

A close-up photograph of green plant leaves, likely corn, with a white rectangular box containing text in the upper right corner.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

**GENEVA
GRADUATE
INSTITUTE**

SUSTAINABILITY
INITIATIVE

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The Geneva Graduate Institute Charter

The Geneva Graduate Institute Charter established in 2021 defines the Institute's wide mission and vision:

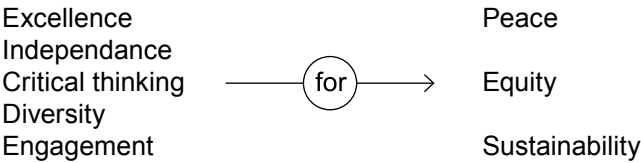
Vision

A pioneer in the exploration of global issues, the Geneva Graduate Institute opens creative spaces for diverse communities and fosters the understanding and engagement essential to a peaceful, equitable and sustainable world.

Mission

Located in the heart of International Geneva, the Institute produces and shares academic knowledge and expertise on international relations, development issues, global challenges, and governance. Through a combination of scientific excellence, transdisciplinarity, and critical thinking, we nurture students and professionals to become decision-makers open to the world. We equip them with the skills, confidence, and sense of responsibility necessary to drive positive transformation.

Principles



The Institute

Sustainability at the Institute

Interview with **Vanessa Valerio**, Head of Projects, Executive Assistant to the Director of Administration and member of the Sustainability Initiative

You are part of the Sustainability Initiative. What are your responsibilities in this position?

I lead the Mobility and Biodiversity Task Force. Each taskforce has a set of objectives, goals and actions that we work towards, which are revised and updated annually. I also participate in the 2050Today initiative, which aims to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

What are some actions or achievements of the initiative?

Recently, we changed our annual Vegetarian Day to a monthly occurrence, which takes place on the second Wednesday of each month in the cafeteria. This initiative encourages healthier and more sustainable eating habits within our community.

We also brought in more recycling bins to improve our waste-sorting efforts around the Institute. This step is crucial in our journey towards a more sustainable campus.

Another exciting initiative is our “Bike to Work” event, which runs from May to June and is open to everyone, including students. Last year was our first time participating, and we are aiming to make this one an even greater success. Additionally, in November last year, we hosted a bicycle awareness course to give people the confidence and knowledge to ride safely on the streets of Geneva.

One of our most significant achievements was drafting a comprehensive “Business Travel Research Report”. This report led to the Institute implementing a new travel policy last year that mandates train travel for journeys under seven hours. This policy change is a major step towards reducing our carbon footprint.

How is the community garden evolving?

This is our fifth season, and we have 50 participants from all areas of our community including five faculty members which we are really thrilled about.

The community garden is in partnership with the State of Geneva and the Rigot Refugee Centre. Not only are we growing our own food by sustainable methods such as composting, water conservation and organic farming, but there is also the cultural exchange and community building. This initiative further enhances both mental and physical well-being, which is an integral part of sustainability.

As a result of the initiative, a student in the Master in International and Development Studies (MINT) even wrote a thesis titled “A Space to Heal: Growing Resilience in Community Gardens”, which focused on the role and effects of community gardening on the health and wellbeing of migrant populations.

You presented the Sustainability Initiative on two different occasions in 2025. Can you tell us more?

Green Earth Action Foundation, a Swiss-based NGO, invited me to speak at a live webinar

for their international audience on “How to Achieve a Sustainable Lifestyle”. My presentation focused on embracing a sustainable lifestyle through setting challenges and taking small, simple actions that can make a significant difference in reducing our carbon footprint. I shared some actions that we have implemented at the Institute, that people can also apply at home or at their workplace, and I also touched on some of my own personal actions.

Besides, Professor Liliana Andonova invited the Graduate Institute Student Association (GISA)'s Environmental Committee, the Executive Director of 2050Today and me to her MINT course, “Sustainability: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Controversies, and Governance”. I presented the Sustainability Initiative, the actions we have carried out on our various topics and our future plans.

Lastly, in your personal life, what is something that you try to be sustainable with?

I strive to avoid fast fashion. One year, I set myself a 365-day no clothes shopping challenge. People thought that it was impossible, but I achieved it. It made me more mindful about my consumption habits, and I learnt more about fast fashion. Now, I try to repair things or find another use for them before recycling. This challenge not only helped me reduce waste but also taught me to appreciate what I already have and to shop responsibly.

