysed six recently adopted national development plans (Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, and Tanzania) to explore how planning had shifted to incorporate the SDGs. The research produced policy recommendations for accelerating localisation by aligning national planning with the SDGs, focused on improving the policymaking process, removing systemic barriers, and engaging diverse stakeholders to innovate and sustain change (UNU-IAS Policy Brief No. 25).

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### Mayors Academy for Sustainable Urban Development

Since 2019 UNU-IAS has been building a network of mayors in Asia and the Pacific to strengthen leadership for the SDGs, in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UN-Habitat, and other partners. A series of 12 online training modules and a feedback session were delivered between November 2020 and May 2021, with 10 mayors completing the academy's 2020–2021 class on 22 June. As part of the curriculum mayors developed their own initiatives for sustainable urban development, which were presented in a session on 18 May. A new group of 11 mayors joined the 2021–2022 class, which started on 14 December.

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

### **2030 Agenda Implementation & Evaluation in Japan**

UNU-IAS provided inputs for the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Japan, through its membership of the SDGs Roundtable. The institute also engaged in the selection process for the Japan SDGs Award, which recognises outstanding contributions to sustainable development by companies, local governments, and civil society organisations. Collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) continued to develop a pilot programme for integrating the SDGs into the MOEJ policy assessment process. Drawing on case studies in Japan, UNU-IAS developed an analytical framework to support local governments in mainstreaming the SDGs, with findings published in an open-access article (*Sustainability Science* volume 16, issue 5).

UNU-IAS continued to advance localisation of the SDGs in Kanazawa, Japan through its Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (OUIK). The unit worked closely with Kanazawa City on developing local SDGs indicators, with a joint workshop organised on 16 October, and further collaboration formulated local indicators for sustainable management of tourism destinations. A survey produced results that are being incorporated into the city's local biodiversity conservation plan for 2022-2027. The unit's SDGs Café event series engaged the community on topics such as employment of persons with disabilities, green bonds, and ESD, and the event format was adopted as a model by other municipalities in Ishikawa Prefecture. A local platform for public-private partnership on the SDGs, IMAGINE KANAZAWA 2030, expanded its membership almost threefold during the year.

UNU-IAS also supported youth engagement on the SDGs by hosting the Sixth National Youth Environment Activity Contest with MOEJ and the Environmental Restoration and Conservation Agency, Japan (November 2020 - February 2021). Students from 85 high schools across the country shared their activities to help solve local sustainability issues. The high schools received several awards including the UNU-IAS Director's Award.

## PUBLICATION

### **COVID-19 Recovery**

Based on research in Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, UNU-IAS produced a report and video exploring how local and regional governments can overcome the deep impacts of COVID-19 and accelerate SDGs localisation. Produced in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments Asia-Pacific (UCLG ASPAC), the report identifies a set of key priorities for local and regional governments to deliver a resilient and sustainable recovery.

## PROJECT

### **Advancing Collaboration & Exchange of Knowledge Between the EU and Japan for AI-Driven Innovation in Manufacturing (EU-Japan.AI)**

This project facilitates partnerships between Japan and the EU for applying artificial intelligence (AI) in manufacturing to advance sustainable development. Implemented by six universities and research institutions in Austria, Greece, Japan, Slovenia, and Spain, the project is creating an online platform for AI researchers, developers, and companies. In 2021 UNU-IAS established partnerships with key stakeholders in Japan, including Japanese national funding agencies and local government and manufacturing companies in Kitakyushu city.

