



IFLA Section  
**Environment,  
Sustainability and Libraries**

# **ENSULIB Newsletter**



**Volume 4, Number 1  
June 2024**

# Table of Contents

<i>Message from the Chair</i> .....	3
<i>About the Editorial Committee</i> .....	4
<i>Introduction of New Standing Committee Members</i> .....	5
<i>Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects around the world</i> .....	6
Australia - Victorian Libraries: Driving Sustainability for Library Communities .....	6
China - Promoting Sustainable Development and Equitable Education — A green and environmental education activity launched by Shandong Provincial Library for Children .....	7
Denmark - Join us in cultivating local engagement for a sustainable future .....	8
British Library: Libraries and positive climate action webinar series .....	10
Indonesia - National Library of Indonesia supporting SDGs by strengthening library services for visually impaired users .....	10
Indonesia - Building Networks on the theme of Green Libraries ...	13
Italy - The Italian Library Association’s involvement in the Position Paper for Culture published by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (OBISS- AIB).....	14
Singapore: Sustainability starts young in Singapore Public Libraries .....	15
Spain - Literature and Environment Residency .....	16
Türkiye - Türkiye’s First Sustainable Library: Rami Library .....	18
Türkiye – Rural Library Network .....	19

USA - American Libraries Association's Sustainability Roundtable Celebrated 10 Years in 2023.....	21
<i>International Green Library Resources</i> .....	22
Seed Library Map: Growing Together .....	22
The International Green Library Bibliography is celebrating a milestone .....	23
<i>Engage with ENSULIB and IFLA Green Library Projects</i> .....	24
Seeking Suggestions and Expectations for the IFLA Guidelines for Green and Sustainable Libraries .....	24
How to get involved with Climate Empowerment in 2024 .....	24
<i>International Days Observed by the United Nations July - December</i> .....	28

## Message from the Chair

Transforming Libraries for Environmental Education to Climate Action



The extreme weather has been rampaging for decades, especially in recent years. Heatwaves, floods, droughts and fires, all caused by climate change. The environmental work of libraries has been in constant change. In the article *The Green Library Movement* (2008), Monika Antonelli focused largely on the environmental awareness of library buildings, like most others in the early 2000s. Along with library buildings, libraries have entered the discussion as active members of the sharing and circular economy. The UN Sustainable Development Goals brought along a strong demand for social sustainability with efforts to promote equality and quality education as well as sustainable infrastructure. Furthermore, libraries have also adopted environmental education as part of their tasks to raise public awareness on climate change and to take urgent climate action. These changes can also be traced in ENSULIB's work - a prime example is the IFLA Green Library Award. Founded in 2016, the IFLA Green Library Award aims to reward green libraries and green library projects that best communicate their commitment to environmental, economic and social sustainability. This year we received significantly more submissions in the project category than in the library building category. Because of this, in addition to the three green library buildings, five library environmental projects were also accepted as finalists. By also considering the geographical diversity, the top 8 eight submissions 2024 have been published representing the current trends and best practices of green and sustainable libraries worldwide. The final winners will be announced at the ENSULIB event in October in Barcelona. Relevant presentations and videos will be released on ENSULIB's social media soon so please check them out. Meanwhile, ENSULIB's current book project on "Libraries Driving Education for Sustainable Development" (Working Title) is well under way and will be presented at the IIFS in October this year in Brisbane, Australia. A project "IFLA Guidelines for Green and Sustainable Libraries" has been endorsed by the IFLA Committee on Standards. Publication of the Guidelines is planned for February 2025. Tips and contributions from outside ENSULIB are still welcome.

This newsletter will offer you many other insights into environmental work in libraries and what we can do in libraries to make the world and environment a little bit better.

Harri Sahavirta, Chair of ENSULIB Standing Committee

## About the Editorial Committee

The ENSULIB Newsletter is published twice a year (June & December). This edition's managing editor is Sarah Foezon. Please contact any of our editors for contributions:



**Priscilla Pun** | Head of Technical Process Unit, University of Macau Library, Macao, China; Secretary, ENSULIB Section; E-mail: [nipun@um.edu.mo](mailto:nipun@um.edu.mo)



**Beth Filar Williams** | User Experience Research Librarian, Oregon State University Libraries, USA; Standing Committee member, ENSULIB Section, E-mail: [beth.filar-williams@oregonstate.edu](mailto:beth.filar-williams@oregonstate.edu)



**Antonia Mocatta** | Director of Central Services, University Library, University of Sydney, Australia; Information Coordinator, ENSULIB Section; E-mail: [antonia.mocatta@sydney.edu.au](mailto:antonia.mocatta@sydney.edu.au)



**Sarah Foezon** | Head of Information & Library, Goethe-Institut, Paris, France; Standing Committee member, ENSULIB Section; E-mail: [sarah.foezon@goethe.de](mailto:sarah.foezon@goethe.de)



**Kristīne Dekšne** | Library Development Expert, National Library of Latvia, Standing Committee member, ENSULIB Section; E-mail: [kristine.deksne@lnb.lv](mailto:kristine.deksne@lnb.lv)



**Eva Hackenberg** | Head of Information & Library, Goethe-Institut, Warsaw, Poland; Standing Committee member, ENSULIB Section E-mail: [eva.hackenberg@goethe.de](mailto:eva.hackenberg@goethe.de)



**Rossana Morriello** | Assistant Professor of Library and Information Science, University of Florence, Italy Standing Committee member, ENSULIB Section; E-mail: [rossana.morriello@aib.it](mailto:rossana.morriello@aib.it)



**Torbjörn Nilsson** | City Librarian in Malmö, Sweden; Standing Committee member, ENSULIB Section; E-mail: [tnilsson12@gmail.com](mailto:tnilsson12@gmail.com)

# Introduction of New Standing Committee Members

## Amanda Delai Fie, Ghana



Amanda is a Senior Assistant Librarian at the Parliament of Ghana. She has worked professional with libraries for over 20 years. She studied at the University of Ghana and holds a master's degrees in information studies.

Amanda is the Institutional Repository (IR) manager of the Parliament of Ghana Library. In her current role, she oversees the collection and preservation of Parliament of Ghana Library's resources in digital form. She also is a Member of Green Library projects. Amanda has been a volunteer and co-opted member of ENSULIB section from 2022. She is also a member of Ghana Library Association (GLA), Inter Department Research and Information Group (IDRIG) in Parliament of Ghana.

## Merve Yavuzdemir, Türkiye



Merve Yavuzdemir is the Head of the Foreign Relations Department at the General Directorate of Libraries and Publications of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Türkiye. Her department is responsible for all

public libraries and the National Library in Türkiye. Her areas of work include innovative public library services, promoting a reading culture among children and young people, and sustainable library services.

She leads national civil initiatives in the fields of children and sustainability in terms of libraries. Additionally, she has received awards from national and international organizations for her projects in social innovation. Merve Yavuzdemir also coordinates pioneering organizations in the field of librarianship in Türkiye.