This interview was published as a news on the Institute's website on 8 May 2025.

Challenges, Progress & Prospects in Sustainable Finance

In an interview (in French), Patrick Odier, President of the Building Bridges Foundation, and Marie-Laure Salles, Director of the Geneva Graduate Institute, discuss the development of sustainable finance and the role of academia in advancing solutions to planetary and climate-related challenges.

They highlight the Building Bridges Foundation's collaborative efforts and the Geneva Graduate Institute's interdisciplinary research in transforming finance from a niche topic into an essential tool for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals. By integrating climate and social risks into investment decisions, the discussion emphasises mobilising private finance to support long-term sustainability, resilience, and global transition.



This article was published in *Globe*, the Graduate Institute Review, no. 36, November 2025.

Energy at the Institute

Interview with **David Gaymard**, Director of Real Estate

2024 was a milestone year for sustainability at the Institute. How has this momentum continued into 2025?

It has been an exceptionally productive period. Building on the success of the “Eco-logement” initiative and our partnerships with SIG and Eco-21, we continued our efforts in 2025 with a series of targeted upgrades across our buildings and student residences. These actions focused on improving energy performance, reducing consumption, and modernising our infrastructure to meet the highest efficiency standards.

One of the major achievements in 2025 was the full transition to LED lighting across several key areas. We replaced the lighting on two levels of the parking garage with new LED fixtures, installed LED light panels in place of outdated neon units, and completed a full relamping of the building — switching between 200 and 300 neon spots in front of elevators and restrooms across all petals to high-efficiency LED technology. These upgrades significantly reduce electricity use while improving lighting quality and comfort.

What about improvements to technical systems and building operations?

We made substantial progress there as well. We upgraded the filtering components in our monobloc ventilation units by acquiring new, higher-performance filters, improving both air quality and system efficiency. In parallel, we worked with our partner EnerBat-EnerCity SA to optimise the MCR control systems of our buildings, allowing us to fine-tune technical installations with far greater precision.

A major step forward was the implementation of detailed scheduling programmes — introducing ON/OFF cycles during nights, weekends, and holiday periods. This includes placing three warm-air airlock entrances (Petals 1, 2 and 4), which previously operated 24/7, under timed control. These adjustments ensure that energy is used only when needed, without compromising comfort or safety.

What does this mean for the Institute's long-term sustainability goals?

These 2025 initiatives mark a continuous shift toward smarter, more responsible energy management in line with the sustainable goals of the Institute. By combining infrastructure upgrades, digital optimisation, and behavioural awareness, we are reducing our environmental footprint while strengthening the resilience and performance of our buildings. Sustainability is not a one-off project — it is a continuous journey. And with each improvement, we move closer to a campus that is efficient, innovative, and aligned with the values of our community.

Awareness Campaigns

In 2025 the Institute took part in three awareness campaigns, including “The Big Plastic Count Switzerland”. During this citizen science campaign in April 2025, over 11,000 people counted their plastic waste for a week, revealing that extrapolated annual figures suggest Switzerland throws away nearly 9 billion plastic pieces, mostly in the form of food packaging. This has led to calls for drastic reduction in production as Switzerland is a top single-use plastic producer. Organised by Greenpeace and others, the results highlight that only 5% of the counted plastic would likely be recycled within Switzerland, with most incinerated or exported, emphasising the need for source reduction. The campaign aimed to pressure

the Swiss government and businesses to implement strong measures to reduce plastic production at its source, as current systems struggle with the volume of waste.

An internal eco-gesture awareness campaign was launched in parallel, featuring posters displayed in key locations across the Institute. The campaign encouraged small, everyday actions that collectively help shift habits and reduce environmental impact. The messages focused on energy use and resource efficiency, including lights (“Hit the Button on Your Way Out!”), meeting booths and pods (“Please Shut the Pod Door!”), sorting and recycling (“Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!”), printing (“Always Print with Purpose!”), and Reusable containers (“Bring It, Don’t Bin It!”).

Finally, with the support of the State of Geneva, the Institute community participated for the third consecutive year in “Bike to Work”, Switzerland’s largest cycling and health promotion initiative. A total of 35 employees took part, collectively cycling for 429 days and covering 7,322 kilometres.