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

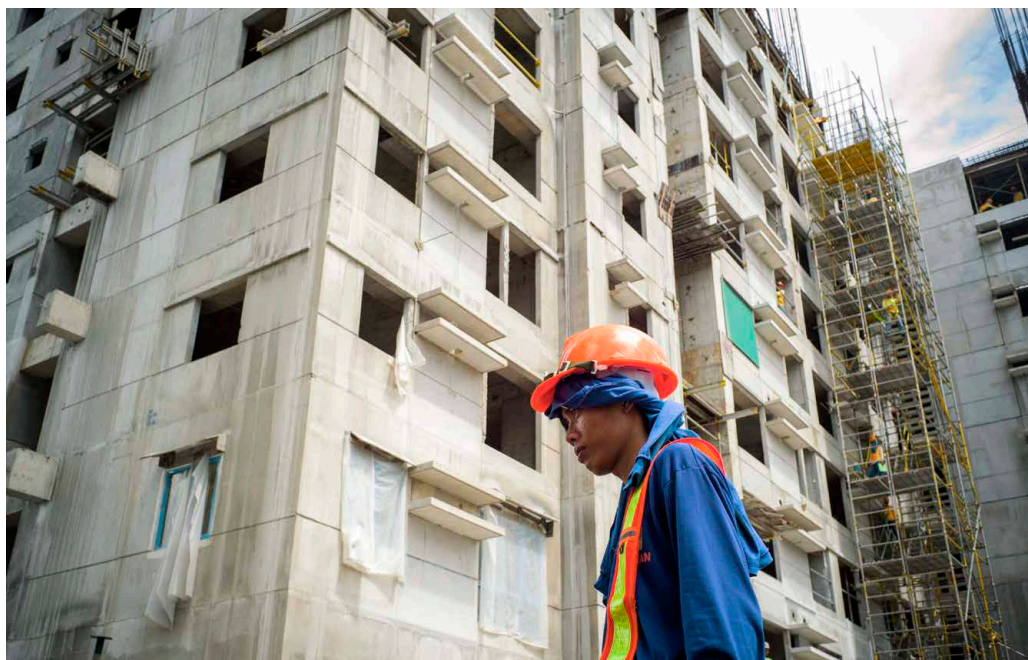
### Digital Transformation for the SDGs

UNU-IAS advanced policy dialogue on leveraging ICT in sustainability transformation through research, publications, and outreach activities. A partnership research project produced a report on smart city projects in the EU, and provided analysis on EU policies for green recovery from COVID-19 that lead to the creation of green jobs. UNU-IAS and MOEJ organised an online symposium, Shaping Local Sustainability in the Post-COVID-19 Era (16 February), which shared expert perspectives and examples of digital transformation from local communities. A further joint symposium, Green & Digital Transformation to Achieve the SDGs Locally, presented case studies of SDGs localisation through digital technology (6 December).

## PUBLICATION

### Housing & the SDGs

Drawing on research in Asia and the Pacific, UNU-IAS produced two policy briefs focused on the role of housing for achieving the SDGs. *Harnessing Adequate, Safe, and Affordable Housing for the Urban Poor to Achieve the SDGs in Cities* (No. 29) provides recommendations for delivery of affordable housing to achieve SDG 11 (sustainable cities & communities) by strengthening interlinkages with other SDGs. *Improving Community Acceptance of Sustainable Low-income Housing: Lessons from Mumbai & Surabaya* (No. 27) offers advice for policymakers and housing practitioners to adopt more sustainable practices and strengthen community support.





## 2 Biodiversity & Society

### POLICY ENGAGEMENT

#### Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

UNU-IAS continued to provide expertise and inputs to the process developing this new global policy framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The latest draft framework incorporates the institute's evidence-based positions promoting landscape perspectives that embed human-nature relationships, cultural diversity, and participatory processes. They were also reflected in a report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on links between biodiversity and climate change (10 June).

The institute supported the development of a UN System Common Approach to Biodiversity, which was endorsed on 4 May by the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination. UNU's contribution to the drafting process was led by UNU-IAS, as part of a 17-agency task team of the UN High-Level Committee on Programmes. The common approach provides a normative framework to organise collective action and joint delivery to mainstream biodiversity and nature-based solutions.

UNU-IAS disseminated policy recommendations focusing on transformative change in socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (UNU-IAS Policy Brief No. 24), reinforcing resilience for green recovery from COVID-19 (UNU-IAS Policy Brief No. 26), and landscape governance approaches (PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, 2021).

### PARTNERSHIP

#### International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)

As the secretariat of this partnership, UNU-IAS engages over 280 member organisations across the globe dedicated to realising societies in harmony with nature. Drawing on this diverse evidence base for research, it develops policy contributions and promotes landscape approaches for biodiversity conservation and restoration as well as for human well-being. UNU-IAS and UNDP collaborated through IPSI to co-organise a side event of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF; see *In Focus*). Meetings of the IPSI Steering Committee were organised in July and December, approving 12 new members and three IPSI Collaborative Activities. A sub-committee was established to update the partnership's strategy and action plan, with two meetings organised to discuss IPSI's role in the new decade. UNU-IAS published the sixth volume of the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review (SITR; see below) and organised a workshop on 28-30 June to share case studies for the next volume.

The Satoyama Development Mechanism, an IPSI initiative, provided seed funding for six projects in Bhutan, Ghana, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. A session of the 13th International Forum for Sustainable Asia and the Pacific 2021 highlighted the co-benefits of landscape approaches for biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development (2 December).

