
Institute of
Environmental Science
and Technology
ICTA-UAB

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



ICTA-UAB

Institut de
Ciència i Tecnologia
Ambientals

UAB

Universitat
Autònoma
de Barcelona



EXCELENCIA
MARÍA
DE MAEZTU

COORDINATION
ICTA-UAB SECRETARY
Laura Talens Peiró

EDITION
Research support unit
Silvia Martínez Sinibaldi

ICTA-UAB COMMUNICATION STAFF
Isabel Lopera Martínez
Ana Cañizares

DESIGN
pfp, disseny

PHOTOGRAPHS
ICTA-UAB
Pixabay, Pexels, Unsplash

Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia
Ambientals (ICTA-UAB)
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Campus de Bellaterra
08193 Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès)
www.uab.cat/icta

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VISION AND MISSION

1

VISION

To empower society with science to address global socio-environmental challenges ●

MISSION

ICTA-UAB is a transdisciplinary science institute that develops vital and strategic knowledge toward strong sustainability ● Committed to impactful science, we train researchers and practitioners, and partner with diverse interest groups to strengthen ecosystems health and foster socio-environmental transformation and innovation ●

“BRAVE SCIENCE FOR A CHANGING WORLD”

Introduced as part of the 2024 rebranding of ICTA-UAB, the slogan *Brave Science for a Changing World* reflects the institute’s commitment to bold, interdisciplinary research addressing urgent environmental and societal challenges ● “Brave science” represents the courage to question established paradigms, cross disciplinary boundaries, and generate knowledge that contributes to more sustainable and just futures ●



“It is a privilege to direct this forward-thinking institute as we confront the defining issues of our time ● Our team’s diverse expertise, spanning technology, environment, and society, makes ICTA-UAB a centre of excellence ● Together, we are committed to do “Brave science for a changing world” ● We are deeply grateful for your partnership in driving this vital mission forward ●”

UMBERTO LOMBARDO

Director

September 2025-Present



“These have been three years full of challenges ● For me it has been very rewarding, and I am confident that the next management team will continue working to improve the institution and the quality of the research we carry out ●”

ISABEL PONT CASTEJÓN

Director

September 2022-August 2025

ABOUT US

2

The Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB) is a research center of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona that hosts approximately 200 researchers trained in environmental sciences spanning natural, socio-economic and engineering fields ● The UAB first established the institute in 2003 in the Faculty of Science. Since October 2014, it has been housed in an emblematic LEED GOLD-certified building on the UAB campus that is highly energy-efficient, and which reflects an open and collaborative working environment ●



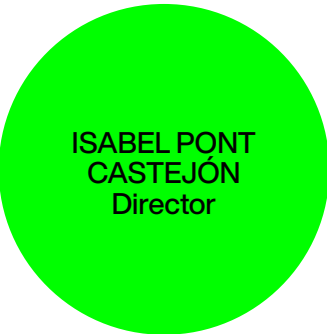
Since 2016, ICTA-UAB has received structural funding from the Spanish national program for scientific excellence known as María de Maeztu (Unidad de Excelencia «María de Maeztu» MDM-2015-0552, CEX2019-000940-M, and CEX2024-001506-M) ● The program has enabled us to develop more cross-cutting transdisciplinary research and training on global, national, and local challenges related to sustainability science, policy, and civic action ●



The institute's decision-making bodies include a Management Team, a Permanent Board and a Council. We also have an Academic Committee for Doctoral Studies in Environmental Science and Technology (as part of the PhD school of ICTA-UAB). There are two official Committees of the council: the Lab Committee (supervised by Dr. André Colonese/ Michaël Grelaud), and the Alumni Commission (supervised by Prof. Xavier Gabarrell/Maria Pastor). There is also a voluntary "Equity, Diversity and Care" Committee.

From September 2022 until August 2025, ICTA-UAB's management team was led by Isabel Pont Castejón and from September 2025 by Umberto Lombardo.

EXECUTIVE BOARD (Until Setember 2025)



EXECUTIVE BOARD (From Setember 2025)

UMBERTO LOMBARDO
Director



LAURA TALENS PEIRÓ
Secretary



ÁLVARO FERNÁNDEZ-LLAMAZARES ONRUBIA
Deputy Director



PATRIZIA ZIVERI
Scientific Director

PANAGIOTA KOTSILA
Gender, Diversity, and Care



ADRIANA ARTOLA CASACUBERTA
Doctoral program



ANGELOS VARVAROUSIS
Offices



MICHAËL GRELAUD
Laboratories

MAICA NOGALES MALAGÓN
Administration Officer



DAN BROCKINGTON
Maria de Maeztu Director



ICTA-UAB IN NUMBERS

3

86

Researchers

63

Doctoral Candidates

49%

Female

41

Administration and
Technical Research Staff

73%

Female

40

Countries

1

New ERC Grant

7,6 M€

Research Funding (2025)

9

Research Groups

13

Doctoral Theses Defended

316

Publications

774

Visiting scholars and
institutions

STAFF

4

STAFF

SENIOR RESEARCHERS

- Anguelovski, Isabelle
- Belmonte Soler, Jordina
- Brockington, Daniel
- Colonese, André Carlo
- Corbera, Esteve
- Fernández-Llamazares, Álvaro
- Gabarrell i Durany, Xavier
- Galbraith, Eric
- Hickel, Jason
- Honey-Rosés, Jordi
- Kallis, Giorgos
- Kotsila, Panagiota
- Langemeyer, Johannes
- Lombardo, Umberto
- Marquet Sardà, Oriol
- Mortyn, Peter Graham
- Pont Castejón, Isabel
- Ramos Martín, Jesús
- Reyes-García, Victoria
- Rovira Val, María Rosa
- Scheidel, Arnim
- Talens Peiró, Laura
- van den Bergh, Jeroen
- Villalba Méndez, Gara
- Villamayor-Tomás, Sergio
- Ziveri, Patrizia

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

- Alcántara Rodríguez, Mireia
- Bellanca, Margherita
- Benati, Giulia
- Bisht, Arpita
- Bunce, Brittany
- Butiseaca, Geanina
- Calcagni, Fulvia
- Camacho Caballero, David Alejandro
- Castro Santa, Juana
- D'Alisa, Giacomo
- Dudgeon, Catherine
- Fajardo Nolla, Francisco Javier
- Fearon, Sean
- Fernández, Melissa
- Gamboa Jiménez, Gonzalo
- Gilbert, David
- Grelaud, Michaël
- Grosinger, Julia
- Hanaček, Ksenija
- Khanyari, Munib
- King, Lewis
- Lane, Richard
- Liotta, Charlotte
- Llaveró Pasquina, Marcel
- Llopis Sendino, Jorge Claudio
- Maestre Andrés, Sara
- Marín Puig, Anna
- Matheney, Austin Gage
- Mejía Ramón, Andrés
- Nel-lo Deakin, Samuel
- Neves Alves, Susana
- Ndefru, Bineh
- O'Dell, Dallas
- Onder, Kaan
- Pastor Molla, María
- Penalva Arias, Nuria
- Pérez Sánchez, Laura
- Petit Boix, Anna
- Prado Bert, Paula de
- Requena Mora, Marina
- Rosa, Brian
- Roy, Brototi
- Ruiz Cayuela, Sergio
- Russell, Bertie Thomas
- Salekpay, Foroogh
- Santos de Lima, Letícia
- Savin, Ivan
- Semertzidis, Theodoros
- Slameršak, Aljoša
- Stringari, Gaia
- Sze, Jocelyne
- Toboso Chavero, Susana
- Tsagakari, Marouko
- Ugarte Lucas, Paula
- Unks, Ryan
- Varvarousis, Angelos
- Velasco-Fernández, Raúl
- Ventura Caballé, Sergi
- Villanueva Ribes, Juan
- Yasin, Zehra

PHD CANDIDATES

- Achucarro Candia, Guillermo
- Arosemena Polo, Juan David
- Birnstiel Falcao Amorim, Stéphanie
- Bonnevera, Isabela Jayne
- Bredero Zur Lage, Robin David
- Bretschko, Sarah
- Caballeros Finkelstein, Alejandro
- Chiogna, Enrico
- Driouich, Riwan
- Evangelista, Guido
- Fatima, Fizza
- Gaitan Roca, Albert
- Goyal, Meghna
- Guldberg, Valentina
- Hanbury Lemos, Mariana Morena
- Herman, Sophia
- Kekelou, Athina Nkolista
- Khan, Feroz Mohamed
- Khromova, Svetlana
- Kisyova, Yoana Chavdarova
- Latreche, Danielle Freya
- Lucas Forcadell, Arturo Manuel
- Luo, Qing
- Macall, Diego
- Manosalva, Jonatan Andrés
- Manzella, Giovanni
- Martínez Soares, Clara
- Masaek, Vaclav
- Matamoros García, David Andrés
- McIntosh, Andrea Rose
- Mokka, Ioanna
- Morell Delgado, Gemma
- Morrison, James Christopher
- Navarro Alvarez, Andrés
- Nguyen, Anh-Thu
- Núñez Yebra, Pablo
- Odabasi, Mehmet Sencer
- O'Neill, Ella
- Ortiz Naumann, Alba
- Palombini Gastal, Bruno
- Pape, Judith
- Peixoto Macedo, Thais
- Pérez Sánchez, Cristina
- Ramírez Capetillo, Karla Gabriela
- Rodríguez Puig, Júlia
- Ruiz Iglesias, Fernando Javier
- Sanclemente Crespo, Mateo
- Sanjuan Agudelo, Luisa María
- Sierra Montoya, Miquel
- Steblev, Sergey
- Stevenson, Charles
- Stuit, Andrea
- Sullivan, Dylan Jake
- Tayyab, Omer
- Tomás Pascual, Alexander de
- Trejo Calzada, Julio Ernesto
- Turner Cabeza, Jack
- Untereiner, Erin Dawn
- Villán Delgado, Ana
- West, Kimberley Mills
- Wood Hansen, Oskar
- Yurtcan, Huseyin Ege
- Zapata Giraldo, Valeria

RESEARCH SUPPORT TECHNICIANS

- Arellano Baeza, Juan Pablo
- Cassinello Toscano, María
- Comes Bordas, Pau (PAS)
- Cruz Ugalde, José Daniel
- Dancuart Coelho, Thalia
- Fanari, Eleonora
- González Atero, Ramiro
- Gregorio-Rocasolano García, Pau de
- Kenkel, Jana Franziska
- Marot Robinson, Samuel
- Martínez Miralles, Mar
- McGrath Michelle, Krista
- Melo, Lourenço
- Monteiro, Vanessa Caroline
- Moraleda Cibrián, Núria (PTGAS)
- Navarro Gibert, David
- Nistor, Brindusa Raluca
- Plans i Vilardell, Roger
- Puigdemunt Puig, Rut
- Renom Fernández, Sílvia
- Roset Pérez, Berta
- Saccuman, Lorenzo
- Vivas, Laila Ruth

AFFILIATED RESEARCHERS

- Farreny Gaya, Ramón
- Martínez Blanco, Júlia
- Oliver-Solà, Jordi
- Triguero-Mas, Margarita

ADMINISTRATION

ICTA-UAB GENERAL
MANAGER
Nogales Malagón, Maica

SCIENTIFIC MANAGER
Pastor, María

COMMUNICATION STAFF
Lopera Martínez, Isabel
(Communications Manager)
Cañizares, Ana

TECHNICAL SUPPORT
OF RESEARCH
Colombo, Verónica
(International Projects
Office, OPI)
Martínez Sinibaldi, Silvia
(National Projects)

ERC PROJECT MANAGERS,
AND INTERNATIONAL
PROJECTS OFFICE (OPI)
del Pino Pérez, Vanesa
Jiménez Fernández, Laura
Poncela Fernández, Encarna
Vea Rodríguez, Laura
Viana Díaz, Marta

IT AND GIS SUPPORT
Baeza Martínez, Oriol
Borrós Vendrell, Marta

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
Durán Díez, Cristina
(PhD Program)

MARÍA DE MAEZTU
FINANCIAL OFFICER
González Rogel, Lara

ICTA-UAB LOGISTICAL
SUPPORT
Torreño Valle, Chari

ECONOMIC
MANAGEMENT TEAM
Bellido Ferre, Gisela
Charro Castro, Maria Carmen
Esteban Muñoz, Sandra
García Lucena, Loli
Jiménez Batista, Maite
Martín Montemayo, Cristina
Martínez Martínez, Eduardo
Puigdomènech Griñó, Montserrat
Sans Sobrino, Rosa
Suades Méndez, Gemma

UAB DEPARTMENTS WITH LINKS TO ICTA-UAB

Many senior researchers at ICTA-UAB hold joint affiliations with academic departments across the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. These connections reflect the institute's strong interdisciplinary character and its close integration within the wider academic structure of the university.

ICTA-UAB researchers are highly involved in teaching, supervision, and collaborative research across a wide range of disciplines, fostering vibrant exchanges of knowledge and strengthening the institute's capacity to address complex environmental challenges.

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

Anguelovski, Isabelle
Corbera Elizalde, Esteve
Kallis, Giorgos
Marquet Sardà, Oriol
Mortyn, Graham

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Gabarrell i Durany, Xavier
Talens Peiró, Laura
Villalba Méndez, Gara

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL BIOLOGY, PLANT BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY (BABVE)

Belmonte Soler, Jordina
Fernández-Llamazares, Álvaro
Ziveri, Patrizia

DEPARTMENT OF PREHISTORY

Carlo Colonese, André
Lombardo, Umberto

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC LAW

Hickel, Jason
Villamayor-Tomás, Sergio

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Reyes-García, Victoria

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

Langemeyer, Johannes

DEPARTMENT OF PRIVATE LAW

Brockington, Daniel

DEPARTMENT OF PAEDIATRICS, OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY, AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Cole, Helen

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW AND LEGAL HISTORY STUDIES

Pont Castejón, Isabel

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS

Rovira Val, M^a Rosa

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC HISTORY

Ramos Martín, Jesús

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

5

ICTA-UAB's research aims to better understand several environmental and societal challenges that need to be addressed to guarantee human progress in an ecologically sustainable Earth ● We engage with a set of global, yet inter-related environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, resource extraction, ocean acidification and water pollution, environmental mobilization and conflicts, and their social and economic ramifications ●



5 INTER-RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES

We also engage with important policy and social goals and debates, including for example the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the mitigation goals of the Paris Accord on Climate Change, or the Aichi Targets on Biodiversity Conservation ● We expect to provide evidence on the best strategies to make progress on these global and regional sustainability goals, as well as to shed light on possible trade-offs across apparently desirable policy objectives ● Our research efforts are organized around five inter-related Environmental and Social Challenges. As of the renewal of the María de Maeztu accreditation in 2025, the challenges are structured around four transversal themes, Justice, Bold Alternatives, Planetary Health and Wellbeing, and Critical Data Interventions, to advance global environmental change research ●

OCEANS

This challenge investigates the impacts of global change on oceanic and coastal systems and the potential of distinct policy pathways toward sustainable and equitable interactions with marine environments and their resources. It integrates social and natural science-based analyses which assess oceanic and coastal changes and propose transformative strategies for sustainable human-ocean interactions.



LAND

This challenge focuses on the analysis of the combined effects of climate and other drivers of global change on the sustainability of rural landscapes and livelihoods, across many and diverse geographical regions and peoples. It brings together theories and methods across the social sciences to understand how environmental impacts are perceived and managed, and how policies for rural development and environmental conservation perform.



CONSUMPTION

This challenge explores how the production and consumption of goods and services relate to the use of raw materials and energy, the resulting environmental impacts during their lifespan, and how they affect to technological transitions and to human wellbeing. Novel product inventories which combine Life Cycle Analysis with Material Flow Analysis, and datasets of electronic goods to facilitate re-use and recycling are being developed.



CITIES

This challenge aims to advance actions and projects for climate-responsive, equitable, and healthy cities and urban systems. It expects to generate new quantitative and qualitative evidence on the effectiveness of urban environmental actions and projects for meeting climate and sustainability goals; on their effect on the urban atmospheric or metabolism of resources; on their social and wellbeing impacts; and on the governance and planning frameworks that can maximize environmental and social goals in a changing climate.



POLICIES

This challenge aims to analyze and advocate for effective and equitable cross-scale policies, institutions, and social responses to address global environmental change. It aims to develop model- and case-based assessments of climate and other sustainability policy instruments, and to investigate how social mobilization or radical policy shifts (e.g., a-growth, or degrowth) can foster a transition toward a more sustainable planet.



RESEARCH GROUPS

6

ICTA-UAB's research challenges are addressed by nine specific research groups (known as SGRs in the Catalan university and research context) ● These groups share an interest in the study of the causes, mechanisms and impacts of global environmental change, including climate change, the latest interactions with human societies and wellbeing, and the policy and institutional responses necessary for a transition to a sustainable and equitable future ●





LASEG

Laboratory for the analysis
of social-ecological
systems in a globalized
world

Research group Generalitat de Catalunya
2021 SGR 00182

Principal investigator
ESTEVE CORBERA ELIZALDE

LASEG aims to better understand how local and indigenous knowledge can contribute to environmental sustainability, and how to better reconcile biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem services with human wellbeing, in both rural and urban settings.



AEROBIOS

Aerobiology, atmospheric
transport, and health

Research group Generalitat de Catalunya
2021 SGR 00519

Principal investigator
JORDINA BELMONTE SOLER

AEROBIOS focuses on the study of the atmosphere's biological components: pollen and spores of fungi and their allergens and micro-arthropods, and the application of this knowledge to allergology, public health and animal and plant health.



MERS

Marine and environmental biogeosciences

Research group Generalitat de Catalunya
2021 SGR 00640

Principal investigator
PATRIZIA ZIVERI

MERS addresses various environmental, biological, and geochemical processes that regulate marine and freshwater systems, as well as their interactions with climate change. Human-induced global change affects ocean and coastal systems, society, natural resources, and the global economy, and awareness of its impacts has increased considerably in recent decades.



SOSTENIPRA

Sustainability and environmental protection

Research group Generalitat de Catalunya
2021 SGR 00734

Principal investigator
XAVIER GABARRELL I DURANY

SOSTENIPRA aims to develop, adapt, and apply tools to promote sustainability and environmental protection with a systemic, life cycle approach. Our research focuses on resource management for a circular economy, sustainable food systems, and integrated analysis of urban nature-based solutions.



IMPACTANT

Dynamics of natural systems and the anthropic impacts

Research group Generalitat de Catalunya
2021 SGR 00783

Principal investigator
JOAN VILLANUEVA RIBES

IMPACTANT studies the impact of human activities on the natural environment. The highly interdisciplinary approach combines tools from environmental chemistry, remote sensing, wildlife observation, and citizen science, bridging the natural and social sciences to study the Earth System from an integrated perspective.



ECOLECON

Ecological Economics

Research group Generalitat de Catalunya
2021 SGR 01502

Principal investigator
GIORGOS KALLIS

ECOLOGICAL ECONOMICS is the interdisciplinary science of the study of sustainability. The group's mission is to develop, apply and disseminate critical knowledge necessary for understanding causes and solutions to environmental problems linking them to economic systems and policies that create or address these problems.



URBAN MOBILITY

Research group
Generalitat de Catalunya 2021 SGR 00577

Principal investigator
ORIOL MARQUET SARDÀ

URBAN MOBILITY aims to adapt mobility studies to rapidly changing urban mobility patterns. Focused on generating innovative global knowledge, educating students for future challenges, and serving as a hub for research, public and private sectors. Key research areas include mobility patterns, urban form, gender inclusion, new methodologies, and policy evaluation. The research is characterized by innovative methodologies and high interdisciplinarity.



BCNUEJ Barcelona Laboratory for Urban Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Research group
Generalitat de Catalunya 2021 SGR 00116

Principal investigator
ISABELLE ANGUELOVSKI

BCNUEJ'S research is dedicated to fostering just, inclusive, and sustainable cities. It prioritizes equity in urban planning, focusing on historically marginalized groups. Their work addresses emerging urban inequalities, exploring environmental justice and sustainability through interdisciplinary approaches, including urban planning, policy, sociology, geography, and planning health.



EARLYFOODS

Evolution and impact of early food production systems

Research group
Generalitat de Catalunya 2021 SGR 00527

Principal investigator
ANDRÉ CARLO COLONESE

EARLYFOODS unites scientists in environmental-social sciences and prehistoric archaeology and seeks to enhance knowledge of early food production systems, exploring their origins, evolution, and environmental impacts in Europe, Africa, Asia and South America.

SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES

7

OCEANS

This challenge investigates the impacts of global change on oceanic and coastal systems and the potential of distinct policy pathways toward sustainable and equitable interactions with marine environments and their resources ● It integrates social and natural science-based analyses which assess oceanic and coastal changes and propose transformative strategies for sustainable human-ocean interactions ●



SA.1

Late Paleolithic whale bone tools reveal human and whale ecology in the Bay of Biscay

Reconstructing how prehistoric humans used products obtained from large cetaceans is challenging, but key to understanding the history of early human coastal adaptations. Here we report a multiproxy analysis of worked objects made of whale bone, as well as unworked whale bone fragments, found at Upper Paleolithic sites around the Bay of Biscay. Taxonomic identification using ZooMS reveals at least five species of large whales, expanding the range of known taxa whose products were utilized by humans during this period. Radiocarbon dating places the use of whale products at ca. 20–14 ka cal BP, making this the

oldest evidence of whale-bone working to our knowledge. The diversity and chronology of these cetacean populations attest to the richness of the marine ecosystem of the Bay of Biscay in the late Paleolithic, broadening our understanding of coastal adaptations at that time. The results of this work have been published in *Nature Communications*.