Institute’s Community Garden

The Rigot campaign, which spans one hectare between the Place des Nations and the Maison de la paix, belongs to the State of Geneva. Since 2021, staff and students of the Institute have been managing the Jardin de la Paix there jointly with asylum seekers from the Foyer Rigot. In 2022, the Collège Sismondi joined this community to plant an orchard, and a nursery temporarily hosts the trees that will line the future tramway to Grand-Saconnex. The cantonal authorities wish to continue and expand this project by diversifying activities and entrusting the management to the people already involved, joined by local residents.

In 2025, 50 gardeners including students as well as administrative, technical, teaching, and research staff cared for individual planters or worked together in small groups of three to four. Throughout the year, five events were organised in the garden in collaboration with residents from the Foyer Rigot. In the spring, a seed library was made available in the Library, allowing everyone to take or donate seeds freely, and monthly workshops were also held. The final event of the year was the Garden Closure Party, marking the moment when the garden closed its gates for winter renovation works, in preparation for a fresh, new look in spring.

Health & Wellbeing Week

Mental and physical health are the essence of human wellbeing, whether at work or in our personal lives. In the spirit of cultivating wellbeing throughout the Geneva Graduate Institute community, the Student Wellbeing and Support Service in collaboration with GISA Welfare and Human Resources organised the Institute’s third Health and Wellbeing Week on the last week of February 2025.

The week featured a broad mix of activities designed to support physical, mental, and social wellbeing for students, faculty, and staff. Every day included a community Positive Intention Board to share mindful messages and Brain Break Walks for brief outdoor refreshment. Each morning from Tuesday to Friday began with a mindful start — 30-minute yoga or meditation sessions open to all. Across the week were opportunities for relaxation massages, free food distribution, and interactive workshops, including a series on studies, career, and wellbeing, a Mental Health and Digital Technologies discussion, a Mindful Poetry Workshop, and a

Mindful Lunch focusing on sensory awareness. Creative and movement-based sessions, such as Embodied Awareness combining dance and mindfulness, also offered experiential breaks from academic routines. Social and community-building events were woven into the schedule as well. The week opened with a coffee chat and homemade cake to welcome participants, and included zumba and salsa dance sessions in the evenings to promote fun, fitness, and social connection. Other wellbeing-focused activities included a Creativity Workshop, a Nutrition Stand explaining balanced eating, and a Pet Petting session with a trained therapy dog to boost mood and reduce stress. The week concluded on Friday with a closing concert by the GISA Music Initiative followed by a potluck dinner, fostering community and celebration after a full week of wellbeing-oriented programming.

Travel & Sustainability: New Directive for Smarter Mobility

The Institute has defined a new policy on “Travel Policy and Sustainability”, which outlines actionable steps to reduce our travel-related environmental footprint. The policy encourages eco-friendly choices and applies to all individuals whose transportation costs are financed by the Institute or through grants administered by the Institute. The new policy is the result of the “Business Travel Research and Recommendation Report” by the Sustainability Initiative.

Thanks to a comprehensive data collection process and the expertise of 2050Today, the Institute successfully published its first “Carbon Footprint Report”, marking an important step in understanding and reducing our environmental impact.



Read the Carbon Footprint Report (2022–2023).

Teaching

Statistics

In the 2025–2026 academic year, 39 first-year and 26 second-year MINT students were enrolled in the Environment and Sustainability specialisation, which offered 24 courses.

Out of 68 applied research projects (ARPs), 16 dealt with sustainability. ARPs addressed sustainability from social, environmental, economic, and governance perspectives. Projects explored issues ranging from climate resilience and biodiversity protection to sustainable livelihoods, clean energy, and environmental justice. Key themes included:

Environmental Governance & Biodiversity

- Legislative barriers to biodiversity protection in Geneva (Conservatoire et Jardin botanique)
- Environmental defenders at the UN Human Rights Council (Peace Brigades International)
- Managing human–nature interfaces in peri-urban areas (Fondation Braillard Architectes)

Climate Change, Resilience, & Education

- Climate-resilient education in Chad and Bangladesh (Enfants du Monde)
- Child-centred climate and environment curriculum design (Terre des hommes)
- Loss and damage, adaptation, and climate impacts across regions (various partners)

