

*Sustainable development is  
the peace policy of the  
future.*

*- Dr. Klaus Topfer*

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
WG  
A YEAR IN REVIEW**

**2022-2023**



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# The DCRS Sustainable Development Working Group

In 2015, a historic moment unfolded as all 193 United Nations member states converged to deliberate on strategies aimed at eradicating poverty, nurturing peace, and ensuring prosperity for all by 2030. This monumental effort resulted in the formulation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)..

DCRS at NSU under the leadership of Dr. E. Bastidas, launched the initiative to get current students, alumni, as well as local organizations to partner with like-minded individuals in the interest of pursuing actionable strategies to directly engage multiple SDGs. The following pages outline the SDWG mission, as well as approaches that the WG will enact to fulfill specific SDG designs and goals. This past year has been full of great accomplishments for the group. The SDGs Launch, our SD Seminars series, our first Professional Development overseas, and a New Certificate in SD.

We extend a warm invitation to students and faculty members from all disciplines to become part of this diverse and dynamic group. Moreover, we cordially invite NSU Alumni and members of our local and international communities to join hands with us as we work towards fulfilling our mission.





# Mission of the SDWG

The DCRS - SDWG's primary aim is to promote awareness and collaborative efforts in pursuit of social, economic, and environmental sustainability while addressing and transforming conflict situations inherent in any development effort. SDWG offers a platform for in-depth discussions on SD, fostering student involvement in conferences and forums. This involvement helps students connect with SD experts and apply this knowledge to their academic and professional pursuits. SDWG members actively seek to build networks with other NSU student organizations dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), promoting interdisciplinary cooperation.

## Our Goals

- ✓ Raise awareness about the importance of social, economic, and environmental sustainability, emphasizing conflict transformation in development contexts.
- ✓ Facilitate collaborative initiatives among students and experts in sustainable development through conferences and forums.
- ✓ Enable students to engage with sustainability experts, applying their knowledge to enhance academic and professional growth.
- ✓ Actively build networks with NSU student organizations dedicated to SDGs, fostering interdisciplinary cooperation and shared sustainability goals.
- ✓ Through our Sustainable Development Seminar Series (DWSS), increase awareness regarding the significance of conflict transformation approaches to effectively engage, work and achieve successful results in development efforts, promoting peace and sustainability.

# Why join our group?

We cannot afford to disregard the pressing issues surrounding us. The media constantly underscores our vulnerability amidst challenges like climate change, global health crises, social inequities, and biodiversity loss. Sustainable Development represents a lifelong learning journey and an indispensable component of your professional pursuits.



For more information on the SDWG contact :



