

An aerial photograph of a dark, cracked, and textured landscape, possibly a dry lake bed or a volcanic field. A small, light-colored boat is visible on the right side. A white, irregularly shaped object, possibly a piece of ice or a rock, is in the center. The left side of the image is partially obscured by a white, dotted pattern.

# Annual Report — 2022



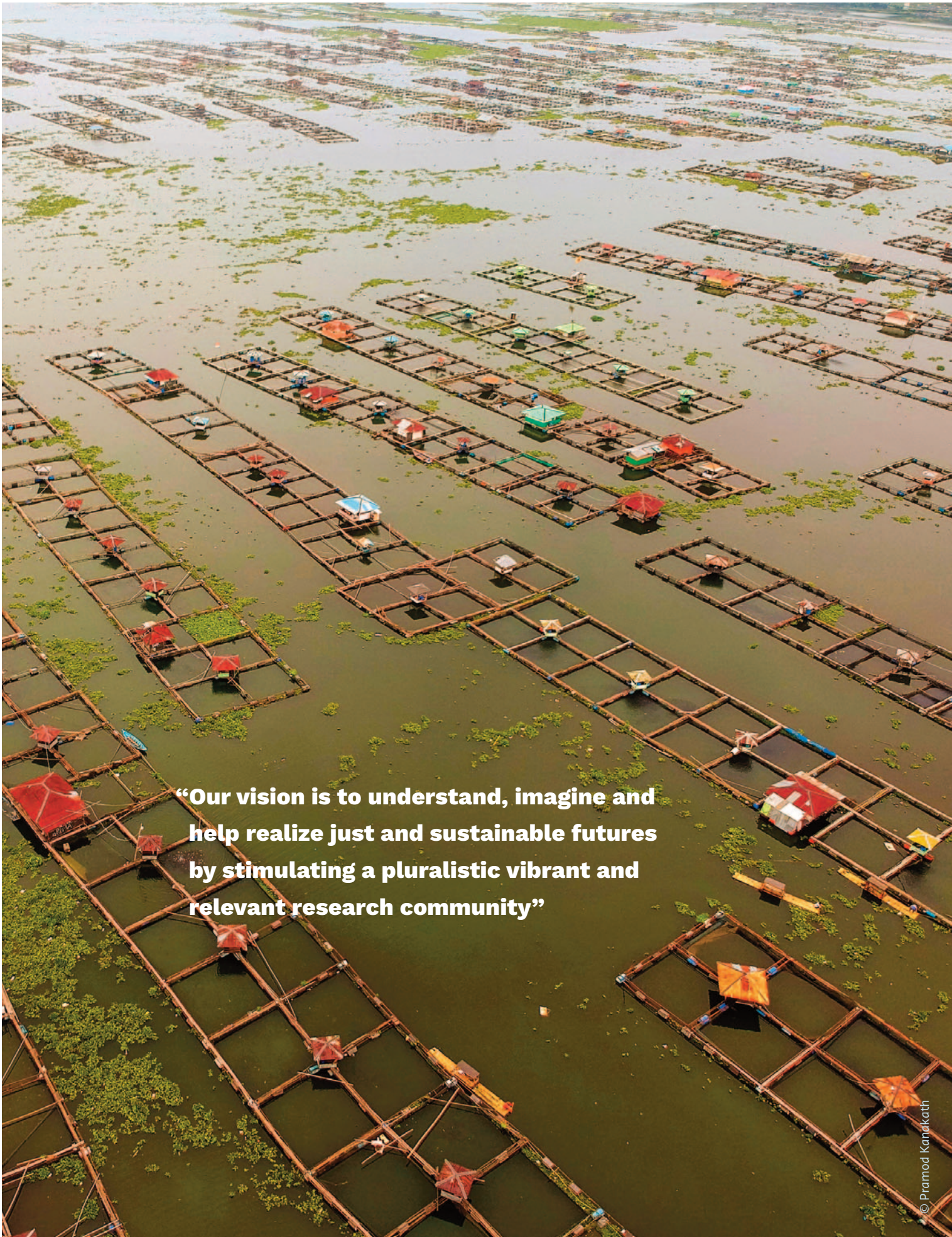
Earth  
System  
Governance

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University





“Our vision is to understand, imagine and help realize just and sustainable futures by stimulating a pluralistic vibrant and relevant research community”

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**“The largest social science and humanities research network on governance and global environmental change”**

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## Introduction

### About the Project

The Earth System Governance Project is an interdisciplinary research network that aims to advance research on global environmental change and governance, at local and global scales. The network fosters community collaboration across disciplines, geographies and career stages. The highly interdisciplinary research community spans disciplines such as international relations, political science, human geography, urban studies, development studies, law and sustainability science, among others.

We aim to:

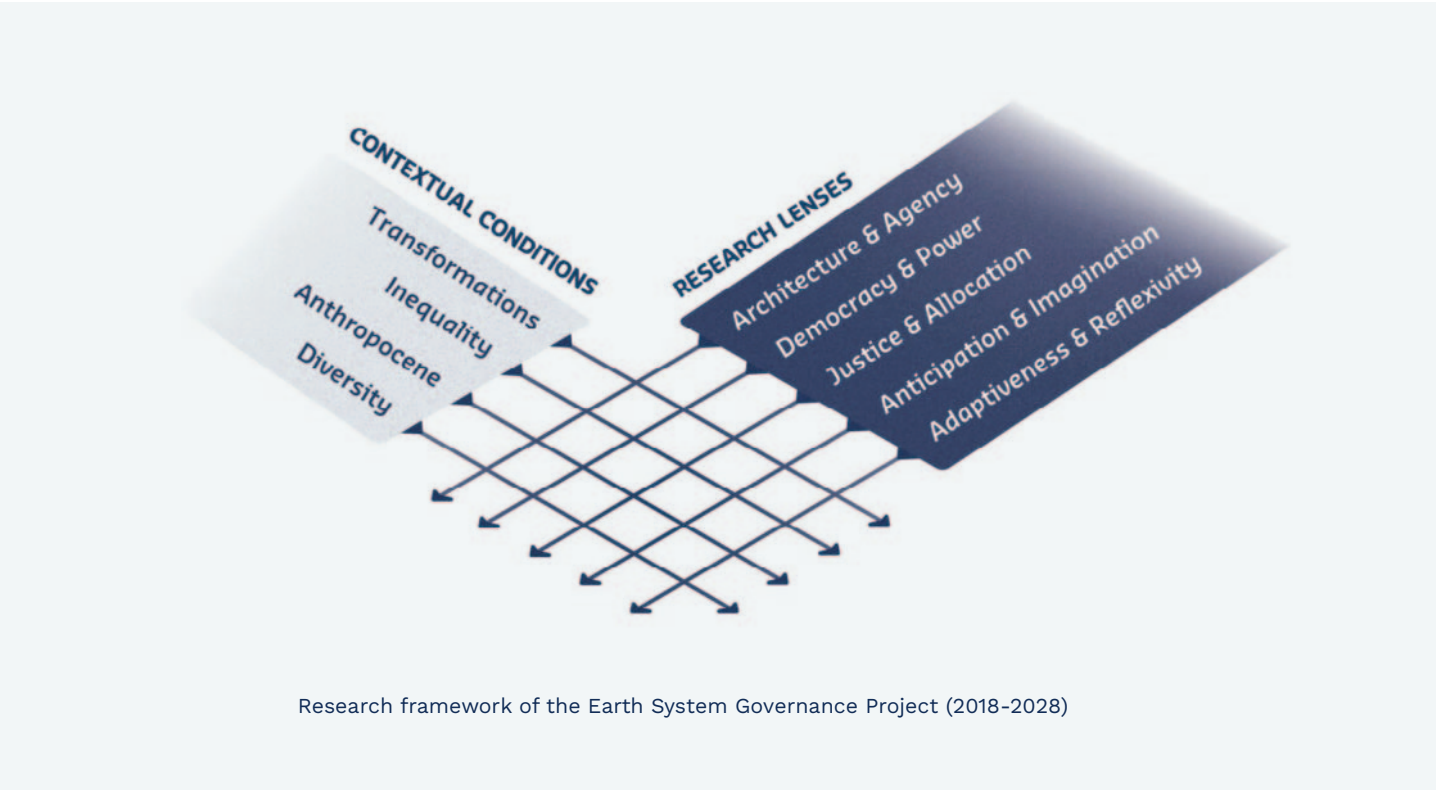
- Expand the global mobilization of earth system governance researchers
- Stimulate and facilitate research collaborations
- Inform and advise at the science-policy interface

**“Our mission is to stimulate a vibrant, pluralistic, and relevant research community with the vision to understand, imagine and help realize just and sustainable futures.”**

### Our research

Overall, the Earth System Governance Project advances ground-breaking interdisciplinary scholarship spanning analytical, critical, normative orientations. Members of the Earth System Governance community – ranging across a wide range of sectors and scales, disciplines, career stages, and geographical regions – stimulate and lead international debates on environmental politics, provide insights into governance opportunities and solutions, and push the frontiers of our understanding of earth system transformations in the social sciences.