Sustainable Livelihoods & Food Systems

- Women's sustainable livelihood pathways in the Philippines (Greenseed)
- Agroecological performance of smallholder farms in Burundi (PSA–FGC)
- Rural development and sustainable enterprise models in Mongolia (Altai Blue Horizon)

Sustainability, Policy, & Global Standards

- Strengthening implementation of global climate agreements through international standards (ISO)
- Impacts of cuts in international cooperation (SDC)
- Tobacco industry tax optimisation and public health implications (Swiss Association for Tobacco Control)

Clean Energy, Transport, & Infrastructure

- Supporting developing countries in clean-energy manufacturing and value creation (UNCTAD and Geneva Platform for Resilient Value Chains [GPRVC])
- Mapping Europe's river transport network to identify bottlenecks and opportunities (United Waterways)
- Advancing collective passenger transport for sustainable development in the Black Sea region (IRU)

Youth, Rights, & Climate Action

- Mobilising global youth for climate protection and human rights (Young Activists Summit)

From Research to the Classroom & Back

Interview with Professor **Alice Pirlot**, Assistant Professor of International Law

Professor Alice Pirlot highlights how teaching at the Geneva Graduate Institute integrates research on environmental and climate governance into the classroom. Through courses like her seminar on carbon pricing, students engage with current research, analyse the effectiveness of climate law instruments, and conduct their own projects. This approach fosters a direct connection between academic research, teaching, and global policy discussions related to sustainability and economic governance.



This article was published in *Globe*, the Graduate Institute Review, no. 36, November 2025.

Meeting the Winds of Change with New Diplomacy

Interview with Professor **Davide Rodogno**, Professor of International History and Politics, Head of the Interdisciplinary Master, and Co-Director of Executive Education

This interview with Professor Davide Rodogno discusses how the Interdisciplinary Master's programme (MINT) prepares students for the complexities of "new diplomacy". The programme focuses on the interconnectedness of environmental challenges, sustainability, and global governance, involving a wide range of actors from civil society to the private sector. Through thematic specialisations and applied research, students learn to navigate real-world policy contexts where environmental pressures intersect with health, conflict, and multilateral cooperation.



This article was published in *Globe*, the Graduate Institute Review, no. 36, November 2025.

Our New Faculty Member

Nuala Proinnseas Caomhánach joined the Institute in 2025. Her research on environmental history focusses on the intersection of Indigenous knowledge, conservation science, and the climate crisis in Madagascar. Her work investigates how scientific practices, from natural history collections to biotechnology and AI, shape environmental policy and governance. Through two book projects, she examines the evolution of phylogenetics and genetics to understand how the molecular study of the natural world intersects with political and economic transformations.

Our Portfolio

The 2025 research portfolio provides a comprehensive view of sustainability challenges and solutions across environmental governance, trade, technology, and global cooperation. A central theme is the need to better align economic systems, policy frameworks, and technological innovation with environmental and social goals under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Environment, Climate, & the Anthropocene (1)

Sources are the following:

- **Research Bulletin 8 December 2025** (no. 11, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 10 November 2025** (no. 10, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 13 October 2025** (no. 9, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 15 September 2025** (no. 8, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 11 August 2025** (no. 7, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 26 May 2025** (no. 5, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 28 April 2025** (no. 4, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 24 March 2025** (no. 3, 2025)
- **Research Bulletin 24 February 2025** (no. 2, 2025)

Research highlights persistent gaps between policy ambition and environmental outcomes. A key study on cannabis regulation in Morocco shows that legalisation policies, while socio-economically motivated, often neglect ecological impacts such as water use, biodiversity loss, and chemical inputs. Similarly, work on sea-level rise under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea clarifies that existing legal frameworks can remain stable despite climate change, emphasising legal continuity over environmental dynamism.

Climate Governance & Health (2)

A growing body of research underscores the deep interlinkages between climate change and human health. A major review finds that global governance systems still insufficiently integrate health into climate policy. Institutional fragmentation, weak coordination, and accountability gaps limit effective responses. The research calls for stronger alignment between climate and health actors and more coherent global governance mechanisms.