## Vivian Puerta, Colombia

Vivian Puerta is a C-suite professional with extensive experience in advancing education and sustainability. Her expertise is centred on leading high-impact strategies and social and educational projects aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Throughout her career,

she has gained both national and international recognition for her exceptional leadership and contributions to sustainable initiatives. Her influence in this field is further



underscored by her active participation in global forums. Vivian was selected by UNESCO to participate in the 5th Global Meeting on Capacity Development for Global Citizenship and engaged in the roundtable discussions that helped shape the ESD framework for 2030. Additionally, she served as a distinguished panellist at UNESCO's 2030 ESD Net-Regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as at the ESD Net-Global meeting in Tokyo in 2023. Her current endeavours involve assisting other organizations in deepening their commitment to sustainability through ESD, demonstrating her ongoing dedication to fostering educational and sustainable practices that promote the 2030 Agenda.

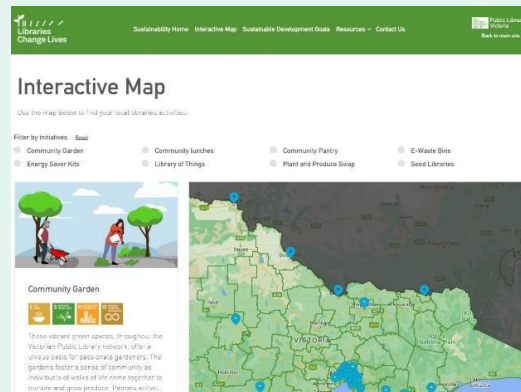
# Green, Sustainable Libraries and Projects around the world

## Australia - Victorian Libraries: Driving Sustainability for Library Communities

This article was first published in INCITE, ALIA, Dec 2023.

During 2021, we attended a Library Leadership program delivered jointly by the State Library Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria. Fate (some may say destiny) led us to become not only walk-talk partners to digest the program's learnings, but also partners in purpose to find ways of supporting sustainable development in libraries. Despite our vastly different locations, one from a regional setting and the other from a metropolitan one, we found ourselves sharing a deep commitment to the future of the public library industry. This connection took a meaningful turn when we joined a project group focused on exploring how Victorian public libraries could promote environmental sustainability within their communities. As we delved into this research, it became evident that remarkable

sustainability efforts were underway across Victorian libraries. However, a common challenge emerged – the need to facilitate the sharing of this valuable information between library services. In response to this need, our project group (Jacqueline Auhl, Elizabeth Payne and Jac Torres-Gomez) took the initiative to establish a Sustainability Special Interest Group (SIG) under Public Libraries Victoria (PLV). The SIG hosts eight meetings annually and has grown to include membership of more than 60 dedicated Victorian library and information professionals.



In an era marked by unprecedented global challenges, libraries have positioned themselves as dynamic catalysts for change. They no longer simply curate and disseminate knowledge; they actively shape a sustainable future. The SIG encourages library services to integrate the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their service offerings and is

there to offer advice, resources and a commitment to ongoing SDG action.

One exciting initiative in this journey is the development of the new PLV Sustainability Portal ([www.plv.org.au/sustainability-home/](http://www.plv.org.au/sustainability-home/)). This portal is the result of many hours of collaboration between PLV staff, Sustainability SIG convenors and BSO Digital, a Melbourne based web development agency using a grant from Royal Society of Victoria. This innovative platform is a testament to the commitment Victorian libraries make to have a meaningful impact on sustainability, all while fostering a culture of awareness and action among their communities. The key goal of the portal? To support the library industry and communities to increase their knowledge to become more environmentally sustainable, and to spotlight library services who make a positive impact in this area. The site features an [explanation of the SDGs](#) with reference to public libraries, an [interactive map](#) that pinpoints key sustainable initiatives and a [bank of case studies](#) to inspire new sustainable programs and partnerships.



The United Nations SDGs are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all by 2030. They provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. Victoria, with its rich and diverse library network, has taken up the mantle to promote these goals, make them accessible to the public, and build widespread awareness for library and information professionals. The Sustainability Portal breaks down the SDGs into digestible, engaging content that resonates with library users and the broader community displaying how they relate to everyday life. We decided to highlight the sustainable initiatives introduced across Victoria with an interactive map. The map amplifies the innovative solutions libraries have put into practice in an answer to today's environmental and societal challenges. The eight initiatives (community gardens, plant and produce swaps, community pantry, community lunches, energy saver kits, library of things, seed libraries, and the provision of e-waste bins) outline the impact of sustainable

approaches. They provide a tangible example of how individuals, communities and libraries can contribute to a more environmentally conscious and socially responsible world.

The portal acts as a hub of sustainability education for library communities. By providing valuable information and resources, it empowers individuals and services to take action on issues that matter most to them. Whether you're interested in poverty reduction, climate action, or any other SDG, you'll find accessible, informative content on this platform. The website's commitment to science education extends beyond mere information dissemination. It serves as a platform for local libraries to collaborate, share insights and implement projects that align with the SDGs. Victorian libraries are inspiring positive change on a personal, community, and global level. They are helping people understand how individual actions contribute to the larger global agenda. By providing access to the site, which we believe is the first of its kind nationally, libraries promote the idea that every action counts, every voice matters, and collective efforts can bring about profound change.

The portal is not just a static information repository; it's a living, evolving testament to the commitment of Victorian libraries to make a positive difference. To quote the International Federation of Libraries Association (IFLA) 2016, "The consideration

of the role of humanity in climate change and the notion of sustainable development are core concerns of society, and consequently of libraries." This digital platform is a vibrant testament to the power of libraries to shape a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

*Submitted by: Jessica Anderson - Branch Coordinator - Goulburn Valley Libraries, PLV Sustainability SIG Co-convenor*

[JessicaA@qvlibraries.com.au](mailto:JessicaA@qvlibraries.com.au)

*Rachel D'Arcy - Library Team Leader & Portfolio Lead - Brimbank Libraries, PLV Sustainability SIG Co-convenor* [RachelD@brimbank.vic.gov.au](mailto:RachelD@brimbank.vic.gov.au)

## **China - Promoting Sustainable Development and Equitable Education — A green and environmental education activity launched by Shandong Provincial Library for Children**

The library in Shandong Province, China, where I work, has always adhered to the development concept of green environmental protection and providing fair education to society. Recently, we hosted a reading event with the theme "Love Our Mother River" at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. The event aimed to deepen young people's understanding and love for Yellow River

protection and sustainable development through excellent picture book readings, Yellow River knowledge popularization, and interactive exchanges. This event was not only rich in knowledge but also covered various fields such as geography, humanities, and science.



© Shandong Provincial Library

The main speaker first introduced basic information about the Yellow River, including its source and flow regions, to young readers. Then, using the picture book "A Great River" as the main thread, detailed explanations were given on the important terrain areas the Yellow River flows through, such as the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, Ningxia Plain, Loess Plateau, North China Plain, and cities along the route like Xining, Lanzhou, Xi'an, Zhengzhou, and Dongying. Through methods like knowledge organization, video playback, and map positioning, the young readers gained a more comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the Yellow River.