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

### UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

In November UNU joined the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration – a broad-based global movement to protect and revive ecosystems all around the world for the benefit of people and nature. The initiative is led by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), spanning the period 2021–2030. UNU-IAS is leading UNU’s contribution to the decade as a Collaborating Agency and a member of its Best Practices Task Force, focused on research and capacity building for production landscapes and seascapes, improvement of water management, and expansion of green urban planning in large metropolitan areas.

## PUBLICATION

### Transformative Change for Sustainability

The book *Fostering Transformative Change for Sustainability in the Context of Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS)* presents real-world examples of transformative change for sustainability derived through IPSI. It compiles eleven case studies from around the world, advancing debate and policy on sustainable transitions. The book is the sixth volume of the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review series.

## CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

### Agricultural Heritage Systems

UNU-IAS supported conservation of agricultural heritage systems, contributing to the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) programme of FAO. The International Conference on GIAHS (25–27 November) engaged policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to discuss contributions to climate change and biodiversity conservation, as well as the sustainability of the sites. It marked the 10th anniversary of Japan’s first GIAHS site, Noto’s Satoyama and Satoumi. In parallel UNU-IAS organised the GIAHS Youth Summit 2021, gathering 40 high school students from three GIAHS sites in Japan to discuss the future of the programme (26 November). UNU-IAS also published research on the first decade of GIAHS in Japan in the *Journal of Resources and Ecology* (volume 12, issue 4).


In partnership with the Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea, UNU-IAS developed indicators for monitoring and evaluation of GIAHS, producing a technical manual to support governance of existing and aspiring GIAHS sites (published March 2022). A joint symposium on 5 November discussed future directions for GIAHS conservation and management, as well as best practices for agricultural heritage in the context of COVID-19.

## RESEARCH

### Sustainable Urban Nature

Launched in 2019, this project draws on case study research in Kanazawa to create a sustainable model for urban nature, through conservation reflecting links between biological and cultural diversity, as well as transforming vacant plots and empty houses into green spaces. Three gardens and adjacent natural corridors were surveyed to catalogue their biocultural diversity, and further mapping of historic gardens and preservation measures conducted. In March two hands-on workshops on biocultural diversity were organised at Eikyujii temple, engaging tour operators and the general public. Survey research across 2,500 households was completed, and the results discussed with residents through a series of sessions in April.





## 3 Water & Resource Management

### PARTNERSHIP

#### UNU Water Network

UNU-IAS led collaboration by five UNU institutes as chair of the UNU Water Network (April - September), including a series of policy-oriented events and the launch of a shared website page to promote the network's activities. An interactive session at the World Water Week conference showcased UNU research on water and advanced policy dialogue on resilience in water management (23 August). The session was co-organised by UNU-IAS, the UNU Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES), the UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA), and the UNU Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), in collaboration with Eurac Research (Bolzano, South Tyrol). At the annual UNU-WIDER Development Conference UNU-IAS and UNU-EHS organised a panel discussion, presenting research and policy recommendations on water and other topics related to resilience (9 September).

### POLICY ENGAGEMENT

#### UN-Water

This interagency mechanism coordinates the efforts of UN entities and international organisations working on water and sanitation issues. UNU-IAS provided research-based inputs to the flagship report of UN-Water, the World Water Development Report. The 2021 report, published in March, focused on the theme "Valuing Water", highlighting that the inability to recognise the value of water is the main cause of water waste and misuse.

### RESEARCH

#### Water for Sustainable Development

This research project explores the complex links between water and the economy, to inform and support policymaking for SDG 6 (clean water & sanitation) and other goals in developing countries in Asia. Through case studies in India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, and Thailand, it has developed an analytical framework to assess these interlinkages. This tool – a water sector input-output table – helps policymakers to model how changes in one sector will impact production, water consumption, and pollution loads in other sectors.

During 2021 case studies were completed in Andhra Pradesh, India, and Rayong Province, Thailand, in close collaboration with local universities. The findings were shared with local and international stakeholders through a webinar (see Event below) and articles published in prominent scientific journals, including *Water, Air, and Soil Pollution* (volume 231, issue 12), *Water Resources and Industry* (volume 25), and *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* (volume 28).

## POLICY BRIEF

### Water Conflicts

Based on research in Nepal, this UNU-IAS Policy Brief addresses the problem of conflicts at the watershed level, identifying approaches to reconcile upstream and downstream interests and increase social benefits from water resources. The brief, *Transforming Water Conflicts into Collaborative Watershed Management Solutions – Lessons from the Greater Himalayan Region* (No. 23) highlights the need for a multi-stakeholder approach in which the role of local experts is prioritised.