McGrath, K., van der Sluis, L. G., Lefebvre, A., Charpentier, A., Rodrigues, A. S. L., Álvarez-Fernández, E., Baleux, F., Berganza, E., Chauvière, F.-X., Dachary, M., Duarte Matías, E., Houmard, C., Marín-Arroyo, A. B., de La Rasilla Vives, M., Tapia, J., Thil, F., Tombret, O., Torres-Iglesias, L., Speller, C., ... Pétillon, J.-M. (2025). Late Paleolithic whale bone tools reveal human and whale ecology in the Bay of Biscay. *Nature Communications*, 16(1), Article 4646.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-59486-8>



© Dario Lorenzetti

SA.2

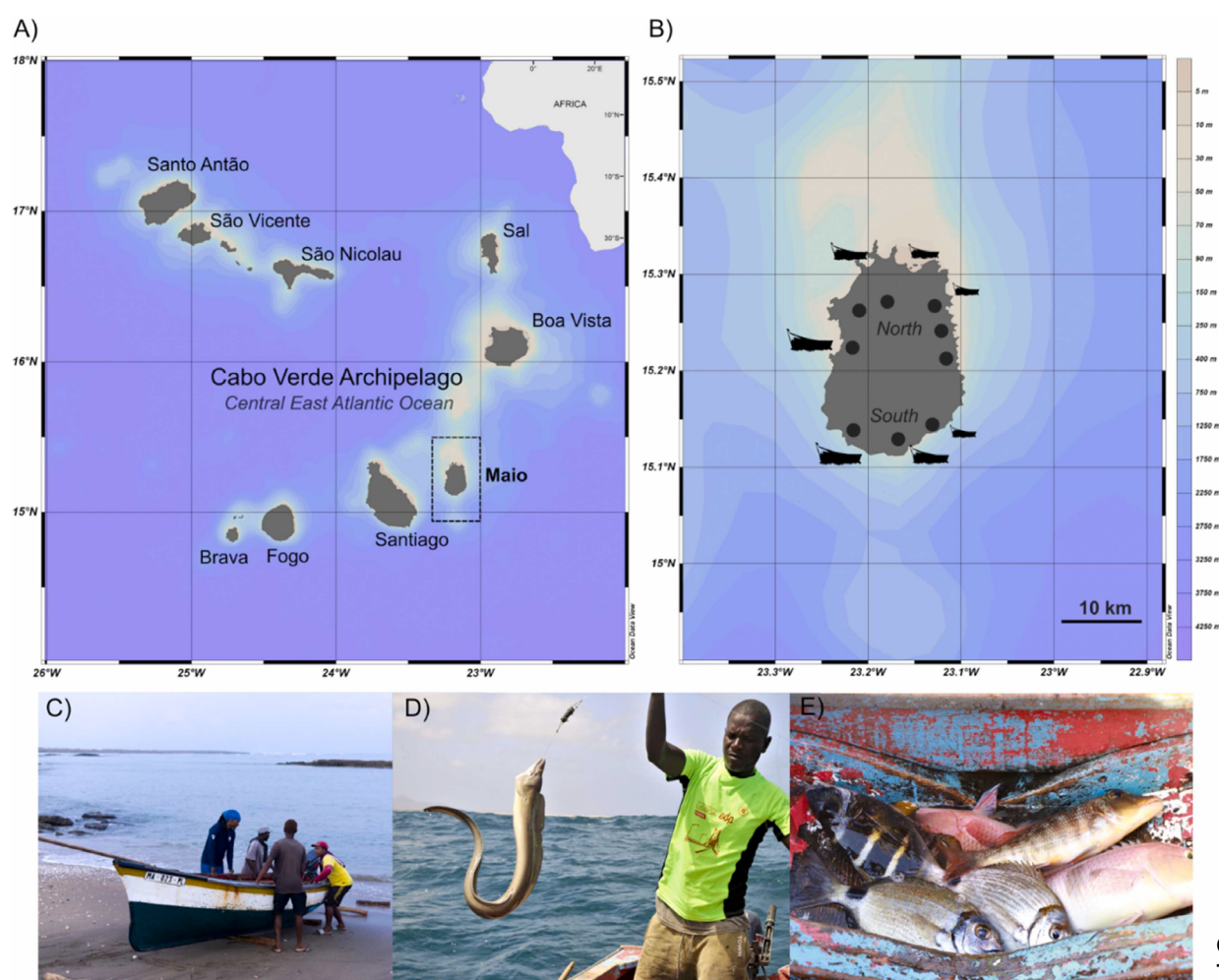
Local knowledge and official landing data point to decades of fishery stock decline in West Africa

Small-scale fisheries are vital for food security and livelihoods in many low-income African countries, yet they often lack reliable statistical data on species composition, abundance, and distribution, information essential for effective management. In data-poor regions such as West Africa, local ecological knowledge offers an important complementary source for understanding long-term stock trends and drivers of change. This study integrates fifty years of fishers' perceptions with landing data

from Maio Island, Cabo Verde, where communities relying heavily on marine resources face increasing vulnerability. The research aimed to (i) assess changes in small-scale fishery catches over five decades and (ii) evaluate how local knowledge and landing records can support regional fisheries management. The findings reveal a dramatic decline in local fish stocks, underscoring heightened risks for coastal communities dependent on these resources. The results were published in *Marine Policy*.

Macedo, T. P., Ziveri, P., Varela, B., Colonese, A. C. (2025). Local knowledge and official landing data point to decades of fishery stock decline in West Africa. *Marine Policy*, 171, Article 106447.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2024.106447>



©
Thais Peixoto et al.

SA.3

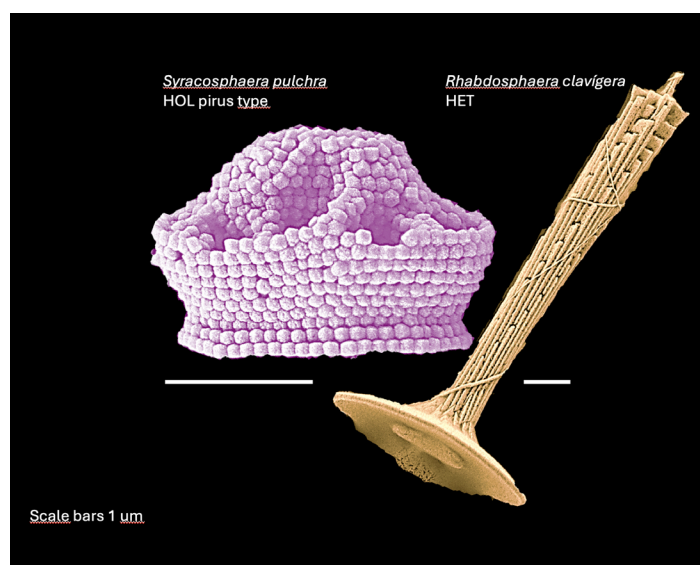
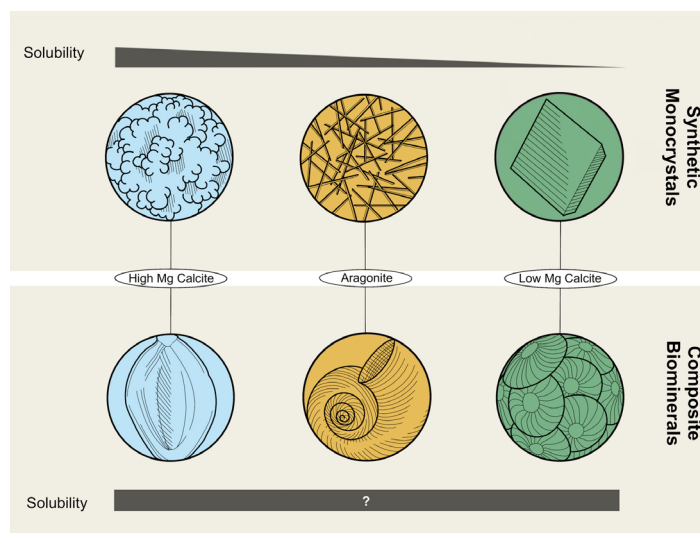
Beyond the shell: what makes marine species vulnerable to ocean acidification

New insights into ocean acidification vulnerability show that the response of marine organisms cannot be predicted solely from the mineral type of their calcium carbonate shells. While solubility in synthetic monocrystals is largely determined by CaCO_3 polymorph (aragonite vs. calcite), biominerals are more complex. In these organo-mineral structures, factors such as microstructure and organic content play a crucial role in determining dissolution behaviour.

This challenges assumptions based on inorganic precipitation experiments and highlights the need for more nuanced models to assess species vulnerability under changing ocean chemistry.

Coccolithophores provide a clear example. These calcifying phytoplankton produce different shell types during their life cycle: holococcoliths (HOL), composed of uniform rhombic calcite crystals, and heterococcoliths (HET), made of varied crystal shapes and sizes. Despite sharing the same mineral composition, HOL dissolve much faster than HET, demonstrating the strong influence of microstructure on biomineral stability in acidifying oceans.

Langer, G., Ziveri, P. (2025). Vulnerability to ocean acidification of marine calcifying organisms cannot be predicted from the mineral type in their shells. *Limnology And Oceanography Letters*, 10(4), 448-452.



LAND

This challenge focuses on the analysis of the combined effects of climate and other drivers of global change on the sustainability of rural landscapes and livelihoods, across many and diverse geographical regions and people ● It brings together theories and methods across the social sciences to understand how environmental impacts are perceived and managed, and how policies for rural development and environmental conservation perform ●



SA.1

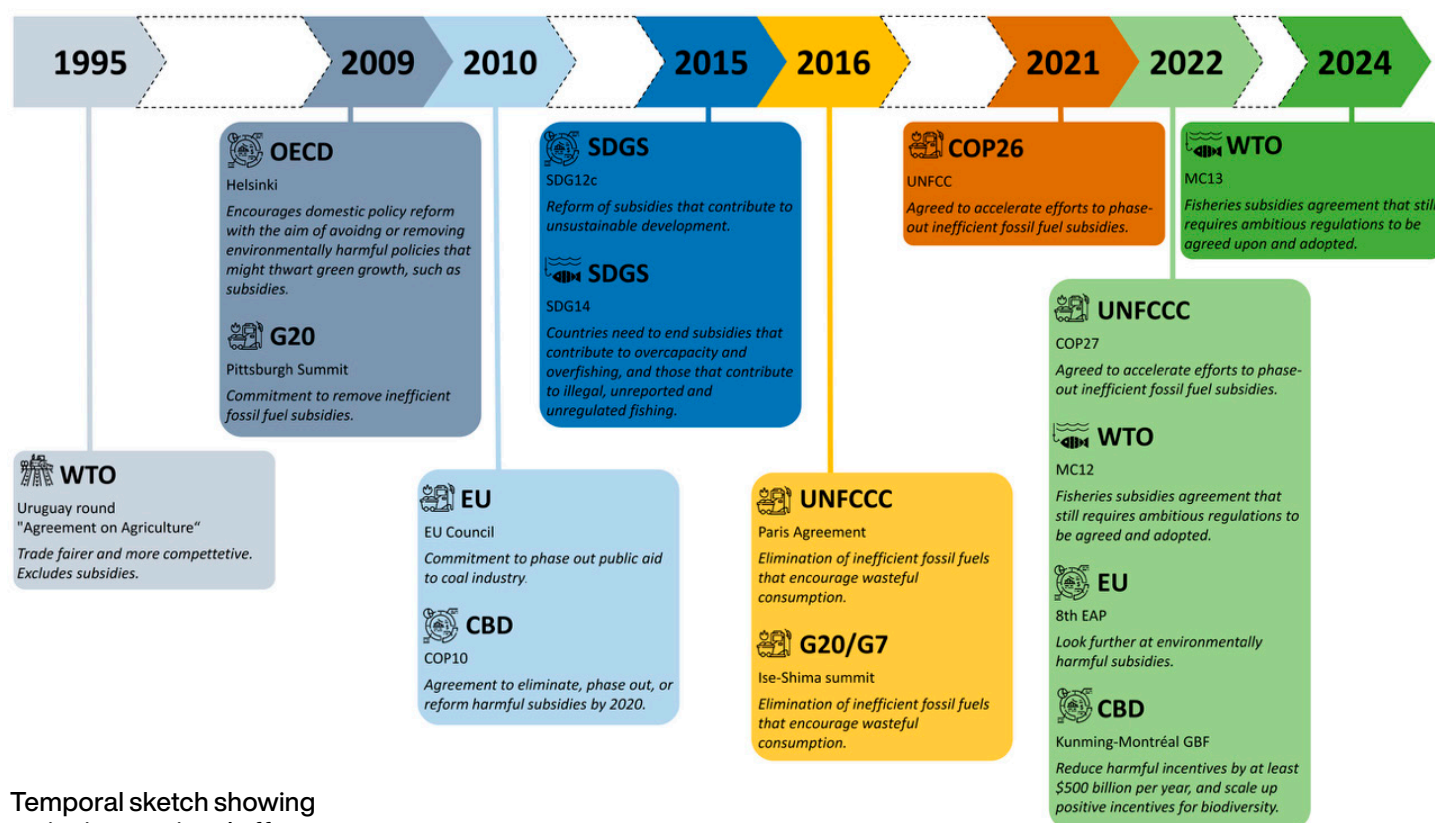
Paying to harm nature: the hidden price of economic subsidies

Public funds are often driving environmental destruction. Key sectors causing biodiversity loss, including agriculture, fossil fuels, fishing, mining, forestry, and infrastructure, receive \$1.7–3.2 trillion in annual subsidies while generating \$10.5–22.6 trillion in environmental damage through pollution, habitat loss, climate impacts, and ecosystem decline. These costs are borne by society, not by the industries themselves, and manifest as poorer health, lost livelihoods, and weakened ecosystems. Agriculture and fossil fuels are the largest contributors in both subsidies received and harm caused.

Current data on subsidies and environmental impacts are incomplete, and no global system tracks their flow or consequences for nature. Revealing these hidden financial flows is crucial, as greater transparency would enable societies to redirect public funding toward ecosystem-protecting activities. In the face of accelerating biodiversity loss, transforming the way economic sectors are funded is essential for a sustainable future.

Reyes-García, V., Villasante, S., Benessaiah, K., Pandit, R., Agrawal, A., Claudet, J., Garibaldi, L. A., Kabisa, M., Pereira, L., Zinngrebe, Y. (2025). The costs of subsidies and externalities of economic activities driving nature decline. *Ambio*, 54(7), 1128–1141.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02147-3>



Temporal sketch showing major international efforts to reform environmentally harmful subsidies

SA.2

Crisis without transformation: protected areas and the missed lessons of COVID-19

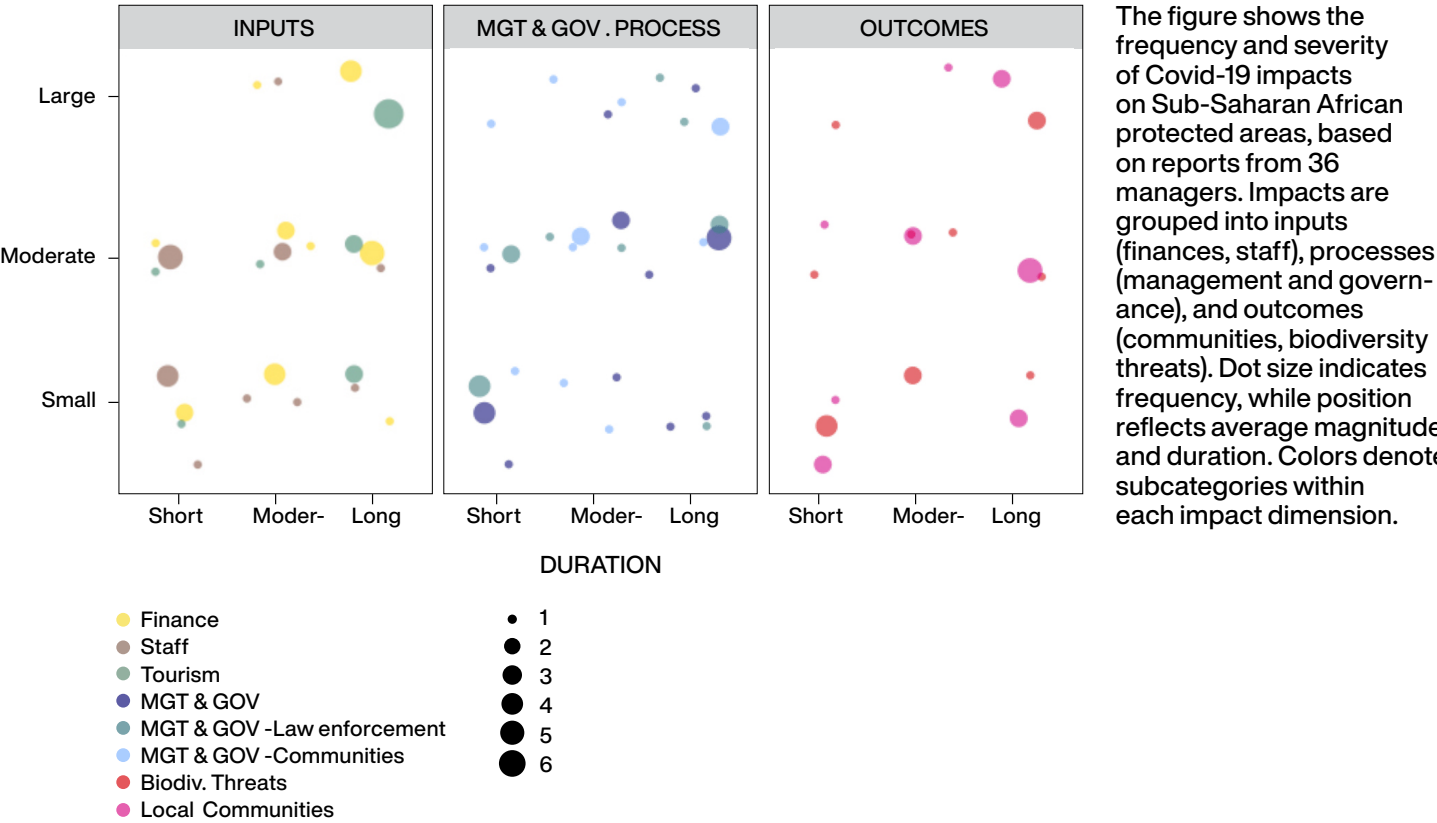
More than 289,000 protected areas cover over 16% of Earth’s land and marine environments. The Covid-19 pandemic offered a unique opportunity to examine how these institutions responded to a global shock. Interviews with managers of 50 protected areas across 17 Sub-Saharan African countries assessed whether responses involved only short-term coping or deeper transformative changes. Despite resilience theory suggesting that prolonged, high-intensity disturbances require major governance adjustments, most areas relied on temporary measures. The pandemic caused staff

shortages, reduced donor funding, increased poaching due to limited patrols, and failures in local land-use governance. Social and ecological goals were compromised in 72% of cases, yet impacts were largely unaddressed and did not prompt governance reforms. Responses focused on reallocating budgets and filling funding gaps, while only a few areas pursued transformative actions such as diversifying revenue or strengthening community partnerships. The study underscores the need to build broader institutional resilience to prepare for future crises.

Roig Boixeda, P., Corbera, E., Loos, J. (2025). Navigating a global crisis: Impacts, responses, resilience, and the missed opportunity of African protected areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Ecology and Society*, 30(4), Article 28.

<https://doi.org/10.5751/es-16352-300428>

MAGNITUDE



SA.3

Maize monoculture supported pre-Columbian urbanism in southwestern Amazonia

The Casarabe culture (500–1400 CE), spanning roughly 4,500 km² in the monumental mounds region of the Llanos de Moxos, Bolivia, is one of the clearest examples of urbanism in pre-Columbian Amazonia. It exhibits a four-tier hierarchical settlement pattern, with hundreds of monumental mounds interconnected by canals and causeways. Although archaeological evidence indicates maize cultivation, it was previously unclear whether maize was the staple crop or which farming system supported this urban-scale society.

This study shows that the Casarabe culture invested heavily in landscape engineering, constructing a complex system of drainage canals and newly documented savannah farm ponds. The findings demonstrate how the society managed the savannah landscape to support intensive, year-round maize monoculture, likely sustaining its relatively large population. The results of this work have been published in *Nature*.

Lombardo, U., Hilbert, L., Bentley, M., Bronk Ramsey, C., Dudgeon, K., Gaitan-Roca, A., Iriarte, J., Mejía Ramón, A. G., Quezada, S., Raczka, M., Watling, J. G., Neves, E., Mayle, F. (2025). Maize monoculture supported pre-Columbian urbanism in southwestern Amazonia. *Nature*, 639, 119-123. Article 106582.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-08473-y>

© Sam Fentress



SA.4

First fieldwork campaign of the IEK-CHANGES project completed

The first fieldwork campaign of the IEK-CHANGES project, led by researchers at ICTA-UAB, was successfully completed after five months of intensive ethnographic research among the Tsimane' Indigenous people in the Bolivian Amazon. In close collaboration with community members and Indigenous knowledge holders, the team conducted 254 semi-structured interviews, 102 free-listing exercises, 81 structured surveys, 62 recorded conversational interviews, 22 faunal transects, and 18 “walk-in-the-woods” exercises across multiple villages. Twelve participatory workshops created spaces for community-led reflections on ongoing biocultural change.

In parallel, the project established an ethnobotanical reference collection with the National Herbarium of Bolivia, collecting and identifying 93 plant voucher specimens and documenting more than 170 plant uses. According to project leader Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares, “this first campaign has laid the empirical foundations for understanding how Indigenous knowledge systems are evolving under rapid social-ecological change.”

<https://iek-changes.eu/>



© IEK-CHANGES Team

CONSUMPTION

This challenge explores how the production and consumption of goods and services relate to the use of raw materials and energy, the resulting environmental impacts during their lifespan, and how they affect technological transitions and human wellbeing. Novel product inventories which combine Life Cycle Analysis with Material Flow Analysis, and datasets of electronic goods to facilitate re-use and recycling are being developed ●



SA.1

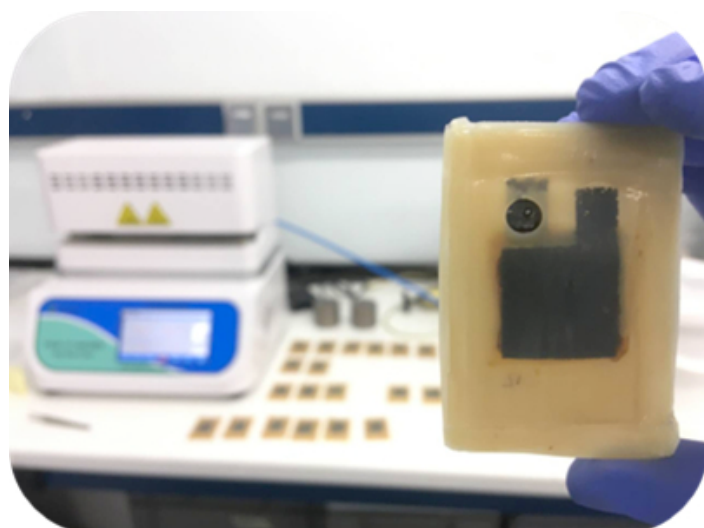
A new ecodesign framework for more sustainable primary portable batteries

The growing demand for electronic devices highlights the importance of portable batteries and the need to reduce their environmental impact. Conventional primary batteries rely on scarce, non-renewable materials and offer limited design flexibility, resulting in inefficient resource use and early disposal. In the BIDEKO project, three new bio-based battery prototypes were co-designed using an ecodesign framework combined with life cycle assessment (LCA). Environmental benefits stem from the use of biodegradable and compostable materials and optimized manufacturing procedures. The optimized BIDEKO 0 prototype achieved a major reduction in emissions, while analyses of BIDEKO I variants identified critical hotspots, including glycerol in the membrane matrix and electricity-intensive graphite production. These results demonstrate that LCA is

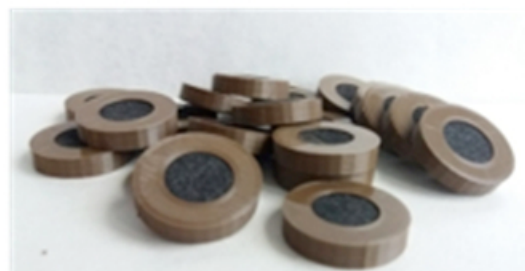
an effective tool for iterative environmental improvement. Overall, the project confirms that early-stage ecodesign and careful material selection are essential for minimizing life cycle impacts and guiding future optimization of bio-based batteries.