The development and management of the Yellow River are of significant strategic importance and are key to further understanding of the river. The main speaker introduced the sediment issues of the Yellow River and their causes to the young readers, and detailed the main measures taken by China to govern the Yellow River, such as building protective forests and reservoirs. Additionally, by showcasing the remarkable achievements in improving watershed hydrology and restoring ecological environments along the Yellow River, in-depth interactions were conducted with the young readers. This not only enriched their knowledge but also made them deeply proud of the breakthroughs China has achieved in Yellow River governance.

This event aligns closely with SDG 4 and SDG 15 by integrating the promotion of green environmental protection with educational activities to cultivate young people's love for and awareness of protecting the natural environment. This not only enriches educational content but also establishes an environmental protection ethos among young people, laying a solid foundation for building a more sustainable future.

The three-dimensional reading event received support and recognition from parents and young readers. In the future, the Shandong Provincial Library will continue to adhere to the development concept of green

environmental protection and providing fair education to society, fully tap into the collection resources, and organize more high-quality reading events in the new year.

*Submitted by: Ji Chao - Shandong Provincial Library*

## Denmark - Join us in cultivating local engagement for a sustainable future



**WEEK17**  
THE NATIONAL LIBRARY  
WEEK OF SUSTAINABLE  
CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT

In Denmark, the sustainability work of libraries is based on several efforts: Training of local ambassadors, an SDG certification, and the nationwide campaign WEEK17. Now you have the chance to join the WEEK17 movement

and to find ideas for your own work in a new best-practice collection.

WEEK17 is a library campaign which builds on local grass roots engagement and citizen involvement. It takes place in the 17th week of the year (end of April) and focuses on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The campaign was initiated in 2023 by the Danish Library Association and was very successful with a reach of 70 out of 98 municipal libraries in Denmark, which joined WEEK17 together with over 200 local partners. WEEK17 in 2024 is coming up as we write this, and the expectation is to involve even more Danish libraries and local partners. But this year libraries in Sweden, Norway and Iceland are also joining the campaign.

We hope to scale WEEK17 even further in 2024, also internationally, and invite all interested libraries to join the movement and create their own national campaign under the international logo.

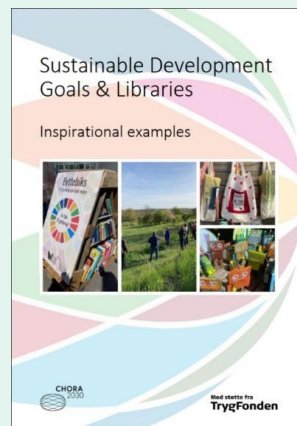
### What goes on in WEEK17?

The WEEK17 concept is for local libraries to create activities that address the SDGs in cooperation with local organizations, institutions, and individual volunteers and grassroots. That way WEEK17 activates and forms partnerships among libraries, other institutions, and civil society.

In Denmark the local effort is supported centrally by a coordinator, who makes agreements with national partners and provide access to common PR materials, posters, press releases etc. The local libraries are also provided with the option of streaming talks organized by the big main libraries.

Being part of WEEK17 should be accessible to all, both big and small libraries, so to join the campaign the local library is only required to create an exhibition or organize an event on the SDGs during the week. However, most of the libraries do a lot more. Please see the website for more information about [WEEK17](#).

### Hands-on examples from 20 Danish libraries



The WEEK17 campaign does not stand alone. 20 Danish libraries have helped develop an SDG certification of libraries and in doing so have adopted the SDGs in their work with the organization, citizens, and local communities.

Based on their work, an inspiration catalogue with hands-on examples of activities has been collected and it is now also available in English: "[SDGs & Libraries - Inspirational examples](#)".

The catalogue covers a wide variety of local actions testing ways to engage citizens in for

example public meetings, swap markets, repair cafés, and literature hikes in local landscapes. It also includes actions committing the library itself to contribute to more sustainable solutions: Phasing out disposables, encouraging reuse of materials, promoting biodiversity in outdoor areas etc.



© Esbjerg Municipal Libraries

### SDG certification of libraries

Currently 40 per cent of all Danish municipal libraries, incl. The Central Library of Greenland, as well as a university research library, is part of the certification programme.

The SDG certification was created to strengthen the ability of libraries to increase citizen participation and capacity for action towards a sustainable future. It was developed through collaboration between the Danish Library Association, non-profit

organization Chora 2030 and 20 pilot libraries. The inspiration catalogue was developed by Chora 2030.

Contact information:

WEEK17: Thomas Sture Rasmussen, Danish Library Association: [tsr@db.dk](mailto:tsr@db.dk)

SDG Certification: Kristine Tolborg, Chora 2030: [kristine@chora2030.dk](mailto:kristine@chora2030.dk)

*Submitted by: Kristine Fjord Tolborg – Chora 2030*

## British Library: Libraries and positive climate action webinar series

In autumn 2023, the British Library hosted webinar series Libraries and positive climate action. The series aimed to stimulate climate action through the sharing of experience and successful practice, giving speakers and attendees the opportunity to hear from voices across the world – in the library space and beyond – on varied responses to the climate crisis.

Over the course of the series, we welcomed speakers from Toronto Public Library, Library Aid Africa, Arizona State University, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, National Library of Australia, National Library Board Singapore, the University of Liverpool,

Cultural Emergency Response, and the British Library. The first session addressed the role that libraries are playing in building climate action through community engagement, while the second explored the work libraries across the world are doing to make their buildings sustainable and carbon neutral. The final webinar focussed on preserving collections in the face of rapidly changing conditions.

This series reflects the British Library’s commitment to support work on solutions to environmental challenges, as highlighted in our corporate strategy [Knowledge Matters 2023-2030](#). If you have any suggestions for topics or speakers for related programming, please contact [charlotte.vyvyan@bl.uk](mailto:charlotte.vyvyan@bl.uk).

*Submitted by: Charlotte Vyvyan - International Skills Exchange and Governance Coordinator, The British Library*

## Indonesia - National Library of Indonesia supporting SDGs by strengthening library services for visually impaired users

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have become a major concern for global society, including libraries. IFLA has actively advocated for libraries to become involved in using and applying SDGs. Libraries have an important role in supporting the achievement

of these goals by providing access to information and knowledge to all levels of society. SDGs 2030 mandates ensuring adequate and inclusive quality education and encouraging lifelong learning opportunities for everyone, reflected in SDG number 4 of the 17.

Diving deeper into these goals, the UN SDGs have created many targets for each goal. “Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations” is target 4.5. By 2030, it is hoped that all levels of society in Indonesia, including persons with disabilities, can have equal access to information and knowledge at all levels of education and training. According to a study by the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 15% of the world’s population, over one billion people live with some form of disability. The vast community needs equal access when it comes to accessing information and technology.

Accordingly, the National Library of Indonesia (NLI) works hard to offer top-notch services to those with impairments. Since its establishment, NLI has given special assistance to patrons with disabilities—particularly for the visually impaired—so they can utilize the library’s resources and services. The NLI is taking the following steps to strengthen library services to

support SDGs for visually impaired users to have equal access to the library as other visitors.