The Earth System Governance Project’s research agenda is driven by its 2018–2028 Science and Implementation Plan. This plan outlines the conceptual rationale, research agenda, and implementation mechanisms for the Earth System Governance Project. It revolves around a shared framework for conceptualizing and organizing earth system governance research. The framework articulates five Research Lenses which structure the activities of the Earth System Governance research community. Transversally, four Contextual Conditions characterize core contemporary challenges facing Earth System Governance: Transformations, Inequality, Anthropocene, and Diversity.



Research framework of the Earth System Governance Project (2018-2028)

This research agenda helps to shape shared research questions and co-creation activities among diverse perspectives. It also therefore serves as a basis for organizing and structuring the annual conference panels.

**Organisation**

The Earth System Governance Project is managed and administered through an International Project Office (IPO), currently sponsored by and hosted at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at the Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University, Netherlands (2018-2023). The three-person team at the IPO is embedded within staff at the Department of Environmental Governance, and therefore surrounded by inspiring and engaging colleagues who welcome the ESG Project to be part of the Copernicus Institute community. The Project is grateful for the support of this cutting-edge institute that provides an excellent work environment to run network activities globally.

The Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development is the scientific institute for sustainability research and teaching at Utrecht University. Through a wide array of activities, the institute’s ambition is to make a difference – in science and education, and in society at large – in the exploration of a sustainable world. In 2022 Utrecht University researchers ranked second worldwide in the Academic Ranking, of World Universities (Shanghai Ranking) category Geography.



Scientific Steering Committee members and the IPO Executive Director at the 2022 Toronto Conference

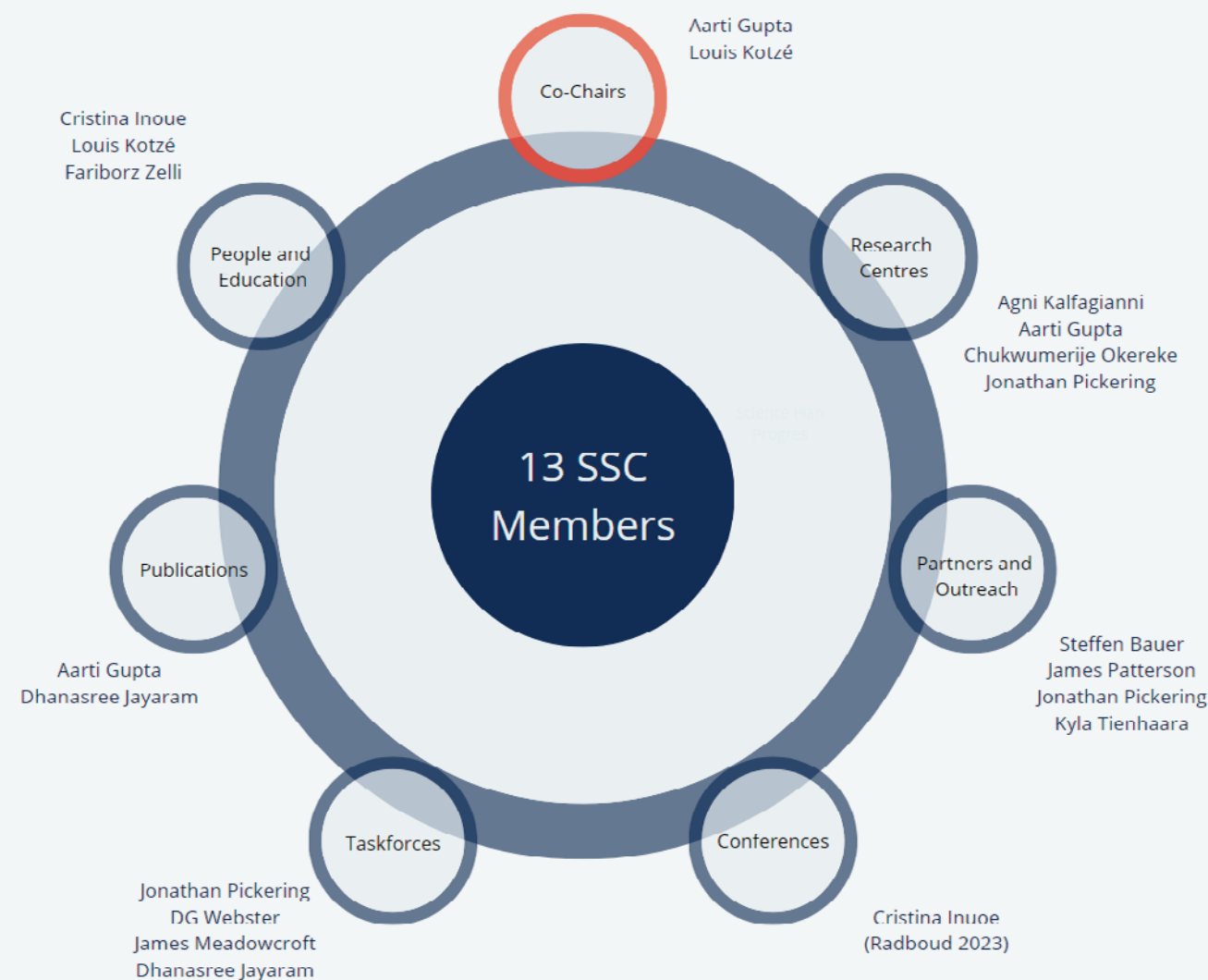


2022 Co-Chair Agni Kalfagianni

**Scientific Steering Committee**

The Earth System Governance Project is overall steered by a Scientific Steering Committee comprised of 13 scholars spanning diverse disciplines and geographical regions. The role of the Scientific Steering Committee is to guide the implementation of the Science and Implementation Plan, and to ensure the continuation and thriving of the Earth System Governance network. Meetings take place on a quarterly basis.





The work of the Scientific Steering Committee is executed primarily through portfolios

## Letter from the Scientific Steering Committee

The annual report of the Earth System Governance project offers a timely opportunity to reflect on what our vibrant network has collectively achieved in 2022, and what the challenges and opportunities might be going forward. The year just concluded offered everyone the first real post-Covid opportunity to emerge from the stifling restrictions of a debilitating pandemic; restrictions that were imposed on us individually and as a collective network, and on the important scientific work we do in pursuit of a more sustainable and just world for everyone. We are confident that we have emerged not only more resilient and with a greater sense of the deepening and pervasive levels of vulnerability that characterize the living order, but also with a deeper appreciation of and commitment to contributing science-based solutions to address the multiple social-ecological challenges emanating from ongoing earth system transformations.

A particular highlight of this past year, as every year, was the 2022 Earth System Governance conference, held in Toronto, Canada. This stellar hybrid flagship event was the largest annual conference to date and offered our close knit network a fertile co-creative space to showcase our research and our ongoing and planned projects. It was also an opportunity to have a face-to-face conversation with friends and colleagues whom we had not seen in person for a while. The Scientific Steering Committee wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the host institutions, the Universities of Toronto and Waterloo, and to the conference co-chairs, Sarah Burch, Matthew Hoffman and Steven Bernstein, and everyone else involved who so skilfully curated this wonderful conference. We look forward with great anticipation and excitement to the 2023 annual conference to be held at Radboud University in the Netherlands and to seeing old and new faces there.

As you will see from this report, despite the many challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, the Earth System Governance (ESG) network's numbers continue to grow at an impressive rate. We are particularly excited by the continued growth in the number of global South scholars joining the network, as well as an improvement in gender balance, and a marked increase in early career scholars who are becoming active members. Several specific initiatives are in progress, such as the South-South and Mentoring initiatives. In addition to this, the Taskforces and Working Groups have all actively driven several initiatives that continue to strengthen the network's relevance, impact, and reach, and new Taskforces and Working Groups continue to be established. We are deeply grateful for the time and effort that conveners and members dedicate to these activities.

Another crucially important aspect of our work relates to our publications, not only in our own sought-after ESG book series and journal, but also in the many additional publication outlets where the ESG community actively engages. The Cambridge ESG Elements Series has again attracted considerable interest; so too has the ESG Harvesting Series published by Cambridge University Press and



the ESG series MIT Press. The network’s flagship fully open access journal Earth System Governance published by Elsevier is also going from strength to strength and has now received an impact factor, while also being included in Scopus and Web of Science. This is a remarkable achievement, considering the journal was launched only in 2019.

The ESG Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) has also undergone some substantial changes. We wish to thank the previous co-chairs of the SSC, Agni Kalfagianni and James Meadowcroft, for their tireless efforts to strategically steer the network diligently in the last two years. They both remain members of the SSC. The new co-chairs for the period 2022-2024, Aarti Gupta and Louis Kotzé are excited and enthusiastic about taking on this new role. We would also like to express our gratitude to Sarah Burch, who is stepping down from SSC for her many contributions. At the same time, we are excited to welcome three new members: Fariborz Zelli, Dhanasree Jayaram, and Kyla Tienhaara. The SSC is fortunate to be able to rely on the collective wisdom and creativity of all our existing and new members, including all members of the larger ESG network, who participate in meaningful and diverse ways in all our activities.