Muñoz-Liesa, J., Navarro-Segarra, M., Montoya, M. S., Esquivel, J. P., Talens Peiró, L. (2025). Bio-based materials and customized energy supply as key drivers to ecodesign primary portable batteries. *Sustainable Production and Consumption*, 54, 202-214.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.spc.2024.12.011>



© BIDEKO project <https://www.bideko-project.eu>



SA.2

Are emerging nutrient processing technologies truly sustainable?

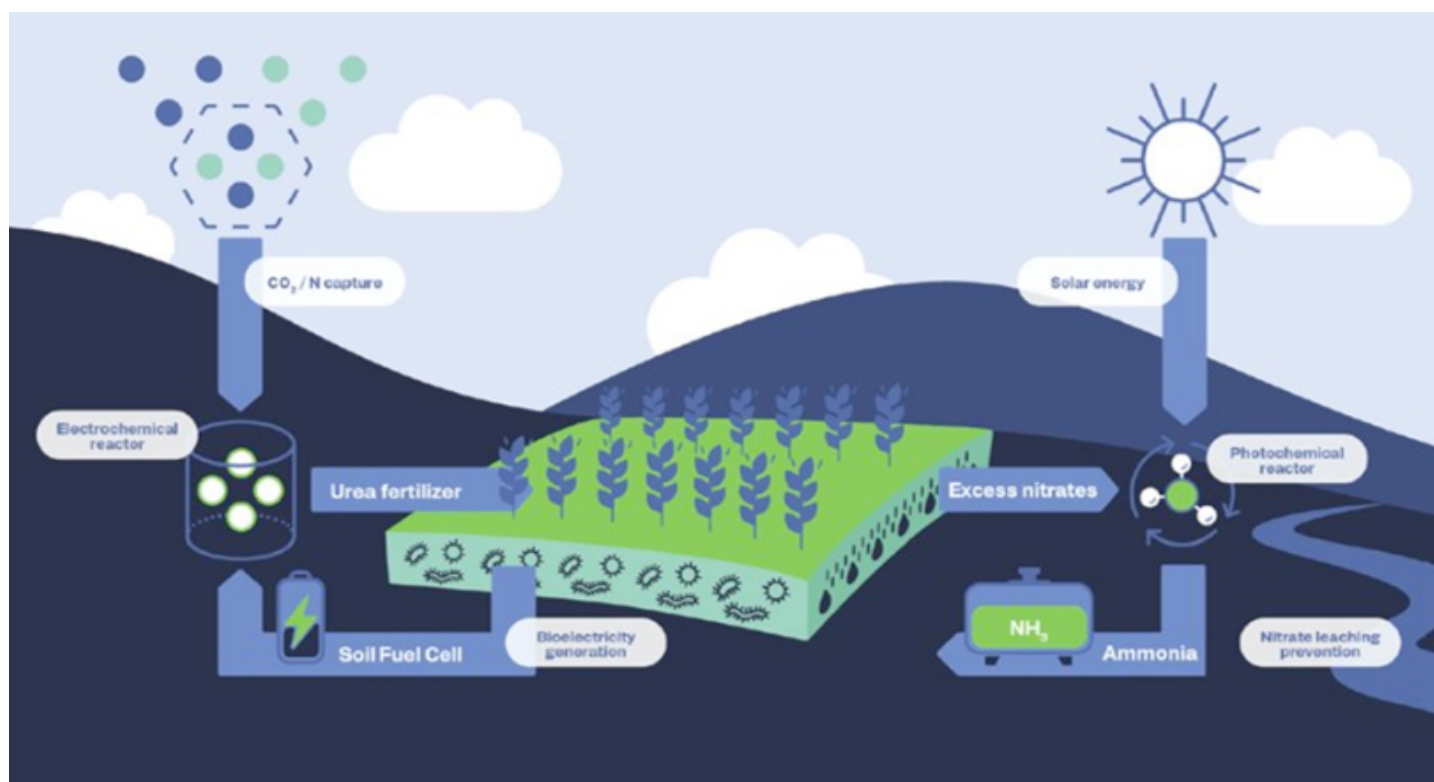
Around 9% of global energy consumption is linked to the Haber-Bosch process for nitrogen fertilizer production, highlighting the need for alternative, low-carbon routes. Many emerging nutrient-production technologies are promoted as sustainable because they use secondary resources, such as captured CO₂ or nitrogen-rich effluents. However, relying on secondary sources alone does not guarantee true sustainability. The CONFETI project aims to guide the development of environmentally responsible technologies. Applying the EU 2024/1781 Ecodesign and Sustainable Product Regulation, the team developed a structured reference set of 15 criteria and 36 parameters to assess the sustainability

of any product or technology. The main contribution is translating broad ecodesign principles into measurable, life-cycle-aligned parameters supported by a transparent accounting method. This framework is now guiding the improvement of forthcoming CONFETI technologies, strengthening early-stage decision-making and supporting the sustainable development of emerging nutrient-production systems.

Talens Peiró, L., Petit Boix, A. (2025). Early steps for a measurable and impactful ecodesign process: the case of urea production. *Procedia CIRP*, 135, 1170-1177.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.procir.2024.12.117>

© confetiproject.eu



SA.3

Cultivation of vegetables in urban agriculture. Greenhouses integrated into buildings

Urban agriculture is increasingly important as cities seek sustainability, improved food security, and stronger social ties. Drawing on insights from the MOVE4edu and Binafet projects, completed in 2025, as well as other initiatives over the past decade, we developed a practical guide for rooftop greenhouse food production. Designed for non-professionals, the guide provides clear advice for achieving good harvests and producing reliable, safe food. Topics include selecting suitable substrates, choosing plant varieties adapted to urban conditions, managing key climate factors such as temperature, humidity, CO₂ enrichment, and lighting, and solving common problems in rooftop greenhouses.

The projects also examined the performance of crops such as beans, tomatoes, basil, and lettuce in hydroponic systems, focusing on volatile organic compound and nitrous oxide emissions. Circular strategies, including the use of human urine as a nutrient source, were explored to reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainable urban agriculture.

Cultivo de hortalizas en agricultura urbana.
Invernaderos integrados en edificios



SA.4

A simple guide to soil analysis

Soil is a vital but increasingly threatened resource, and understanding its condition is essential for urban food production. Within the European project FOODCITY-BOOST, we published a practical guide in five languages to help urban producers assess and protect soil health. Designed for non-professionals, the guide explains how to evaluate soil condition without advanced knowledge or expensive equipment.

It provides step-by-step instructions on determining soil texture and structure, measuring water infiltration and compaction, assessing root development and aggregate stability, evaluating pH and color as soil indicators, and applying

remediation measures based on results. The guide enables urban producers to carry out simple, low-cost analyses, identify issues such as salinization or loss of organic matter, and take corrective actions to improve the soil they work with. By making soil assessment accessible, the guide supports more sustainable and productive urban agriculture.

[A simple guide to soil analysis](#)



CITIES

This challenge aims to advance actions and projects for climate-responsive, equitable, and healthy cities and urban systems. It expects to generate new quantitative and qualitative evidence on the effectiveness of urban environmental actions and projects for meeting climate and sustainability goals; on their effect on the urban atmospheric or metabolism of resources; on their social and wellbeing impacts; and on the governance and planning frameworks that can maximize environmental and social goals in a changing climate ●



SA.1

Embodying and resisting urban heat injustice: migrant vulnerabilities and radical adaptations in El Raval, Barcelona

Climate impacts on human health are becoming increasingly severe, particularly in cities. This project explored how immigrant residents of El Raval, a climate-vulnerable neighborhood in Barcelona, experience heat waves and what shapes their feelings of discomfort or relief. Using the Photovoice method, residents documented their daily environments through photography and discussed how heat affects their lives.

Workshops led by researchers from ICTA-UAB and the University of Alcalá, as part of the 2023 Biennial Ciutat i Ciència, helped participants co-create a collective narrative on heat-wave impacts. Conversations sparked by the photos allowed residents to identify existing and missing infrastructures and institutions needed to address climate-related health risks more equitably. The results were published in the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* and disseminated through online audiovisual materials, providing insights into the lived experience of climate vulnerability and the importance of inclusive urban planning for health resilience.

Raval Resilient



© Adrian, participant of Photovoice project

SA.2

Incipient gentrification in Barcelona's pedestrianized streets

This study investigates whether pedestrianization policies can act as a new trigger for gentrification. Using quasi-experimental methods, the studies show that pedestrianized areas experienced measurable socio-demographic shifts, including increases in highly educated residents and Global North migrants, alongside a relative decline in older populations—patterns consistent with early-stage residential gentrification. Commercial impacts, however, were more

limited. Pedestrianized streets saw a slight reduction in retail diversity, but there was no clear evidence of substitution toward leisure-oriented businesses. Overall, the findings indicate that active mobility infrastructure can contribute to selective forms of gentrification, operating alongside other well-documented drivers such as tourism and green space development.

Villar-Abeijón, P., Miralles-Guasch, C., Marquet, O. (2025). Can pedestrianization trigger gentrification? Analysis of Barcelona's sociodemographic changes following pedestrianization schemes. *Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment*, 142, 104718.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.trd.2025.104718>



© Cataleirxs

SA.3

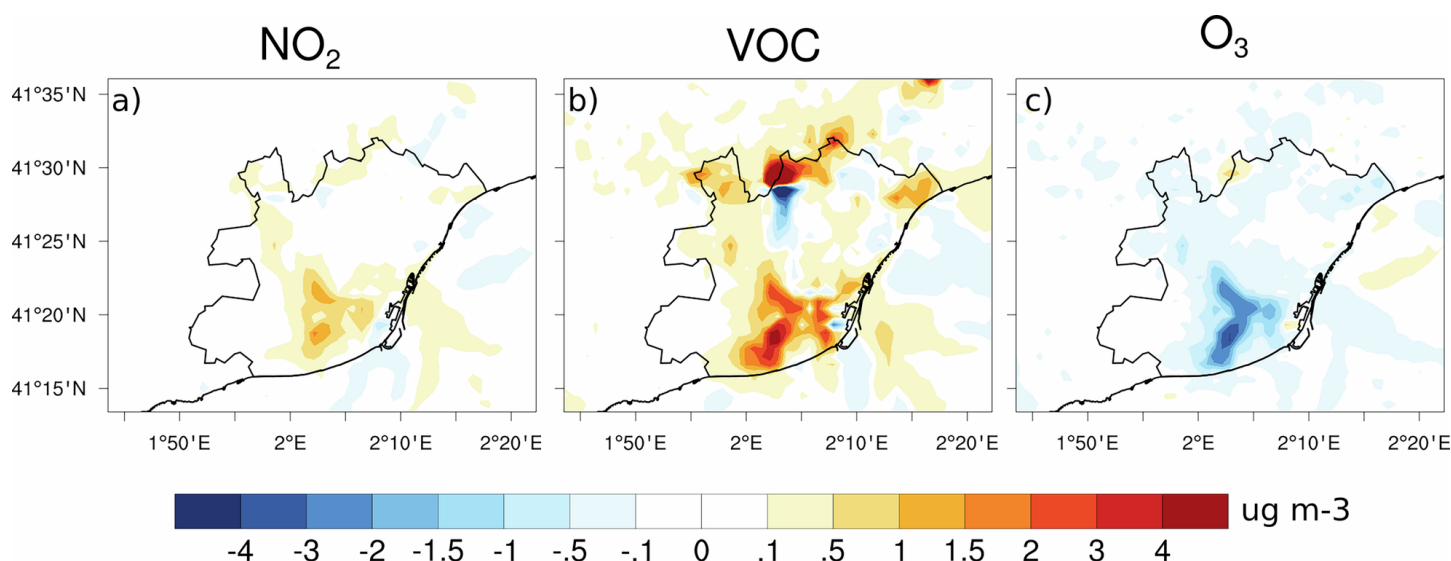
Integrated planning is key to navigating air quality trade-offs in urban greening

Urban greening is a common strategy to mitigate heat and pollution, but its effectiveness depends on complex environmental interactions. ICTA-UAB researchers evaluated how land-use changes—including urban expansion, new parks, and agriculture—affect air quality in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. The results reveal critical trade-offs: doubling urban green spaces can reduce NO_2 by up to 3% through deposition but may increase ozone (O_3) by up to 5% due to biogenic emissions from

certain tree species. Expanding peri-urban agriculture can reduce O_3 by 10% but significantly increase ammonia and aerosols. Lead author Alba Badia emphasizes that selecting vegetation with low biogenic emissions is essential to avoid harmful secondary pollutants. These findings demonstrate that “one-size-fits-all” greening strategies are insufficient; cities require integrated, site-specific planning to ensure that climate adaptation measures effectively improve public health while minimizing unintended environmental impacts.

Badia, A., Segura-Barrero, R., Ventura, S. et al. (2025). Effect of land use changes on air quality: impacts of urbanization, urban vegetation, and agriculture. *npj Urban Sustain* 5, 113.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s42949-025-00303-y>



SA.4

Bridging the gap: Integrated policies for urban soil regeneration and nutrient circularity

Healthy urban soils are the foundation of resilient food systems but are often overlooked in city planning. The NUTRISOIL project, an ERC-funded URBAG proof-of-concept, concluded in 2025 with multi-actor workshops and a strategic policy brief addressing barriers to nutrient circularity. Researchers found that while urban organic waste is a valuable resource, its use is limited by fragmented regulations and degraded soils. Key recommendations include integrating soil health into urban zoning, establishing municipal “urban agriculture offices” to coordinate

waste-to-farm logistics, and providing financial incentives for farmers using bio-based fertilizers. By linking waste management with soil regeneration, ICTA-UAB researchers argue that cities can reduce emissions, manage waste sustainably, and strengthen local food sovereignty. The project demonstrates how evidence-based strategies can promote circular nutrient flows, improve soil quality, and support resilient, sustainable urban agriculture.

Urban Nutrisoil



© Gara Villalba

POLICIES

This challenge aims to analyze and advocate for effective and equitable cross-scale policies, institutions, and social responses to address global environmental change. It aims to develop model- and case-based assessments of climate and other sustainability policy instruments, and to investigate how social mobilization or radical policy shifts (e.g., a-growth, or degrowth) can foster a transition toward a more sustainable planet ●



SA.1

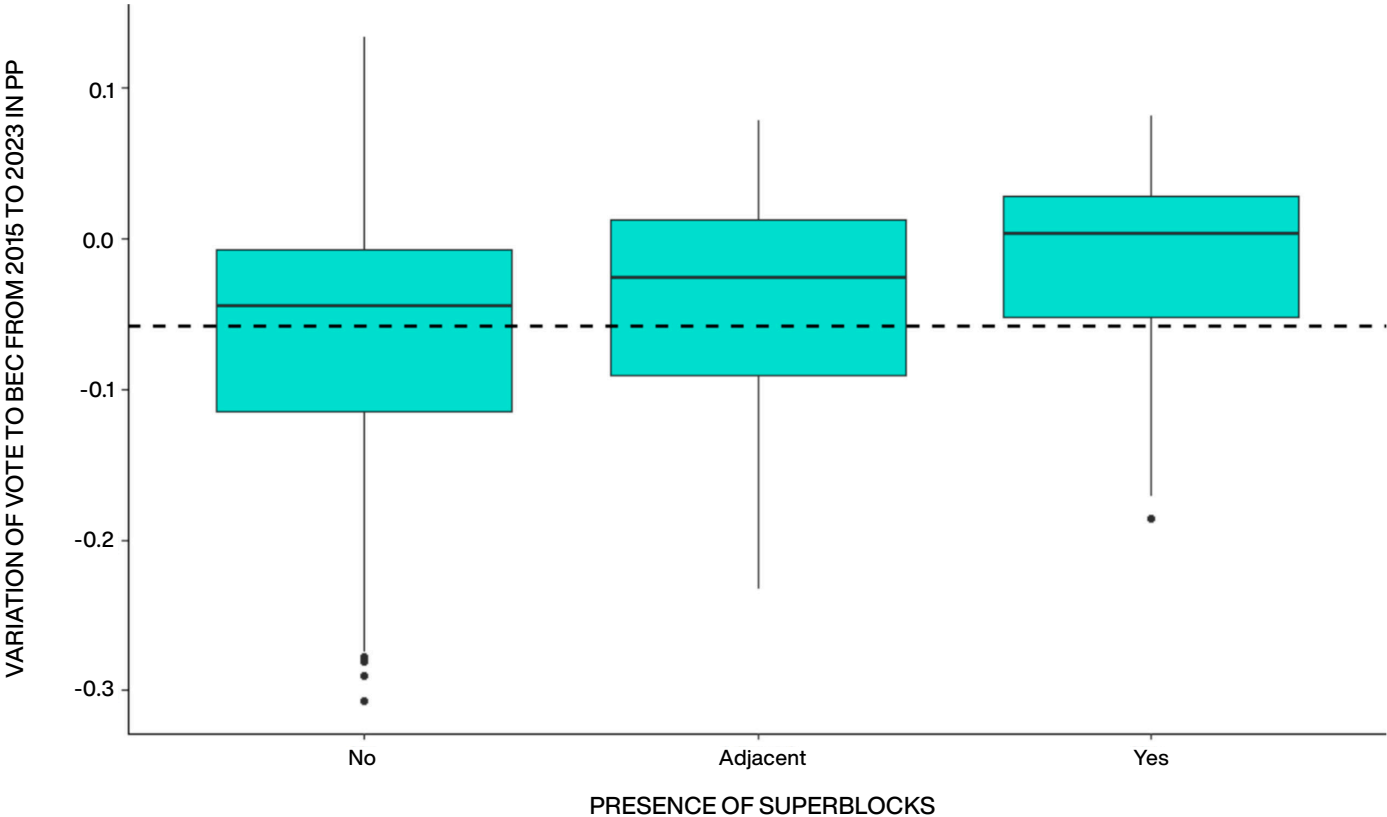
Electoral responses to urban transformation policies

Urban transformation policies such as Superblocks, school streets, and cycling infrastructure are central to sustainable mobility debates, yet their political effects remain poorly understood. Evidence from Barcelona shows that these interventions—despite visibility and controversy—do not provoke widespread electoral backlash. Voting patterns indicate moderate, context-dependent responses: support for the governing party remains stable or slightly increases in areas with more intense transformation, while voter loyalty and vote transfers show only minor fluctuations. Changes occur mostly within ideologically

proximate parties, suggesting these policies do not fuel polarization. Highly visible interventions, like Superblocks, can generate localized electoral gains, indicating that residents may reward improvements in public space when benefits are directly experienced. Overall, these studies provide consistent evidence that ambitious urban mobility reforms are electorally viable and, in some cases, politically advantageous, challenging assumptions that bold transformations necessarily entail political costs.

Fernández Núñez, M. B., Oñate, J. O., Triguero-Mas, M., Marquet, O. (2025). Electoral consequences of Urban interventions: The case of superblocks, school streets, and bike lanes in Barcelona. *Cities*, 165, Article 106130.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2025.106130>



Distribution of the variation of the vote to BEC depending on the presence of superblocks. - - - - Average of the variation of the vote BEC from 2015 to 2023 © Marta Fernández Núñez

SA.2

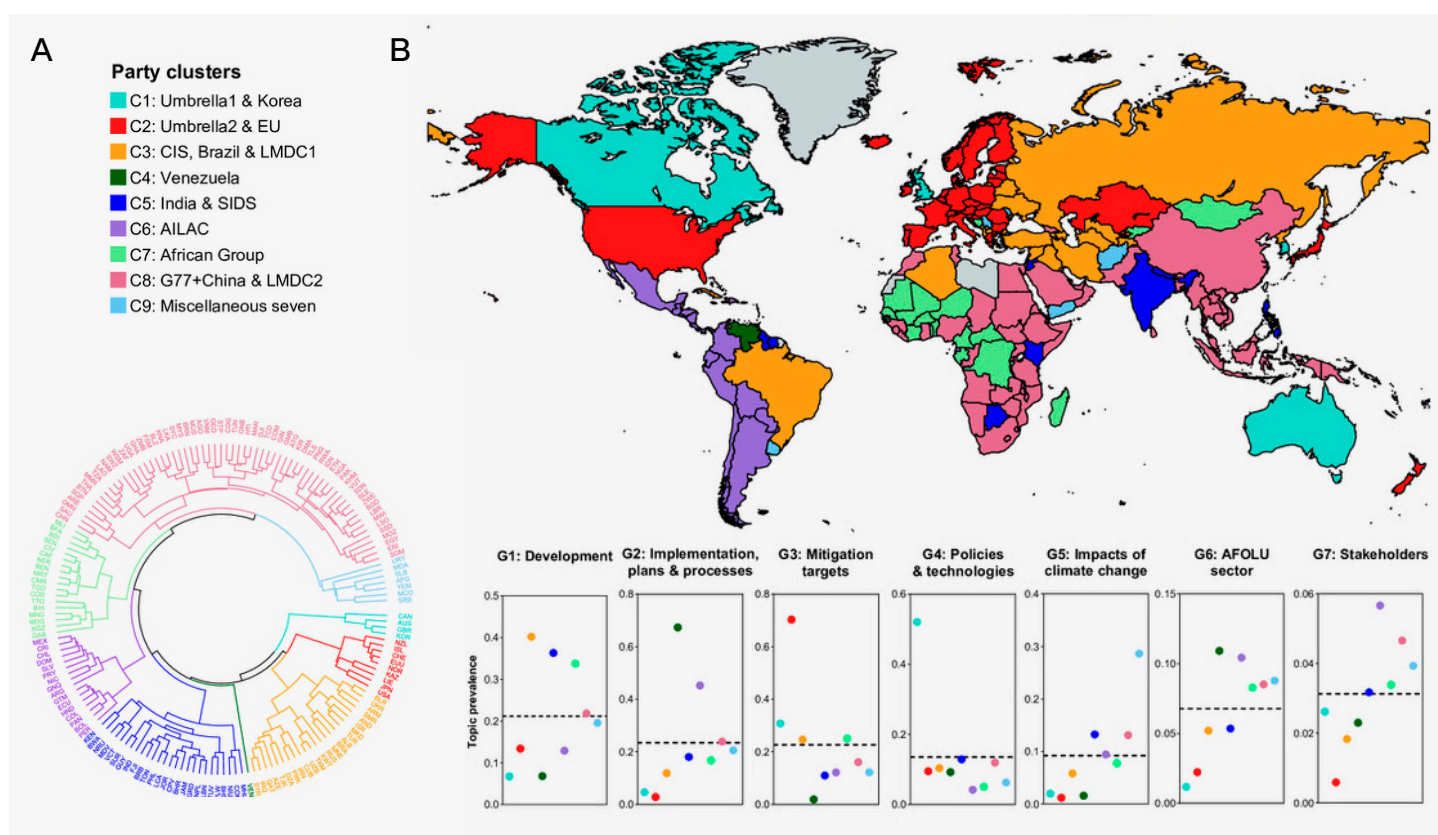
Linguistic decoding of Paris climate pledges

Parties to the Paris Agreement submit nationally determined contributions (NDCs) outlining their climate mitigation goals and strategies. While previous research has focused mainly on targets, the broader textual content of NDCs remains under-examined. Using natural language processing to analyse the full text of all NDCs, this study identifies 21 topics grouped into seven themes, including development, implementation, mitigation targets, policies, climate impacts, agriculture, and stakeholders. It examines how countries differ in their emphasis on these topics over time, clustering parties into nine groups based on topic

composition. High-income countries tend to highlight mitigation targets but provide limited detail on specific policies, whereas developing countries integrate mitigation within broader sustainable development narratives, balancing adaptation and development needs. The study concludes that a more standardized and transparent NDC format would improve comparability and help assess how mitigation goals align with wider sustainability trade-offs and co-benefits.