Trade, Economy, & Sustainable Development (3)

Several studies focus on reshaping global trade to support sustainability:

- New trade paradigms are needed to promote nature-positive and net-zero economies, balancing environmental protection with economic growth.
- The bioeconomy emerges as a strategic area, where international cooperation and trade policy can scale sustainable production.
- Analyses of critical minerals and agriculture stress that developing countries face both opportunities and risks in the energy transition, requiring supportive trade frameworks to ensure equitable and climate-resilient development.

Overall, trade is framed as a key lever — but only if aligned with environmental and social objectives.

Climate Policy & Industrial Transformation (4)

Research on industrial decarbonisation highlights limits of existing tools such as carbon border adjustments. It proposes complementary mechanisms (e.g., “climate contributions”) to maintain competitiveness while advancing emissions reductions in a fragmented global economy. In parallel, the concept of climate clubs gains traction as a pathway toward coordinated global carbon pricing, though institutional and political barriers remain significant.

Innovation & Technology for Sustainability (5)

Technological innovation is positioned as a critical enabler. A flagship project on AI-driven malnutrition monitoring introduces low-cost, real-time tools to improve data collection and accelerate progress on food security (SDG 2). This reflects a broader shift toward data-driven, scalable, and accessible solutions, particularly in resource-constrained settings.

Governance, Partnerships, & Public Support (6)

Effective sustainability action depends on governance quality and collaboration:

- Case study evidence from the Galápagos Islands demonstrates that strong contractual design enhances the effectiveness of public-private partnerships in renewable energy transitions.
- Public opinion research in Switzerland reveals that support for international climate assistance is shaped more by geopolitical and migration considerations than by aid volume, highlighting political constraints on global solidarity.

Key Cross-Cutting Insights

Across all research outputs, several common messages emerge:

- Policy coherence is lacking across climate, health, trade, and development domains.
- Environmental considerations are often secondary to economic or regulatory priorities.
- Global inequalities persist, particularly affecting developing countries in climate transitions.
- International cooperation and governance reform are essential to achieving meaningful progress.
- Innovation and data offer powerful tools but require inclusive and ethical implementation.

The 2025 research underscores that achieving sustainability is not primarily a technical challenge, but a governance one. Progress depends on integrating environmental, economic, and social priorities into cohesive global systems, strengthening cooperation, and ensuring that emerging solutions — whether policy- or technology-driven — are both equitable and environmentally sound.

Our Research within the Initiative

A benchmark analysis on net-zero goals in higher education was conducted by two students from the Sustainability Initiative. This work relates to a key objective in the Institute's 2027 Strategic Plan, introduced following a request from the students' Environmental Committee several years ago.

Setting a net-zero goal — also referred to as climate neutrality — goes beyond reducing the Institute's carbon footprint and requires a broader, long-term transformation. The analysis was designed to clarify what climate neutrality entails in a university context and to support informed discussion within the community. In particular, it addressed what climate neutrality means for universities and provided examples of strategies implemented by other universities.

Our Students

Sustainability Week: Students Raised Awareness on Environmental Challenges

Every spring, students in 15 cities across Switzerland organise their respective Sustainability Weeks, which aim to make sustainability a focal point of Swiss higher education institutions. In 2025, from 11 to 17 March, Master students from the Graduate Institute Student Association (GISA)'s Environmental Committee organised and promoted Sustainability Week Geneva events, to ensure that engagement in sustainability remains a core subject at the Institute and beyond.

Sustainability Week 2025 was a highly successful and impactful initiative, surpassing previous editions in both participation and depth of engagement. The week brought together students, faculty, experts, and external partners for a diverse program of interactive events addressing sustainability from social, environmental, and economic perspectives. Supported by 12 key collaborators (the Sustainability Initiative, the Hoffmann Centre, Agri-Food Collective, Feminist Collective, ZeroWaste Swiss, Ciclissimo, the Green Film Festival, the World Meteorological Organization [WMO], UNCTAD, Climate Bridges, La Touvière Farm, and the Alumnae-i Network), the programme combined academic discussions with experiential learning, including field visits, expert panels, workshops, and cultural activities. Highlights included the visit to La Touvière, high-level panels on women in sustainability and on the blue economy, institutional visits to WMO, and lectures addressing climate change, conflict, and agricultural transitions.