### 1. Provides Braille's and Audiobook collections

In special services for people with disabilities, NLI has a Braille's collection of 7,341 copies of books. They also offer an Audiobook collection, with over 1,704 copies. All collections available through this service have a variety of subjects ranging from general works, novels, history etc. To make it easier for visitors, the librarian will first ask about their information needs, then visitors will be directed to the Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) which is equipped with the NVDA screen reader application, so that it can be operated by visually impaired visitors.

### 2. CCTV Low Vision and Plextalk

CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) Low Vision magnifiers are stationary low vision aids that can help with reading and other near vision tasks. This tool absolutely helps them in reading books. The NLI has two units of CCTV Low Vision. On first use, visitors will be assisted by a librarian to operate this tool properly.



@ Ekaputri, Indah, National Library of Indonesia  
CCTV Low Vision at NLI

Plextalk is an assistive technology that allows people with visually impaired disabilities to hear the information of every word in the book. Visually impaired visitors at NLI really enjoy using this tool, especially young child visitors. At the start of use, visitors will be taught by librarians how to operate this tool.



@ Ekaputri, Indah, National Library of Indonesia  
PlexTalk at NLI

### 3. Digital Talking Computers

Digital Talking Computer is basically a computer that already has installed a screen reader software called NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access). NVDA will read the text on the computer screen and convert it to voice. Visitors can use the Digital Talking Computers provided by NLI in a particular room which is restricted only for the visually impaired users in a cubical area. NLI has five computers active that help visually impaired visitors operate them freely. There are many benefits that visually impaired visitors can experience in using Digital Talking Computers with various digital collections provided by NLI, including:

**a. Access to e-resources by NLI**

E-resources consist of scientific journals, e-books and other online reference works which can be accessed free, if visitors have a library membership and are registered as members. Currently, NLI has subscribed to more than 40 electronic publishers, which can be accessed anywhere and anytime. E-resources can be accessed on the page <https://e-resources.perpusnas.go.id/> and each collection can be used with Digital Talking Computer provided by NLI.



@ Ekaputri, Indah, National Library of Indonesia  
Digital Talking Computer at NLI

**b. Access to iPusnas**

iPusnas is a digital library application provided by the NLI, which aims to make it

easier for the public to access all reading materials in the National Library using gadgets or devices owned by each individual. iPusnas can be accessed by anyone, anywhere and at any time, including people living in remote areas who have difficulty accessing conventional libraries in their area. Visually impaired users can have the same access as all visitors to use facilities and get the information of the application assisted with Digital Talking Computer.

**c. Access to BintangPusnas**

BintangPusnas is an application specifically for school and college students, by presenting a diverse and educational digital collection. Hopefully, students with visual impairments can still gain the same knowledge as others, through the sophistication of the Digital Talking Computer.

**4. Recreation function of library by organizing events and attractions for visually impaired users**

Apart from the collections served for visually impaired visitors, NLI also offers various other services that visually impaired visitors can utilize in the library as a recreational function, including:

**a. Conducting inspirational talk show events**

One of the activities in disseminating knowledge and information for visually impaired visitors provided by NLI is conducting an inspirational talk show entitled "Independence in limitations" This talk show invites the expert with visual disabilities who have inspiring stories about their successful career journey so that they can influence other visitors who have the same experience to be able to achieve their goals and achieve dreams without limitations.



@YouTube WBS Radio Perpusnas,  
*Independence in Limitations Talkshow*

**b. Harnessing the music studio**

Furthermore, there are other attractive spaces that visitors can enjoy when visiting NLI. Visitors can use the music studio and gamelan studio (a typical Javanese musical instrument) to practice and learn music, as they depend on their sense of touch and sense of hearing in harnessing the musical instrument. All these services are free, and

librarians can accompany the users in using the tools.



@ Restu Putri Sholikhah, National Library of Indonesia  
NLI Music Studio (below), NLI Gamelan Studio (above)

Submitted by: Restu Putri Sholikhah - Librarian at National Library of Indonesia

## Indonesia - Building Networks on the theme of Green Libraries

In recent years, the Goethe-Institut Jakarta Library has been working to implement

green library principles while remaining committed to furthering our understanding of the concept. Green libraries are a relatively new idea in Indonesia, with only a few public libraries incorporating green practices into their programs and services or building designs. The idea of green libraries has not been actively promoted, including in the government initiatives and university library science programs.

Recognising this gap, the Goethe-Institut took the initiative to host a workshop on the theme of green libraries. We believe it is imperative for us to take proactive steps towards creating a greener environment in Indonesia, starting with simple yet impactful initiatives in the libraries we manage. For this workshop, we invited representatives from 12 public libraries in the Greater Jakarta area, namely: the National Library of Indonesia (Perpusnas RI), Jakarta Public Library at Cikini, East Jakarta Public Library, Bekasi Regency Archives and Library, Bekasi City Public Library, Bogor City Library and Gallery, Tangerang City Public Library, Tangerang Regency Public Library, Depok City Public Library, Cinta Baca Library, and RPTRA (Child Friendly Integrated Public Space) Mutiara Sumur Batu. The Goethe-Institut Bandung Library also participated. Each library was represented by two librarians.



© Laili Muttamimah/Goethe-Institut Jakarta

Prior to the workshop, we surveyed participants to assess their familiarity with green library principles, what their implementation strategies were, if any, and their plans for future greener initiatives. While some libraries had already begun implementing green practices, others cited challenges such as limited resources and knowledge on the topic. Throughout the workshop, participants not only shared insights but also built relationships between their respective institutions.

The workshop was organised in collaboration with the National Library of Indonesia and Tim Schumann, Head of the Heinrich-Böll Library in Berlin, founder of Libraries-4-Future and co-founder of the Green Library Network in Germany. The National Library of Indonesia shared its experience implementing green library

materials and Tim Schumann provided perspectives on the implementation of green library principles in Europe, Africa, and America. Together, we built on fundamental concepts like sustainability and climate change and took a deeper look into case studies of successful green library implementations, as well as effective management strategies for cooperative library projects.

Participants exchanged ideas and presented innovative approaches to green libraries during the workshop. Some practical suggestions included phasing out plastic membership cards in favour of PDF format cards, refraining from covering book collections, establishing herbal literacy gardens on library premises, and involving local Family Welfare Empowerment (PKK) communities in gardening and craft activities within library spaces. There was also interest in expanding library collections to include items such as baby equipment and kebaya (traditional attire) for graduation ceremonies.

The workshop served as a platform for meaningful engagement and collaboration. From some participants' initial hesitancy to the eventual active involvement of all attendees by the end of the two-day workshop, it became evident that meaningful connections were formed. To sustain this momentum, we established a WhatsApp Group to facilitate ongoing communication and knowledge-sharing among participants

on the topic of green libraries in Indonesia. Looking ahead, our goal is to organise regular meetings to exchange success stories and advance green library initiatives across all participating libraries.