As the beating heart of our network, the strength and success of the Earth System Governance network depends as well on a well-functioning International Project Office (IPO). The current IPO has been generously hosted by the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University since 2018. This office was diligently led by Gustav Thungren, and supported by Lisa Bettoni since 2019. We acknowledge with much gratitude the tireless efforts that they put into the network and its IPO to take it from strength to strength. The new Executive Director of the ESG-IPO, Jane Butler, is known to many, and we are very excited by the prospect of her taking over this position. Jane is joined by Vere de Jong and Camille Thébaut as additional staff members of the IPO, to whom we extend a warm welcome and heartfelt thanks for their hard work and enthusiasm in supporting the ESG community. An opportunity but also a challenge that presents itself in the upcoming period is to find a new institutional home for the ESG-IPO, so that its supportive role in the network can continue uninterrupted.

In sum, we are happy to present this overview for 2022 to our network members and people outside of the network. We also very much look forward to what lies ahead in 2023 and to all the exciting activities, events and opportunities that we will engage in as a global network of scholars, as we strive to make a difference in how we confront the challenging social and ecological dimensions of ongoing Earth system transformations. We welcome suggestions from all members of the ESG community on how we can continue to improve and extend our research, outreach and advocacy work in new and necessary directions.

Scientific Steering Committee of the Earth System Governance Project,  
April 2023

Scientific Steering Committee



Steffen Bauer  
German Development  
Institute, Germany



Aarti Gupta  
Wageningen University,  
The Netherlands



Cristina Yumie  
Aoki Inoue  
University of Brasilia, Brazil



Dhanasree Jayaram  
Manipal Academy of Higher  
Education, India



Agni Kalfagianni  
Utrecht University,  
The Netherlands



Louis Kotzé  
North-West University,  
South Africa



James Meadowcroft  
Carleton University, Canada



Chukwumerije Okereke  
Alex-Ekwueme Federal  
University, Nigeria



James Patterson  
Utrecht University,  
The Netherlands



Jonathan Pickering  
University of Canberra,  
Australia



Kyla Tienhaara  
Queen's University, Canada



DG Webster  
Dartmouth University, USA



Fariborz Zelli  
Lund University, Sweden



# IPO Year in Numbers



## COMMUNITY GROWTH

**3** new Lead Faculty  
**5** new Senior Research Fellows  
**39** new Research Fellows, including 17 Early Career Researchers  
**47** total new Fellows  
**511** total ESG Network (464 in 2021)



## WEBSITE

**4500** views per month



## TWITTER

**1018** new followers  
**339.1k** post impressions



## MAILING LISTS

**275** new subscribers  
**2026** total subscribers



## LINKEDIN

**600** new followers  
**1400** total members  
**35k** posts impressions

© Bruno Abdiel

# International Project Office Update

## ESG Communications channels

In 2022, the Earth System Governance (ESG) project website underwent a major overhaul, providing enhanced features for network members such as webpages for Working Groups and Taskforces, as well as resources for Early Career Researchers. Additionally, the project's graphic charter was updated with a modern look, giving the ESG project's various communication materials a fresh visual identity and more user-friendly interface.

### Newsletter

In 2022, the ESG Project newsletter gained 275 new subscribers, bringing the total number of subscribers to 2026. The Calls & Vacancies section is of particular popularity among the audience, as a resource for the latest professional opportunities in the field. There was a significant increase in the number of clicks on our mail items, with over 1000 clicks recorded for the months of April and November 2022.

### Linkedin

The ESG project's LinkedIn account has gained 600 new followers, with over 75% of them from the research/education fields. The 2022 LinkedIn posts received 35K impressions.

 **Join the ESG Project Community on LinkedIn**  
(1400 group members)

'The ESG Early Career Community' LinkedIn group has been established in 2022 to facilitate Early Career Researchers in sharing and discussing their experiences, opportunities, and queries. In addition, this group shares relevant network updates and resources related to ESG.

 **Join the ESG Early Career Community on LinkedIn**  
(around 100 ECRs)

**Earth System  
Governance TV**



**You  
Tube**





**“We are confident that we have emerged from the pandemic more resilient and with a greater sense of the deepening and pervasive levels of vulnerability that characterize the living order”**

**“We also have a deeper appreciation of and commitment to contributing science-based solutions to address the multiple social-ecological challenges emanating from ongoing Earth system transformations.”**

Scientific Steering Committee

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## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Earth System Governance researchers and wider community,

It has been a privilege to step into the role of Executive Director of the International Project Office last October. The transition to the role took place just in advance of the Toronto Conference. Each year, the International Project Office, or ‘IPO’, teams up with a host university for the Annual ESG Conference. This year, we worked with the local team at The University of Waterloo and the University of Toronto. From student employees to finance teams and the conference chairs, several months were spent ideating and locking down the various details of our largest conference to date. I’d like to thank this team who made the conference such a great success on the ground. A personal highlight was admiring the three-hundred-strong convivial congregation at the conference dinner after a long pandemic. It was an evening in which names and emails were transformed to faces, smiles, and interesting conversations. That is the beauty of working for a research network of people.

With a farewell and thank you to Lisa Bettoni and Gustav Thungren, in 2022 the IPO welcomed two new teammates: Vere de Jong and Camille Thébaut. Vere de Jong is the Network Coordinator and Administrative Assistant and is behind the monthly newsletter in your inboxes. Camille Thébaut is the Project and Events Coordinator and is in the lead for various aspects of our network activities and communications. We are working hard this year with a priority on building an even more pluralistic community, as well as helping the network create relevant research together that addresses the pressing challenges in our field. These aims are being pursued with the South-South Initiative events and publishing activities, as well as structuring opportunities for inter- and transdisciplinary research throughout the conference and beyond.

We are also exploring possibilities for the next institutional home of the IPO as our funding partnership comes to a close with Utrecht University in 2023. Utrecht has been a welcoming home to the office and team members since 2019.

The IPO is your ‘one-stop shop’ for all ESG-related requests. Do not hesitate to get in contact with a member of the team to propose your ideas, share your latest research, or understand more about what the network can do with and for research fellows.

On behalf of the team, I very much so look forward to working with the community in 2023.

*Jane Butler*  
Executive Director



Jane Butler



Camille Thébaut




Vere de Jong




ESG Speakers Series


The Earth System Governance (ESG) Project, with coordinating support from the International Project Office (IPO), hosted several editions of the ESG Speaker Series in 2022. The aim of the ESG Speaker Series is to provide a platform to explore, discuss and engage with contemporary debates emerging from scholars affiliated with the Earth System Governance Project. It serves to provide a platform for the ongoing research discussions and output scholars outside of the annual conference. Fellows of the network propose the topics and lead the dialogue of this series.

GEOPOLITICAL TURMOIL AND EARTH SYSTEM GOVERNANCE - APRIL 20TH


  
Earth System Governance Speaker Series

  
Utrecht University


Chair:  
Prof. Agni Kalfagianni



Prof. Simon Dalby  
Professor of Geography and  
Environmental Studies at Wilfrid  
Laurier University, Waterloo,  
Ontario



Dr. Dhanasree Jayaram  
Research Fellow at Centre Marc Bloch  
(CMB) and Guest Researcher at Freie  
Universität Berlin



Dr. Marie Claire Brisbois  
Senior Lecturer in Energy Policy at  
SPRU, and Co-Director of the Sussex  
Energy Group

In April, a webinar was organized to explore the widespread consequences of geopolitical turmoil intensified by the war in Ukraine. A panel of three experts from the ESG network examined various perspectives and timescales, including global diplomacy, food systems, energy, security, material value chains, and economics. The panellists were Dhanasree Jayaram (Centre Marc Bloch – CMB and Freie Universität Berlin, Germany), Marie Claire Brisbois (SPRU and Sussex Energy Group, United Kingdom) and Simon Dalby (Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario).

Over 50 participants attended the online meeting, and more than 7000 viewers watched the discussion through the ESG YouTube channel.

 [Link to recording](#)

EARTH SYSTEM GOVERNANCE IN SOUTH KOREA - THE ROAD TO CARBON NEUTRALITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - JUNE 23RD

June was marked by the visit of Sun-Jin Yun (Seoul National University, South Korea) at Utrecht University, who provided a lecture on the governance of climate change and sustainable development in South Korea. She discussed how the country has set ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy by 2050, highlighting the role of inclusive policy instruments. Sun-Jin Yun also discussed the importance of international cooperation, education and knowledge sharing in addressing climate change and achieving sustainable development.



 [Link to recording](#)



DEMOCRATISING SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATIONS - SEPTEMBER 22ND

Experts on democracy and sustainability shared their insights on prospects and pitfalls for democratising sustainability in light of current developments in global politics. This webinar featured a panel of researchers and practitioners including Jonathan Pickering (University of Canberra, Australia), Julia Tschersich (Utrecht University, Netherlands), Melani Gunathilaka and Rafael Jimenez Aybar. The session was built on findings from a review of research on the nexus between democracy and sustainability published in the Earth System Governance journal.

  
Earth System Governance Speaker Series

  
CENTER FOR DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY AND GLOBAL GOVERNANCE Seminar Series

  
UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

  
Utrecht University

### Democratising Sustainability Transformations

20th September  
10:00-11:30 (CEST)  
18:00-19:30 (AEST)

Experts on democracy and sustainability Jonathan Pickering, Julia Tschersich, Melani Gunathilaka and Rafael Jimenez Aybar share their insights, from both research and practice perspectives.