Across the week, activities encouraged practical action and critical reflection on sustainable lifestyles, such as the clothing swap, bike repair workshop, film screening, and the "Kitchen Battle" focused on food waste reduction. Strong attendance throughout the programme, particularly at the film screening and closing apéro, reflected growing community engagement and enthusiasm. Overall, Sustainability Week 2025 strengthened interdisciplinary dialogue, fostered collaboration across sectors, and demonstrated a clear and increasing commitment to sustainability within the academic community, laying a solid foundation for future initiatives.

During the Orientation Day, a waste management presentation was shared by the Sustainability Initiative, in partnership with the Environmental Committee. The goal was to raise awareness about recycling in Geneva among new students and encourage sustainable habits from day one. Students received practical tips on how to sort waste properly and took part in an interactive quiz to test and reinforce their understanding of local recycling rules in a fun and engaging way.

Our Events & Campaigns

Climate Week

As part of Climate Week 2025, the Sustainability Initiative, in partnership with the City of Geneva, the Hoffmann Centre for Global Sustainability, the Forum on Trade, Environment and the SDGs (TESS), and the Student Environmental Committee, organised a conference on positive psychology and ecology. Over the past 20 years, two fields that seemed to have little in common have both sought to understand human well-being. On one side, positive psychology studies how positive emotions arise, are sustained, and contribute to our well-being and happiness. On the other, the sciences of biodiversity conservation aim to protect and preserve nature. Lisa Garnier, biodiversity specialist and former journalist, made an inquiry into these two vibrant areas of research, where science is rediscovering the crucial value of relationships. Backed by statistics, she revealed the serenity and happiness to be found for humans both with others and in our contact with nature.

Environmental Committee

The GISA Environmental Committee's Fall 2025 semester was marked by a diverse range of initiatives spanning education, advocacy, and community building. On the professional development front, the EC organised a visit to CERN in October to connect frontier science with environmental thinking, followed by a collaborative trip to Fondation Partage and Renfile in November to explore food recovery and upcycling as part of Geneva's "Mon Défi Carbone" challenge. Expert engagement was a consistent thread throughout the semester, highlighted by a coffee talk with biodiversity expert Lisa Garnier during Climate Week and a closing documentary screening of *Decoding Climate* paired with a high-level panel bridging climate science and COP30 outcomes. Internally, the EC co-organised a "Research Roundtable Carousel" connecting Master students with PhD students and alumnae-i.

Alumnae·i

Award Winning Artwork – “I am Earth”

Interview with **Abhinay Thummaluru**, Alumnus of MINT programme

Alumnus Abhinay Thummaluru exhibited his art installation, I am Earth, at the United Nations in Geneva. The project advocated for “planetary diplomacy” by shifting from environmental extraction toward a dialogue that considers more-than-human interests. Drawing on his interdisciplinary background from the MINT programme, Abhinay Thummaluru used his work to engage global audiences at venues like COP30 in rethinking human-nature relations and environmental responsibility.



This interview was published as a news on the Institute's website on 29 October 2025.

From Rural Development to Sustainable Coffee

Interview with **Andres Torrico**, Alumnus and Founder of 4 Llamas Coffee

Andres Torrico, an Institute alumnus and founder of 4 Llamas Coffee, built a career focused on rural development, land governance, and sustainable food systems. Combining legal expertise in Indigenous rights with research skills developed at the Geneva Graduate Institute, he returned to Bolivia to co-found a company rooted in sustainability and community collaboration. His work bridges research, fieldwork, and innovation to connect coffee production with broader social and environmental purposes.



This article was published in *Globe, the Graduate Institute Review*, no. 36, November 2025.

Events

Biodiversity & Public Health

23 January 2025

This webinar explored how biodiversity governance intersects with global public health, focusing on new international rules for digital sequence information (DSI) and their implications for the Pandemic Agreement. Experts discussed the recent decision of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity requiring companies benefiting from DSI to contribute to the Cali Fund, and examined how this may shape the emerging Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) System. The session brought together perspectives from biodiversity policy, science, industry, and health equity ahead of the next round of Pandemic Agreement negotiations.

WATCH: Health at the Heart of Climate Action: Turning Frameworks into Reality

20 February 2025

This event addressed climate change as a global health priority and the development of a Global Plan of Action on Climate Change and Health. It brought together experts to discuss implementation, existing mechanisms, and actionable steps to keep health central to the global climate response.