## POLICY BRIEF

### Multiple Values of Water

This brief explores the complex challenges of water insecurity in Asia and its broader impact on well-being, health, security, and education. Drawing on research in India, the brief advocates a multidisciplinary approach to water governance that extends beyond economic development (*Advancing Multiple Values of Water in Water Policy & Management in Asia*; UNU-IAS Policy Brief No. 28).

## EVENT

### Sustainable Water Resources Management in Asian Cities

This webinar engaged 150 experts from India, Japan, and other countries to examine key challenges and opportunities for sustainable water management (25 October). It focused on the case study of Visakhapatnam city in Andhra Pradesh, India, to explore how effective water management policies could improve both environmental sustainability and economic development. The discussion emphasised the need to measure the prevailing availability of water and apply context-specific solutions through integrated approaches and multi-stakeholder engagement. The event was organised with two local universities, Andhra University and the Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT). The event was featured in two articles in the national newspaper *The Hindu*, and the state newspaper *Prajasakti*.

## EVENT

### World Water Day

This webinar, held on the occasion of World Water Day (22 March), focused on the theme of the global campaign for 2021, “Valuing Water”. Experts shared perspectives on the multiple values of water and discussed protecting this vital resource to support the achievement of SDG 6. The event was organised by UNU-IAS, in partnership with the Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC) and UNU-FLORES.

## PROJECT

### Wastewater Reuse for Smart Cities

Through this project UNU-IAS is developing a systematic framework to facilitate the uptake of smart reuse of wastewater resources and serve as an assessment mechanism for companies and utilities. The project, *Framework for Organizational Decision-Making Process in Water Reuse for Smart Cities (SMART-WaterDomain)*, is a collaboration with UNU-FLORES and universities in five European countries. It is supported by a joint funding scheme of EU countries and the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST).



## 4 Innovation & Education

### POLICY ENGAGEMENT

#### ESD for 2030

UNU-IAS has played an active role in implementing and advancing the new global framework, *Education for Sustainable Development: Towards Achieving the SDGs (ESD for 2030)*, since its launch in 2020. The institute supported the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development in Berlin (17-19 May) which elaborated implementation strategies for the new agenda through the Berlin Declaration. UNU-IAS organised online sessions focused on climate action and local ESD, mobilising the global network of RCEs and the ProSPER.Net university network (see Partnerships below).

### POLICY ENGAGEMENT

#### Futures of Education

The UNESCO global report *Reimagining Our Futures Together: A New Social Contract for Education* was published in November, as part of its flagship initiative Futures of Education. As a member of its Advisory Board UNU-IAS had contributed to an extensive global consultation over two years, engaging governments, academic think tanks, UN agencies, and citizens. The publication envisions education to be a new social contract to build peaceful, just, and sustainable futures for all, to guide policy dialogue for transforming education.

### RESEARCH

#### Climate Change Displacement and the Right to Education

This project, jointly implemented with UNESCO, investigated the impact of climate change on human mobility and displacement, taking stock of barriers and policy measures to ensure learning continuity for displaced children, youth, and adults. The study explored climate change scenarios in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on the cases of Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Tuvalu, and Viet Nam. The findings will be disseminated at the 2nd Asia Pacific Regional Education Ministers Conference in June 2022.

### PARTNERSHIP

#### Regional Centres of Expertise on ESD (RCEs)

This global network comprises over 170 RCEs, each of which operates a local multi-stakeholder partnership for ESD. In June, UNU-IAS, as the secretariat of the network, launched the Roadmap for the RCE Community 2021-2030, which sets out its vision, goals, strategic direction, and suggested actions. A series of webinars was also held to facilitate dialogue and implementation of the roadmap.

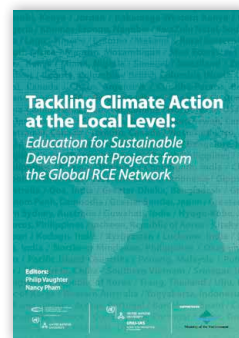
The 12th Global RCE Conference was held online, hosted by RCE Scotland (16-18 November), engaging over 350 participants to collectively take stock of actions through learning in a time of global crises. UNU-IAS also supported RCEs in organising online regional meetings for Africa, the Americas, and the Asia-Pacific, with the European meeting held in early 2022.

The highlight of RCE activities in 2021 was strengthened youth engagement. The 3rd Japanese RCE Youth Meeting brought together 49 participants online to discuss challenges and opportunities arising from COVID-19 and strengthen collaboration (18 February). UNU-IAS also launched the RCE Youth Climate Art Challenge to celebrate artworks inspiring climate action, which was showcased at COP26 as an innovative initiative for youth engagement. The International Youth Day Webinar shared youth-led activities addressing climate change by RCEs in Australia, Colombia, Denmark, Japan, and Zambia (11 August).