Peter Kent  
President

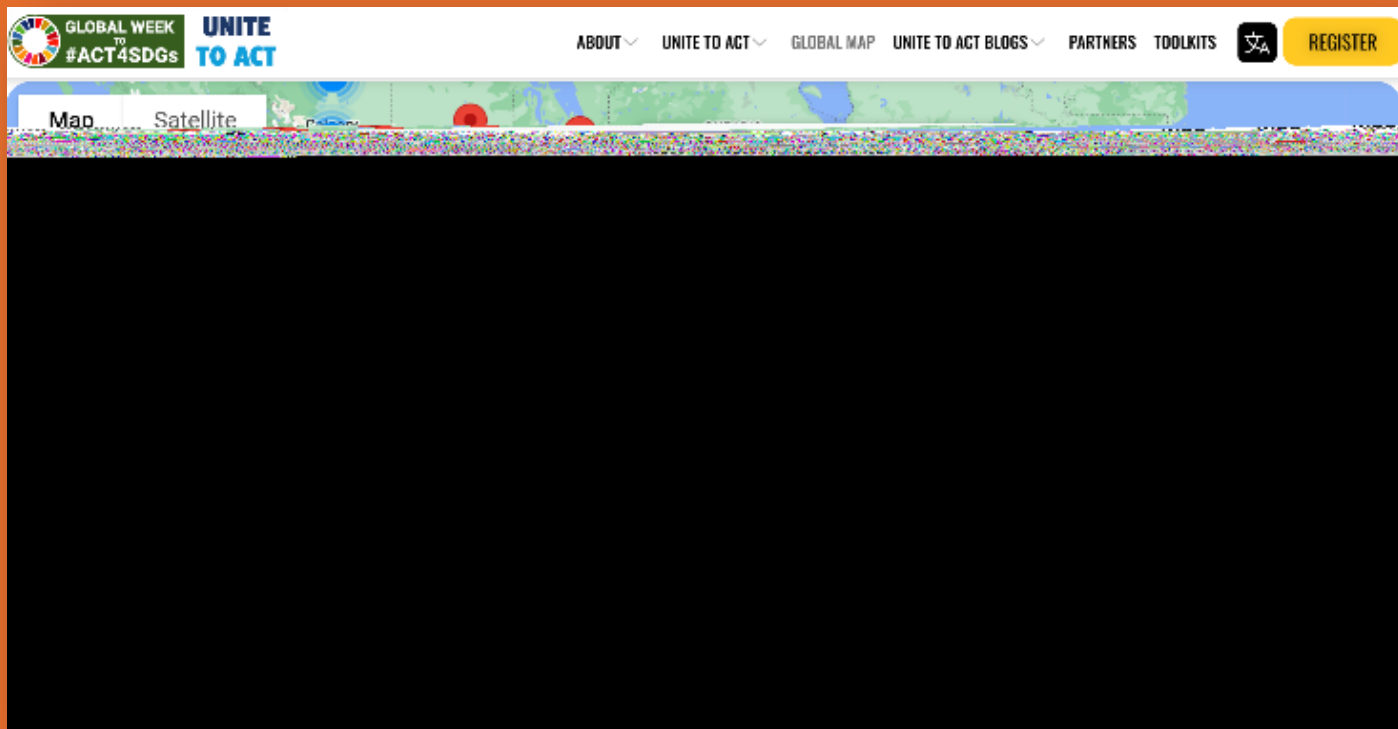
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# The SDG Launch



Last fall, in collaboration with the Foundation for Environmental Stewardship (FES), HCAS-DCRS introduced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Launch initiative. Its purpose was to raise awareness regarding the SDGs, which serve a global framework for addressing humanity's most urgent challenges.

Participants in the SDGs Launch program gained a comprehensive understanding of the UN's 17 SDGs and also acquired the knowledge and skills needed to develop localized projects aimed at advancing the goals. Moreover, they were empowered to be catalysts for change by crafting innovative solutions for sustainable development. We maintain ongoing engagement with program participants, nurturing a vibrant community of change agents committed to driving SDG progress.

The program had two components, an in-person workshop and online asynchronous modules. We had 77 participants in the in-person workshop and 150 participants overall. We had the participation of undergraduate and graduate student clubs and working groups, as well as the presence of the Student Affairs and International Affairs Office. The UN Association of Broward County attended and delivered valuable insights into their organization and initiatives..

This event was part of the UN Global Week to #Act4SDGs, 2022, a pivotal occasion dedicated to expediting actions for the SDGs. With over 130 million actions spanning across 190 countries and territories, this was the most extensive mobilization effort ever witnessed during a Global Week to #Act4SDGs.





# Which SDG are you most passionate about?



<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

# Sustainable Development Seminar Series (SDSS)

The SDSS, spearheaded by SDWG, brings together researchers, academics, practitioners, and policymakers to delve into sustainable development and the 17 SDGs. The primary goal of this seminar series is to cultivate an understanding of prospective opportunities for interdisciplinary cooperation in addressing sustainability challenges. Below are two of our previous seminars.

