

Strategic Plan 2025–2029

UNU-IAS Mission

“to meet the pressing challenges for achieving sustainability that are of concern to the United Nations and its Member States” — [UNU-IAS Statute](#), Article II.1

- Inform policymaking for sustainability by producing and disseminating solution-oriented research
- Promote interdisciplinary understanding and approaches
- Develop future generations of policymakers and researchers

UNU-IAS Vision

Develop as a high-quality, evolving institution with professionals who ask questions, challenge the status quo, formulate innovative solutions and contribute in pursuit of a more sustainable future for people and our planet.

UNU-IAS will create new value for our stakeholders by integrating different areas of expertise in both academia and policymaking, sharing knowledge through multi-stakeholder networks and enhancing synergies between the SDGs and with other global agendas. The institute will drive interconnectedness between academia (the science and academic communities) and policymakers, mobilizing evidence-based knowledge in supporting stakeholders (local, national, regional and global) to realise sustainable solutions. UNU-IAS will advance the broader transformation towards sustainability in society, cultivating responsible global citizens who promote well-being and improve inclusiveness, making a difference in realizing societies in harmony with nature.

In pursuit of this shared vision, the institute’s strategy aligns with the overall objectives of the [UNU Strategy 2025–2029](#): (i) knowledge, (ii) partnerships and (iii) impact.

I. Knowledge

Outcome: Knowledge generated and transferred to address policy needs and to contribute to global agenda setting

Strategic Objective 1: Research

- 1.1 Expand mission-driven, results-oriented research that is responsive to policy needs in sustainability, taking advantage of the unique strengths of UNU-IAS (including its research themes, global–local partnerships, and global/regional networks such as the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative; IPSI) as a think tank in the UN system
- 1.2 Prioritize core transdisciplinary research areas in sustainability with a strong focus on synergetic linkages across sectors

Strategic Objective 2: Education & Capacity Building

- 2.1 Enhance the quality (learning outcomes) and quantity (enrolments) of the UNU-IAS postgraduate degree programmes by improving their design and implementation and mobilizing additional resources and expertise, including innovative tools and technologies
- 2.2 Deliver impactful capacity development and trainings, with a stronger focus on Member States in the Global South to respond to their emerging needs and objectives, including major global conventions and agreements (e.g., the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Convention on Biological Diversity)
- 2.3 Systematically reflect global policy developments and incorporate research outputs into the curriculum of the postgraduate degree programmes and other capacity development initiatives

II. Partnerships

Outcome: Global–local actions catalyzed to advance sustainability with diverse stakeholders and beneficiaries

Strategic Objective 3: Partnerships with Stakeholders and Beneficiaries (UN entities, UNU institutes, academia, Member States, local communities and the private sector)

- 3.1 Strengthen the role of UNU-IAS in bridging between the global academic community and the UN system on sustainability issues, enhancing the science–policy interface

- 3.2 Deepen communications and coordination within the UNU system, leveraging the location of UNU-IAS at the global headquarters of UNU
- 3.3 Expand strategic collaboration with Member States, the private sector and local communities, with a focus on harnessing UNU-IAS global–local mechanisms
- 3.4 Leverage UNU-IAS networks to advocate knowledge products and serve as knowledge broker to connect policymakers with impactful research

III. Visibility & Impact

Outcome: Impact of UNU-IAS recognized among stakeholders

Strategic Objective 4: New & Emerging topics

- 4.1 Expand activities in the Global South and explore new/emerging fields of research in consideration of the organizational priorities of UNU and the needs of the global community — such as community resilience, disaster risk reduction, just transition, addressing resilience and sustainability towards 2030 and beyond (leveraging the location of UNU-IAS in the Asia-Pacific region)
- 4.2 Enhance the engagement of youth across UNU-IAS research, capacity building, and partnerships to unleash their full potential

Strategic Objective 5: Communicating Solutions

- 5.1 Increase research impact and uptake through strengthening output, accessibility and dissemination of high-quality UNU-IAS knowledge products
- 5.2 Implement carefully targeted stakeholder engagement and outreach activities to inform and advance public dialogue and policy debate on sustainability issues