### **PUBLICATION**

#### **Tackling Climate Action at the Local Level: ESD Projects from the Global RCE Network**

Launched in April, this publication showcases outstanding climate education projects implemented across the Global RCE Network during the period of the Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD (2015-2019). The 12 projects address a broad range of sustainable development challenges with a common focus on SDG 13 (climate action), and promising local and regional actions that can respond to the climate crisis through education and training.



### **PARTNERSHIP**

#### **Promotion of Sustainability in Postgraduate Education & Research Network (ProSPER.Net)**

This alliance brings together 52 higher education institutions in the Asia-Pacific region committed to integrating sustainable development into curriculums and research. As its secretariat, UNU-IAS organised the network's General Assembly (24 August) and its Board Meeting (13 October), which welcomed two new member universities: Aligarh Muslim University (India), and Kyushu University (Japan). The network has established three priority themes for the next five years: climate change, circular economy, and equity and inclusion.

Joint research conducted within the network addressed topics such as human mobility and climate change, disaster education, local efforts for the SDGs, sustainable tourism, and the impacts of pollution on biodiversity. UNU-IAS organised a webinar on sustainability in higher education with Ateneo de Manila University and the University of the Philippines Diliman (22 October), exploring lessons learned from the pandemic for sustained climate action.

### **CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT**

#### **ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme**

The 2021 ProSPER.Net Leadership Programme, co-organised with Social Innovation Japan, connected 24 young leaders across the Asia-Pacific region to explore interdisciplinary solutions for climate change (14-24 September). Under a design-thinking framework, participants developed and presented prototypes in response to climate challenges in areas such as energy, waste management, and education.



# Postgraduate Education

UNU-IAS educates the policymakers and researchers of tomorrow through a variety of teaching and training courses. They equip future leaders with the knowledge and adaptive capabilities to pave the way in global efforts towards a more sustainable future. The institute offers Master's and PhD degree programmes, and short intensive courses conducted in collaboration with leading universities in Japan and other countries. Postdoctoral fellowships provide recent PhD graduates with opportunities to engage in extended research as part of the institute's projects.

UNU-IAS students and fellows benefit from the unique learning environment of a global university within the UN system, with access to leading scholars and practitioners, as well as international events. Active engagement in UNU-IAS research projects develops applied skills, while networks and partner institutions provide opportunities for field experience in developing countries.

## Postgraduate Degrees

UNU-IAS offers an MSc in Sustainability and a PhD in Sustainability Science. The courses are taught by a diverse faculty comprising both UNU-IAS academic staff and visiting scholars from other leading academic institutions in Japan and international organisations. They are the only programmes of UNU that confer standalone postgraduate degrees.

Studying at a global university within the UN system brings unique opportunities to interact with leading researchers, policymakers, diplomats, and practitioners, and to participate in high-level international events. At the same time, the global networks of UNU-IAS enable students to engage in collaborative research and gain practical experience. The institute's location in central Tokyo, at the heart of the city's international community, brings a wide variety of enriching educational opportunities and cultural experiences.

Exchange agreements allow the transfer of credits with the University of Tokyo (UTokyo), International Christian University (ICU), and Sophia University. Through these schemes UNU-IAS students have access to 126 relevant courses at partner universities. UNU-IAS has also been implementing joint diploma programmes with Sophia University and UTokyo (see below). A range of scholarships are provided to support outstanding students, from the Japan Foundation for the UNU (jfUNU), the UNU Rector's Office, UNU-IAS, Asian Development Bank (ADB), and Resona Bank. These scholarships supported 58% of the institute's students as of December 2021.

During the academic year 2020–2021 UNU-IAS delivered 17 courses. As part of the institute's response to COVID-19 all courses and supervision have been conducted online or through hybrid arrangements since April 2020. Two new courses were added to the curriculum in Spring 2021:

- From SDGs to Climate Change: Implementation Strategies for Its Adaptation and Mitigation: This course explores how the 17 SDGs are interlinked through goal 13 (climate action). It was successfully completed by 11 students – five from UNU-IAS and six from partner universities.
- Inclusive Learning Technology for Sustainable Development: This course focuses on the role of ESD and current issues from a lifelong learning perspective. It was completed by 13 participants, comprising seven UNU-IAS students and six students of partner universities.