Savin, I, L. King, and J. van den Bergh (2025). Categorising content of Paris Agreement NDCs through computational linguistics. *Nature Sustainability* 8, 297–306.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-024-01504-6>



Clusters of parties to the Paris Agreement and topic prevalences

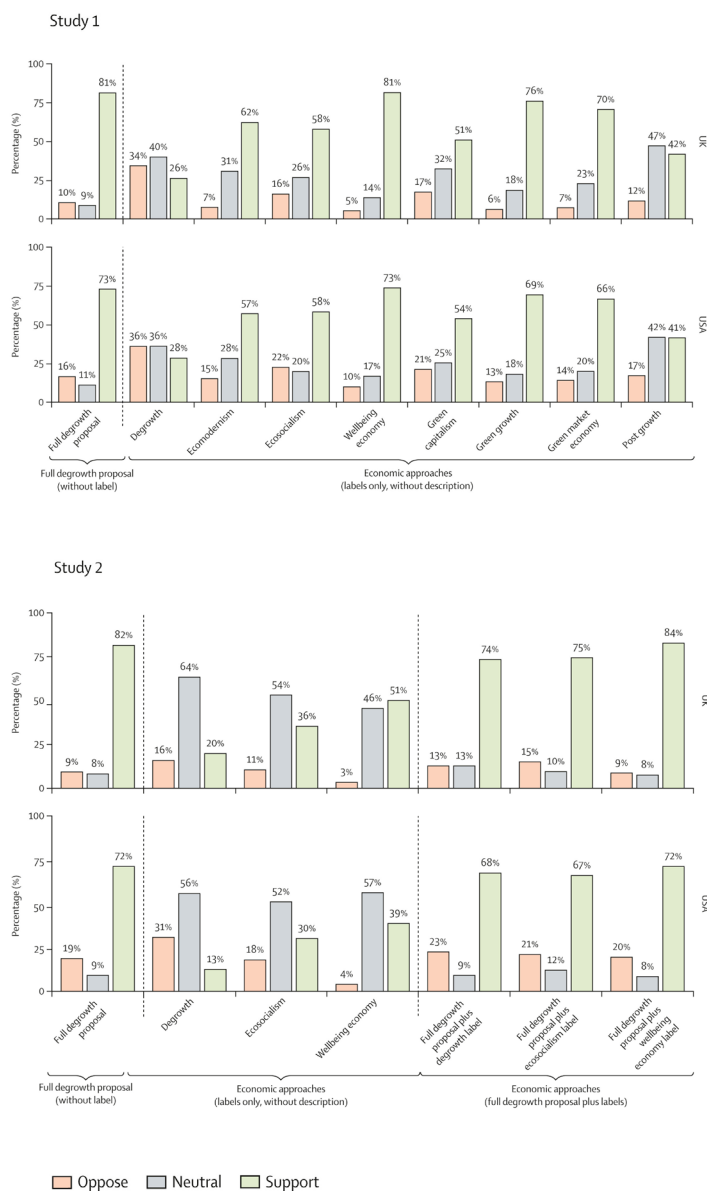
SA.3

Assessing public support for degrowth: survey-based experimental and predictive studies

New research provides the first large-scale, systematic evidence on the political feasibility of degrowth policies in high-income countries. Using representative surveys of over 6,200 participants in the UK and US, the study tested public responses to (i) the full degrowth proposal, including goals and key policy ideas, (ii) the label “degrowth” alone, and (iii) alternative labels such as “wellbeing economy” or “eco-socialism.” Results show strong majority support for the full proposal, regardless of labeling: 74–82% in the UK and 68–73% in the US. In contrast, support for the “degrowth” label alone is much lower (20–26% UK; 13–28% US), likely reflecting limited awareness and surface-level impressions. When presented as a coherent policy package, resistance declines sharply, indicating that citizen support is not a primary barrier to post-growth policy debate. These findings highlight the importance of framing and communication in advancing sustainable economic alternatives.

Krpan, D., Basso, F., Hickel, J. E., Kallis, G. (2025). Assessing public support for degrowth: survey-based experimental and predictive studies. *The Lancet. Planetary Health*, 9(11), Article 101326.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lanplh.2025.101326>



NEW PROJECTS IN 2025

8

ICTA-UAB funding comes from a variety of sources. Most projects are funded by EU collaborative or European-Council projects, with a substantial part of the institute's research budget also coming from competitive calls launched by Spanish, Catalan, and Barcelona public funding agencies ●



PROJECTS AWARDED DURING 2025

(chronological order by starting date)

Analysis of the quality and sustainability of horticultural foods produced using hydroponic techniques, organic farming, and eco-regenerative agriculture methods

Xavier Gabarrell i Durany

Generalitat de Catalunya: 25.000 €
13/12/24 → 30/07/26

PostGroWellBeing: Pathways to Sustainable Wellbeing: A Bayesian Approach to Decent Living Within Planetary Boundaries

Jason Hickel

European Commission: 194.074,56 €
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship
14/04/25 → 14/04/27

XARXA AEROBIOLÒGICA DE CATALUNYA. Effect of climate change on pollen and spores

Jordina Belmonte Soler

Generalitat de Catalunya: 958.759,90 €
01/01/25 → 31/12/27

REI JAUME I PRIZE

Victoria Reyes-García

Fundación Valenciana Premios
Rei Jaume I: 100.000 €
04/06/25 → 31/12/25

FAIRNATURE: Developing NbS scaling approaches to achieve just transformative change

Johannes Langemeyer

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU): 168.750 €
01/03/25 → 29/02/28

IRRICAT: Evaluando la idoneidad de la modernización tecnológica en el Bajo Ter: un ejercicio de modelización socio ecológica participativa

Sergio Villamayor-Tomás

Agència Catalana de l'Aigua (ACA):
120.110,90 €
07/07/25 → 06/07/28

“MARÍA DE MAEZTU UNIT OF EXCELLENCE” PROGRAMME

Daniel Brockington

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU): 2.250.000 €
01/04/25 → 31/03/29

GINA: Gender-Inclusive Adaptation. Understanding the effects of climate gentrification

Amalia Calderón Argelich

Departament d'Igualtat i Feminisme de la Generalitat de Catalunya: 32.389 €
16/07/25 → 15/01/27

COALA: Co-disseny i integració de projectes científics i d'aprenentatge sobre alimentació sostenible i economia circular a les comunitats escolars

Anna Petit Boix

Agencia de Gestión de Ayudas Universitarias y de Investigación (AGAUR): 19.985,06 €
17/09/25 → 16/03/27

INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE:
Elisavet Terzanidou

Laura Talens Peiró

Agencia de Gestión de Ayudas Universitarias y de Investigación (AGAUR): 21.600 €
01/10/25 → 30/09/28

BONITOS: AEI-DFG Pelagic calcification: from biomineralization to global implications

Patrizia Ziveri

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU): 206.250 €
01/11/25 → 31/10/28

Dinámicas demográficas e innovación agrícola en los Llanos de Moxos precolombinos, Bolivia

Catherine Dudgeon and Umberto Lombardo

Fundación PALARQ: 21.525 €
10/11/25 → 31/10/26

JUSTRENEW: Environmental Justice Dimensions of Renewable Energies in Spain

Arnim Scheidel

Fundación "la Caixa": 114.968,41 €
01/12/25 → 30/11/28

CO/ALIGN: Urban Mobility Transitions through Coalitions: Leveraging and Upscaling Active Citizenship in Multi-level Governance

Jordi Honey-Rosés

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU): 162.500 €
31/12/25 → 30/12/28

ACTIVATE: Activating Childrens and Youths Active Travel in 15-minute Cities

Oriol Marquet Sardà

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU): 168.750 €
31/12/25 → 30/12/28

E-YU-PRIME: European periphery and the Yugoslav Understanding of Planning: Researching Ideas for Making Environmental Strategies

Giacomo D'Alisa

European Commission: 209.914,56 €
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship
01/01/26 → 31/12/27

MONUFEAST: Tracking the role of subsistence in emerging sociopolitical complexity through monumentality

Umberto Lombardo

European Commission: 194.074,56 €
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship
01/06/26 → 31/05/28

BuiLDT: Building Land Degrowth Transitions

Giorgos Kallis

European Commission: 209.914,56 €
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship
01/01/26 → 31/12/27

ICREA Acadèmia

Gara Villalba Méndez

Agencia de Gestión de Ayudas
Universitarias y de Investigación (AGAUR)
16/01/26 → 15/01/31

KEYSTONES: Cultural Keystone Species
as a tool to co-design biocultural
stewardship for biodiversity conservation

Victoria Reyes-García

European Commission: 318.138,72 €
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship
01/02/26 → 31/01/29

LAND: Land and life in the Anthropocene:
Landscape reform

Esteve Corbera Elizalde

European Commission: 2.382.139,56 €
ERC Synergy Grant
01/05/2026 → 30/04/2031

CITCA: Community-led initiatives and
transition towards sustainable governance
of natural resources in the Colombian
Andes

Sergio Villamayor-Tomás

European Commission: 194.074,56 €
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship
01/09/26 → 31/08/28

Individual fellowships and mobility grants

ICTA-UAB researchers at different
career stages are funded by international,
Spanish and Catalan research agencies.

Senior

ICREA Senior 2025

Eric Galbraith

Institució Catalana de Recerca
i Estudis Avançats
01/09/25 →

TALENT 2025

Aurora Holgado Muñoz

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)
01/09/25 → 31/08/28 (renounced)

Postdoc

Juan de la Cierva 2023

Paula Ugarte Lucas

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación
y Universidades (MICIU): 72.000 €
01/09/25 → 31/08/27

Juan de la Cierva 2024

David Boix Cots

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación
y Universidades (MICIU): 76.600 €
02/09/25 → 02/09/25 (renounced)

Juan de la Cierva 2024

Isabel Ruano Chamorro

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación
y Universidades (MICIU): 76.600 €
01/09/26 → 31/08/28

CARASSO 2025

Alba Aguión Tarrío

Fundación Daniel y Nina Carasso:
160.000 €
26/11/25 → 25/11/27

Mobility grants

RESTART: Urban climate justice and
community participation: towards inclusive
adaptation strategies

Isabelle Anguelovski

University of Padua: 600 €
01/10/25 → 31/03/26

RESEARCH CONTRACTS

ICTA-UAB researchers have also received
support from a variety of private and public
agencies as well as foundations.

Just Earth Observation for Conservation

Daniel Brockington

University of Manchester
01/10/23 → 30/09/28

Spanish translation co-edition of The
Barcelona School of Ecological Economics
and Political Ecology: A Companion in
Honour of Joan Martínez-Alier

Sergio Villamayor-Tomás

Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias
Sociales (CLACSO)
08/01/25 → 07/01/26

Collaboration agreement between different
schools and the UAB as part of COALA
project

Anna Petit Boix

Escola Nostra Llar, Escola Enric Tatché i Pol,
Escola La Pau, Escola Les Vinyes, Escola
Garbí Pere Vergés
18/02/25 → 17/02/26

Detection of emerging organic contaminants
in liquid samples and solid matrices

Xavier Gabarrell i Durany

Instituto Catalán de Investigación del
Agua (ICRA)
07/04/25 → 31/12/26

Policy Report on Structural Inequalities and
Climate Justice by BCNUEJ in Collaboration
with Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance

Urban Sustainability Directors Network
(USDN)

15/05/25 → 28/02/26

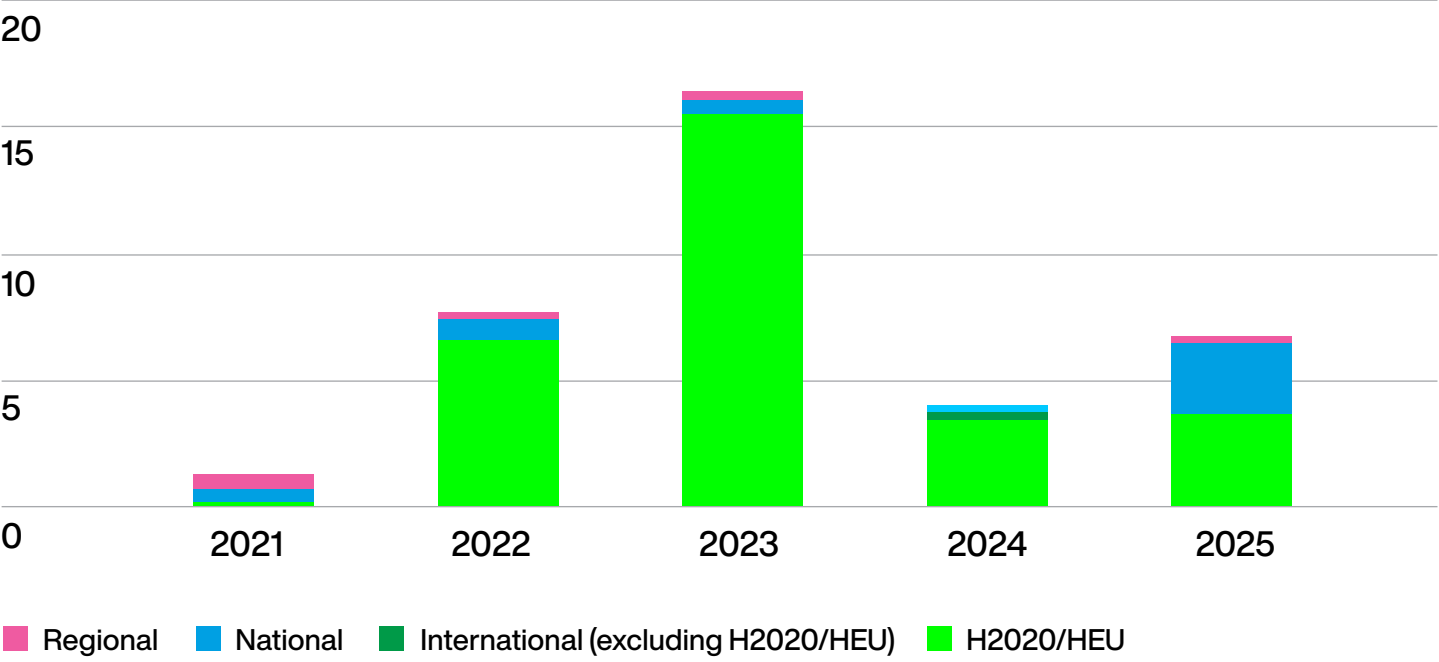
Collaboration Agreement on Thermal
Comfort in Climate Shelters as part of
the GASPOF Project

Gara Villalba Méndez

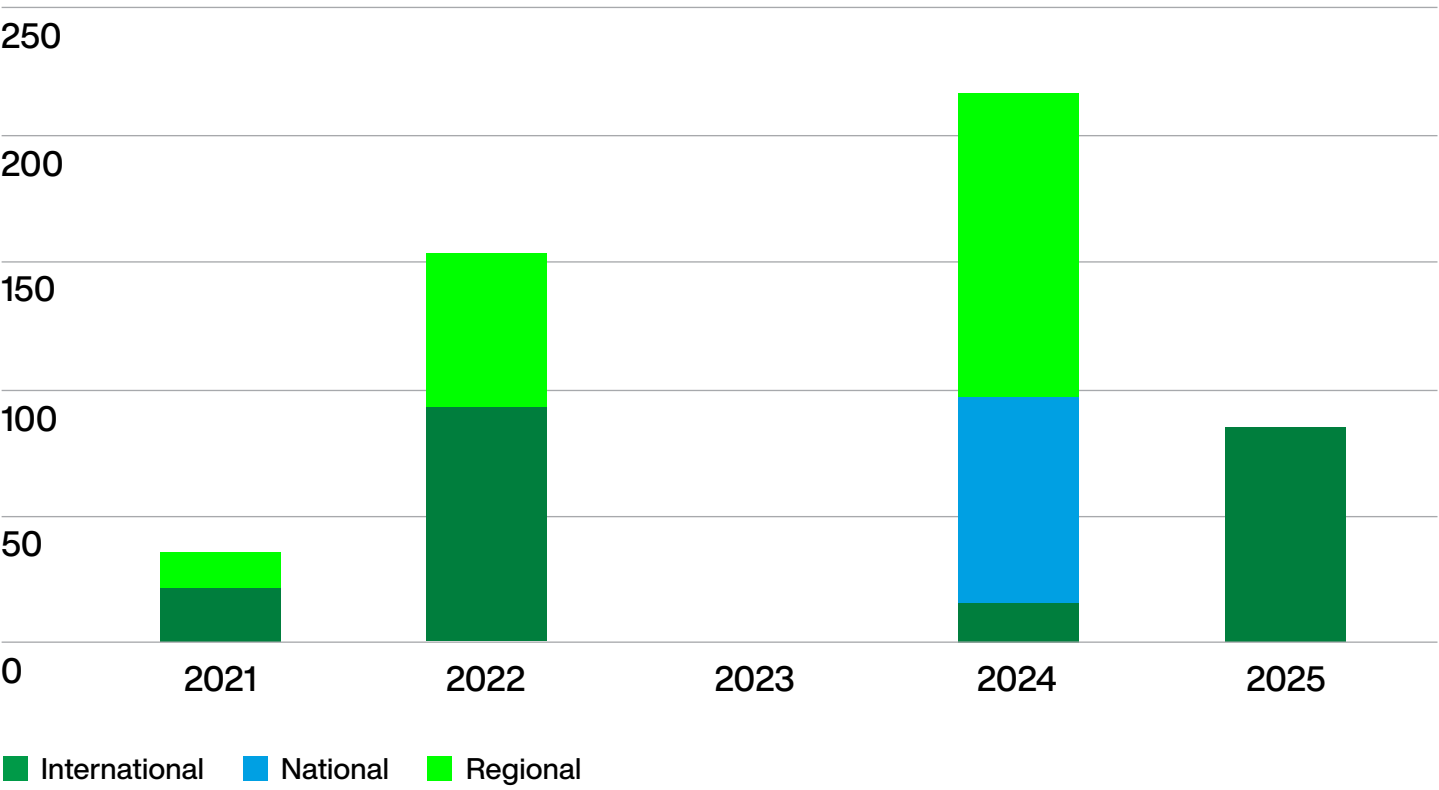
Consorti Àrea Metropolitana de Barcelona
(CAMB)

24/10/25 → 31/12/28

PUBLIC FUNDING Competitive sources (M€)



PUBLIC FUNDING Non-competitive sources (k€)



PUBLICATIONS

9

ARTICLES

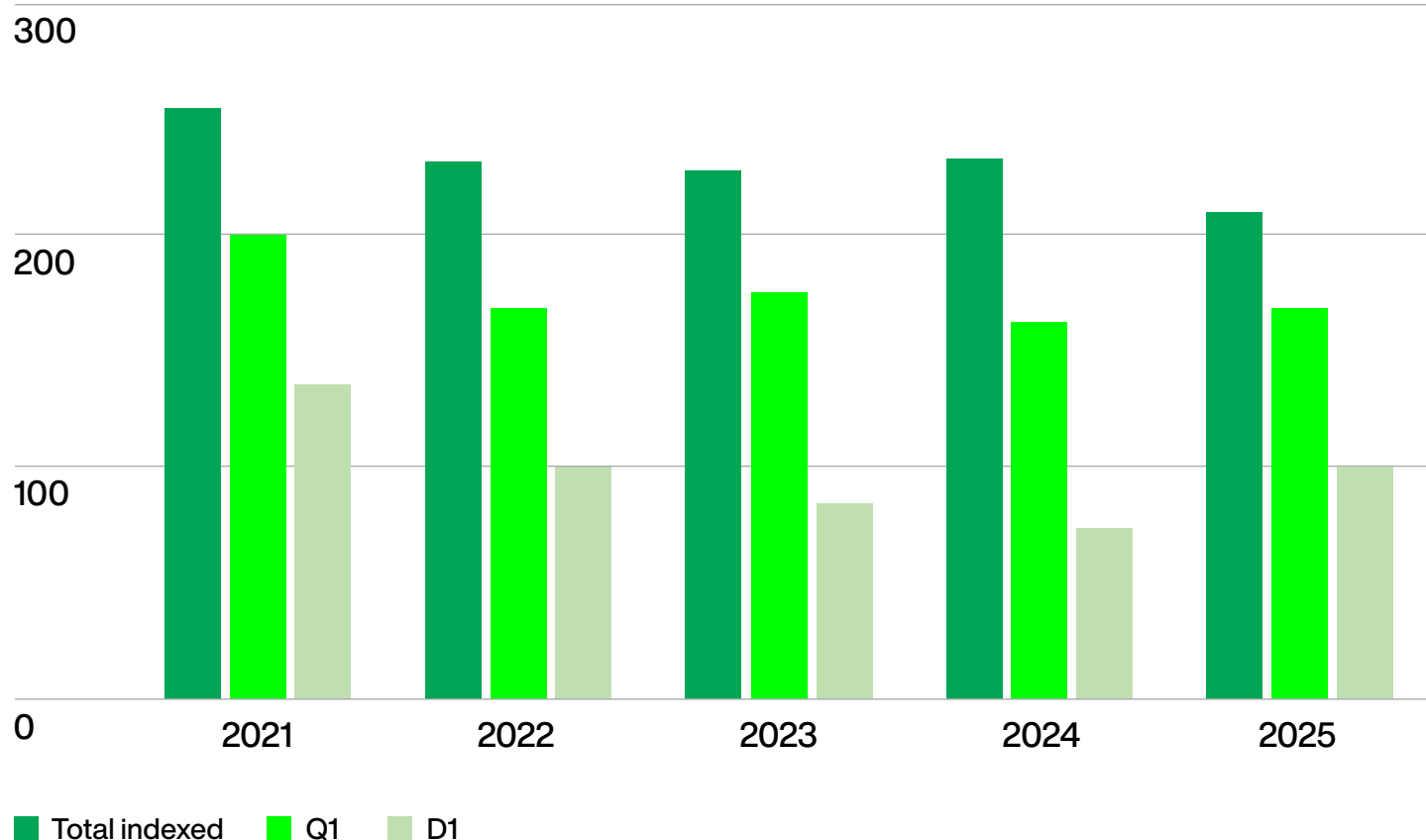
ICTA-UAB's research is published in leading, high-impact-factor journals ● 24 articles were published in Nature and Science-related journals, as well as in *The Lancet Planetary Health* among others ● Overall, about 215 scientific articles were published in peer-reviewed journals in 2025, across more than 144 different scientific journals ● Over 46% of the articles appeared in journals with an impact factor of five or higher ● Importantly, 74% of all publications were made available through Open Access channels, enhancing the visibility and accessibility of the institute's scientific output ●

214 Indexed articles

157 Articles published in 1st quartile

98 In 1st decile

PEER-REVIEW PUBLICATIONS



SELECTED PUBLICATIONS IN INDEXED JOURNALS

Pallacks, S., Ziveri, P., Jannke, H. A., Lin, C.-H., Subhas, A. V., Galbraith, E., Kaboth-Bahr, S., Friedrich, O., Bahr, A., Koutsodendris, A., Pross, J., Norris, R. D. (2025)

Ocean deoxygenation linked to ancient mesopelagic fish decline.