 [Link to recording](#)



# The 2022 Toronto Conference on Earth System Governance



Thanks to record-breaking numbers of submissions for the call for papers and attendance, the Earth System Governance (ESG) network hosted its most significant conference to date in 2022. The theme – Governing Accelerated Transitions – was timely and important. At a time when the forces arrayed against acceleration and just transformation – war, reactionary populism, economic stress – appear to be gaining momentum, the collective work of the ESG community showcases compelling and creative responses that recognize the necessity of action.

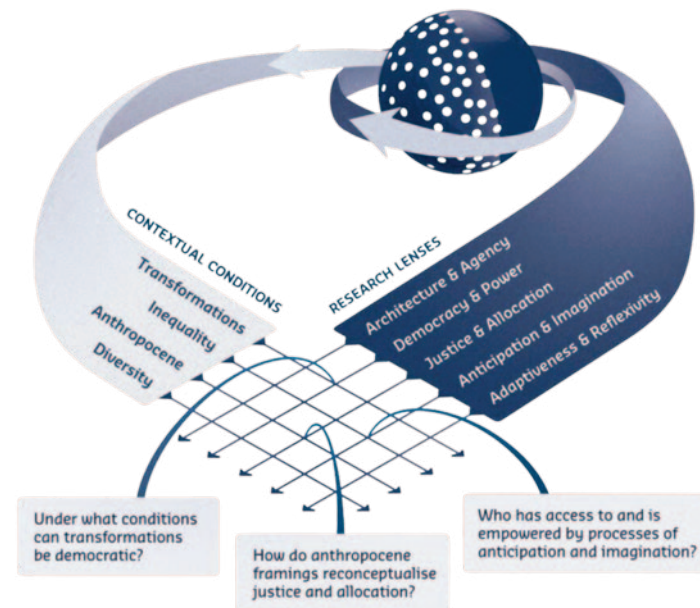
**The annual conference is the key activity that mobilizes the Earth System Governance community each year. For this long-standing tradition of global conferences, the Earth System Governance Project partners with universities and organisations.**

Conference Chairs Matthew Hoffman (University of Toronto), Sarah Burch (University of Waterloo) and Steven Bernstein (University of Toronto) hosted an extensive 6-day programme for 574 delegates. Unfortunately, two days leading up to the conference, the team came to learn that Sarah Burch fell ill with Covid-19. We therefore share a special mention of SSC member and conference Co-Chair Sarah Burch, as this unfortunate timing prevented her from attending the conference in person. Without her vision and work, it would not have been the event it was.

The conference was the first fully hybrid post-Covid conference that brought together 574 delegates from across the globe (over 50 countries). The attendance was diverse, with 40% of delegates participating virtually and the remaining 60% attending in-person. The conference consisted of 19 innovative sessions covering a wide range of topics, and 115 parallel panels that facilitated meaningful discussions and idea exchange among attendees.



Co-hosts included Sciences Po, France; The University of Sussex, UK; The Transition Accelerator, Canada; Utrecht University, The Netherlands and The National Autonomous University of Mexico.

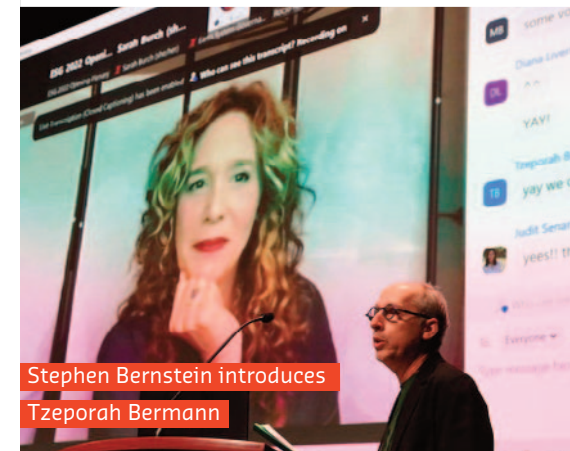


**The following is an overview of the submissions to the 2022 Conference, based on the conference streams as taken from the five research lenses of the 2018 Science and Implementation Plan, and a sixth stream, based on the conference theme "Accelerating Just and Inclusive".**

Conference Streams	
Architecture and Agency	286
Justice and Allocation	165
Democracy and Power	144
Anticipation and Imagination	93
Adaptiveness and Reflexivity	142
Accelerating Just and Inclusive Transitions	262
Other	39



Conference dinner at  
Evergreen Brickworks



## 2022 Opening plenary of #ESG2022

Following the Conference Chairs introduction, Tzeporah Berman, who has been designing environmental advocacy campaigns and environmental policy for 30 years, gave an inspiring keynote address. Entitled “Oil Politics in a World on Fire”, her presentation was a call to action, reminding us that in a time of compounding crises, hope is not always easy, but ‘courage is infectious’.



20





“Expanding the global mobilization of earth system governance researchers”

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## People of the Network

The Earth System Governance (ESG) Project aims to facilitate collaboration across various disciplines, geographies, and career stages.

The ESG network expanded significantly in 2022 with the addition of **47 new Research Fellows**. The community welcomed **three Lead Faculty members**, **five Senior Research Fellows**, and **39 Research Fellows**, including **17 Early Career Researchers**. The increase in the number of early career researchers is particularly notable, as it reflects the ESG network’s commitment to nurturing emerging talent in the field. With the inclusion of these new members, the total number of ESG fellows grew to 511 in 2022. Such growth signifies the amplified impact of earth system governance in research and academia.



Impression of #ESG2022  
all photos © Dave Chan





# Leadership Updates

## NEW SCIENTIFIC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The ESG Scientific Steering Committee welcomes the addition of Dhanasree Jayaram, Kyla Tienhaara, and Fariborz Zelli as its newest members. These three scholars have been actively contributing to ESG activities for several years.



**Fariborz Zelli** works on interlinkages between climate change, biodiversity, human rights, trade and security – both on a global scale and locally with a focus on Latin America and the Amazon at Lund University Sweden. He will serve on the SSC People Portfolio as the liaison for the project’s Lead Faculty members.



**Dhanasree Jayaram** is a Research Fellow at Centre Marc Bloch (CMB) and Guest Researcher at Freie Universität Berlin – under the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation’s International Climate Protection Fellowship (for postdocs) 2022-23. She is an Assistant Professor, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, and Co-coordinator, Centre for Climate Studies, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Karnataka, India. Dhanasree will work on the Publications Portfolio of the SSC, as well as play a leading role in the South-South Initiative.



**Kyla Tienhaara**, Canada Research Chair in Economy and Environment, examines what opportunities exist today for a Green New Deal in Canada and the United States in light of the significant changes in the political landscape of each country since 2008. Her research involves case studies of green investments at the national, provincial, and state levels, as well as an examination of the capacity of global institutions to facilitate or constrain such initiatives. Kyla will be working the SSC Outreach Portfolio, especially relating to scholarly activism.



## LEAD FACULTY



**Sun-Jin Yun** is a Professor of Environmental Studies at the Graduate School of Environmental Studies at Seoul National University and has dedicated most of her career to promoting sustainable development and addressing environmental issues through vigorous research, lecturing, and social activities. In May 2021, Yun was appointed Co-Chair of Korea’s 2050 Carbon Neutrality Commission (renamed 2050 Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth Commission in March 2022), where she helped develop carbon neutrality scenarios and enhance national contributions.



**Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers** serves as chair of the Environmental Governance and Politics (EGP) group at Radboud University, The Netherlands, and is specialized in environmental governance. Her research is especially focused on transformative global environmental governance, and aims to contribute to both academic and the societal debates on how societies and economies can become sustainable, and how such transformative change is, and can be, governed.

Ingrid will co-chair the 2023 conference on Earth System Governance with Birka Wicke.

**Fariborz Zelli** also joined as lead faculty. His biography is available above.





After the successful implementation of the pilot project in 2021, the Mentoring Initiative continued into 2022. This one-year programme aims to connect early career scholars (mentees) with Earth System Governance (ESG) Lead Faculty and Senior Research Fellows (mentors) who offer professional guidance and share experiences. Each mentoring group consists of 2-4 Research Fellow Mentees.

In 2022, the ESG Mentoring Initiative has connected 35 Mentees and 12 Mentors, who are matched with one another in peer groups. Prospective Mentors and Mentees were asked to fill in a matchmaking form, indicating what their field of interest in guidance or advice would be, what research topics they are interested in, and in what stage of career they are in.

This initiative provides a valuable opportunity to enhance the ESG network by nurturing the development of future leaders in our field, while also fostering a stronger sense of community among the ESG network. We aim to improve the initiative by implementing the feedback that was received from a 2022 Mentoring Initiative Feedback form.

**What did the mentees think of the initiative?**

“The Mentoring Initiative helped me to broaden my professional network. It helped me feel more confident about my PhD choices in terms of publication strategies, contribution etc. The initiative helped me to know how to achieve my professional goals, saving me from time-wasting mistakes.”



**What was the best advice you received?**

“To be authentic in my research, to look for my style and follow my heart. A PhD is a training process, you cannot do it all perfectly.”



# Early Career Researchers (ECRs)

## Early Career Committee



**Cebuan Bliss** (Radboud University, Netherlands)  
“The ESG taskforces are a hub for collaboration and a source of inspiration for ECRs. Taskforce day at the Toronto conference was a hive of activity. We discussed emerging topics in our field and collaborations for new research. It was wonderful to get to know scholars from all over the world and the diverse themes members of the network are thinking about.”