*Submitted by: Nathalie Sugondho and Laili Muttamimah, Goethe-Institut Jakarta*

## **Italy - The Italian Library Association's involvement in the Position Paper for Culture published by the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (OBISS- AIB)**

[The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development](#) (ASviS) was founded in Italy on 3 February 2016 on the initiative of the Unipolis Foundation and Tor Vergata University of Rome. Almost three-hundred-member organizations support sustainability policies aiming to achieve the seventeen goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

ASviS carries out various activities, including further education, the organization of events and seminars, and the creation of publications including reports, position papers and analysis. It connects scholars and experts through the formation of working groups with specific themes. Because of its

unique approach, ASviS has been recognized on two occasions by the United Nations as a finalist in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Action Awards.

Free access publications are created by working groups composed by association representatives and experts. They discuss specific themes, usually concentrating on one of the seventeen objectives. In the case of culture, there is a multi-disciplinary group which includes the Italian Library Association (AIB), represented by members of its [Observatory on Libraries and Sustainable Development](#) (OBISS) which is an integral part of AIB's organization chart.

This group was created because ASviS is aware that the Agenda 2030's culture component is not a specific objective, rather it needs to be considered as a strategic multi-disciplinary approach aiming to attain all seventeen goals. In fact, every cultural activity not only fosters citizens and governments towards the achievement of sustainability, but those same cultural initiatives produce well-being and anticipate sustainability.

The multi-disciplinary culture group identified the need for a position paper to advocate for the policies Italy needs to promote and support cultural activity for sustainable development.

From an analysis of the 2021 Eurostat statistics reviewing economic expenditure in

the cultural sector as a percentage of the Gross National Product, Italy is among the lowest spending countries in the European Union, hence the working group's decision to produce and publish their Position Paper: [Cultural Organizations and Sustainable Development: areas for urgent consideration](#)

The paper is the result of lengthy dialogue between the representatives of different actors in the cultural sector. The description and summation of the sector's needs is complicated because of its nuanced and complex functions, and disparate participating categories.

AIB's Observatory on Libraries and Sustainable Development participated proactively in the production of the document, advocating for IFLA's policies on digital literacy, the ability to evaluate information, select what is appropriate and use it in an effective manner to create knowledge and further information. Recent developments concerning digital literacy and artificial intelligence were also reported. Competency in this area was recognized as an activity characterizing libraries.

Since libraries in Italy are important organisms, relevant for their capillary distribution across the territory and for their open and free access, it was considered important to underline that they could contribute to closing the digital divide by

promoting digital alphabetization and by spreading quality information.

With the contribution of the Observatory on Libraries and Sustainable Development, AIB underlines and reinforces the role of libraries in the change needed for the achievement of the Agenda 2030 SDGs, and in advocacy for political movements and government to be attentive to the needs of the cultural sector.

*Submitted by: Paola Maddaluno, member of the Observatory on Libraries and Sustainable Development (OBISS) of Italian Library Association (AIB).*

## Singapore: Sustainability starts young in Singapore Public Libraries

In Singapore, the public libraries provide a myriad of opportunities for children of all ages to learn about the environment. This article highlights the latest sustainability offerings by the National Library Board (NLB), as we work with partners to engage our patrons and enrich their learning experiences.

### Earth Heroes

Earth Heroes is NLB's programme series for children that covers various green topics, such as nature appreciation, food sustainability, and climate change. Apart

from the vast library collection, children are encouraged to learn through various formats, including storytelling sessions, interactive talks, hands-on workshops, drop-in activities, learning journeys, and outreaches. Conducted by librarians, partners, and volunteers, these programmes introduce children to environmental issues and sustainable habits, empowering them to play a role in protecting the Earth's future.

### Children's Biodiversity Library by S.E.A. Aquarium



© National Library Board, Singapore  
Library patrons visiting the Children's Biodiversity Library by S.E.A. Aquarium at Central Public Library

Officially opened on 12 January 2024, the Children's Biodiversity Library by S.E.A. Aquarium is the first marine biodiversity-themed learning space for children at a public library in Singapore. Developed in partnership with Resorts World Sentosa, it is

located within the Central Public Library, one of the 28 libraries managed by NLB.

The children's collection is shelved within the immersive Intertidal and Open Ocean Zones, and the space contains infographics about the rich biodiversity of these habitats. Patrons often gravitate towards the main highlight in this space which is a colourful floor-to-ceiling column depicting a coral reef, surrounded by shelves of books. Children can view marine and coral specimens, and even a projection of sea jellies from the S.E.A. Aquarium! In a room called The Submarine, children can attend regular library programmes such as eco-themed storytelling sessions and recycled art workshops.



© National Library Board, Singapore

*Families sitting and reading together at the colourful floor-to-ceiling coral reef column.*



© National Library Board, Singapore

*A parent and child appreciating marine specimens on display.*



© National Library Board, Singapore

*Children learn about marine biology and conservation through a workshop in The Submarine.*

### Green Market

From 8 to 9 June 2024, the Central Public Library will host Green Market, NLB's popular family friendly event that celebrates sustainable living and connects the

community to green groups and initiatives they can support. This year's theme, The Sea-cret Edition, explores the wonders of the sea to promote understanding of our deep interconnections and urge action to safeguard it. Children can look forward to wildlife-themed storytelling sessions, eco-friendly art workshops, and check out Singapore's mangroves and intertidal zones through a virtual exploration!



© National Library Board, Singapore

*Green Market: The Sea-cret Edition explores the wonders of the sea through various library programmes and activities.*

*Submitted by: By Aida Abdul Rahim, Manager/Librarian (Children and Teens)*

### Spain - Literature and Environment Residency

For nine days, from November 27 to December 5, 2023, the Green Library of the National Center for Environmental Education (CENEAM), National Parks Autonomous Agency (OAPN) of Spain organized the [Literature and Environment Residency](#). The



Residence offered the possibility to ten writers from Spain to use its specialized library as an inspirational place to work in a text about sustainability. CENEAM helped with the accommodation, food and areas to work.



© Rosario Toril

This activity is framed in the [Environmental Education Action Plan for Sustainability \(PAEAS\)](#). And along the lines of including the artistic and creative dimension in the construction of new environmental and social narratives.

The objectives of this activity are:

- Promote new environmental narratives in literary formats as catalysts of environmental education for sustainability.

- Support creative work in literature and the environment.
- Promote a space for inspiration and exchange.
- Make a digital publication.
- Dissemination of the works in the media and publication of the CENEAM-OAPN

It is also supported by the international guidelines of the Environment, Sustainability and Libraries Section (ENSULIB) of the International Federation of Library Associations and Libraries (IFLA), which promote that Green Libraries should offer spaces to share and organize environmental awareness-raising activities that awaken people's critical sense in these times of climate emergency. It also links with UNESCO's Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Programme, since the realization of this Residency helps to "empower people to assume their responsibility towards present and future generations and actively contribute to the transformation of the society". And finally, with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

The Creative Residency is carried out with the aim of ten writers working for nine days on their literary projects with environmental themes, framed in the PAEAS mission. For this purpose, it puts at your disposal its facilities and the Documentation Center in Valsaín, Segovia.

Ten writers (five women and five men) from different regions of Spain spent nine days in the Residence. It has been an excellent activity due the creativity, kindness, generosity from the most expert to the young that it created a special ambiance. After this period the selected participants have had two months to finish a text that will be published in a book by the National Parks Autonomous Agency in 2024.