### MSc in Sustainability

The UNU-IAS Master of Science in Sustainability equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to solving challenges of sustainability. Designed for recent graduates, professionals and practitioners, the two-year programme addresses sustainability through an interdisciplinary approach, engaging the global network of UNU-IAS partner institutions. In total 92 graduates have completed the programme since it was established in 2010.



The programme includes compulsory courses, specialised elective courses, research seminars, and a master's thesis. Students are eligible for a Joint Diploma in Sustainability Science offered by UNU-IAS and the UTokyo Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, and a joint diploma programme with Sophia University. Over the past 3 years 73% of the students have received one of these joint diplomas (22 students).

A double master's degree with the UTokyo Department of Urban Engineering, Graduate School of Engineering is offered as a three-year programme. Students who are admitted by both universities study for two years at UTokyo, obtaining a Master of Engineering degree, and then spend a final year at UNU-IAS, obtaining a Master of Science in Sustainability degree.

### **PhD in Sustainability Science**

The UNU-IAS PhD in Sustainability Science aims to develop leading researchers in the interdisciplinary field of sustainability science. The three-year programme promotes a better understanding of sustainability challenges by incorporating global change perspectives, specifically those related to climate change and biodiversity. Through coursework and problem-oriented research, students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as the technical literacy required to address sustainability challenges. In total 16 graduates have completed the programme since it was established in 2012.

The programme includes a PhD dissertation under one of the four UNU-IAS thematic areas (see pg. 5). Recent dissertation topics have included urban public transport and low-carbon transitions in Jakarta, Indonesia; the contribution of sugarcane farming to household food, energy, and water security in Zimbabwe; and the impact of urban river governance on ecosystem services.

A Joint Diploma in Sustainability Science, developed by UNU-IAS and the UTokyo Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, is available to students of the programme, as well as a joint diploma with Sophia University. Over the past 3 years 29% of the students have received one of these joint diplomas (2 students).



## Short-term Courses

These short courses provide innovative study opportunities for students and professionals. Many of them also serve as core components of the UNU-IAS postgraduate degree programmes and provide credits towards degrees at partner universities.

### Intensive Core Courses

Organised by UNU-IAS in September, the IC courses are unique in their extensive engagement of invited scholars and practitioners as guest lecturers, many of whom are experienced UN professionals, to provide students with insights into relevant policy issues and practical challenges. The 2021 Intensive Core (IC) Courses were held on 1-29 September, providing 33 students from 17 countries with opportunities to learn about essential theories and multilateral approaches to issues of sustainability and development from interdisciplinary perspectives.

Three courses were offered over the four-week period:

1. The UN System and Sustainable Development
2. Global Change and Planetary Boundaries
3. Principles of International Development Projects

### Intensive Course on Principles of Sustainable Finance, ESG Investing, and SDG Business Management

Launched in June, this new executive course focuses on the challenges and opportunities of ESG (environmental, social, and governance) factors. It combines lectures, discussion, and MBA-style applied case method teaching. The course was developed in collaboration with the business communities in Japan and other countries, in recognition of the central role played by the finance and investment sectors in fostering sustainable development. The course was successfully completed by 27 participants, comprising 23 professionals from 21 global corporations and agencies, and four students undertaking postgraduate studies at UNU-IAS and other universities (7 June – 2 July).



### 36th UNU Global Seminar – Sustainable Solutions for Global Environmental Problems

This seminar has been organised by UNU on an annual basis since 1985, with the aim of enhancing awareness among students about contemporary global issues and the role of the United Nations in addressing them. In the 36th session 61 students from 21 universities across Japan discussed issues such as strengthening cross-border cooperation and addressing current environmental problems by taking ownership and finding solutions. Held online for the first time, the seminar maximised interaction through tools including videoconferencing with breakout rooms, social media, and email. Participants made full use of these tools throughout the three days, culminating in the development and delivery of their group presentations.



# Capacity Development

## TRAINING

### Global Leadership Training Programme in Africa (GLTP)

This initiative facilitates knowledge exchange between Japan and Africa to contribute towards solving sustainable development challenges on the continent. Since its launch in 2013 GLTP has supported 66 students in field-based studies at 28 universities and research institutes located in 13 different African countries.

In the context of the ongoing pandemic, UNU-IAS redesigned GLTP as an online intensive course in collaboration with New York University and the University of Johannesburg (23 July – 2 September; 17 September). Through this new model 31 postgraduate students and professionals completed the course (20 from Japan and 11 from other countries). It included lectures, workshops, resource sharing, and participatory activities in a wide range of fields – including health, education, environmental studies, human rights, law, technology, government, and civil society. Online teaching and networking helped participants to engage with African leaders to discuss leadership and development practices.