**Thais Lemos Ribeiro** (University of Brasília, Brazil)  
“The ESG Mentoring Initiative was a welcoming space for exchanging experiences, advice and guidance not only on research, but also on academic and non-academic careers. It helped me to have a broader perspective on my research and the interaction between science production and how to employ it in our society’s current challenges.”



**Timothy Adivilah Balag’kutu** (University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana)  
“Even though I couldn’t attend the Toronto Conference, seeing the impact of the activities that ECRs participated in was heartening. The emergence of a new group for ECRs on LinkedIn, along with the positive testimonials from my colleagues, brought some consolation for missing out on the event I had been eagerly anticipating.”



## Early Career Activities

### 2022 Toronto Conference

Throughout the Toronto Conference, the organizers set up a tailor-made program for Early Career Researchers (ECRs) to connect with scholars from across the globe and network in advance of conference days. The program kicked off with an event outside the classroom at Evergreen in Toronto. ECRs were invited to join a walk led by Matthew Hoffman, one of the three conference chairs. He gave the attendees an insight into the area and the mission of Evergreen to create livable, green, and prosperous cities. The walk was a mixture of hiking and engaging with the center, which has a history of 30 years in education around sustainable development.

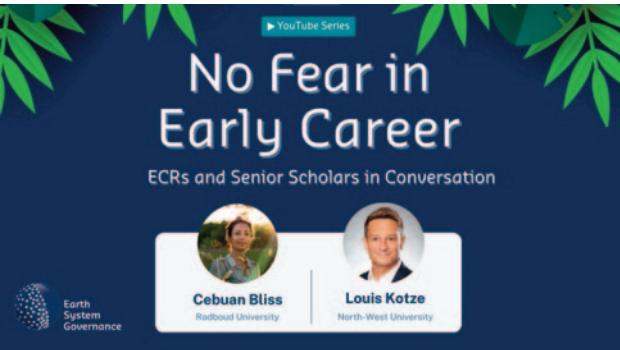


Later that day, the Living Library was opened with a keynote presentation by Michelle Betsill, Professor of Global Environmental Politics and a founding member of the Earth System Governance (ESG) project. The event was followed by knowledge exchange activities with senior scholars and the ESG Scientific Steering Committee, providing ECRs with opportunities to network and exchange ideas.

The Early Career Events have been curated by conference chair professor Sarah Burch, and her team Devon Jones and Jenna Phillips, with Cebuan Bliss (Radboud University, the Netherlands) from the ESG Early Career Committee. Thais Ribeiro hosted the online networking activity.

### No fear in Early Career

The ‘No Fear in Early Career’ series involve members of the Early Career Committee having conversations



with senior scholars, exploring their personal experiences as Early Career researchers. The audience has the opportunity to learn about the difficulties encountered by these scholars, the chances they seized, and the knowledge they acquired.

The first episode featured a conversation between Cebuan Bliss from the ESG Early Career Committee and Louis Kotzé, Research Professor North-West University, South Africa, and a member of the ESG Scientific Steering Committee. Louis shared his wealth of knowledge and experience, providing a unique perspective on progressing from a PhD to a full career in ESG research.

### Future Earth Network of Networks

Timothy Adivilah Balag’kutu, ESG Early Career Committee member also represents the ESG Project on the Future Earth Early Career Network. He was involved in several activities this year including assessing and judging ECRs presentations on SDG challenges at a capacity building workshop held in Sarajevo. He also participated in reviewing and voting on the new revised ECR-Network of Networks (NoN) governing structure. Timothy also gave a presentation on ESG at the ECR-NoN meeting.

He collaborates with other ECRs to plan, develop, and submit proposals for the Sustainability Research and Innovation (SRI) conference in Africa in 2023.



# Oran Young Prize Winner



The Oran R. Young Prize awarded by the Earth System Governance Project seeks to reward and encourage cutting-edge research on Earth System Governance by early-career scholars who will become the next generation of leading scholars in the field of earth system governance research – a field shaped and significantly influenced by the pioneering work of Oran R. Young. The prize has been awarded for the ninth time at the Toronto Conference to Noémie Laurens (Geneva Graduate Institute) for her paper on *Institutional adaptation in slow motion: Zooming in on desertification governance* as the best early-career paper of the 2022 Toronto Conference.

The paper was selected by the prize committee based on academic quality and novelty, as well as relevance to the Earth System Governance research framework.

Thank you to the 2022 Prize Committee for their inputs and evaluations: Katharine Rietig (chair), Frederick Ato Armah, Steven Bernstein, Michele Betsill, Sarah Burch, John Dryzek, Matthew Hoffmann, Kanako Morita, Susan Park, Karen O’Brien.

**The paper discusses how the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has adapted to new circumstances despite the absence of formal treaty change. It argues that two adaptations, land degradation neutrality targets and the science-policy interface, resulted from the advocacy of the secretariat and independent scientists. These adaptations were institutionalized through various decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP).**

[Link to the article](#)



# South-South Initiative

By the end of 2022, the South-South Initiative was established with the goal of strengthening the Earth System Governance (ESG) network in the Global South, promoting exchange between Global South scholars, and further building a community of scholarship on regionally relevant research topics.


## South-South initiative Background

To gain a better understanding of the needs and interests of scholars from or working in the Global South who are part of or interested in joining the ESG project, the International Project Office (IPO) launched a survey by the end of the summer.



Senior and mid-career ESG scholars analysed the survey results and organized an innovative session titled “Earth System Governance and the Global South: An Open Conversation”, moderated by Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue (Radboud University, the Netherlands) and Chukwumerije Okereke (Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ebony State, Nigeria). The panel discussion focused on exploring the nature of ESG in and from the Global South, specifically in research, teaching, and societal interactions. The panellists discussed the relevance of the Earth System Governance research framework to Global South scholars, as well as the possibilities and limitations of teaching on issues related to ESG. They also considered the potential for ESG scholars from the Global South to influence public policies and societal views. In 2023, the Initiative will take on insights from this background work to build a webinar series, launch a special issue to be published in the ESG journal, and host a one day workshop at the 2023 Radboud Conference.





**“Stimulating and facilitating  
research collaboration”**

## Taskforces and Working Groups

The Earth System Governance Project strives to advance research in specific areas of its research agenda through taskforces and working groups. Taskforces are formal groups that bring together scholars to collaboratively address key environmental governance and sustainability issues within a well-defined research area. These groups are community-driven and typically led by senior Research Fellows or Lead Faculty. Any scholar interested in contributing is welcome to participate. Working groups, on the other hand, are flexible research collaborations with smaller focus areas and shorter timeframes. They are established to explore uncharted territory in earth system governance research or to address a niche topic within a Taskforce.

### Taskforces

#### Taskforce on Planetary Justice

In 2022, the Taskforce on Planetary Justice was invited to contribute an article to the Special Issue of Environmental Philosophy, reflecting on Dipesh Chakrabarty’s “The Climate of History in a Planetary Age”. The Taskforce had previously participated in the International Association for Environmental Philosophy’s virtual Roundtable on the same topic, moderated by Jeremy Bendik-Keymer (Case Western Reserve University, USA). The article published in 2022 was a culmination of the Taskforce’s engagement with the topic and their contribution to the ongoing discourse on climate change and history.

At the Toronto Conference, the Taskforce presented their paper on planetary justice titled “Planetary Justice within Earth System Boundaries: Studying the prospects of justice through an analysis of ecological thought since the early Anthropocene”.

The Taskforce’s co-convenors also submitted an application for an European Research Council (ERC) Synergy Grant, which aims to reimagine justice politics for a planetary age. If successful, this grant would provide funding for 5 years, allowing the Taskforce to continue their important work.

#### Taskforce on Earth System Law

In 2022, the Taskforce on Earth System Law continued to expand on its mission to explore the legal dimensions of earth system governance. The impact of the Taskforce on global environmental law research and governance can be seen from the scholarly attention gathered by the concept of ‘Earth System Law’. In 2022 alone, 117 publications referred to ‘Earth System Law’ according to Google Scholar. In total, more than 354 publications refer to this concept. The number of citations of the key publications of the Taskforce have also continued to increase in 2022. For instance, Kotzé & Kim (2019) received 93 citations, Van Asselt (2021) 32 citations, Gellers (2021) 31 citations, and Mai & Boulot (2021) 18 citations.

The co-convenors of the Taskforce on Earth System Law organized a roundtable meeting with the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL) at the 3rd International Environmental Law Conference at the University of Oslo (October 6, 2022).





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### Taskforce on Anticipatory Governance

The Taskforce on Anticipatory Governance turned into a Slack community of 600 members gathered to exchange ideas, thoughts, and publications. Led by Nivedita Bansal and other anticipatory governance enthusiasts, they organized presentations, conversations and released various newsletters.

In May 2022, a webinar was organized featuring a presentation by Esther Turnhout on “Knowledge Co-Production for Anticipatory Governance”. While acknowledging the various interpretations of the term “decolonization”, Esther emphasized the importance of decolonizing science and knowledge by asking the question “How can we disempower dominant Western forms of technical natural science production and engage in epistemic disobedience?”