Given the good reception of this activity, we will carry out the second edition at the end of this year.

*Submitted by: Rosario Toril, Documentalist  
National Centre of Environmental Education of Spain*

## Türkiye - Türkiye's First Sustainable Library: Rami Library

In recent years, sustainability and environmental awareness have emerged as prominent global concerns. Rami Library, Türkiye's first sustainable library, transcends the conventional role of book repository by championing an eco-friendly lifestyle and establishing itself as a verdant sanctuary. Located in Istanbul's Rami district, Rami Library sprawls across a vast expanse of 51,000 square meters within the historical Rami Barracks, dating back to the mid-18th century.



@anonymus

A nearly decade-long, three-phase restoration initiative, started in 2014 and concluded in 2023, has elevated the library beyond a mere repository, emphasizing its

pivotal role in fostering an environmentally conscious and sustainable way of life.



©Rami Library

At the heart of Rami Library, a vibrant green courtyard pulsates, serving as both a visual spectacle and a symbol of reverence for nature. The area boasts a rich biodiversity philosophy with the preservation of ancient trees, the introduction of new ones, and the cultivation of 33 different shrub species, over 40 tree varieties, and grassy expanses.

Rami Library distinguishes itself not only through its unique architecture and lush greenery but also through its unwavering commitment to sustainability. The library secured the Biosphere Certificate in 2023, a testament to its endeavours in minimizing environmental impact, conserving biological diversity, and nurturing a sustainable ecosystem. This certification unequivocally underscores Rami Library's responsibility towards nature and ecosystems.

The landscaping endeavours extend beyond aesthetics, playing a pivotal role in fostering environmental awareness. Rami Library, through activities such as landscape maintenance and plant introductions, serves as an educational hub enlightening visitors about nature and green practices. This awareness transcends the library's premises, setting an exemplary standard for promoting sustainable living throughout the city.



©Rami Library

As Türkiye's first sustainable library, Rami Library not only bequeaths a green legacy but actively adapts to contemporary trends by closely monitoring global developments. In this vein, the library engages with the community through activities and services aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

## Sustainability Initiatives of Rami Library:

### Rainwater Harvesting System:

Rami Library embraces an environmentally sustainable approach by implementing a rainwater harvesting system. This system collects rainwater for various purposes, storing it for garden irrigation and other applications.

### Workshops for earthquake survivors:

In response to the 2023 earthquakes in Kahramanmaraş, Rami Library played a pivotal role in mitigating the impact and fostering social solidarity. Psychotherapy and play workshops were organized for both parents and children, providing emotional support and facilitating community bonding through interactive games.



@ Rami Library

### Green Activities:

Rami Library hosts a variety of green events designed to inspire both children and adults to embrace sustainability and connect with nature. Some notable activities include:

- **Exploring Rami: Getting to Know Plants:**  
Aiming to enhance nature appreciation, this activity provides participants with an opportunity to identify and connect with the plants in their surroundings.
- **Sustainable Seeds: Recycling Workshop:**  
Participants gain insights into sustainable agriculture and seed cultivation, concurrently understanding the significance of recycling.
- **Making Notebooks from Recycled Paper:**  
This workshop imparts skills to participants on crafting notebooks from recycled materials, promoting a sustainable lifestyle.

These initiatives align with Rami Library's mission of not merely serving as an information source but actively creating an environmentally conscious community while raising awareness about sustainable living. Rami Library perseveres in contributing to a green future through ongoing projects and pioneering eco-friendly practices.



© Rami Library

*Submitted by: Hilal Sultan Taşçı, Sustainability Team Leader at Rami Library*

## Türkiye – Rural Library Network

The Rural Library Network Türkiye aims to empower librarians serving in rural areas by facilitating the sharing of knowledge and experiences, thereby enhancing their professional development and supporting the sustainable development of rural communities. This initiative, established with the support of the European Union's community incubation program, has successfully completed the program and secured funding.

The network operates through online events and training sessions, fostering collaboration and continuous learning among its members.

From May 20-22, 2024, a significant meeting of the Rural Library Network was held at the Agro Library, which has been shortlisted for the ENSULIB 2024 Green Library Projects. This event brought together 20 librarians from 15 different cities across Türkiye.



©Merve Yavuzdemir

The event was structured around the concept of a leaderless orchestra model, promoting peer learning through various workshops. Each librarian conducted activities based on their regional initiatives, offering a diverse range of sessions from Philosophy for Children to Sign Language, Organic Farming, Seed Workshops, Creative Writing, and Badminton.

At the end of the event, the participating librarians contributed seeds from their regions to the Agro Library's Seed Library, symbolizing their commitment to sustainability and knowledge sharing.

## Background and Objectives

The transformative impact of libraries on their communities is widely recognized, and rural libraries play a crucial role in the sustainable development of these areas. While international bodies such as the ALA and the Association for Small and Rural Libraries, among others, support the global transformative effect of libraries, Türkiye previously lacked a similar initiative.

The establishment of the Rural Library Network Türkiye aims to fill this gap by fostering sustainability and addressing needs in various fields including economy, agriculture, climate, society, development, and communication. It provides librarians with opportunities for education, collaboration, and innovation.



©Merve Yavuzdemir

## Activities and Achievements

The network's design focuses on strengthening rural development and the library sector in Türkiye. It offers a platform for experts in rural libraries to share their ideas and practical recommendations, supporting their professional growth through a community network model. This model embraces distributed leadership, inspired by the leaderless orchestra movement, and promotes a socio-critical structure that supports thematic and intersectional activities.



©Merve Yavuzdemir

A notable achievement is the success of the Banaz District Public Library in Uşak, which entered the top 10 projects of the UNDP Social Innovation Program in 2021 and was rebranded as the Agro Library in November 2022. It became the first Turkish library to be selected for the Green Library Posters by

IFLA's ENSULIB commission, leading to its application for the 2024 IFLA Green Library Awards and its subsequent shortlisting.



©Merve Yavuzdemir

The success of the Agro Library Project has inspired other rural libraries. The recent Agro Library Meeting provided a crucial platform for librarians to engage in peer learning and share innovative solutions to the challenges they face. This collaborative approach has strengthened community culture and fostered a spirit of cooperation among rural librarians in Türkiye. Contact with network by following social media on @kirsalkutuphaneleragi

*Submitted by: Merve Yavuzdemir, Head of the Foreign Relations Department at the General Directorate of Libraries and Publications of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Türkiye*

## USA - American Libraries Association's Sustainability Roundtable Celebrated 10 Years in 2023

The ALA Sustainability Roundtable celebrated ten years of existence in 2023 by having a virtual "birthday" celebration in December. As the roundtable members thought back on all that SustainRT has accomplished and reflected on the important work ahead, the party provided an opportunity for the library community to celebrate SustainRT and ALA's commitment to sustainability.

The party included remarks from some of SustainRT's founders (Madeleine Charney and [ENSULIB's] Beth Filar Williams), a competitive sustainability-themed trivia game, a prize giveaway, and information about how to get involved in sustainability in libraries. SustainRT and others were also invited to sign a "birthday card" by answering one or more of the questions on a Padlet page:

<https://padlet.com/amidfallenleaves/sustainrt-turns-10-nmq6nx0r1z43y1s7> ENSULIB members are invited to add their own messages to the card and browse the many well-wishes from others.