The faculty comprised prominent scholars, policymakers, and civil society leaders from institutions including the African Development Bank, Stellenbosch University, Stockholm Environment Institute Africa, the South African Foundation for Human Rights, the University of Ghana, and the University of Nairobi, as well as the organisers. The course was coordinated by Dr. Carol Anne Spreen (Associate Professor of International Education, NYU) and Prof. Salim Vally (Director, Centre for Education Rights and Transformation, University of Johannesburg).



Dr. Carol Anne Spreen  
New York University



Prof. Salim Vally  
University of Johannesburg

## RESEARCH

### Grant for Global Sustainability (GGS)

This initiative, supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), builds collaboration with research and educational institutions in Japan to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. In its first phase (2015–2020) seven projects were implemented in 17 different countries, in close collaboration with diverse local counterparts. Results were disseminated through 171 peer-reviewed academic publications and 148 academic presentations at workshops and international symposiums.

The second phase of GGS (2020–2024) is focused on scientific contributions to the SDGs, mainstreaming evidence-based and policy-oriented research in the thematic areas of UNU-IAS. A final reporting session (7 April) evaluated the achievements of two projects implemented since 2018. A project on education & governance developed a conceptual framework and monitoring tools for ESD and Global Citizenship Education (implemented by the Graduate School of Education, University of Tokyo). A project on women’s empowerment and gender produced a model for health and welfare service provision with expansion of women’s employment (implemented by the School of Medicine, University of Tokyo). The review committee recognised both projects and called for their research outcomes to be disseminated internationally. A new project was launched, focused on safeguarding intangible cultural heritage in the Lao People’s Democratic Republic using ICT, in collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok and Tokyo Institute for Technology.



## FELLOWSHIP

### JSPS-UNU Postdoctoral Fellowship

This initiative provides young scholars and policymakers, especially those from the developing world, with opportunities to pursue advanced research and training that is of direct relevance to the research agenda of UNU-IAS. The 24-month fellowships are jointly organised by UNU-IAS and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS). Fellows participate in UNU-IAS lectures, seminars, workshops, and conferences, and benefit from the institute’s close institutional links with key universities and think tanks in Japan and around the world. During 2021, fellows conducted research on a wide range of topics including sustainable water use and management, localisation of the SDGs, and education for sustainable development.

# Communications & Outreach

UNU-IAS disseminates information about its research and activities through public events held in Tokyo and around the globe, as well as through print and electronic media. These efforts seek to inform policymakers, practitioners, and scholars about relevant UNU-IAS research, while introducing broader audiences to its efforts in addressing current and emerging issues, increasing engagement, and forming partnerships for the SDGs.

## Events

UNU-IAS conferences, symposiums, workshops, and seminars bring together a diverse array of international experts, businesspeople, community leaders, and students to discuss topics related to sustainability. Held at UNU headquarters in Tokyo, in other locations across the globe, and online, these events advance debate, raise public awareness, and develop networks for research and policy development. During 2021 UNU-IAS organised a total of 114 events, engaging over 9,000 participants.

## Publications

UNU-IAS researchers produced 79 publications during 2021, including 49 articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals, as well as policy briefs, working papers, books, articles in magazines and newspapers, website articles, conference papers, and videos.

### *UNU-IAS Policy Briefs*

Launched in 2015, the UNU-IAS Policy Brief series presents analysis and policy recommendations for addressing sustainability challenges, in an accessible format. Each brief informs high-level debates, enhances research uptake, and provides actionable recommendations for decision makers at the global, national, and local levels. Eight were published during 2021:

- *Harnessing Adequate, Safe, and Affordable Housing for the Urban Poor to Achieve the SDGs in Cities* (No. 29)
- *Advancing Multiple Values of Water in Water Policy & Management in Asia* (No. 28)
- *Improving Community Acceptance of Sustainable Low-income Housing: Lessons from Mumbai & Surabaya* (No. 27)
- *Resilience in Landscapes & Seascapes: Building Back Better from COVID-19* (No. 26)
- *Accelerating 2030 Agenda Integration: Aligning National Development Plans with the SDGs* (No. 25)
- *Transformative Change for Sustainability: Nurturing Seeds of Change in Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes & Seascapes* (No. 24)
- *Transforming Water Conflicts into Collaborative Watershed Management Solutions – Lessons from the Greater Himalayan Region* (No. 23)
- *Building Local Resilience Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction* (No. 22)

## Books

Recent books produced by UNU-IAS researchers include:

- *Integrated Research on Disaster Risks* (Springer International Publishing; 2021)