In July 2022, another webinar was organized on Anticipatory Governance of Water, showcasing presentations by Jaishri Srinivasan and Heidi D. Mendoza.

**Knowledge Co-Production for Anticipatory Governance**



*Speaker: Prof. Dr. Esther Turnhout*

15:00 - 15:05 CEST Introductions  
15:05 - 15:35 CEST Presentation  
15:35 - 15:55 CEST Questions  
15:55 - 16:00 CEST Closing remarks

**ANTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY**

The ‘Re-imagine’ project played a significant role in driving the Taskforce on Anticipatory Governance. Co-led by Joost Vervoort (Utrecht University, the Netherlands, and Oxford University, United Kingdom and ) and Aarti Gupta (Wageningen University, the Netherlands), the RE-IMAGINE project investigates how anticipating diverse climate futures are linked to realizing appropriate and effective modes of climate governance in the world’s most vulnerable regions.

**Anticipatory Governance of Water**

With Dr. Jaishri Srinivasan & Heidi D. Mendoza

July 21, 16:00 CET / 08:00 MDT

*Speakers:*  
**Dr. Jaishri Srinivasan**  
**Heidi D. Mendoza**



16:00 - 16:05 CEST Introductions  
16:05 - 16:20 CEST Presentation Jaishri Srinivasan  
16:20 - 16:35 CEST Presentation Heidi Mendoza  
16:35 - 16:55 CEST Questions  
16:55 - 17:00 CEST Closing remarks

**ANTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE COMMUNITY**

### Taskforce on Knowledge Cumulation

The Taskforce on Knowledge Cumulation experienced significant growth in membership, with a current count of 31 members, since its launch in September 2021. In 2022, the Taskforce held two online meetings to discuss the nature, opportunities, and challenges of knowledge cumulation. The Taskforce organized a virtual innovative session at the Toronto Conference on anchoring knowledge cumulation in environmental governance research, inviting six panel speakers from distinguished scientific institutions. Around 35 participants contributed to the discussion via chat and oral statements. Additionally, the Taskforce hosted a virtual double panel discussing the foundations of knowledge cumulation and the science-policy interface, as well as methodological approaches to knowledge cumulation, soliciting high-quality contributions from scholars both inside and outside the ESG network.

They also began developing joint publications, including a future opinion/policy paper on pathways to knowledge cumulation for different actor groups and a special issue on knowledge cumulation in environmental governance research, featuring contributions from both members and non-members.

### Taskforce on Climate Governance

In early 2022, the Taskforce on Climate Governance significantly supported the Working Group on Carbon Removal. The Taskforce sought to attract new members via Twitter and LinkedIn Campaigns. Through a series of posts, they shared the Working Group’s aims, conceptual framework, and requirements for joining. Conveners Miranda Boettcher and Sean Low led the working group's first in-person meeting at the Toronto Conference.

This meeting was an excellent opportunity for all coordinators to introduce themselves and discuss plans for the future. Taskforce members also planned contributions to the 2023 ESG Speaker Series.

In 2023, the Taskforce coordinators will continue their efforts to support the Working Groups which gravitate around the climate governance topic. They aim to find synergies and common projects among the groups and contribute to the annual conference.

### Taskforce on the Governance of Nature and Biodiversity

In May, Ingrid J. Visseren-Hamakers and Marcel T. J. Kok completed and published their edited book "Transforming Biodiversity Governance" with contributions from over 70 scholars, most of which are Earth System Governance (ESG) research fellows. This volume is a spectacular example of research collaboration within the project.

Experts from the Earth System Governance Taskforce on Governance of Nature and Biodiversity attended the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Montreal in December 2022.

Following the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the Taskforce members highlighted several key elements of the GBF that require attention in a blog post published on the ESG website.

### Taskforce on Ocean Governance

In 2022, the Taskforce on Ocean Governance published a special issue on Science for Ocean Sustainability in the Earth System Governance (ESG) Journal. The authors in this special issue advanced research and perspectives that contribute to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (UNDOS) by leveraging the Earth System Governance Science Plan (with a focus on bringing the social sciences and humanities perspective to ocean science). The Science Plan synthesizes policy-relevant scholarship across a wide array of disciplines, fostering the systematic accumulation of knowledge necessary for such a wide-ranging effort as the UNDOS.

The Taskforce on Oceans Governance also engaged with partners in the Ocean Knowledge Action Network, discussing challenges and opportunities shared by oceans-oriented scholarly organizations.

Additionally, as leader of the Taskforce, DG Webster represented the group at a side-event organized by Future Earth during the UN Decade on Ocean Science Conference held in Lisbon.

34

35





### Taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals

The Taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals conducted extensive research on the political impact of the SDGs. This research led to the publication of a book titled “The Political Impact of the Sustainable Development Goals: Transforming Governance Through Global Goals?” as well as a research article titled “Scientific evidence on the political impact of the Sustainable Development Goals”, published in Nature Sustainability.

Members also participated in several events throughout the year, including a roundtable at the 63rd Annual Convention of the International Studies Association on “Global Governance by Goal-Setting? Assessing the Transformative Potential of the Sustainable Development Goals” in March 2022.

In June 2022, they held an associated event at the Stockholm+50 Conference on “Taking Stock and Moving Forward: Lessons Learned from an Assessment of the Political Impact of the SDGs”, and in July 2022, they organized a side-event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on “The Political Effects of the SDGs since 2015 – Findings from the global SDG Impact Assessment”.

As part of their outreach activities, the Taskforce organized a series of seven one-hour webinars, featuring the key findings of the SDG Impact Assessment published in 2022 by Cambridge University Press and Nature Sustainability. The webinars explored various topics, including SDG implementation, the political implications of SDGs, and the challenges of SDG governance.

More information on these two events can be found in the Science-Policy section of this report.

Discover the  
GlobalGoals  
Webinar Series



## Working Groups

### Urban Working Group

The 2022 Toronto Conference on Earth System Governance provided an opportunity for the Urban Working Group to convene and exchange views on the importance of radical and just sustainability transformations in urban governance during the Taskforce Meeting Day. On this occasion, the working group invited members to present their innovative research and facilitated a discussion on experimentation, scaling, and transformation.

In January 2022, the Urban Working Group published an article in AMBIO, based on their collective reflection from their foundational meeting at the 2020 Virtual Forum on Earth System Governance. A perspective blog summarizing their AMBIO article was released on the ESG Project website, providing valuable insights into their research and ideas for improving urban sustainability. The Urban Working Group also contributed a chapter to a book, co-authored with practitioners who participated in the innovative session they organized as part of the 2021 Bratislava Conference titled “Compound Urban Crises in Global Environmental Politics”.

As part of their efforts to strengthen interactions within the ESG network, the Urban Working Group also created a Twitter account (@ESG\_UrbanWG) to share their work and relevant news.

### Asia Pacific Working Group

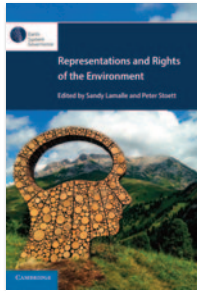
The Asia Pacific Working Group organized a Symposium Panel on ‘Asia Pacific Regional Perspectives on the Earth System Governance Research’ at the 2022 Toronto Conference.

This panel, chaired by Hang Ryeol Na (All Seeds Academy) and with Annisa Triyanti (Utrecht University, Netherlands) as discussant, focused on earth system governance research from an Asia Pacific regional perspective. The panel included a collection of individual papers covering topics such as forests, water, and greenhouse gas emissions reduction, with a broad coverage of concepts, theories, and fieldwork. The panel aimed to

contribute to the Earth System Governance research agenda by providing up-to-date research questions and findings from the Asia Pacific region and individual countries within it.

### Working Group on the Representations and Rights of the Environment

The Working Group on the Representations and Rights of the Environment (ESGRREW) organized a panel at the ‘Sustainability across Disciplines Conference’ held at Concordia University on March 23rd, 2022. Their panel focused on the representations and rights of the environment and discussed the importance of decolonizing the dialogue on climate change.



In 2022, the co-conveners of the working group, Sandy Lamalle and Peter Stoett, also worked on the edited book “Representations and Rights of the Environment”, published in Cambridge University Press”.

Link to the edited book

### Working Group on Planetary Health Justice

The Working Group on Planetary Health Justice was formed in early 2022 with the aim of exploring the concept of ‘planetary health’ in the context of Earth System Governance. The group has been focusing on identifying initial steps with interested ESG members through a series of inception meetings held throughout the year. The working group has recently engaged in discussions with the convenors of the Taskforce on Planetary Justice to align their work and determine the best structure/position of the Working Group in relation to the Taskforce. The Working Group on Planetary Health Justice is planning on compiling a Special Issue on the topic of ‘planetary health’ in the Earth System Governance Journal in 2023.





“The ESG taskforces are a hub for collaboration and a source of inspiration for Early Career Researchers. Taskforce day at the Toronto conference was a hive of activity.”

Cebuan Bliss, Early Career Committee

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# Publications

The Earth System Governance (ESG) Project facilitates four publication outlets including a journal, two book series and an element series. The “Earth System Governance publications” seek to advance knowledge in our field and provide authoritative stances on existing and emerging aspects of global environmental change issues, with distinguished members of the project acting as editors.