Communications Earth & Environment, 6, 596.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02568-8>

Ziveri, P., Langer, G., Chaabane, S., de Vries, J., Gray, W. R., Keul, N., Hatton, I. A., Manno, C., Norris, R. D., Pallacks, S., Young, J. R., Schiebel, R., Zarkogiannis, S., Anglada-Ortiz, G., Bianco, S., de Garidel-Thoron, T., Grelaud, M., Lucas, A., Probert, I., Mortyn, P. G. (2025)

Calcifying plankton: From biomineralization to global change.

Science, 390(6771), eadq8520.

<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adq8520>

Beigel, F., Brockington, D., Crosetto, P., et al. (2025)

The drain of scientific publishing. arXiv.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2511.04820>

Lombardo, U., Hilbert, L., Bentley, M., Ramsey, C.K., Dudgeon, K., et al. (2025)

Maize monoculture supported pre-Columbian urbanism in southwestern Amazonia.

Nature, 639, 119–123.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-08473-y>

Anguelovski, I., Kotsila, P., Lees, L., Triguero-Mas, M., Calderón-Agelich, A. (2025)

From heat racism and heat gentrification to urban heat justice in the USA and Europe.

Nature Cities, 346, 2(1), 8–16.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s44284-024-00179-6>

Maiza Pavez, M. V., Muñoz Liesa, J., Petit Boix, A., Arcas Pilz, V., Gabarrell Durany, X. (2025)

Urine luck: Environmental assessment of yellow water management in buildings for urban agriculture.

Resources, Conservation and Recycling, 212, Article 107985.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2024.107985>

Kallis, G., Hickel, J., O'Neill, D. W., Jackson, T., Victor, P. A., Raworth, K., Schor, J. B., Steinberger, J. K. (2025)

Post-growth: The science of wellbeing within planetary boundaries.

The Lancet Planetary Health, 9(1), E62–E78.

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(24\)00310-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(24)00310-3)

Llavero-Pasquina, M., Bontempi, A. (2025)

Oil and gas industry's marginal share of global renewable energy.

Nature Sustainability, 8, 1254–1258.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-025-01647-0>

Marquet, O., Anguelovski, I., Nello-Deakin, S., Honey-Rosés, J. (2025)

Decoding the 15-minute city debate: Conspiracies, backlash, and dissent in planning for proximity. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 91(1), 117–125.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2024.2346596>

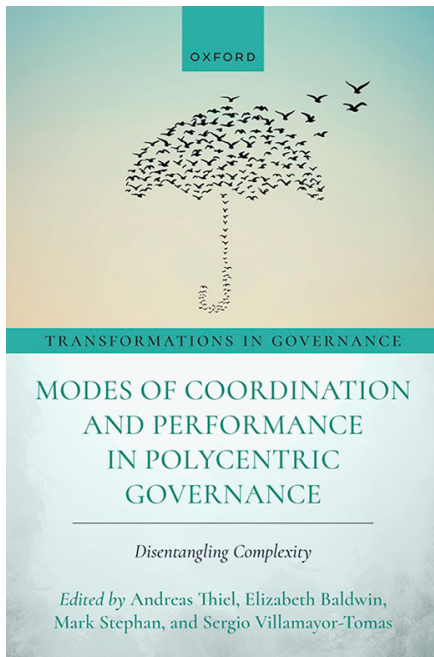
Savin, I., King, L. C., van den Bergh, J. C. J. M. (2025)

Analysing content of Paris climate pledges with computational linguistics.

Nature Sustainability, 8, 297–306.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-024-01504-6>

BOOKS



MODES OF COORDINATION AND PERFORMANCE IN POLYCENTRIC GOVERNANCE: DISENTANGLING COMPLEXITY

Andreas Arrow, Elizabeth Baldwin, Mark Stephan, Sergio Villamayor-Tomás (editors)
(Oxford University Press, 2025)

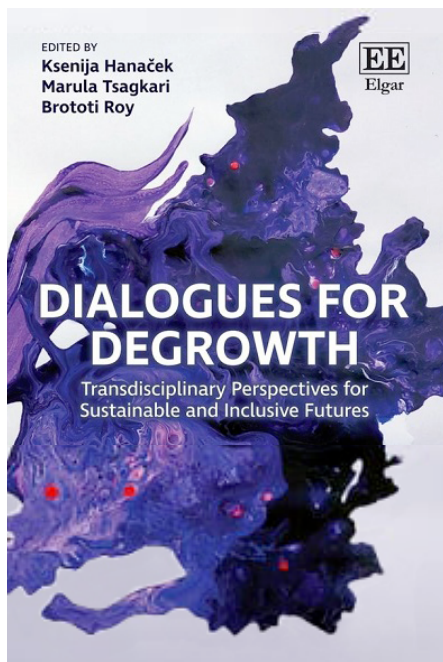
Modes of coordination and performance in polycentric governance: Disentangling complexity develops a framework to analyze how autonomous actors coordinate within polycentric governance systems. Using the IAD approach and case studies from the US, Switzerland, Mongolia, and Uganda, it identifies hybrid coordination modes, their determinants, and performance outcomes while offering alternative analytical perspectives on governance complexity.



THE POWER OF LOCAL INITIATIVES IN TRANSFORMING AMAZONIAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES: THE AMAZON BIOSPHERE RESERVE PROJECT (2020-2025)

Paulo Massoca, Ana Catarina Luz, Carola Vaca, Kaline Rossi, Edgar Meza, Martin Vega, Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares, Eduardo Brondízio (UNESCO, 2025)

The power of local initiatives in transforming Amazonian biosphere reserves: The Amazon Biosphere Reserve Project (2020-2025) presents seven local initiatives that strengthen Amazonian biosphere reserves. Using the Combined IAD-SES framework, it analyzes how collective actions address environmental pressures, restore degraded ecosystems, and build resilience. The illustrated cases show diverse community-driven strategies that can inspire adaptation and sustainability efforts worldwide.



***DIALOGUES FOR DEGROWTH-
TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES
FOR SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE
FUTURES***

Ksenija Hanaček, Marula Tsagkari,
Brototi Roy (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025)

Dialogues for Degrowth-Transdisciplinary Perspectives for Sustainable and Inclusive Futures explores a diverse array of perspectives on degrowth, a movement critical of the global capitalist system pursuing economic growth at all costs. Contributing authors provide insights into the connections between degrowth and fields such as art, architecture, literature, and post-development, setting an agenda for future research.

INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS

10

GENDER EQUITY

In July 2022, ICTA-UAB deployed its first Gender Equity Policy, framed within the institute's commitment to advancing gender equity at all levels ● This includes actions to strengthen the presence and role of female and non-binary scientists at the institution, make visible their research contributions, and enable the development and implementation of protocols to address gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment ● These efforts align with the broader institutional frameworks of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) and ICTA-UAB's María de Maeztu Unit of Excellence ●

Based on a Gender Equity Audit conducted by Col·lectiu Punt6 in 2021, the policy is structured around five strategic lines, which guide ongoing actions to foster a more inclusive and equitable research environment ●

1. REPRESENTATION OF FEMALE AND NON-BINARY SCIENTISTS:

Ensuring fair representation of women and gender minorities across all professional categories and leadership positions.

2. WORKING CONDITIONS AND WORK-LIFE BALANCE:

Assessing salary structures, career development opportunities, and policies supporting work-life balance.

3. GENDER AWARENESS:

Evaluating gender awareness and integration within all institutional policies.

4. NON-SEXIST AND INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:

Promoting inclusive language and increasing the visibility of women and gender minorities in ICTA-UAB's internal and external communications.

5. PREVENTION OF GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND HARRASSMENT:

Developing mechanisms to prevent and address gender-based discrimination and harassment.

Gender Equity and Care Actions

AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

ICTA-UAB organizes multiple events and initiatives to foster awareness and discussion around gender equity and care:

- Film Forum on Gender and Equity
- ICTA-UAB's Day of Women and Girls in Science 2025 campaign featured a meme-based Instagram carousel highlighting key gender gaps in science—from funding and leadership to recognition and work culture—and actions to help close them.
- ICTA-UAB's International Women's Day 2025 campaign "Meet the Women of ICTA-UAB" consisted of a series of Instagram posts throughout March highlighting women researchers through portraits and personal reflections.
- ICTA-UAB CARES Meetings providing a platform for peer support.

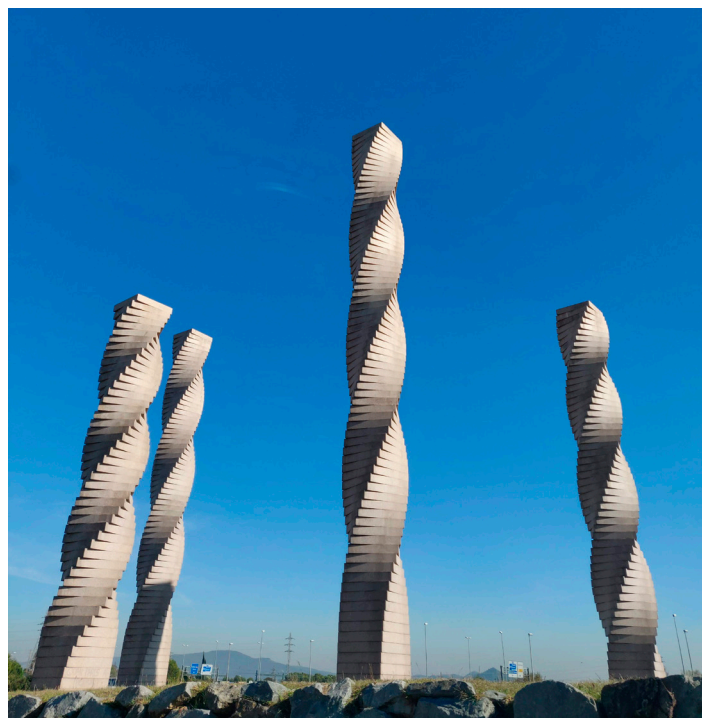
WELCOME MATERIALS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS

Throughout the academic year, ICTA-UAB hosts a variety of scientific and social events to foster community and connection, including:

- Welcome Event at the beginning of the Fall.
- Winter and Summer Symposiums.
- Weekly coffee breaks hosted by research groups.

ICTA-UAB CARES GROUP

The *CARES Group* is a voluntary initiative composed of PhDs, postdoctoral researchers, and senior staff. It provides peer support, addresses discrimination concerns, and fosters an inclusive research environment.



ICTA-UAB OMBUDS OFFICER

The Ombuds Officer is an independent figure who receives complaints and observations concerning the institute, ensures compliance with ICTA-UAB Statutes, and submits non-binding recommendations to the relevant governing bodies. The role is carried out with full autonomy and impartiality, and is appointed by the UAB Rector following election by the ICTA-UAB Council for a four-year term, renewable once.

The current Ombuds Officer is Dr Josep Enric Llebot, Full Professor of Condensed Matter Physics at the UAB and former Secretary for the Environment and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia.

Culture Manifesto

The ICTA-UAB Culture Manifesto reaffirms the institute's mission, values, and commitment to care practices. It provides actionable recommendations for community members and continues to guide initiatives implemented through research groups and internal committees.

The formulation of this Manifesto stems from the revised ICTA-UAB Mission and Vision suggested during the senior faculty teambuilding session in September 2023, as well as from the invaluable contributions of our entire staff during the gender equity and ethics of care workshops. Rather than a static policy, the ICTA-UAB Culture Manifesto—particularly its stated best practices and actions—is intended to be a living document that will evolve over time as our community's needs change.

Institutional Representation and Advocacy

ICTA-UAB actively participates in broader gender equity initiatives at UAB and beyond:

- **UAB Gender Equity Committees:**
ICTA-UAB is part of the broader UAB-wide initiative launched by the *Observatori per a la Igualtat* and co-coordinated by the General Secretary of the UAB to strengthen its anti-discrimination and harassment policies and procedures. It has been involved in working groups to renew and disseminate the updated (December 2022) UAB anti-harassment protocol.
- **SOMMa Alliance Working Groups:**
Through the SOMMa alliance, ICTA-UAB supports best practices for gender equity and visibility of female scientists within Spain.
- **Partnerships with Catalan Research Institutes (e.g., CRG, CREAM, ISGlobal),**
advocating for gender-equitable policies in funding and evaluation.



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL STRATEGY

In line with UAB's broader commitment to sustainability and international climate frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the IPCC's 1.5°C target, ICTA-UAB adopted a Responsible Travel Strategy to reduce the GHG emissions associated with its research community's activities ● Overall, the guidelines encourage ICTA-UAB members to:

- Reduce GHG emissions from daily commuting by prioritizing public transport over private vehicles, maximizing vehicle occupancy, and adopting active and healthy transportation such as cycling and walking.
- Engage in responsible academic travel by prioritizing remote over physical meetings, reducing the overall number of research-related trips, and selecting transport options that generate fewer GHG emissions.
- Include a carbon budget in PhD development and project proposal preparation, and report research-related carbon emissions on project and institutional websites.
- Organize and participate in public debates on responsible travel, and share materials that facilitate it, such as the ICTA-UAB Travel Map, which provides distance and carbon footprint data for key European destinations from Barcelona.



COMPOSTING SYSTEM

ICTA-UAB implemented a composting system designed to convert organic waste generated in the kitchen by daily users, as well as food remains from organized local events, into compost ●

The initiative serves a dual purpose: managing this waste stream and supporting experimental research to generate new data. Data are being collected to monitor system performance, optimize its operation, and evaluate the quality of the compost produced. These data will serve both educational and research purposes, engaging students, researchers, and the broader university community.

The system consists of two 345-litre composters operating alternately, alongside a structural material container. In 2025, 131 kg of organic waste was collected. The resulting compost is estimated at approximately 100 kg and is expected to be distributed among users and ICTA-UAB visitors throughout 2026.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

11



UMBERTO LOMBARDO NAMED NEW DIRECTOR OF THE ICTA-UAB

Umberto Lombardo was named the new director of the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB), succeeding Isabel Pont, who led the institute from 2022 to 2025.



ICTA-UAB RENEWS ITS MARÍA DE MAEZTU UNIT OF EXCELLENCE ACCREDITATION FOR THE THIRD TIME

ICTA-UAB Scientific Director Esteve Corbera received the unit's third consecutive María de Maeztu accreditation. The ceremony in Zaragoza included Minister Pilar Alegría. Corbera, joined by Director Isabel Pont, transfers leadership to Dan Brockington for the next four years. The 2024 call awarded € 75.7M to nine Severo Ochoa centers and eight María de Maeztu units.





ICTA-UAB CELEBRATES 'NOBEL PRIZE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT' WINNERS SANDRA DÍAZ AND EDUARDO BRONDÍZIO

Argentinian ecologist Sandra Díaz and Brazilian-American anthropologist Eduardo Brondízio were awarded the 2025 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement for their extraordinary work linking biodiversity to humankind, announced by the Tyler Prize Executive Committee.



THE EXHIBITION “MÁQUINA CLIMÁTICA” SELECTED FOR THE 2025 FAD AWARDS

The exhibition “Máquina Climática”, which featured the prominent participation of the Sostenipra research group from ICTA-UAB, was selected for the 2025 FAD Architecture and Interior Design Awards in the Ephemeral Interventions category.



VICTORIA REYES-GARCÍA, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA OF THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Dr. Victoria Reyes-García, a researcher at ICTA-UAB, was named a Distinguished Alumna by the University of Florida (UF) for her contributions to the understanding of Indigenous knowledge systems and their relevance to global environmental challenges, including climate change and biodiversity loss.



ISABELLE ANGUELOVSKI ADVISES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON GREEN GENTRIFICATION AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Isabelle Anguelovski, a researcher at ICTA-UAB, was invited by the Special Committee of the European Parliament on the Housing Crisis in the European Union to advise policymakers on key issues such as green gentrification and the need to ensure access to affordable housing.



RESEARCHER VICTORIA REYES GARCÍA AWARDED PREMI JAUME I IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Victoria Reyes García, professor at the Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) and researcher at the Institute for Environmental Science and Technology of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB), was awarded the Rei Jaume I Prize in the Environmental Protection category.



GIORGOS KALLIS, SIGNATORY OF THE WARNING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON THE RISKS OF THE OMNIBUS I PACKAGE

ICTA-UAB researcher Professor Giorgos Kallis was among more than 90 prominent economists from the European Union who have signed a joint statement warning about the serious risks posed by the European Commission's Omnibus package. They warned it represents a significant step backward that could jeopardize the EU's global leadership in environmental and human rights matters.



ALBA AGUIÓN TO DRIVE FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION THANKS TO THE DANIEL CARASSO FELLOWSHIP 2025

Researcher Alba Aguión joined the scientific team at ICTA-UAB to study the transformation of the food system after receiving one of the three awards in the third edition of



DANIEL TORREN WINS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD FOR RESEARCH ON LOW-CARBON TRANSITIONS

Daniel Torren, researcher at ICTA-UAB, was awarded the Best PhD Student Article by the Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation (JASSS) for his groundbreaking study “An Agent-Based Model of Cultural Change for a Low-Carbon Transition”, co-authored with ICTA-UAB researchers Ivan Savin and Jeroen van den Bergh.



PATRICK HOFFMANN, AWARDED FOR THE BEST SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION AMONG YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Patrick Hoffmann, researcher at ICTA-UAB, has received the Prize for Best Research Communication among Young Researchers at the XV Congress of the Spanish Association of Agricultural Economics (AEEA).



DR. ÁLVARO FERNÁNDEZ-LLAMAZARES APPOINTED AS LEAD AUTHOR OF THE SECOND IPBES GLOBAL ASSESSMENT

Dr. Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares, senior environmental researcher at ICTA-UAB and BABVE, was selected as a Lead Author for the IPBES Second Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. He joins 117 global experts meeting in Paris for the first author session of this landmark report.



Esteve Corbera, Juan Borrás, Ian Sconnes and Anna Tsing (from left to right)

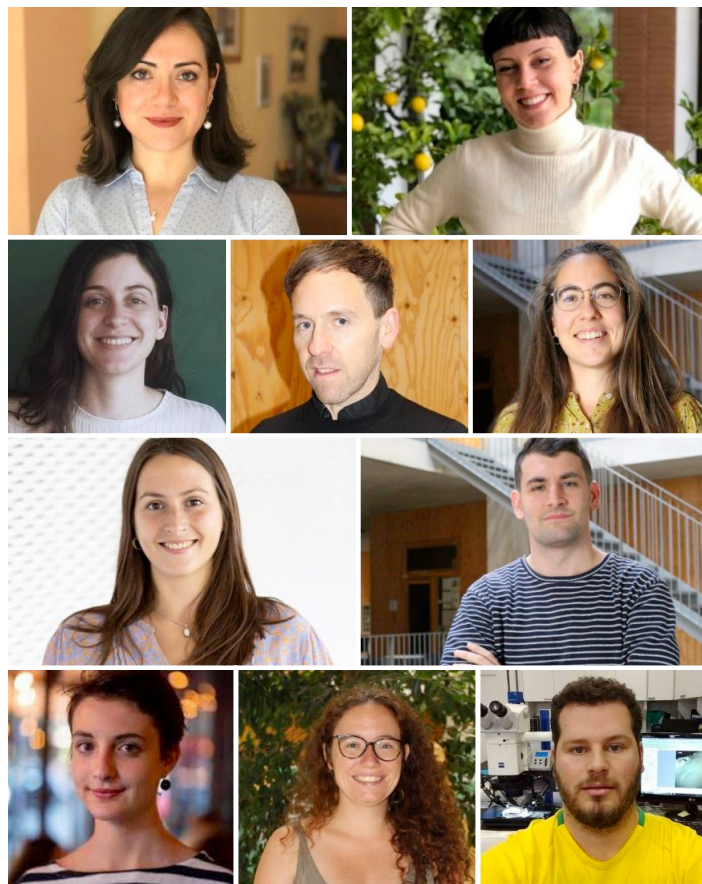
NEW ERC SYNERGY GRANT TO LEARN NEW WAYS OF LIVING ON EARTH

Esteve Corbera, ICREA research professor at ICTA-UAB and associate professor in the Department of Geography, is part of the team of scientists that won an €8.33M grant for a project in rethinking ways of life for a sustainable planet.



TWELVE NEW ACADEMY OF EXCELLENCE GRANTS AWARDED TO UAB LECTURERS

Twelve UAB lecturers were selected in the 2025 Acadèmia d'Excel·lència call, including ICTA-UAB researchers Gara Villalba and Oriol Marquet. These new grants, which replace the former ICREA Acadèmia program, aim to strengthen the scientific activity of university lecturers in the active, expanding stage of their research careers.



