

Special Issue

Co-Creating Meaningful Futures: Cultural Heritage, Community Agency and Sustainable Tourism

Message from the Guest Editor

This Special Issue aims to consolidate and extend emerging work on community-centred, co-creative heritage tourism and its contribution to sustainability outcomes aligned with Sustainability's scope, including social and cultural sustainability, governance, and responsible innovation. We welcome contributions that critically examine how heritage-based tourism can create value for visitors while strengthening custodians' capacities, wellbeing, and safeguarding efforts. We also invite nuanced perspectives on technology, emphasising careful, evidence-based integration where digital tools demonstrably enhance meaning-making, inclusion, and sustainability rather than novelty. Suggested themes include (but are not limited to) the following: co-creation with ICH custodians; participatory governance and power relations; experience design that transfers cultural meaning; safeguarding impacts and evaluation; resident/visitor learning and transformative outcomes; responsible digital mediation (AR/VR, AI, platforms); ICH integrity, commodification, and ethics; climate and resilience implications; and indicators for cultural sustainability.

Guest Editor

Dr. Marco Scholtz

Innovative Tourism, Centre for Sustainable Business & Digital Innovation, Thomas More University of Applied Sciences, Mechelen, Belgium

Deadline for manuscript submissions

28 February 2027



Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



mdpi.com/si/271164

Sustainability
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
sustainability@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
sustainability](https://mdpi.com/journal/sustainability)





Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



[mdpi.com/journal/
sustainability](https://mdpi.com/journal/sustainability)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in Sustainability, an international open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. The journal publishes original research articles, reviews, conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Steve W. Lyon

School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University,
Columbus, OH 43210, USA

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE and SSCI (Web of Science), GEOBASE, GeoRef, Inspec, RePEc, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Environmental Studies) / CiteScore - Q1
(Geography, Planning and Development)