## Cambridge Elements

The Elements Series’ format is that of a compact book, an attractive option for ESG Research Fellows who wish to present a concise, policy-relevant message in around 100 pages.

- **The Emergence of Geoengineering**  
*Ina Möller*
- **Adaptive Governance to Manage Human Mobility and Natural Resource Stress**  
*Saleem H. Ali, Martin Clifford, Dominic Kniveton, Caroline Zickgraf, Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson*
- **The Carbon Market Challenge**  
*Regina Betz, Axel Michaelowa, Paula Castro, Raphaela Kotsch, Michael Mehling, Katharina Michaelowa, Andrea Baranzini*
- **Changing Our Ways**  
*Peter Newell, Freddie Daley, Michelle Twena*
- **Decarbonising Economies**  
*Harriet Bulkeley, Johannes Stripple, Lars J. Nilsson, Bregje van Veelen, Agni Kalfagianni, Fredric Bauer, Mariësse van Sluisveld*



"Addressing the Grand Challenges of Planetary Governance" by Oran R. Young.



Cambridge Elements  
Earth System Governance  
Addressing the Grand Challenges of Planetary Governance  
Oran R. Young

Discover the interviews of Oran R. Young



## Cambridge University Press

- **Representations and Rights of the Environment**  
Edited by *Sandy Lamalle, Peter Stoett*
- **The Political Impact of the Sustainable Development Goals Transforming Governance Through Global Goals?**  
Edited by *Frank Biermann, Thomas Hickmann, Carole-Anne S nit*
- **Climate Refugees: Global, Local and Critical Approaches**  
Edited by *Simon Behrman, Avidan Kent*
- **Transforming Biodiversity Governance**  
Edited by *Ingrid J. Visseren-Hamakers, Marcel T. J. Kok*



## MIT Press

**Book launch: Certifying China – February 23rd**



In February, *Dr Yixian Sun*, Assistant Professor in International Development at the University of Bath, virtually launched his book **“Certifying China: The Rise and Limits of Transnational Sustainability Governance in Emerging Economies”**, a comprehensive study of the growth, potential, and limits of transnational eco-certification in China and the implications for other emerging economies.

## ESG Journal

The Earth System governance (ESG) journal is a flagship publication of the global Earth System Governance Project, and is available to publish cutting-edge research, including but not limited to research presented at the annual ESG conferences, academic workshops, synthesising events by the Earth System Governance research taskforces, and similar activities.

Frank Biermann serves as the editor in chief, and Carole-Anne Sénit, as the managing editor. The Journal was created in 2019 and since has been indexed in Scopus and Web of Science.



## Keywords analysis of the 2022 ESG Journal publications

## Four volumes this year

- Volume 14 – In progress (December 2022)
- Volume 13 – August 2022
- Volume 12 – April 2022
- Volume 11 – January 2022

## Special Issues

- **Artificial Intelligence & Digitalization**,  
Edited by *Joshua Gellers*, 30 March 2022
- **S.O.S. – Science for Ocean Sustainability**,  
Edited by *Leandra R. Gonçalves, D.G Webster, Candace May*, March 2022

## ESG Journal in numbers (2022)

- 65 Authors
- 35 Articles



### Most downloaded 2022 article

## Democratising sustainability transformations: Assessing the transformative potential of democratic practices in environmental governance

*Jonathan Pickering, Thomas Hickmann, Karin Bäckstrand, Agni Kalfagianni,  
Michael Bloomfield, Aysem Mert, Hedda Ransan-Cooper, Alex Y. Lo*

Earth System Governance, Volume 11, 2022.





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# Research Centres and Affiliated Projects

## Research Centres

The Earth System Governance Project strongly relies on a broad network that reflects the interdisciplinary, international, and multi-scale research challenges. The project is therefore strategically growing regionally through its Research Centres. Research Centres are a key academic and institutional mechanism by which the project’s work is implemented. These Centres in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Americas and Europe are research hubs that support the implementation of specific parts of the Earth System Governance Science and Implementation Plan and act as focal points for earth system governance research in their geographical and thematic area.



- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Research Centre Accra      | 10. Research Centre Lund               |
| 2. Research Centre Amsterdam  | 11. Research Centre Norwich            |
| 3. Research Centre Australia  | 12. Research Centre Oldenburg          |
| 4. Research Centre Bath       | 13. Research Centre Paris              |
| 5. Research Centre Bonn       | 14. Research Centre Shonan<br>Fujisawa |
| 6. Research Centre Brasilia   | 15. Research Centre Stockholm          |
| 7. Research Centre Chiang Mai | 16. Research Centre Toronto            |
| 8. Research Centre Colorado   | 17. Research Centre Utrecht            |
| 9. Research Central Europe    |  |





© Colby Bignell - Climate Visuals

### Research Centre Bath

We welcome our newest Research Centre, hosted by the Centre for Development Studies in the Department of Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath.

Since its launch in September 2022, the ESG Research Centre Bath has brought together researchers of sustainability governance from across the university, including those based in the Departments of Politics, Languages and International Studies, Education, Health, Psychology, and the School of Management.

The Centre organises a fortnightly seminar series for researchers to share their latest work. In the past academic year, 10 seminars have been organised, including speakers from different departments at Bath, but also external scholars from Oxford University, Cardiff University, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) London University, and Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences Sede Mexico.

The Centre also actively engages with practitioners and fosters collaboration with government and civil society organisations, such as Bath and North Somerset Council and Action for Sustainable Development.

In June 2023, it will host a multi-stakeholder workshop on the future of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in collaboration with the Earth System Governance (ESG) Taskforce on the

SDGs. Building on strong connections with other ESG centres around the world, the ESG Research Centre Bath is planning to further promote collaboration with researchers in the ESG project's global network.

**Coordinators: Michael Bloomfield and Yixian Sun**

### Research Centre Paris (Sciences Po)

In 2022, the Research Centre Sciences Po hosted a monthly seminar series titled “Environment and International Relations”. The talks covered a broad range of topics such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPPC), the Conventions of Parties (COPs), and the science-policy interface. The seminar featured guest speakers such as Kari de Pryck from the University of Geneva, Benito Muller from Oxford University/European Capacity Building Initiative, and Ulrike Zeigermann from the University of Würzburg. The full programme for the seminar is available on the [Centre's website](#).

On March 30th, the Research Centre joined the worldwide initiative from Bard College, the “Teach-In Climate Justice”, by organizing a series of panel discussions with scholars and practitioners on various aspects of climate change. The “Teach-In Climate Justice” aimed to raise awareness and generate discussion on the pressing issue of climate change.

**Coordinators: Carola Klöck, Sébastien Treyer**



### Research Centre Central and Eastern Europe

The Earth System Governance (ESG) Research Center Central and Eastern Europe is a collaborative research platform hosted by the CETIP Network in close collaboration with SLOVAKGLOBE - University centre. In 2022, the centre initiated the adaptation of experimental design to a role board game as a learning tool for cooperation, sustainable use of natural resources, and climate change adaptation. The Centre continues to develop the role board game as part of the Horizon Europe project COEVOLVERS.

The Centre got involved in several new projects, including the [COST ACTION MARGISTAR](#) project, the HORIZON EUROPE COEVOLVERS project, and the HORIZON EUROPE project wildE.

The centre also offers a range of courses in cooperation with SLOVAKGlobe and the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava that focus on interdisciplinary aspects in the study program of Economics and Management. The courses are designed to provide students with a deep understanding of environmental policy and governance, management of global change, ecological economics, and the theory and methodology of scientific work.

**Coordinators: Tatiana Kluvánková, Jiřina Jílková**

### Main events

- In June 2022, Tatiana Kluvankova moderated a section and led the discussion on "Transformations: Actions for social change" at the Pisa ESEE Conference.
- In October 2022, Tatiana Kluvankova participated in the podcast series "Ritorno al futuro" and discussed the governance of the commons in Europe.

### Research Centre Bonn

The German Institute for Development and Sustainability (IDOS) houses the Research Centre Bonn of the ESG Project. IDOS has been co-host to 5 ESG annual conferences since 2016. In 2023, it will play a special role in sponsoring the South-South Dialogues event as well as providing funding to scholars to travel to the conference. In 2022, many members of the research centre joined the 2022 Toronto Conference presenting three panels and 11 individual papers. You can read more about their presentations [here](#).

**Coordinators: Imme Scholz, Frauke Domgörgen, Steffen Bauer**



## Highlights Brasilia



**Eduardo Viola** was recognized as the most influential researcher on climate change in the region. (Source: Salmi and Fleury, 2022. Mudanças climáticas e Ciências Sociais: análise bibliométrica do campo (2011-2021). Revista BIB, ANPOCS.)



**Leandra Gonçalves** was the only Brazilian awarded a US grant for research from the Pew Fellowship in Marine Conservation in 2023.



**Leopoldo Gehardinger** worked on the finalization of the Programa HOB (Brazilian Ocean Horizon) in 2022 in Brasilia, as well as other activities in the context of the PainelMar.



**Ana Barros-Platiau** received a French medal as chevalier de l'Ordre National du mérite. She currently works with the Brazilian Superior Defense College (ESD) and IPEA on polar works and ocean diplomacy.