Cattle Supply Chains & Deforestation in Brazil

25 February 2025

This research seminar featured Matthieu Stigler, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Geneva, discussing the impact of supply-chain policies on cattle-driven deforestation in Brazil. His study used a structural model and farm-level data to evaluate how zero-deforestation commitments affect trade patterns, finding that deforesting farms are significantly less likely to supply to zero-deforestation committed slaughterhouses.

How the Right to Food Can Prevent Starvation & Combat Climate Change

13 March 2025

Organised by the Agrifood Collective, this event explored the connections between climate change, starvation, and the right to food. It discussed hunger, malnutrition, and famine as issues of access to food, the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities, and the role of international and grassroots organisations in advocating for food security.

A Theory of Endogenous Degrowth & Environmental Sustainability

3 April 2025

This research seminar featured Michael Peters, Associate Professor of Economics at Yale University, presenting a growth theory where innovation shifts from material-intensive production to low-emission luxury services. The study explores how directed innovation can reduce the environmental footprint of economic growth, potentially leading to a decline in measured GDP without decreasing overall welfare. The session also examines how policy interventions and trade barriers influence structural transformation and global environmental sustainability.

Research Photo Competition

13 May 2025

As part of the Graduate Institute's Research Festival, a photography competition invited members of the Institute's research community to showcase images captured during their fieldwork. Professors, researchers, and Master and PhD students submitted photographs reflecting the spirit of their research and offering original perspectives on their methodologies and subjects of study. The initiative highlighted the creativity, diversity, and impact of research conducted across the Institute.

Among the featured participants was John Paulraj, whose research examines changing land relations in Nagaland, India. His work explores climate change both as an idea and as a framework for environmental management, focusing on how tribal communities interpret changes in their local environment and reassess the value of traditional land-use practices in the context of shifting climatic conditions.

Financing Nature: Investment Funds & Biodiversity Risks

21 May 2025

This seminar featured Alexander Raabe. The study explores how the 2021 Kunming Declaration influenced global investment funds to shift away from countries with high biodiversity risks. This reallocation, while signalling growing attention to nature-related risks by fund managers, did not reflect a broader investor preference for low-risk opportunities. The findings offer valuable insight into how legal protections for nature can moderate capital flight and how biodiversity is emerging as a critical downside risk in financial markets. The paper also reveals the limitations of general climate and economic policies in buffering countries from biodiversity-driven disinvestment.

Our Living Ocean: Solutions for a Productive and Resilient Ocean, Sustaining People & Nature

23 September 2025

This event, co-hosted by the Hoffmann Centre and WWF, explored solutions to protect the spectacular biodiversity of the underwater world, leading to a more resilient ocean. Featuring experts in nature finance and conservation, the discussion focused on how sustainable "blue" economies and habitat restoration can mitigate climate change while supporting global communities.

Building Bridges and Coalitions for Climate Transition and Nature Restoration

1 October 2025

This flagship conference, co-organised by the Hoffmann Centre and Building Bridges, brought together researchers and policymakers to discuss coalitions for climate transition and nature restoration. Featuring keynotes and a panel of global experts, the session explores evidence-based solutions for environmental sustainability as part of a broader interdisciplinary dialogue on peace, conflict, and economic policy.

Becoming Nature Positive

6 October 2025

This event launched the book *Becoming Nature Positive*, featuring global leaders in sustainability, business, and policy. The session combined personal narratives with expert insights to explore how society can transition to a safe and just environmental world.

Supporting Agroecological Transitions: What Works?

17 October 2025

This workshop, hosted by the Hoffmann Centre and the SCALAGRO project, explored practical strategies for transitioning to agroecology-based food systems. By comparing action-research projects from India, Senegal, Ethiopia, and Bangladesh, participants identified successful approaches and addressed challenges in scaling sustainable agriculture. The event brought together researchers and policy actors to foster resilient, community-led food transitions.

Young Leaders Driving Climate Action

18 November 2025

The event featured a screening of *Blue Carbon* and a panel discussion with 2025 Young Activists Summit Laureates. It addressed the ocean's potential to absorb carbon, carbon credit schemes, and brought together young changemakers to discuss sustainable solutions and climate action.