**THE 17 GOALS**

169 Targets	3850 Events	1344 Publications	7618 Actions
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The Sustainable Development Seminar Series (SDSS)  
Department of Conflict Resolution Studies

**Innovating for Sustainable Development:  
Rising to the global challenges.**

**Mr. Vasco M. van Roosmalen**  
Co-Founder and Executive Director ECAM -  
Equipe de Conservação da Amazônia

When: September 23rd @ 3:00-pm  
Where: Virtual - Zoom  
Link: <https://nova.zoom.us/j/91480468549>  
In-Person- Part of **The SDG Launch** - Alan B. Levan | NSU  
Broward Center of Innovation, Alvin Sherman Library

**NSU Florida**  
Halmos College of Arts and Sciences  
NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

The Sustainable Development Seminar Series (SDSS)  
Department of Conflict Resolution Studies  
Halmos College of Arts and Sciences  
Presents:

**Earth's climate changes: A brief history  
from the beginning to the end?**

**Tyler Cyronak, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Professor  
Dept. Marine and Environmental Sciences

Date: Friday, April 1  
Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
Zoom Link:  
<https://nova.zoom.us/j/96023530158>

For more information on SDSS, contact:  
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# Workshop on Participatory Methods for SD

## VILCABAMBA: THE VALLEY OF LONGEVITY



Dr. Elena Bastidas, along with six doctoral students and two alumni from DCRS, recently engaged in an interdisciplinary, field-based training program focused on participatory research for conflict transformation. This workshop was conducted in collaboration with The Perspectives of Freedom Foundation (POF) and Fundaminga Foundation. Its primary objective was to enhance the research capabilities of conflict resolution experts, enabling them to conduct participatory research that fosters sustainable interventions. The experiential training took place in Vilcabamba Ecuador. Following is a summary of the case study participants engaged with.

**Vilcabamba** derives its name from two words originating from the Quechua language: "hulco," which means tree, and "bamba,"

which means valley. Translated into Spanish, this is interpreted as "valley of the sacred tree." However, due to its most notable feature, it is also known as the "valley of longevity." Vilcabamba is currently an exceptional and living expression of an ancient peasant culture from the tropical Andes. It represents a way of living and sharing life, but in the present, it is undergoing a spontaneous process of reinventing the social and cultural relationships that make up its tradition. This process occurs in the midst of a diverse and complex situation marked by environmental, economic, demographic, and social phenomena that require in-depth analysis and understanding to anticipate possible conflicts that may arise or intensify due to this dynamic and complex reality.

With this in mind, we believe that to adequately understand the current situation in Vilcabamba, it is essential to promote pedagogical and creative processes of participatory action research involving various sectors of the population, in collaboration with local and provincial institutions. The goal is to develop a strategy that allows for a more comprehensive analysis of the issues at hand and to recognize how it affects the territory, identity, and culture of Vilcabamba. In this way, we can identify, strengthen, or recreate coexistence relationships for the future well-being of the new generations. Students used participatory tools like the Sondeo, participant observation, mapping, interviews, stakeholder analysis and principles of social polygraphy during the experiential learning process.





# New DCRS Certificate in Sustainable Development



People  
Planet  
Prosperity  
Peace  
Partnerships

Whether working in government, NGOs, corporations, or grassroots organizations, you will play a pivotal role in driving positive change and shaping a world that balances human progress with the preservation of our planet's well-being for generations to come.



As global challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, and social inequality become increasingly urgent, the need for skilled professionals who can drive sustainable solutions is paramount. This certificate equips you with a holistic understanding of sustainable development principles and practices, enabling you to navigate complex systems, collaborate effectively with diverse teams, and address conflicts inherent in the pursuit of sustainability.

## Curriculum:

- ✓ Sustainability and Conflict: Environment, Economics and Society
- ✓ Systems Thinking in Sustainable Development
- ✓ Governance and Sustainable Development
- ✓ Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Perspective

## Quick Facts:

- ✓ Certificate is a 12-credit program
- ✓ Delivery fully online
- ✓ Application Deadline: July 15/
- ✓ Start Date: Fall 2024



For more information contact:  
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