**Cristina Yumie Aoki Inoue** was one of the Coordinating Lead Authors of the New ESG Science and Implementation Plan (2018) and is currently a member of the ESG Scientific Steering Committee. She is also joining the organizing team of the 2023 Radboud Conference on Earth System Governance.

## Research Centre Brasilia

The Research Center in Brasilia comprises over 20 researchers, a significant number of whom have close associations with the Earth System Governance Project. During 2022, the center has produced an impressive body of work, with its members authoring more than 100 publications, including 79 articles, 2 books, and 21 chapters.

Coordinators: Ana Flávia Barros-Platiau, Eduardo Viola, Cristina Inoue

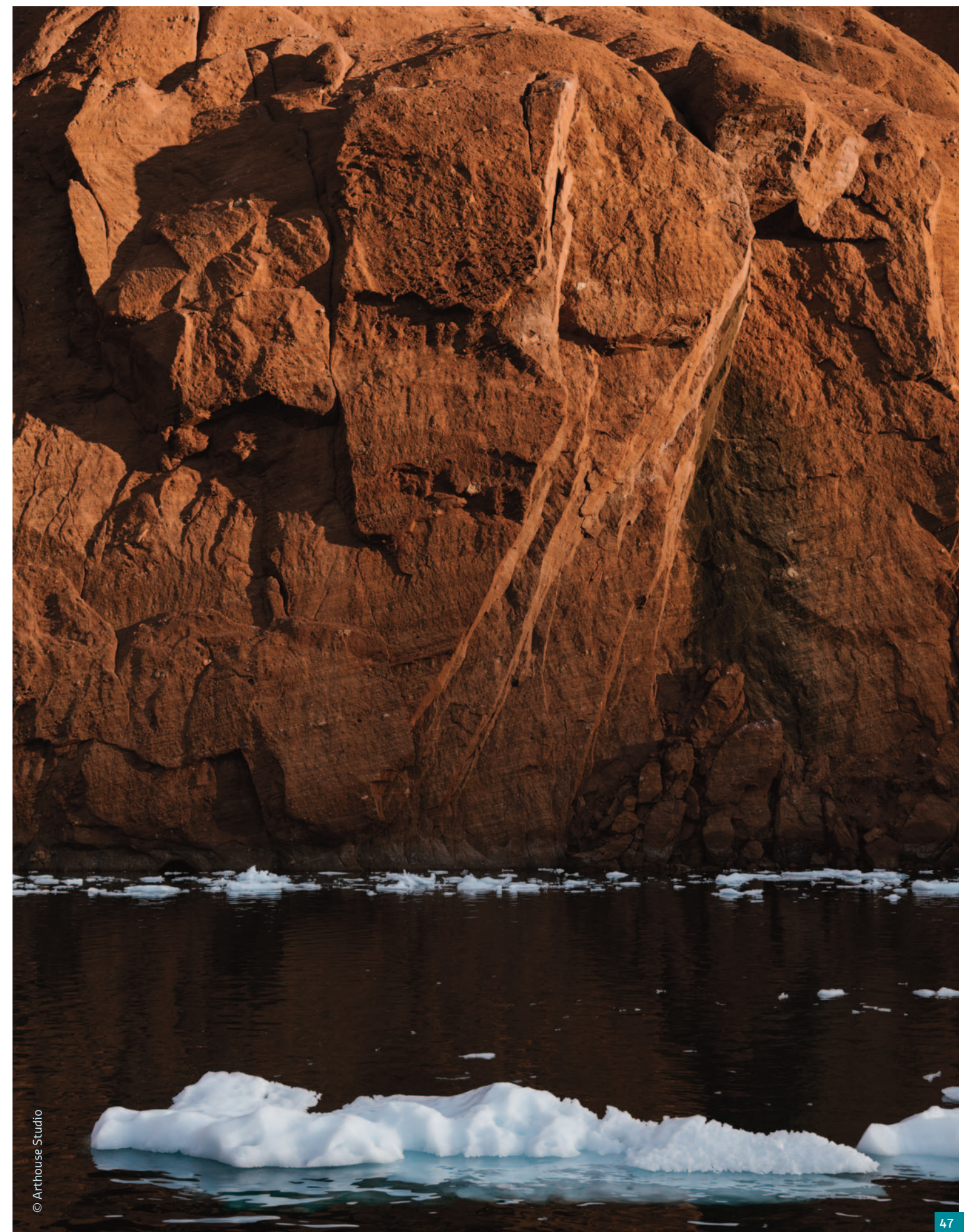
## Endorsed Projects

### BACKLASH Project

The Earth System Governance Project has endorsed the BACKLASH Project, which studies the emergence and dynamics of volatile social-political reactions to climate policy. This research projects aims to study and theorise backlash to climate policy by using an interdisciplinary approach combining climate politics, policy dynamics, social movements, and political theory.

The BACKLASH project is led by James Patterson, Assistant Professor in the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development. The research team also includes Ksenia Anisimova, Jasmin Logg-Scarvell, and Cille Kaiser from Utrecht University, Netherlands.

This project is funded for five years (2021-2026) through a Starting Grant awarded by the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.





# Science Policy Work

## SDGs Taskforce Taking Stock and Moving Forward: Lessons Learned from an Assessment of the Political Impact of the SDGs

On June 2nd, the Global Goals Project and the Earth System Governance (ESG) Project organized a launch event as an Associated Event to the Stockholm+50 Conference, an international multi-stakeholder meeting convened by the United Nations General Assembly and held in Stockholm, Sweden from 2-3 June 2022.

Stockholm+50 commemorated the 50th anniversary of the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, an event that marked the environment as a pressing global issue for the first time and led to the creation of The United Nations Environment Programme.

The side-event organized by the SDGs Taskforce aimed to showcase the key findings from the SDG Impact Assessment. This assessment, which was incorporated into the activities of the ESG Taskforce on the Sustainable Development Goals, involved over 60 experts and drew on more than 3000 scientific studies.

The event featured a dialogue among experts such as Frank Biermann (Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University & the Global Goals Project), Louis Kotzé (North-West University, South Africa), Khaled Emam (United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth), Andrea Ordóñez (Southern Voice), and Prakash Kashwan (Human Rights Institute at the University of Connecticut, Storrs). They discussed crucial implementation pathways necessary to achieve ongoing political and societal transformation towards sustainable development.



Franck Biermann, Gustav Thungren and Louis Kotzé at the Stockholm+50 Conference



## ESG Side Event at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

On July 5th, Maya Bogers (Utrecht University, Netherlands) and Melanie van Driel (Utrecht University, The Netherlands) presented "The Political Effects of the SDGs since 2015 – Findings from the global SDG Impact Assessment" as part of the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The event aimed to highlight and critically discuss the political impact of the SDGs since 2015, based on the key findings of the global SDG Impact Assessment. The discussion intended to prepare for the 2023 midterm review of the SDGs and to move beyond political discourse by galvanizing solutions in all societal sectors that lead to fundamental and transformational change. The session featured panelists from government, UN agencies, civil society, and the academic field.

[Link to recording](#)



“Engaging at the science-policy interface”

© Wikimedia Commons



A large flock of birds, possibly terns, is captured in mid-flight over a calm body of water. The birds are silhouetted against a bright blue sky filled with soft, white clouds. The water reflects the sky and the birds, creating a sense of depth and movement. The horizon line is visible in the distance, with some land and trees visible on the left side.

## New Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows and Lead Faculty members to join the Project in 2022

### Research Fellows

Ksenia Anisimova  
Asgeir Barlaup  
Simon Beaudoin  
Svenja Behrendt  
Chris Bevan  
Andreas Buser  
Eeshan Chaturvedi  
Jéssica Viani Damasceno  
Sylvanus S.P. Doe  
Cornelia Fast  
Thiago Gehre Galvão  
Eduardo Gonçalves Gresse  
Sophia Hatzisavvidou  
Yi hyun Kang  
Elke Kellner  
Liza Khmara  
Ichha Kaur Kohli  
Ina Maria Lehmann  
Thaís Lemos Ribeiro  
Jasmine Livingston  
Jasmin Logg-Scarvell  
Jens Marquardt  
Tobias Müller  
Rosemary Mwanza  
Zoe Nay  
Hosea Olayiwola Patrick  
Lauri Peterson  
Rodrigo Correa Ramiro  
Michael Rose  
Edmond Sanganyado  
Benoît Schmaltz  
Thomas Skuzinski  
Kimberly R. Marion Suiseeya  
Nicky van Dijk  
Chamila Weerathunghe  
Benjamin Weinger  
Katinka Wijsman  
Annabelle Workman  
Valeria Zambianchi

### Senior Research Fellows

John Agbonifo  
James Leonard Bacchus  
Jens Newig  
Aviram Sharma  
Rie Watanabe

### Lead Faculty

Ingrid Visseren-Hamakers  
Sun-Jin Yun  
Fariborz Zelli





# Earth System Governance



Twitter: @ESG\_Project



LinkedIn: Earth System Governance Project

The Earth System Governance Project has its International Office housed at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University. The Earth System Governance Project is a Global Research Project of Future Earth.

Earth System Governance International Project Office

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THE NETHERLANDS

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Web: [www.earthsystemgovernance.org](http://www.earthsystemgovernance.org)

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