Being Happy through and for Nature (Être heureux par et pour la nature)

1 December 2025

This conference (in French) explored the intersection of positive psychology and biodiversity conservation, featuring research by specialist Lisa Garnier on how connections with nature foster human well-being. Organised by the Sustainability Initiative and the City of Geneva, the event used statistical evidence to demonstrate how protecting the natural world contributes to individual serenity and happiness. The discussion, moderated by Joëlle Noailly, highlighted the fundamental value of human-nature relationships in addressing both ecological preservation and mental health.

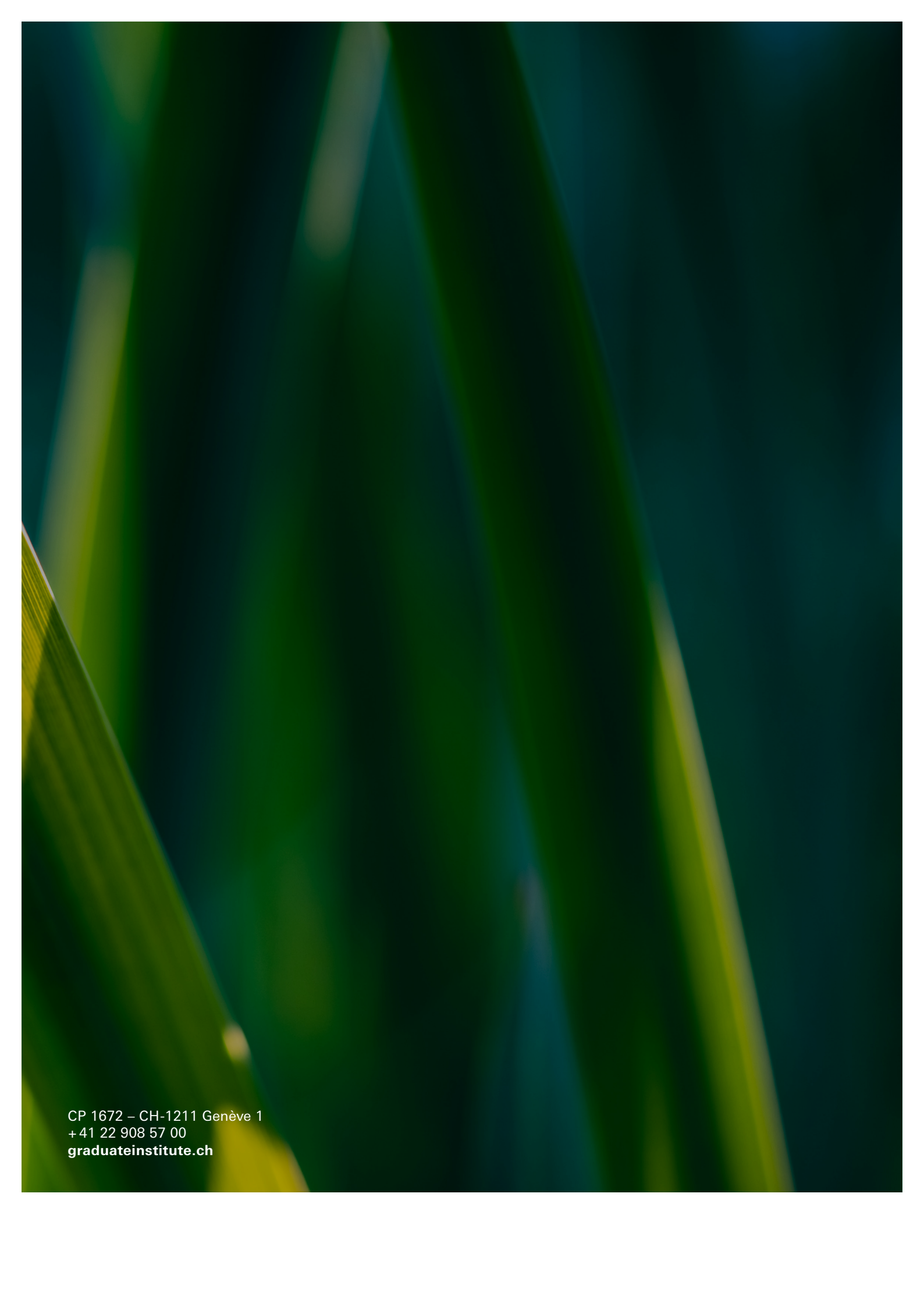


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