- *Tackling Climate Action at the Local Level: Education for Sustainable Development Projects from the Global RCE Network* (UNU-IAS; 2021)
- *Fostering Transformative Change for Sustainability in the Context of Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes (SEPLS)* (Springer Nature Singapore; 2021)
- *Social-Ecological Systems (SES): From Risks and Insecurity to Viability and Resilience* (Springer, Cham; 2021)

### **Sustainability Science Journal**

The scientific journal Sustainability Science is a collaborative initiative of UNU-IAS and the UTokyo Institute for Future Initiatives (IFI), published by Springer. It has developed a profile as one of the leading journals in the field, with an impact factor of 6.367 (2020 data) and a global ranking of 16th in the Sustainable Development category (Google Scholar). A total of 165 articles were published in 2021, and special features produced on the links between sustainability and peace, leverage points for sustainability transitions, and energy scenarios for climate change mitigation in Japan.

### **Global Environment Outreach Centre (GEOC)**

This joint initiative of UNU-IAS and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan (MOEJ) supports activities in various social sectors towards sustainability within and beyond Japan, through the establishment and maintenance of multi-stakeholder partnerships. It plays an important role in UNU-IAS communications, outreach, and knowledge management.

In 2021 the centre organised 10 public events, addressing a range of topics relevant to policymakers, civil society, businesses, and UN organisations. These included digital transformation, sustainability after COVID-19, and localisation of the SDGs through action by youth, as well as events marking the international observances World Wetlands Day (2 February), World Water Day (22 March), and International Day for Biological Diversity (20 May). The event Synergising ESD for 2030 Stakeholders Dialogue (1 July), co-organised with MOEJ, discussed how to accelerate action on the ESD for 2030 agenda. GEOC promoted public awareness and engagement in the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) through a series of live webcasts at the conference, and two dialogue sessions in December (see *In Focus*).

### **Online Outreach**

During 2021 UNU-IAS websites received 433,000 pageviews – an increase of 15% on 2020. The top countries for visitors including India, Indonesia, Japan, Nigeria, and the United States. The institute strengthened its social media presence, launching new channels on YouTube and LinkedIn to expand reach and engagement among new and existing audiences.

### **Media Coverage**

UNU-IAS activities and experts were featured by a range of media outlets in Japan and other countries. An article in the *Yomiuri Shimbun* (6 November) focused on the institute's new initiative to develop a post-graduate degree specialisation on the Paris Agreement on climate change, which was announced in a press conference at UNFCCC COP26. *Toyo Keizai*, a leading business and finance magazine in Japan, showcased the UNU-IAS project SDG-Universities Platform ("The Next Generation of After-Corona – Transforming Society through the Practice of the SDGs"; 26 June). *The Japan Times* published an interview with a UNU-IAS researcher, focused on her work on biodiversity issues ("Evonne Yiu, U.N. researcher and champion of forests and sea"; 22 January). The institute's Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa (OUIK) hosted a fortnightly TV segment on the SDGs aired by Ishikawa TV (April - December), and produced a weekly column in the Hokuriku Chunichi Shimbun (January - June).

# UNU-IAS Board Members, 2021

**Prof. Maria Ivanova** (Bulgaria) CHAIR

Associate Professor of Global Governance and Director of the Center for Governance and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts Boston

**Dr. Melissa Brown Goodall** (USA)

Senior Director, Environmental Innovations Initiative, University of Pennsylvania

**Mr. Mitsuo Kojima** (Japan)

President & Representative Director, Affirmative Investment Management Japan Inc.

**Dr. Philip Osano** (Kenya) VICE-CHAIR

Centre Director, Stockholm Environment Institute Africa

**Ms. Helene Von Reis** (Sweden)

President CEO & CSO (Chief Sustainability Officer), IKEA Japan K.K.

**Prof. Yukari Takamura** (Japan)

Professor, Institute for Future Initiatives, University of Tokyo

Members of the UNU-IAS Board serve in their individual capacity, and are appointed by the Rector of UNU, in consultation with the UNU Council. The Rector of UNU and the Director of UNU-IAS are ex-officio members of the Board.

During 2021, meetings of the Board were held on 8 April and 16 November through videoconferencing.

## Financial Support

Contributions over USD 20,000

- Government of Japan – Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
- Government of Japan – Ministry of the Environment (MOE)
- Government of Japan – Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
- Ishikawa Prefecture
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS)
- Kanazawa City
- Resona Holdings, Inc
- The Japan Foundation for the United Nations University (JfUNU)
- European Union

*End of Report*