The party was an opportunity to remember how important community, connection, and gratitude are to the work of sustainability. And it was a lot of fun!



@Mandi Goodsett

*Submitted by Mandi Goodsett, Performing Arts & Humanities Librarian, OER & Copyright Advisor, Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University, member of ALA Sustainability Roundtable Steering Committee*

# International Green Library Resources

## Seed Library Map: Growing Together

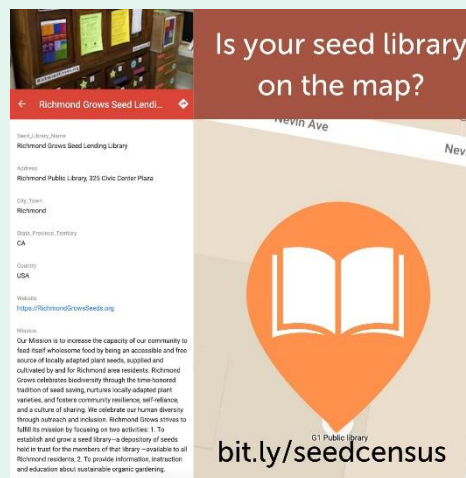
This year marks a groundbreaking effort in the seed library community: the first-ever Global Seed Library Census. Imagine a world where every seed library is connected, making it easier for people to find and connect with these vital community resources. With dozens of census volunteers working over the last few months, we're creating the most comprehensive global Seed Library Map ever. This project is especially beneficial for librarians who may be inexperienced with seeds, providing them with the support and resources they need.

### Why Participate?

Our journey began with a simple goal: to map out every seed library in the world. These libraries are essential community resources that promote food sovereignty, biodiversity, cultural connection and celebration of seeds, and truly local food. The census not only connects seed libraries to each other but also facilitates the sharing of resources, so that each seed library doesn't have to create everything on its own.

If you want access to label templates, ideas and templates for checkout procedures, best practices for saving or storing seeds, educational resources for seed savers, or just knowing what other seed libraries are doing, we encourage you to participate.

### How You Can Help



We need your help to build a more thorough and global resource. If you run a seed library, participate in our census at <http://bit.ly/seedcensus>. It only takes a few minutes to put your library on the map. Your input will help us understand the needs and resources of the seed library community, guiding our efforts to support you better.

## The Heart of the Census

Our census has two parts. The first part, which takes less than five minutes, gets your library on the map. The second part, optional and taking about 5-10 minutes, dives deeper into your library's structure and needs. We offer the census in sixteen languages and hope to add additional languages in the future.



### How the information will be used

- populate the [Seed Library Map](#)
- help others near you or in similar bioregions connect
- assess needs of seed libraries to help with the SLN programming and resource offerings
- identify trends in the seed library community and local seed saving efforts,

such as an increase in locally grown seeds or types of programs offered

### Stay connected!

The Seed Library Network was established in 2011 to support communities to create local seed projects. We provide free, online resources on how to start and maintain a seed library as well as feature special projects that some seed libraries offer. We also host a summit to bring together the seed library community to share inspiration and best practices. Check out our Cool Beans! 🌱

Newsletter on [seedlibrarynetwork.substack.com](https://seedlibrarynetwork.substack.com). Stay connected with us by joining us on our [UpBeet! Seed Library Forum](#) and on social media @SeedLibraries.

Please share this survey with your other branches to ensure that they are included on the map. By filling in this census, you become part of this growing community!

*Submitted by: Rebecca Newburn, Founder of Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library and the Seed Library Network*

## The International Green Library Bibliography is celebrating a milestone

The German Green Library Network (NGB) can proudly announce: Our [International Green Library Bibliography](#) has now reached its 1000-title mark! The origins of this literature collection go back to the bibliography contained in the 2013 IFLA publication "[The Green Library: The challenge of environmental sustainability](#)". The collection was continued in the following years by the publication's co-editor Petra Hauke – member of ENSULIB Standing Committee and NGB founding member.

Since the beginning of 2019, I am responsible for the continuation of the collection, which at that time has grown to more than 300 titles. When inserting it into our website I have subsequently tagged the sources, provided abstracts and continuously supplemented them with further titles on "libraries and sustainability in theory and practice" from all over the world. This bibliography can be useful for everyone who is looking for both best practice suggestions as well as scientific studies. Entirely in the spirit of the [17 UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), "sustainability" is understood here more broadly and not only in an ecological sense.

The bibliography's search interface is switchable between German and English.

Within the bibliography you can search by year of publication, author/publisher, title, and keywords as well as choose from a total of 9 reference types (book, book (edited), chapter, conference proceedings, grey literature, internet document, journal article, poster, and thesis). Most of the bibliographic items are journal articles (right now 514), followed by book chapters (160), and Internet documents (113). You can also filter the bibliographic items by language (currently by 17 languages; soon there will be a choice between 26 different languages). Most of the literature sources (about two thirds) are in English, followed by German, French, and Italian. You can also decide if you want to have your search results sorted alphabetically or chronologically. As far as the documents are Open Access, the bibliographic entries are linked with the full texts.

For our bibliography, which continues to improve and expand in cooperation with ENSULIB, we are really grateful for any kind of suggestions, additions or comments which you can send to [bibliografie@netzwerk-gruene-bibliothek.de](mailto:bibliografie@netzwerk-gruene-bibliothek.de).

*Submitted by: Beate Hoerning, German Green Library Network*

# Engage with ENSULIB and IFLA Green Library Projects

## Seeking Suggestions and Expectations for the IFLA Guidelines for Green and Sustainable Libraries

We are excited to inform you that we are in the process of developing guidelines for creating green and sustainable libraries. As we strive to build a greener future, we believe that libraries play an important role in advocating environmental consciousness and sustainability.

These guidelines aim to provide a set of concrete recommendations and best practices that can be applied to libraries or information centres of any size and type. By implementing these guidelines, libraries can demonstrate their commitment to environmental responsibility, increase awareness of green and sustainable issues, inspire active change in their communities, ensure diversity, equity and inclusivity, as well as foster a more sustainable future.

There are lots of literature, toolkits, bibliographical materials and best practices devoted to the topics related to green and sustainable libraries. However, there are no professional guidelines or international standards in the global library field that direct and represent the development of green and sustainable libraries worldwide. IFLA is the voice of libraries worldwide and the most important global association for libraries. It is indispensable for IFLA to offer the guidelines for building and developing green and sustainable libraries.

### The Scope

The scope of the guidelines or international standards for developing green and sustainable libraries includes relevant recommendations on global consistency and accountability, knowledge sharing on best practices, enhancement of the impact on sustainable goals and DEI (diversity, equity and inclusivity) through policies, as well as support of libraries in their vital role as community leaders in sustainability.

### Intended Audiences

The intended audiences of the guidelines are librarians, community stakeholders, local government agencies, policy-makers at national and regional levels, both formal and informal educational institutions, and other interested individuals and parties.