ICTA-UAB RESEARCHERS RECEIVE THE PHD EXTRAORDINARY AWARD

Ten researchers of the PhD program in Environmental Science and Technology coordinated by ICTA-UAB received the PhD Extraordinary Award for their doctoral thesis developed during 2022-2024. The award ceremony was held on Friday, November 7th.

The students from the 2022-2023 period who were awarded the distinction are ICTA-UAB researchers Ana Terra Amorim Maia, Elisa Appolloni, Franziska Klein, Nicholas Martin, and Laura Pérez Sánchez. The students from the 2023-2024 period are Celina Marie Aznárez, Thiago Fossile, Mouna Chambon, Anna Porcuna Ferrer, and Ricard Segura Barrero.

POLICY AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

12

This section highlights some of the most important outreach and societal impact articles or activities developed under each of our research challenges (see section 5) ●



OCEANS

Ocean oxygen decline threatens deep-sea fish populations and ocean health, new study warns

Pallacks, S., Ziveri, P., Jannke, H. A., Lin, C.-H., Subhas, A. V., Galbraith, E., Kaboth-Bahr, S., Friedrich, O., Bahr, A., Koutsodendris, A., Pross, J., Norris, R. D. (2025). Ocean deoxygenation linked to ancient mesopelagic fish decline. *Communications Earth & Environment*, 6(1), Article 596.

An international study led by ICTA-UAB highlighted the intensifying decline in ocean oxygen levels due to climate change and its significant impacts on marine ecosystems, including mesopelagic fish populations. The research examined how past episodes of ocean deoxygenation affected marine food webs, fisheries, overall ocean health, and the ocean's capacity to store carbon, providing key insights into the ongoing challenges facing the oceans.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-025-02568-8>



Centuries of mining turn the Mar Menor into a reservoir of toxic metals

Alorda-Montiel, I., Rodellas, V., Arias-Ortiz, A., Palanques, A., Bravo, A. G., Rodriguez-Puig, J., Alorda-Kleinglass, A., Green-Ruiz, C., Diego-Feliu, M., Masqué, P., Gilabert, J., Garcia-Orellana, J. (2025). A century of sediment metal contamination of Mar Menor, Europe's largest saltwater lagoon. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 220, Article 118347.

A study by the Department of Physics and ICTA-UAB found that the Mar Menor saltwater lagoon in Murcia, Spain—the largest in Europe—contains sediments with levels of lead, arsenic, zinc, mercury, copper, and silver that exceed toxicity thresholds and surpass values reported for comparable coastal ecosystems worldwide.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2025.118347>



LAND

Fossil fuel companies control a mere 1% of renewable energy projects worldwide

Llaveró-Pasquina, M., Bontempi, A. (2025). Oil and gas industry's marginal share of global renewable energy. *Nature Sustainability*, 8(11), 1254-1258.

Research from ICTA-UAB revealed that the fossil fuel industry fell far short of its pledge to lead the energy transition. The study found that the world's largest oil and gas companies were responsible for only 1.42% of renewable energy projects worldwide. Published in *Nature Sustainability*, the research challenged the dominant narrative promoted by the fossil fuel industry, which positioned itself as a key player in addressing climate change through "green" energy initiatives.

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-025-01647-0>



Science under the control of major publishers: profit over knowledge

Beigel, F., Brockington, D., Crosetto, P., et al. (2025). The Drain of Scientific Publishing.

A new analysis involving ICTA-UAB showed that the scientific publishing system prioritizes profit over advancing knowledge and academic integrity. The four leading publishers—Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley, and Taylor & Francis—generated over \$7.1 billion in revenue in 2024 alone, with profit margins exceeding 30%, and accumulated more than \$14 billion in profits between 2019 and 2024. A large share of these funds came from public research budgets, which researchers must use to publish their own work or access the work of others.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2511.04820>



CONSUMPTION

Human urine, a valuable resource as fertilizer for sustainable urban agriculture

Maiza Pavez, M. V., Muñoz Liesa, J., Petit Boix, A., Arcas Pilz, V., Gabarrell Durany, X. (2025). Urine luck: Environmental assessment of yellow water management in buildings for urban agriculture. *Resources, Conservation and Recycling*, 212, Article 107985

A study conducted by ICTA-UAB showed that reusing human urine could enable the production of sustainable fertilizers for urban agriculture, offering significant environmental benefits. The research evaluated the impact of recovering nitrogen from the yellow waters of buildings and found that, in addition to supporting sustainable food production, this approach could reduce CO₂ emissions and water consumption.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.resconrec.2024.107985>



Humanity travels an average of 78 minutes per day, regardless of living standards

Hunter-Batal, M., Fajzel, W., Manaugh, K., Otto, A. R., Galbraith, E. D. (2025). Energy use per hour is key determinant of future transport energy consumption. *Environmental Research Letters*, 20(11), Article 114045

A new international study by ICTA-UAB and McGill University (Canada) found that people spend on average about 1.3 hours per day (78 minutes) traveling, whether commuting, working, or shopping, regardless of where they live or their income. The research concluded that the key to reducing population-level energy consumption lies in designing communities that promote low-energy travel during these daily 78 minutes.

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ae1246>



CITIES

Barcelona could suffer heat waves up to 6°C more intense by the end of the century

Ventura, S., Miro, J. R., Segura-Barrero, R., Chen, F., Martilli, A., Liu, C., Ikeda, K., Villalba, G. (2025). Assessing the Intensity of Heat-waves in a Warming Climate at the Urban Scale: A Case Study of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*, 130(14), Article e2025JD043559.

A study carried out by ICTA-UAB showed that heat waves affecting the population of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona could intensify in the future, with temperature increases of up to 6°C and a general reduction in relative humidity in cities by the end of the century. The research warned that, without drastic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, average maximum temperatures could rise by 4°C and average minimum temperatures by 3.5°C.

<https://doi.org/10.1029/2025JD043559>



First map of Barcelona's bicycle traffic published

Honey-Rosés, J., Liebscht, L., Castilla, G., Arenas, A., Ballart, H., Chaves, L., Miah, M., Nel-lo-Deakin, S., Simón-i-Mas, G., Treviño, C.G., Udina, F., Reyes, P. (2025). Bicycle Traffic in Barcelona, Street by Street. City Lab Barcelona, Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB), Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC), Bicycle Club of Catalonia (BACC).

A pioneering study in Barcelona examined how bicycles move around the city, identifying streets with the most traffic and those needing additional bike lanes. Conducted by ICTA-UAB in collaboration with the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre and the Bicycle Club of Catalonia, the research relied on 43 volunteers who collected data through the BiciZen platform, enabling a detailed and accurate model of cycling patterns.

The circulation of bicycles in Barcelona-Street by Street



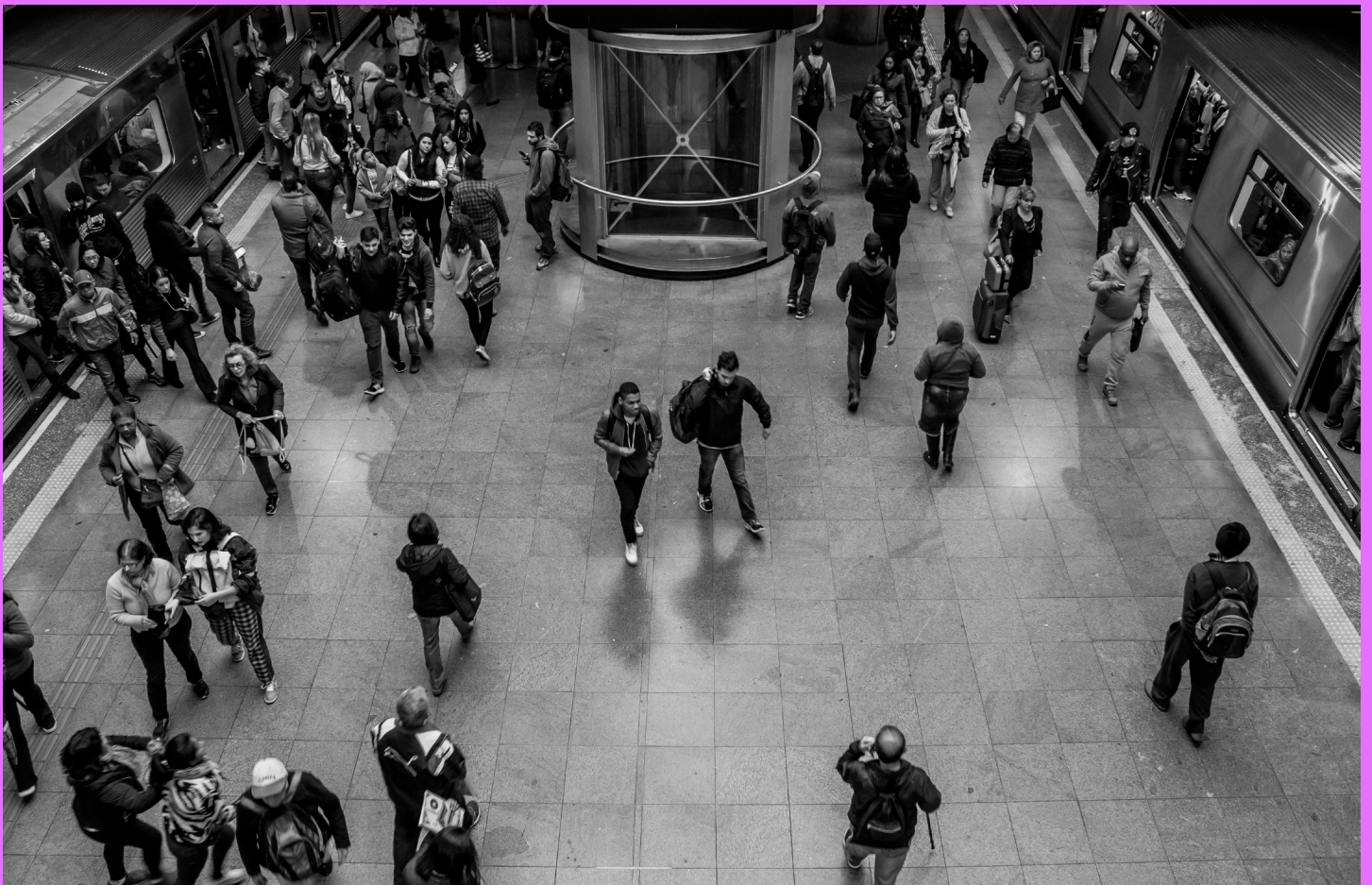
POLICIES

The climate policies that EU citizens like (and those they don't)

A survey conducted by an international team including ICTA-UAB researchers showed that European citizens were more supportive of climate policies allocating subsidies for rail transport, home insulation,

and similar measures, while strongly opposing policies that imposed taxes on polluting behaviors, such as those targeting cars or meat consumption. The study aimed to assess public willingness to support different types of climate policies under discussion, including mandates and restrictions on private jets.

<https://capableclimate.eu/online-tool/>



Groundbreaking review calls for shift from economic growth to wellbeing within planetary limits

Kallis, G., Hickel, J., O'Neill, D. W., Jackson, T., Victor, P. A., Raworth, K., Schor, J. B., Steinberger, J. K., Ürge-Vorsatz, D. (2025). Post-growth: the science of wellbeing within planetary boundaries. *The Lancet Planetary Health*, 9(1), e62-e78

A comprehensive review led by ICTA-UAB and published in *The Lancet Planetary Health* challenged the long-held assumption that economic growth is necessary for societal progress. The study explored the rapidly advancing field of post-growth research and argued for prioritizing human wellbeing and ecological sustainability over continued economic expansion.

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196\(24\)00310-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2542-5196(24)00310-3)



KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AND SCIENTIFIC DISSEMINATION

Educational programs

ICTA-UAB and Escola La Pau jointly promote environmental science through the Fundació Bofill's Magnet program

From January to June

ICTA-UAB raises awareness on the need to reduce fossil fuels in the UAB Science Wagon

From January to September

Anna Petit Boix and Verónica Arcas participate in the Científiks en Joc program of the Generalitat de Catalunya

From January to May

Amalia Calderón-Argelich participates in the Defake Clima program in schools

24 February

Course for teachers on citizen science and sustainability

22 April

Participation in the CROMA 2.0 program. Around 200 schoolchildren visited ICTA-UAB accompanied by university student volunteers

22 May

Students from elementary schools, high schools, and universities visited the ICTA-UAB building

Development of educational materials for teachers. As part of a citizen science project, these materials promote urban sustainability among Catalan students

Dr. Anna Petit Boix from ICTA-UAB gave a lecture at Escola La Pau (Sant Sadurní d'Anoia) on "Water and Food in the Cities of the Future" in La Nit de la Recerca

29 September

Installation of an experimental garden in the Journal Room of the Faculty of Sciences as part of the ICTA-UAB SIRAH innovation project, on the occasion of World Food Day

16 October

Project with Bellaterra School within the framework of Citizen Arenas with Cristina Madrid on climate change and better water management

Events and media

New video series by BCNUEJ explores heat justice and green gentrification in Barcelona and Boston

January

ICTA-UAB organised the workshop “La casa en flames: debats de política climàtica” with the CUIMPB - Centre Ernest Lluch

3 February

Sostenipra joins the Agròpolis meeting in Barcelona

25 February

Isabelle Anguelovski talks about urban greening and climate justice in Brussels

13 March

Jordi Honey Rosés talks about “The state of urban policy knowledge”, at the Université Paris Cité

18 March

Isabelle Anguelovski at the Sindicat de Llogateres de Barcelona workshop on gentrification and the right to housing in Barcelona. They presented a study on gentrification

24 March

Letícia Santos de Lima to Speak at Climate Information Integrity Summit in Brazil

25 March

A Greek middle school in Athens visited ICTA-UAB, where our researcher Ioanna Mokka led a session on the climate emergency and energy transition policies

8 April

Screening of the BCNUEJ documentary The Green Divide at OHSU-PSU School of Public Health in Portland, USA

10 April

Jordi Honey-Rosés and Gemma Simon attended the Bike Bus Summit in Worcester, UK

18 April

Political economist Jason Hickel presents a strategy for the democratic transformation of society at the Festival of Debate 2025

29 April

ICTA-UAB researchers Gemma Morell and Berta Roset participate in the International Festival “Pint of Science”

May

Researchers from ICTA-UAB joined Ciclosfera CITY in Valencia to discuss urban cycling at this major public-private event

16 May

ICTA-UAB researcher Brototi Roy takes part in the event “Alternatives for a Finite Planet”, organized by IBEI at the Palau Macaya (“la Caixa” Foundation)

28 May

ICTA-UAB participates in the Festa de la Ciència

31 May - 1 June

Talk at the Barcelona Zoo aimed at staff on “What do the droppings of the jaguars at the Barcelona Zoo have to do with human occupation of the Bolivian Amazon?”
by Umberto Lombardo

4 June

ICTA-UAB participates in the 28th Exercise of Organic Elemental Analysis and Isotopic Analysis

12 June

Panagiota Kotsila talks about “Comunidad, reconstrucción y resiliencia” in “la Caixa” Foundation

25 June

Sostenipra researchers join the ISIE 2025 Congress in Singapore to present their studies

30 June

Marcel Llaveró-Pasquina participates in la Fira Literal 2025 and took part in the Podcast El Dia Abans dels Col.lapse

4 July

Researcher Paula de Prado from ICTA-UAB is taking part in the “Nit de la recerca” to present the GreenME Project with the talk: Is it possible to reconnect with nature in everyday life? At the Gabriel García Márquez Library (Barcelona)

18 September

Álvaro Fernández Llamazares gave the keynote “The growing global relevance of locally grounded ethnobiological research” at the International Conference on Biological Sciences and Environmental Solutions for the Achievement of the SDGs (BSES-SDGs) in Armenia

29 September

Joan Rieradevall and Carles Gasol talk on circular economy

1 October

ICTA-UAB invites Professor Mazin Qumsiyeh to give a talk at the UAB Rectorate on Global Ecocide and Environmental Justice

17 October

Joan Martínez-Alier talks about ecology in times of war

4 November

Researcher Isabelle Anguelovski participated as a speaker in the TMWC25 session “One City, Equal Opportunities: Making Urban Inclusion a Reality”

4 November

Victoria Reyes-García participates in the colloquium of the Rei Jaume I Prize laureates

24 November

Companies

BiciZen app by ICTA-UAB researchers Jordi Honey-Rosés and Gemma Simón Mas

Tectum Garden is part of the UAB business ecosystem

Weekly pollen forecast reports by Jordina Belmonte's project on aerobiology

SIRAH project. Prototypes for efficient fertigation

Policymaking

Isabelle Anguelovski, member of the Consell Assessor de l'Ajuntament Barcelona

Victoria Reyes-García, member of the group Horitzó de la Generalitat de Catalunya

Victoria Reyes-García, member of the Pathways Autumn School 2025 organising committee

III World Congress of Sostenipra graduates

23 January

Marta Conde takes part in the presentation of the report “Decreixement ecofeminista. Desaccelerar per recuperar la vida”, by Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG)

31 January

The President of the Parliament of Catalonia, Josep Rull, visits ICTA-UAB and learns about its building and research

17 February

ICTA-UAB participates in the Presentation of the Catalan Association of Science and Technology Studies

20 February

Panagiota Kotsila talks about climate justice and communal resilience in the face of extreme climate events like la Dana, organized by La Coordinadora de Russafa i la Dula, in Valencia

21 February

The ReHousin project at ICTA-UAB brought together stakeholders to discuss housing policies & ecological transition initiatives in Spain and Catalonia

April

Angelos Varvarousis was a featured guest in the University of Toronto Press podcast: Cities as Urban Laboratories: Time to re-think what prosperity really means?

April

Workshop: “Understanding biocultural changes in the ancestral homelands of the Tsimane’ people, Beni Department, Bolivia”

9 April

Jordi Honey-Rosés takes part in the Cafè d'Idees of the HUBB30, at the Parc de Recerca UAB, discussing municipal planning of urban mobility from a sustainability and accessibility perspective

25 April

Isabel Pont, Esteve Corbera, Jeroen van den Bergh and Victoria Reyes, participated in this event with Jim Skea and the Catalan climate science community. Organized by Cercle d'Economia

12 May

Gara Villalba participates in the “Cities on the Frontline 2025 - Renaturing Cities”

15 May

Presentación del “Presentation of the NBS Catalog for Adaptation to Climate Change in Spain”

28 May

ICTA-UAB researchers, jury members for the 2024 Ciudad de Barcelona Award

28 May

Isabelle Anguelovski advises the European Parliament on green gentrification and affordable housing

29 May

ICTA-UAB organizes 1st International Life Cycle Assessment Symposium at UAB

4-6 June

Susana Toboso participates in the Universitat d'Estiu del Cooperativisme UESCOOP discussing circular bioeconomy

3 July

Workshop on “Ethical questions and dilemmas in research with migrant communities on climate justice and health”

15 July

ICTA-UAB joins the SOMMa Manifesto: Climate Action: Scientific Knowledge and Social Consensus

9 September

Jason Hickel and Giorgos Kallis give a talk in a Conference on Degrowth in the Congreso de los Diputados, in Madrid

28 September

André Colonese in the IX Caminhos da Arqueologia in Brazil

2 October

ICTA-UAB coorganizes the 1st International Workshop on “Nature and Health” in Puigcerdà, Catalonia

3 October

Laura Talens gives the seminar “Towards a More Efficient Cycle of Materials” at ICMAB-CSIC

3 October

Victoria Reyes-García explains the LICCI project at the ICM-CSIC

31 October

Gara Villalba talks about circularity at the APEVC Congress

6 November

ICTA-UAB research, showing that the world's largest oil and gas companies account for just 1.4% of renewable energy projects, has been cited in support of a bill currently under discussion in the Spanish Congress proposing the nationalization of one of these national companies

13 November

ICTA-UAB's Bruno Palombini is in Brazil for COP30, joining the Peoples' Summit and the Circle of Peoples — grassroots spaces led entirely by social movements

14 November

Scientists call for urgent measures to protect underwater forests in a new global Marine Animal Forests Manifesto, led by ICTA-UAB researchers

2 December

GreenME Seminar on “Exploring Green Care Across Europe -Insights from WP2”

3 December

Our researchers from the MERS research group-Marine and Environmental Biogeosciences -visited the ALBA Synchrotron at the Parc Tecnològic de Cerdanyola del Vallès

12 December

SEMINARS AND VISITORS

13

Seminars

“Tiny gardens everywhere”

Kate Brown, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

22 January

“Public support for eco-social policies in the United States”

Dallas O’Dell, ICTA-UAB researcher at REAL-postgrowth

4 February

“The Powerful Potential and Persistent Conundrums of Community-Engaged Scholarship: Theory, Practice and Current Trends”

Elizabeth Shapiro-Garza, Nicholas School of the Environment, Duke University

13 February

“When Practice becomes Theory-Methods for Collective Knowledge Creation through Decolonial Research”

Erin Araujo, geographer specializing in decolonial feminist and anarchist diverse economies

13 March

“Transitioning to post-growth cities”

Angelos Varvarousis, ICTA-UAB researcher at REAL-Postgrowth project. Facilitated by David Gilbert

1 April

“How to reconcile economy, happiness and ecology”

Stefano Bartolini, University of Siena, Italy

8 April

“The ecological efficiency of human development in 20th century socialist and capitalist economies”

Dylan Sullivan and Lea Tamberg

29 April

“The economics of liberation: delinking from unequal exchange in the world economy”

Morena Hanbury Lemos, ICTA-UAB researcher

27 May

Movements in crisis and a world on fire: social movement research, climate crisis and authoritarianism”

Laurence Cox, National University of Ireland Maynooth

4 June

“Researchers Perspectives on Green Growth and GDP development: Insights from a Global Survey”

Manuel Suter, Swiss National Science Foundation

4 June

“Ineffective Altruism? Everyday Humanitarianism in Times of Crisis in Tanzania”

Lisa-Ann Richey, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

10 June

“Value struggles: Looking at capitalism through the wine glass”

Stefano Ponte, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

12 June

“China’s Ecological Transition”

Tings Chak, Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research

19 June

“Breaching the Fortress? Territoriality and Unruly Natures in India’s Political Forest”

Asmita Kabra, Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi

30 June

“Counter-Topographies of Care: Feminist Geographies, Migrant Infrastructures, and Political Subjectification”

Matina Kapsali, University of Manchester

8 July

“A new development classification for the 21st century”

Chirag Dhara, Krea University, India

1 October

“The invisibilized burden: care work and its unequal global exchange”

Raúl Velasco-Fernández, ICTA-UAB postdoctoral researcher

7 October

“The global ecocide and what to do about it: case study from Palestine”

Mazin Qumsiyeh, Palestine Institute for Biodiversity and Sustainability

17 October

“Expanding institutions of urban commoning: contested planning and difficult transitions in the city of Naples, Southern Italy”

Roberto Sciarelli, University of Catania

21 October

“Cross-cultural learning to help re-orient dominant gender systems”

Susan Paulson, University of Florida

21 October

“Public support for degrowth and the prospects for its adoption”

Dario Krpan, London School of Economics

28 October

“All In: A revolutionary theory to stop climate collapse”

Mariana Rodrigues, Climaximo

31 October

“Degrowth communism”

Kohei Saito, University of Tokyo

3 November

“Political Ecological Economics and the nature of economic growth”

Giorgos Kallis, ICTA-UAB researcher

4 November

“Time to Let it Go? Rethinking Conservation without Violence”

Bilal Butt, University of Michigan

6 November

“Historical marine ecology in the Pacific Northwest”

Loren Elizabeth McClenachan,
University of Victoria, Canada

6 November

“Co-design for more inclusive and sustainable digital futures”

Dorothea Kleine, University of Sheffield

18 November

“Follow the seed”

Ola Westengen, Norwegian University

20 November

“Economic growth dependencies and imperatives”

Lorenz Keyßer, University of Lausanne

2 December

“Decolonial Degrowth”

Ritu Verma, Carleton University / UCLA

3 December

“Desanudando la Transición Neolítica Mesoamericana”

Andrés Mejía Ramón, ICTA-UAB
DEMODRIVERS project

16 December

Visiting scholars

Anni Huhtala, Guest researcher
The Finnish Economic Policy Council

1/9/2024-31/5/2025

Flora Madacsi, Visiting undergraduate
Aalborg University

1/9/2024-31/1/2025

Lorenzo Saccuman, Visiting postgraduate
Lund University

1/9/2024-31/1/2025

Roos Mouthaan, Visiting undergraduate
Avans University of Applied Sciences

2/9/2024-31/1/2025

Sarah Bries, Visiting undergraduate
Avans University of Applied Sciences

2/9/2024-31/1/2025

Roberto Quirós, Guest researcher
Universidad de Costa Rica

28/9/2024-31/1/2025

Donatella Gasparro, Visiting postgraduate
Scuola Normale Superiore, Firenze

1/10/2024-31/3/2025

Grace Wrigth, Visiting postgraduate
University of Oxford

1/10/2024-31/3/2025

Klaas Miersch, Visiting postgraduate
Mercator Research Institute on Global
Commons and Climate Change

1/11/2024-31/1/2025

Arnau Brosa Planella, Visiting postgraduate
Universitat de Barcelona

5/11/2024-31/1/2025

Griselda Anglada, Guest researcher
The Arctic University of Norway

5/12/2024-31/1/2025

Luiz Jardim de Moraes Wanderley,
Guest researcher
Fluminense Federal University

7/1/2025-31/12/2025

William Robert Gray, Guest researcher
Laboratoire des Sciences du Climat et
de l'Environnement, France

7/1/2025-6/1/2026

Lisa Darmet, Visiting postgraduate
INRAE, France

9/1/2025-31/3/2025

Lorenzo Filippo Velotti,
Visiting postgraduate
Scuola Normale Superiore, Erasmus

1/2/2025-31/7/2025

Aneta Stribrna, Visiting postgraduate
Avans University of Applied Sciences

5/2/2025-26/6/2025

Emilia Teresa Lewartowska,
Visiting postgraduate
Roskilde University

14/2/2025-30/4/2025

Daniel Gerdes, Visiting postgraduate
Centre for Global Change and
Sustainability, BOKU University, Vienna,
Austria

24/2/2025-9/5/2025

Valentina Fiasco, Visiting postgraduate
University of Leeds

17/3/2025-31/5/2025

Dalila Fresa, Visiting postgraduate
Università di Firenze

31/3/2025-30/6/2025

Julien Salama, Visiting postgraduate
University of Florence / IMT Lucca

1/4/2025-31/7/2025

Luis Nicanor Pezo Lanfranco,
Guest researcher
Conselho Nacional de Pesquisa (Brazil),
Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi

1/4/2025-31/3/2026

Alberto Marchán Fernández,
Visiting postgraduate
Universidad de Salamanca

28/4/2025-7/5/2025

Omar Saif, Guest researcher
Wildlife Conservation Society, Cambodia

1/5/2025-30/9/2026

Marie Pauline Pratzer, Visiting postgraduate
Humboldt University Berlin

6/5/2025-14/6/2025

Alejandro León Cristóbal,
Visiting postgraduate
Universidad de la Rioja

2/6/2025-8/6/2025

Diana Marcela Ruiz Rios,
Visiting postgraduate
Instituto Alexander von Humboldt,
Colombia

4/6/2025-7/7/2025

Rosa María Arniz Mateos,
Visiting postgraduate
Leibniz-Zentrum für Archäologie (LEIZA)

9/6/2025-23/6/2025

Griselda Anglada Ortiz, Guest researcher
The Artic University of Norway

16/6/2025-17/7/2025

Ola Tveitereid Westengen,
Guest researcher
Norwegian University of Life Sciences

25/8/2025-24/12/2026

Teresa Piovano, Visiting postgraduate
Alma Mater Studiorum,
Università degli studi di Bologna

8/9/2025-23/12/2025

Laura Pereira Furquim,
Visiting postgraduate
Universidade de São Paulo

14/9/2025-28/9/2025

Pilly Silvano Moshi, Guest researcher
University of Dar es Salaam

15/9/2025-13/3/2026

Francesca Peroni, Guest researcher
University of Padua

1/10/2025-31/3/2026

Nicolas Bueno, Guest researcher
Faculty of Law, UniDistance Suisse

1/10/2025-31/12/2025

Daniel Polo López, Guest researcher
Barcelona Supercomputing Center

6/10/2025-5/10/2026

Livia Gebara Cordeiro, Guest researcher
Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera

6/10/2025-24/10/2025

Giulia Pievani, Visiting postgraduate
Università degli Studi di Bologna

3/11/2025-5/12/2025

Martina Marianetti, Visiting postgraduate
Università degli Studi di Palermo

10/11/2025-13/5/2026

Maria-Stella Portelli, Visiting postgraduate
Wageningen University

17/11/2025-6/2/2026

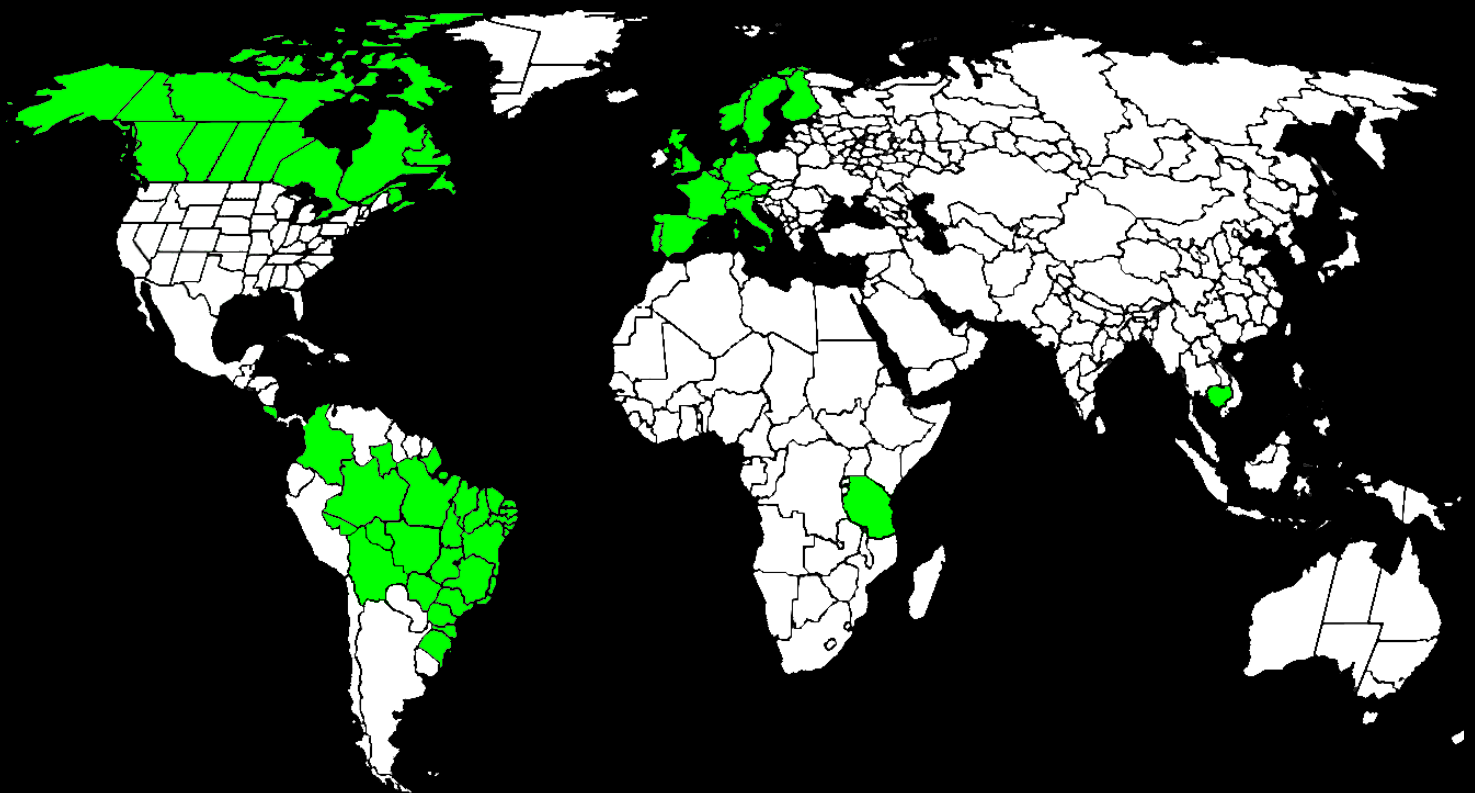
Rafaela Cruz Alves Alberti,
Guest researcher
University of Reims Champagne-Ardeme

1/12/2025-1/12/2026

Ritu Verma, Guest researcher
Carleton University

1/12/2025-15/12/2025

ICTA-UAB has received visitors from over a dozen countries including Canada, and from South America and Europe ●



TRAINING

14

PhD in Environmental Science and Technology

The PhD in Environmental Science and Technology is a UAB program adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and is governed by Royal Decree 99/2011 of January 28, 2011 of the Government of Spain.



The PhD Program in Environmental Science and Technology was awarded in 2022 after AQU Catalunya's evaluation with the highest overall assessment: Accredited in progress toward excellence.

It covers 11 research lines framed in 4 thematic areas: ecological economics and environmental management, environmental technology, climate and global change, and industrial and urban ecology.

COORDINATOR

Prof. Adriana Artola Casacuberta

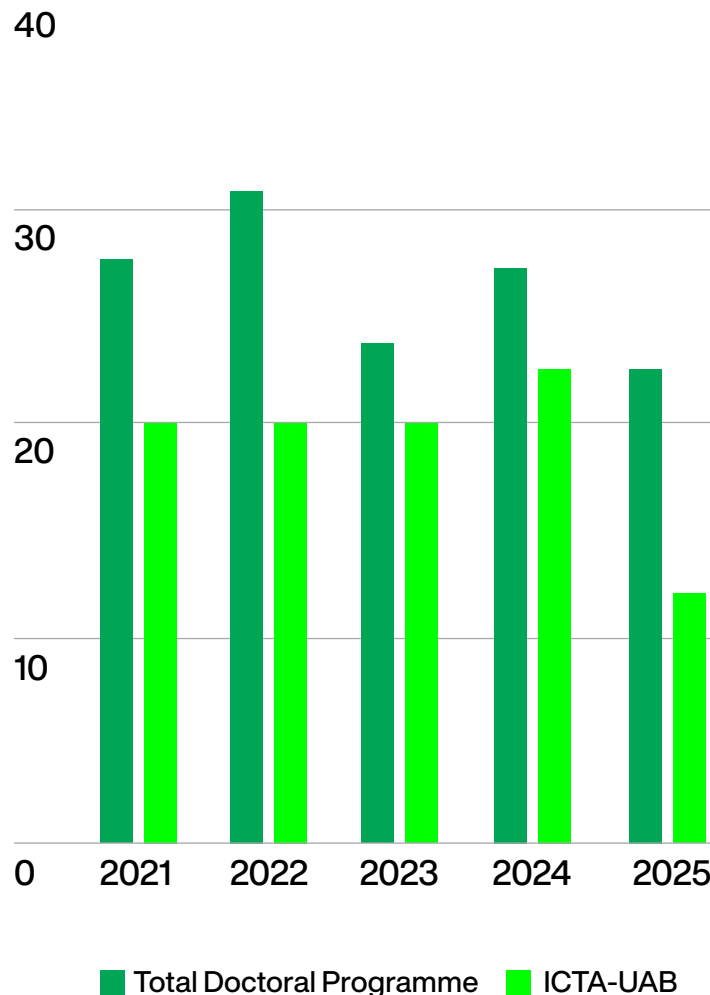
ACADEMIC BOARD

Dr Sergio Villamayor-Tomás

Prof. Graham Mortyn

Prof. Julián Carrera

Dr Anna Petit-Boix



MASTERS

Master’s Degree in
Interdisciplinary Studies in
Environmental, Economic
and Social Sustainability

The master’s degree offers a mixed approach. On the one hand, it includes advanced course components for graduates of Environmental Sciences. On the other, it meets the needs of other graduates interested in incorporating environmental knowledge and skills into their academic training, based on fields such as Ecological Economics and Environmental Management, Analysis of the Natural Environment, Environmental Technology, Industrial Ecology or Global Change, all of which are considered specializations in this master’s degree.

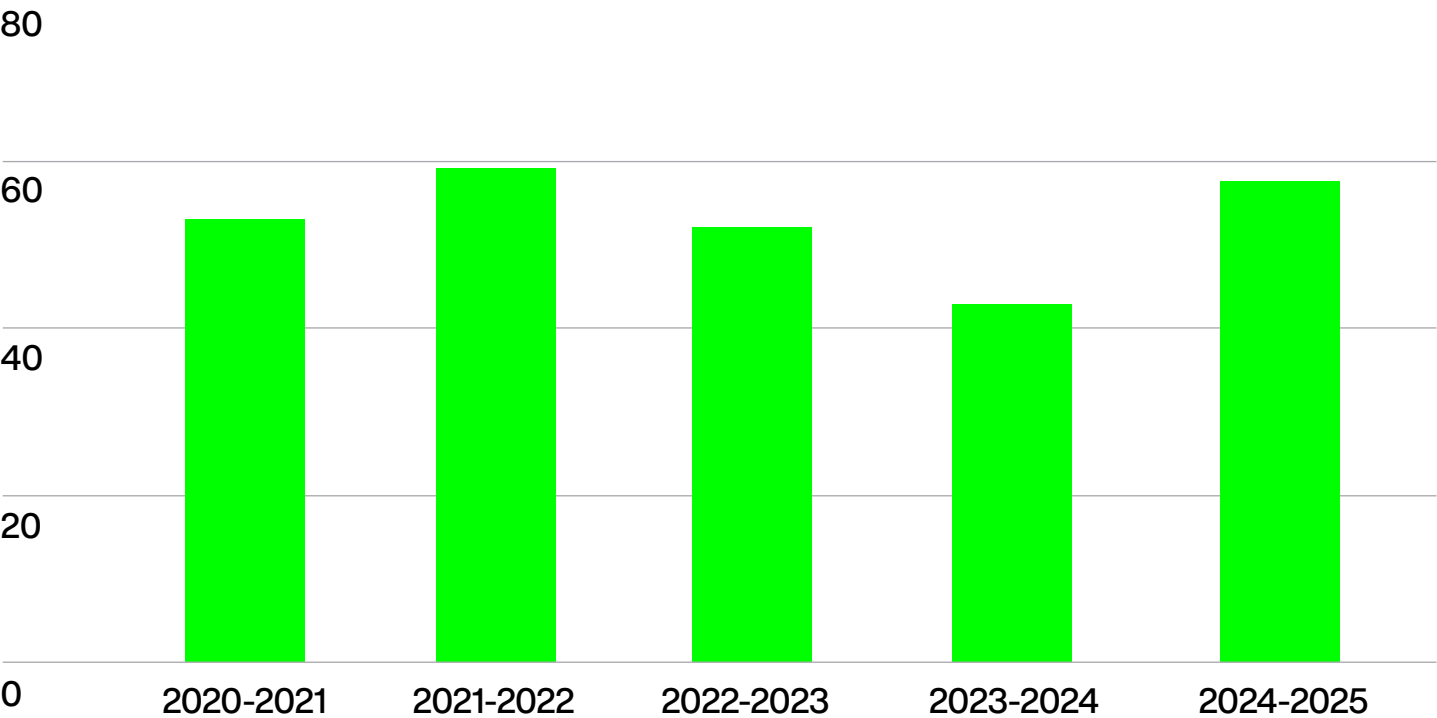
Of the 60 credits, 30 belong to compulsory core subjects and the rest form part of each specialization.

This master’s degree has been offered since the 1997/98 academic year.

COORDINATOR
Alaitz Zabala Torres



MASTER THESES



Master's Degree in Political Ecology. Degrowth and Environmental Justice

This is the first master of its kind within the flourishing fields of Political Ecology, Degrowth and Environmental Justice, now in its 8th edition with 40 enrolled students.

The master is co-organized by ICTA-UAB and Research & Degrowth (R&D), an academic association dedicated to research, awareness-raising, and events organization around the topic of degrowth, bringing together the scholarly excellence of ICTA-UAB researchers with hands-on experience in activism and policy-making of R&D.

DIRECTORS

Ksenija Hanaček and Giacomo D'Alisa

ADDITIONAL TRAINING COURSES

MOOC “Sustainability of Social- Ecological Systems”

This MOOC offers the opportunity to become familiar with the ideas of the water-energy-food nexus and transdisciplinary thinking.

COORDINATOR

Mario Giampietro



MOOC

Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

This MOOC tackles the key notions related to Climate change and Indigenous People and local communities’ knowledge systems. Students study the differentiated impacts that climate change has on Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC), familiarize themselves with different responses to climate change impacts led by IPLC, and learn about different strategies aiming to incorporate IPLC to climate change research and policy.

Coordinator
VICTORIA REYES-GARCÍA

MOOC

Circular economy

The new online course on the circular economy explores sustainable business models, waste reduction, resource efficiency, and environmental impact. It covers key principles of circularity, such as reuse, recycling, and product life-cycle management, offering practical insights for transitioning toward a more sustainable and regenerative economy.

Coordinator
LAURA TALENS PEIRÓ



Graduate Diploma in Specialization in Promoting Agroecological Farming at the Local Level

The Graduate Diploma in Specialization in Promoting Agroecological Farming at the Local Level offers an innovative strategy for local development and a methodological proposal that integrates social research and participatory techniques, to promote the Agroecological Transition of local agri-food systems to make them healthier, more just and more sustainable. The course is focused on interpreting the processes that affect rural areas and urban and peri-urban agriculture, with special emphasis on the recovery of traditional agroecological knowledge and the creation of alternative food networks.

All of this from a participatory perspective that places agricultural production at the center of territorial, economic, and social development.

The course combines virtual sessions covering theoretical knowledge, and in-person sessions where participatory methodologies are put into practice and visits are made to agroecological initiatives. The course is organized by ICTA-UAB with the Institute of Government and Public Policy (IGOP-UAB), and with the participation of the Chair of Agroecology and Food Systems (UVic-UCC), the Institut Metròpoli and the cooperative Arran de Terra SCCL in the coordination board.

COORDINATORS

Victoria Reyes-García
Josep Espluga Trenc



Degrowth Summer School

The Degrowth Summer School started in 2014 and has brought together academics, students, practitioners, artists, activists and community organizers to collectively learn and debate about topics related to degrowth and environmental justice. The school is organized by Research & Degrowth (R&D) and customarily takes place over two weeks in Barcelona, at ICTA-UAB and a rural part of Catalonia.

COORDINATOR
Research & Degrowth



UAB Summer School Geography of Global Change

Geography of Global Change (GGC) is an all-encompassing global course that critically considers aspects of environmental threat today, especially climate change. The course begins with basic principles of evaluation, including spatial and temporal scales, principles of “change”, followed by distinct impacts spheres of the Earth, including the atmosphere, oceans, and land surfaces. Special attention is applied to the oceans given the particular importance of this realm on our blue planet. There are two field trips: one to Barcelona to discuss aspects of urban global change, and to the ICTA-UAB campus.

COORDINATOR
Graham Mortyn



LABORATORY FACILITIES

15

ICTA-UAB's laboratories support interdisciplinary research across chemistry, environmental science, archaeology, and urban studies. In 2025, they enabled collaborations with UAB departments and over 40 research centers in Spain and abroad ● The institute is among the few in Spain offering specialized techniques such as stable carbon isotope analysis on single amino acids and collagen peptide fingerprinting (ZooMS) for vertebrate taxonomic identification ● These facilities also provide accredited services in environmental, forensic, and archaeological analysis ●





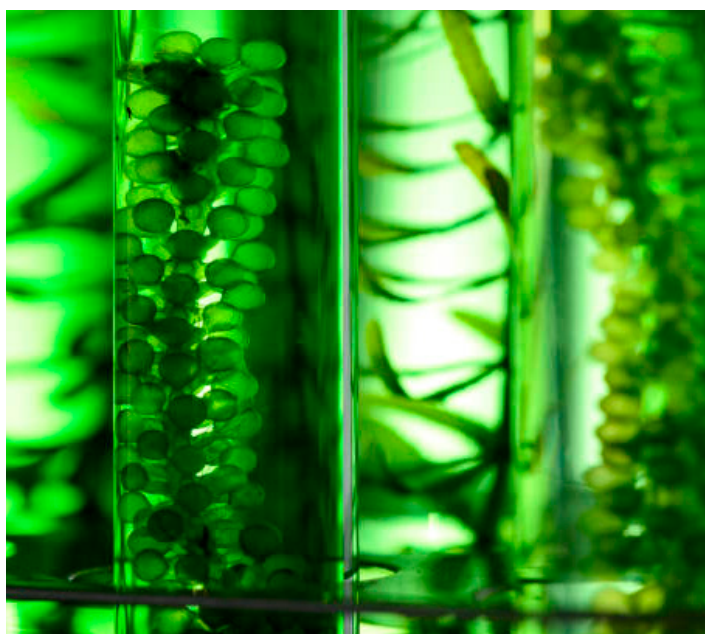
Chemistry Laboratories

Preparation and analysis of organic and inorganic chemicals to support experimental work and sample processing in environmental and materials science.



Microplastics Laboratory

Processing, extraction, and analysis of microplastics (0.05–5 mm) from sediments, water, beaches, organisms, and wastewater in a controlled, contamination-free environment.



Organic Geochemistry and Environmental Laboratory

Characterization and analysis of the organic fraction of environmental samples, including isotopic and trace-level compound studies for past environments and pollutant research.