We value your expertise, innovative ideas and diverse perspectives. Your suggestions will help us in shaping comprehensive and practical guidelines that can be implemented by libraries of any size and type.

To contribute, please email your suggestions, advice and expectations to [petra.hauke@hu-berlin.de](mailto:petra.hauke@hu-berlin.de) or [nipun@um.edu.mo](mailto:nipun@um.edu.mo) by 15 September 2024. Kindly feel free to include any relevant case studies or success stories of green initiatives that have been implemented in your library.

Thank you for your support!

*Project Team of the IFLA Guidelines for  
Green and Sustainable Libraries*

## How to get involved with Climate Empowerment in 2024

Over the past years, IFLA has been working to raise awareness within the library field on [Action for Climate Empowerment \(ACE\)](#)— and we have seen some real progress! For the first time, contributions both from IFLA and generally from the library field [were included in the summary report on ACE implementation](#), which informed the deliberations at COP28.



Looking ahead to 2024, libraries are encouraged to get more meaningfully involved in reporting on their climate action and making connections beyond the field. Here are some ideas for actions to bring your climate empowerment work to the next level.

### Action 1: Follow up on COP28 Recommendations

IFLA once again brought library voices to the UN Climate Change Conferences during COP28 in Dubai, UAE in December 2023. We brought together perspectives from across the culture sector to discuss what is needed to maintain and grow culture-based greening education in support of ACE goals.



The [discussion resulted in a number of recommendations](#) both for institutions like libraries and for policymakers. Take these

into consideration in your project planning and in your advocacy.

#### What can you do now?

- Read the full report from IFLA's work at COP28 here: [Culture Greening Communities Brief](#)
- At COP28, IFLA hosted a side event in the Greening Education Hub that highlighted the role of culture in greening education, especially following a community-based, lifelong learning approach. [View this resource on the IFLA repository](#)
- Is your library active in enabling climate communication, education, access to information, and public participation? [Learn more about Action for Climate Empowerment](#) here.
- Contact your [national ACE Focal Point](#) and let them know you are interested in participating in your country's ACE strategies. You can refer to the key messages shared at this COP28 side event.
- Learn more about [UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership](#) and consider how you might get involved.

### Action 2: Help IFLA measure library impact

In order to share the impact libraries are making on climate empowerment and advocate for sustainable support, we must

build a solid evidence base with measurable metrics.

IFLA and MECCE are soon launching a first edition of the [climate communication and education library indicators](#) that we began developing during 2023.

#### What can you do now?

- **We need your help to add your country to the global data platform!** Take stock of how your library is enabling climate empowerment and participate in the [survey](#) today. Share the [Library Association survey](#) with your national association and request that they participate as well.

### Action 3: Expand your ACE activities and share results

There have been many great ideas for the role of libraries in climate empowerment collected during the past years. Start by revisiting ideas generated during [IFLA's climate session at WLIC 2023](#). COP28 enabled IFLA to participate in multisectoral conversations and identify emerging priorities where libraries might make an impact.

#### Future activities could include

- How Indigenous librarianship helps share, record, and apply knowledge

- (including that transmitted orally) in support of climate action
- ways in which libraries are localising data for disaster risk reduction, translating data on hazards to locally-informed threats and enabling public outreach
- how libraries address climate data gaps, highlighting citizen science, open science principles and the role of libraries in making climate research available for all the roles of specialised libraries, including academic and research libraries, parliamentary libraries, and science libraries
- If you engage in activities within these areas, let us know ([claire.mcguire@ifla.org](mailto:claire.mcguire@ifla.org)). We would be excited to work with you to highlight your results.

#### **Action 4: Make connections beyond the library field**

Addressing the climate emergency will take everyone working together. Libraries will only be able to reach their potential in empowering climate action if they are seen as partners. Luckily, the more involved the library field becomes in climate action, the more evidence we can bring to power our advocacy and initiate such connections.

*What can you do now?*

- Connect with the culture sector. Reaching out to local partners in the culture sector could be a good starting point. Look for ways to increase knowledge exchange and cooperation between cultural institutions, including between museums, libraries, and other knowledge holders.
- Connect with national ACE contacts. Contact your [national ACE Focal Point](#), share IFLA's report from COP28 and express interest in getting involved in climate empowerment in your country.
- Connect with national policymakers [Libraries were named](#) among essential partners with whom Parties are encouraged to partner on culture-based climate action in the Emirates Declaration on Culture-Based Climate Action.

As another key outcome of COP28, *Parties further signed a Common Agenda* on Education and Climate Change, which includes a community-based, lifelong learning pillar. The following Parties have endorsed both the declarations on culture-based climate action and a common agenda on education: Cyprus, France, Ghana, Iceland, Lebanon, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Spain, Tonga, and the United Arab Emirates. These declarations are a great starting point for establishing contact with your National Focal Point, thanking them for showing leadership in

placing culture and education at the heart of climate action, and expressing the dedication of the library field in supporting these goals. You can find the list of [National UNFCCC Focal Points here](#).

#### **Key Dates for Climate Action in 2024**

3-13 Jun – Bonn Climate Change Conference and ACE Dialogues: As a halfway point between COPs, Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change will meet to discuss implementation of the convention and set the agenda for COP29. This will also be the occasion of the third annual [Action for Climate Empowerment dialogues](#), and a good opportunity to reach out to your [ACE Focal Point](#) and share how libraries help enable climate action.

5 June – World Environment Day: this year, IFLA will look to deepen further our engagement with the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in November, as well as work with the global network of climate empowerment leads to mobilise (and seek recognition and support for) libraries to help build climate action at the level of individuals and communities. [World Environment Day](#) is a great opportunity to underline this work.

11-24 Nov – UN Climate Change Conference (COP29): To be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, COP29 will once again bring together climate ministers, governments,

and civil society organisation to set global goals for mitigating the climate crisis. Building on [progress over the past years](#), this will present new opportunities to further recognition for culture, and libraries, in empowering climate action and realising just, low-carbon, and resilient futures.

*Contact: [claire.mcguire@ifla.org](mailto:claire.mcguire@ifla.org)*

*This article was first published on the [IFLA Website](#)*

# International Days Observed by the United Nations July - December

## July

11 World Population Day

15 World Youth Skills Day

30 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons

## August

09 International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

12 International Youth Day

19 World Humanitarian Day

29 International Day Against Nuclear Tests

## September

05 International Day of Charity

07 International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies

08 International Literacy Day (UNESCO)

09 International Day to Protect Education from Attack

16 International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer

18 International Equal Pay Day

21 International Day of Peace

26 International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

28 International Day for Universal Access to Information

29 International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste

## October

04 World Habitat Day

05 World Teachers Day

08 World Migratory Bird Day

11 International Day of the Girl Child

15 International Day for Rural Women

16 World food day

24 World Development Information Day

## November

06 World Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict

10 World Science Day for Peace and Development

20 World Children's Day

25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

## December

02 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

05 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

05 World Soil Day

10 Human Rights Day

20 International Human Solidarity Day

*This list is taken from: [Annual International Days: List of the official annual international days, that are observed or declared by the United Nations](#)*