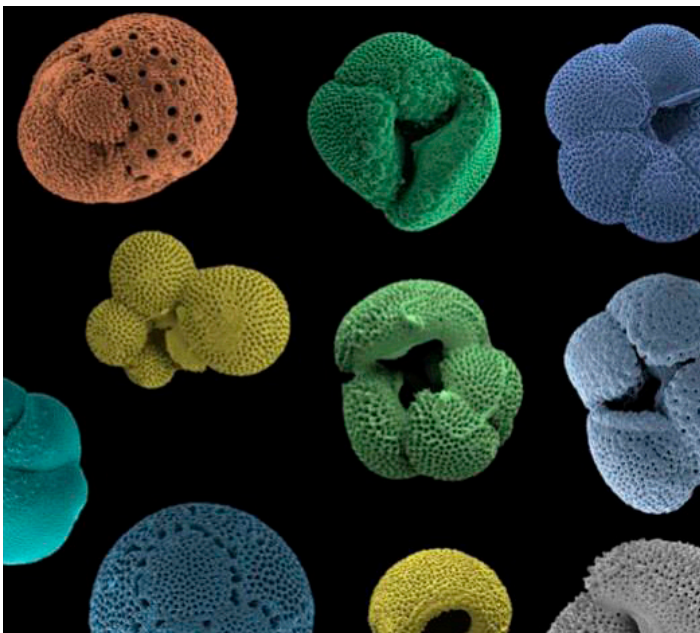
Agro-Urban Laboratories (i-RTG)

Cultivation, monitoring, and analysis of urban crops in rooftop labs, combining sensor data and hydroponic irrigation to study plant growth and production models.



Biomolecular Archaeology and Palaeoecology Laboratory

Extraction and analysis of proteins, lipids, and isotopes from ancient biological and inorganic materials for palaeoproteomics, stable isotope, and lipid residue research.



Micropalaeontology Laboratory

Preparation and analysis of microfossils from sediments and water, including calcareous microfossils, diatoms, and nannoplankton, for taxonomic identification and quantification.



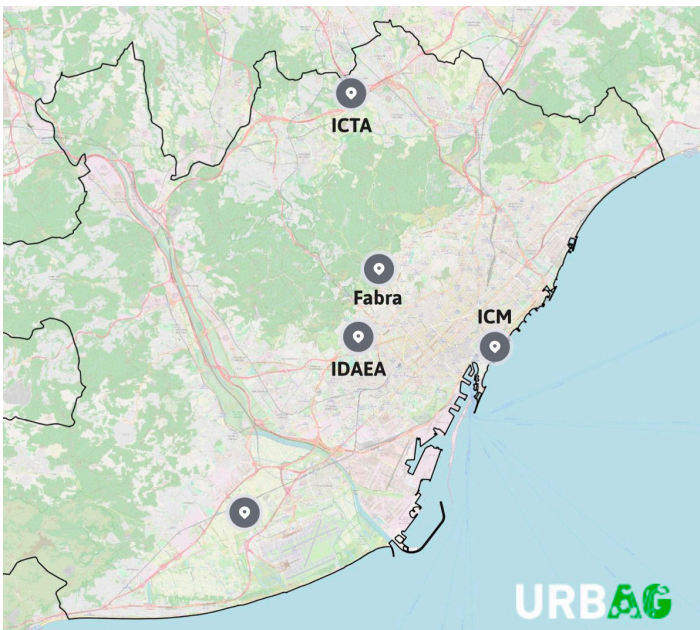
Laboratory of Stable Isotope Analysis (LAIE)

Measurement and analysis of stable isotopes of carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, and oxygen from organic and inorganic materials, supporting both bulk and compound-specific studies. study plant growth and production models.



Sedimentology Laboratory

Preparation and analysis of soil and sediment samples, including core handling, drying, and homogenization, to support environmental and geological research. inorganic materials for palaeoproteomics, stable isotope, and lipid residue research.



GHG Monitoring Network

Monitoring and analysis of greenhouse gases across the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, capturing CO₂, CH₄, and H₂O variations across urban, peri-urban, and natural sites.

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

16

In 2025, ICTA-UAB significantly expanded its outreach and communication efforts, enhancing visibility, engagement, and institutional positioning ● These activities spanned public dissemination events, media engagement and social media growth ●



COMMUNICATION ACTIONS

Press and Media Impact

In 2025, ICTA-UAB issued 50 press releases related to its research findings. These stories were covered by newspapers, radio, and TV at local, national, and international levels, resulting in:

- 2,057 media impacts across newspapers, TV channels, and radio stations. Nearly 800 news articles were published in non-Spanish media.
- Features in prominent outlets at local, national, and international scales.
- Coverage spanning environmental issues, policy recommendations, and scientific breakthroughs.
- Another 50 scientific and institutional news items were published on the ICTA-UAB website.

Social Media Growth and Engagement

ICTA-UAB’s communication efforts focused on increasing visibility and engagement across digital platforms. Continued activity on Instagram strengthened the center’s connection with younger audiences, while the expansion of original content on YouTube sustained strong growth in viewership.

Platform Highlights

- X (formerly Twitter): Following the official position of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, ICTA-UAB discontinued its activity on X in 2025, aligning its communication practices with institutional values and a commitment to responsible information environments. Prior to this decision, the account had reached 12,000 followers and generated 1.4 million impressions in 2024.
- Bluesky: Following the UAB’s guidelines to disengage from the platform X, the official Bluesky account was created in 2025, reaching 2,600 followers within the same year.
- Instagram: ICTA-UAB’s Instagram account continued to grow in 2025, expanding its audience and engagement across posts, Reels, and Stories:
 - Followers: 2,100
 - Total views: 155,831
 - Reach: 72,434
 - Interactions (likes, comments, shares, saves): 2,913
 - Stories published: 485
 - Posts published: 163
- YouTube: ICTA-UAB’s YouTube channel continued to expand in 2025, increasing its audience, watchtime, and subscriber base:
 - Views: 50.7K (+77% vs. 2024)
 - Watchtime: 928.2 hours (+8% vs. 2024)
 - New subscribers: 301 (+49% vs. 2024)

Showcasing ICTA-UAB’s Brave Vision Through a New Institutional Video

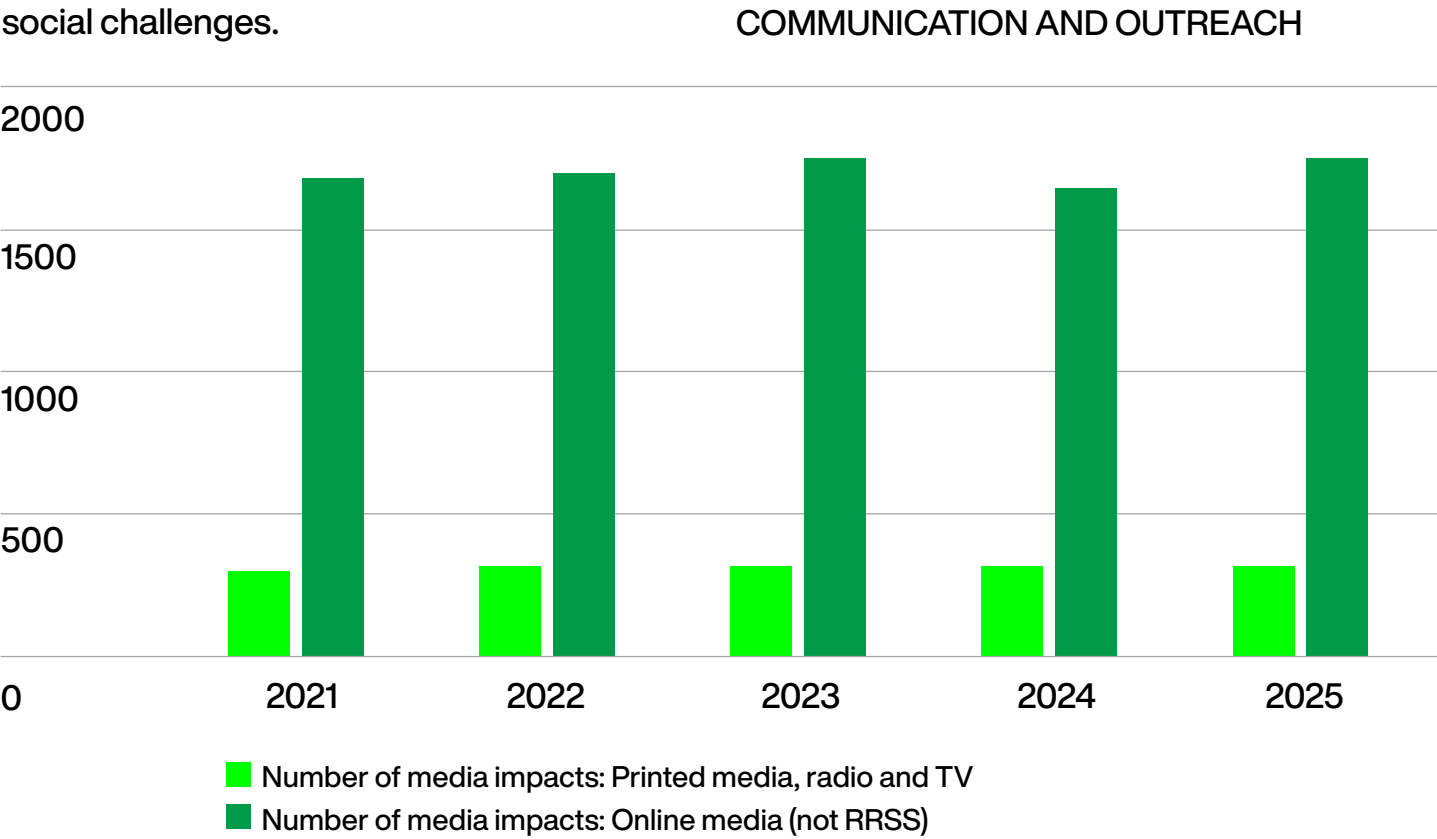
In 2025, ICTA-UAB advanced its institutional transformation with the launch of a new corporate video, designed to communicate its renewed vision, research framework, and values in a contemporary and engaging way.

Developed with the Catalan production company Quepo, the video adopts a conceptual and visually compelling approach, moving beyond traditional formats to convey both the scope of the institute’s research and its societal relevance.

This initiative is part of the rebranding process launched in July 2024 and reflects ICTA-UAB’s growth and scientific excellence over the past decade. At its core is the tagline “Brave Science for a Changing World,” highlighting the institute’s commitment to bold, interdisciplinary research that addresses pressing environmental and social challenges.

Newsletter Outreach

ICTA-UAB’s scientific findings and activities were also disseminated through a monthly online newsletter, which reached 1,794 subscribers worldwide in 2025.



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Seminars, Workshops, and Events

ICTA-UAB hosted a variety of scientific and social activities throughout the year, reinforcing its role as a hub for both interdisciplinary research and community engagement.

Scientific Activities:

- 78 seminars and workshops.

Educational Activities:

- **Escape Room: Escape the Climate Crisis!**
In 2025, ICTA-UAB brought its climate change escape room to local secondary schools. Students became “Agents of Change,” navigating challenges and making decisions to address real-world climate issues. The activity showcased ICTA-UAB’s research and its interdisciplinary approach —spanning oceans, consumption, land, cities, and policy— while serving as a dynamic tool for knowledge transfer, teamwork, and environmental awareness.
- **Magnet Program: ICTA-UAB**
collaborates with the Magnet Program to connect environmental research with local schools. Through this initiative, the institute shares its expertise on global environmental change and sustainability, helping students better understand environmental challenges and the transition toward a more sustainable economy. Science, technology, and the environment have been the main learning pillars at La Pau School, with which ICTA-UAB is partnered.

Social Activities:

- Weekly Coffee Breaks
- ICTA-UAB in 100 Words Contest as part of the Diada de Sant Jordi
- ICTA-UAB Summer Day
- Panellets Workshop for Castanyada
- ICTA-UAB Welcome Day



SELECTED NEWS COVERAGE

THE TIMES

[In search of the ancient Amazonians who left only eerie forest islands](#)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ESPAÑA

[El Carnaval de Brasil pudo tener su origen en unas fiestas indígenas hace dos mil años](#)

TV3

[Un col·le visita l'ICTA!](#)

MONGABAY

['Degrowth' gains a foothold in Barcelona and support internationally](#)

BBC NEWS

[Could 'degrowth' save the world? BBC News](#)

TV3

[Fem el que cal per frenar l'emergència climàtica? Esteve Corbera en directe als Matins de TV3 en directe](#)

EL PAÍS

["Más lluvia, más polen": las predicciones apuntan a que esta será una primavera dura para los alérgicos](#)

LA VANGUARDIA

[Científicos catalanes descubren cómo usar la orina humana para cultivar tomates](#)

EL ECONOMISTA

[Las olas de calor y las sequías dificultan el trabajo de las plantas](#)

DWELL GERMANY

["Hitze-Shelter" in Barcelona retten Leben](#)

THE GUARDIAN

[Scientific publishing needs urgent reform to retain trust in research process](#)

EL PAIS

["Somos rehenes de la lógica de producir lo que genera beneficios para los más ricos", critica el antropólogo británico Jason Hickel](#)

EL PERIODICO DE CATALUNYA

[El mundo está en deuda con las comunidades indígenas del Amazonas](#)

TV3 INFORMATIU

[Les petrolieres i el sector gasístic, lluny de la transició energètica](#)

BBC RADIO

[Patrizia Ziveri: Coral extinctions and chalky unknowns](#)

INDIA TODAY

[Oil giants are undermining fossil fuel exit efforts by promoting false solutions](#)

TELECINCO

[Barcelona podría llegar a 45 grados de temperatura a finales de siglo: 6 grados más que las máximas registradas](#)

AGENCIA SINC

[Unos diminutos organismos oceánicos podrían tener la clave del futuro del carbono en la Tierra](#)

EURASIA REVIEW

[The Climate Policies That EU Citizens Like \(And Those They Don't\)](#)

FORBES

[La política industrial de la UE no logrará sus objetivos a menos que se rediseñe, según un estudio](#)

GREEN FUTURE EGYPT

[شركة فقط توقف وراء 20% من النزاعات البيئية في 100 العالم](#)

FINANCIAL TIMES

[The cost of Europe's backlash against tourists](#)

TVO TODAY

[Overbooked video series explores mass tourism in Canada featuring Isabelle Anguelovski](#)

ANNEXES

Annex I. Doctoral Theses

Annex II. Publications

Annex III. Active Projects

Annex IV. Press releases

ANNEX I

DOCTORAL THESES

[in alphabetical order]

BRETON-CARBONNEAU,
ANDREANNE CHU

Beyond the Checklist: Foundational Justice and Institutional Transformation in Participatory Climate, Housing, and Health Governance.

Co-directors: Isabelle Anguelovski, Helen Cole, Margarita Triguero-Mas
Supervisor: Isabelle Anguelovski

CHAO, OUERLE

Nutag, Mal, Malchin: Exploring the Functional and Adaptive Nature of Pastoral Traditional Ecological Knowledge System in East Ujimchin, Inner Mongolia.

Co-directors: Victoria Reyes-García, Xiaoyue Li
Supervisor: Victoria Reyes-García

DE TOMMASI, GIANLUIGI

The impacts of urban nature-based The role of polymers as carriers of agrochemicals and contaminants in water environment and agricultural soil.

Co-directors: Michael Grelaud, Giacomo Scarascia Mugnozza, Patrizia Ziveri
Supervisor: Patrizia Ziveri

FIASCHI, STEFANO

Optimisation of municipal solid waste collection to enhance materials recovery.

Co-directors: Laura Talens Peiró, Claudio Lubello
Supervisor: Laura Talens Peiró

GRUGNI, ELISA

Agent-based models for macro-financial and climate economics.

Co-directors: Ivan Savin, Luca Vittorio, Angelo Colombo
Supervisor: Jeroen van den Bergh

MACALL, DIEGO MAXIMILIANO

From Community Gardens to Rooftops: Practices, Innovation, and Regulations to Enhance Barcelona’s Food System.

Director: Xavier Gabarrell
Supervisor: Sergio Villamayor-Tomás

MIDÕES CORREIA, CATARINA

Essays on climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation.

Director: Erica de Cian
Supervisor: Jeroen van den Bergh

MUÑOZ SUEIRO, LUCÍA

Tejiendo temporalidades: la cultura del esparto y su potencial postfigurativo para el decrecimiento.

Co-directors: Giorgos Kallis,
Paula Escribano, David Gilbert
Supervisor: Giorgos Kallis

SEGURA, JESSE RYAN

Inner Mongolians' everyday forms of resistance to the dual displacement from place and culture: On oral traditions, physical places, and metaphysical relations.

Co-directors: Filka Sekulova,
Agata Hummel
Supervisor: Isabelle Anguelovski

SIMÓN I MAS, GEMMA

La intervenció del Bicibús. Un enfocament comunitari per crear pràctiques ciclistes familiars.

Co-directors: Jordi Honey-Rosés,
Esther Anaya Boig, Stephanie Sersli
Supervisor: Isabelle Anguelovski

TERUEL CABELLO, ORIOL

Spatial Distribution of North African Dust and Black Carbon Across the Tropical Atlantic.

Co-directors: Joan Villanueva,
Antoni Rosell Melé †
Supervisor: André Colonese

TORREN PERAIRE, DANIEL

Modelling the social, cultural and technological evolution of low-carbon lifestyles.

Co-directors: Jeroen van den Bergh,
Ivan Savin, Enrica De Cian
Supervisor: Jeroen van den Bergh

VENTURA CABALLÉ, SERGI

Urban climate now and in the future: what is the impact of heat waves and strategies for adaptation.

Co-directors: Gara Villalba,
Josep Ramon Miró Cubells
Supervisor: Gara Villalba

ANNEX II

PUBLICATIONS

[in alphabetical order by journal]

Articles

Tummon, F., Bastl, K., Bastl, M., Beggs, P. J., Belmonte, J., Bruffaerts, N., Charalampopoulos, A., Clot, B., Cristofori, A., Crouzy, B., Damialis, A., Erb, S., Galan, C., Graf, E., Haus, J., Koch, K., Lieberherr, G., Lbadaoui- Darvas, M., Meurville, M.-P. (2025).

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ANNEX III

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Active Citizenship in Multi-level
Governance (CO/ALIGN).
PCI2025-167219-2.

Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación
y Universidades (MICIU).
31/12/2025-30/12/2028.
PI Honey-Rosés, Jordi

Biodegradable and compostable batteries
for precision agriculture and decentralized
energy systems (BIDEKO).
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ANNEX IV

PRESS RELEASES

(sent to media)

[in chronological order]

New study highlights U.S. public support for eco-social policies over economic growth

10 January

WATER-MINING paves the way for innovation in water circularity

15 January

Groundbreaking Review Calls for Shift from Economic Growth to Wellbeing within Planetary Limits

17 January

Discovery of a unique drainage and irrigation system that gave way to the “Neolithic Revolution” in the Amazon

29 January

The early roots of carnival? Research reveals evidence of seasonal celebrations in pre-colonial Brazil

6 February

Zonas de bajas emisiones: ¿son realmente injustas?

13 February

The rural world has the capacity to lead ecosocial transformation, according to a report

24 February

Are countries’ climate commitments real? What Paris Pledges Reveal

26 February

Over half a million people visited the urban agriculture exhibition of the Ciutadella Park

17 March

Human urine, a valuable resource as fertilizer for sustainable urban agriculture

27 March

The Politics of Influence in Biodiversity Offsetting

31 March

Are Two-way Bike Lanes Really More Dangerous?

8 April

The Transformative Potential of Local Energy Communities in Rural Environments

11 April

Urban flood risks: the importance of equity and a systemic approach

11 April

Research in Brazil analyzes coastal environmental changes over the last 6.000 years

24 April

Droughts and Heatwaves Reduce Plants' Ability to Absorb CO₂

2 May

Victoria Reyes-García, Distinguished Alumna of the University of Florida

7 May

Just 100 corporations responsible for 20% of the world's extractive conflicts

20 May

Reciprocity between humans and nature: key to safeguarding planetary health

22 May

The vulnerability of marine shells to ocean acidification does not depend solely on their mineral composition

22 May

Financial Aid to Key Sectors Threatens the Planet's Biodiversity

23 May

Oldest whale bone tools discovered

28 May

New Green Industrial Policy Framework Targets Harmful Industries and Global Ecological Justice

30 May

Researcher Victoria Reyes García awarded Premi Jaume I in Environmental Protection

3 June

Europe's industrial policy worsens the crises it claims to solve

10 June

When invasive species become part of our culture

1 July

Cities at the climate crossroads: can growth be sustainable?

4 July

One in four Spaniards allocates most of their income to housing

14 July

Barcelona could suffer heat waves up to 6°C more intense by the end of the century

17 July

A citizen science project promotes urban sustainability among Catalan students

24 July

A novel study solves the mystery of the ocean carbon budget

30 July

Ocean oxygen decline threatens deep-sea fish populations and ocean health, new study warns

31 July

The climate policies that EU citizens like (and those they don't)

16 September

First map of Barcelona's bicycle traffic published

18 September

First map of Barcelona's bicycle traffic published

19 September

Inequality in agri-food chains: the Global South produces the food, but the Global North keeps the wealth

26 September

Fossil fuel companies control a mere 1% of renewable energy projects worldwide

9 October

Palestinian scientist Mazin Qumsiyeh to speak at the UAB on global ecocide and environmental justice

10 October

Centuries of Mining Turn the Mar Menor into a Reservoir of Toxic Metals

13 October

New global study offers roadmap for sustainable and just land policies

20 October

Scientist and activist Mazin Qumsiyeh reflects on Palestinian “ecocide” at the UAB

20 October

Tiny ocean organisms missing from climate models may hold the key to Earth’s carbon future

24 October

New ERC Synergy grant to learn new ways of living on Earth

6 November

Humanity travels an average of 78 minutes per day, regardless of living standards

13 November

Ancient and colonial legacies still shaping the Amazon’s forests

17 November

Bolivia at a crossroads: scientists warn of a possible environmental setback

18 November

Science under the control of major publishers: profit over knowledge

19 November

Adherence to the Mediterranean diet in most Barcelona households is low or moderate

26 November

First comprehensive investigation shows large support for core ideas of degrowth, but not the label

1 December

Scientists call for urgent measures to protect underwater forests in a new global Marine Animal Forests Manifesto

2 December

Fossil fuel industry’s “false climate solutions” reinforce its power and aggravate environmental injustice

16 December

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CONTACT

Edifici ICTA-ICP

Carrer de les Columnes s/n

Campus de la UAB

08193 Cerdanyola del Vallès

<https://www.uab.cat/icta>
