Editorial

Sustainable Development Goals: A Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global objectives, set out in the 2030 Agenda. The Scopus database was used for the bibliometric analysis, based on the term "sustainable development goals". The better result shows in the function of the number of documents produced: year 2024; source Sustainability; author Leal Filho, W.; affiliation Chinese Academy of Sciences; country USA; document type article; scientific area Social Sciences and funding support National Natural Science Foundation of China.

KEYWORDS: sustainable development goals (SDGs); sustainable development; sustainability

The sustainable development goals cover environmental, social and economic development issues, including hunger, poverty, health, education, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, global warming, urbanization and social justice. The goals are broad and interdependent, but each has a separate list of targets to be achieved. Higher education for sustainability plays a very important role in achieving these goals [1–4].

The bibliometric analysis used the database Scopus/Elsevier to search for the documents. Using the term "sustainable development goals", TITLE-ABS-KEY "sustainable development goals", 44,298 documents were identified (a search carried out on January 28th, 2025).

The results obtained in documents can be seen in Table 1, for the first ten positions concerning year, source, author, affiliation, country, document type, scientific area, and funding support. The better results obtained show in function of the number of documents produced: year 2024 (11,485), followed by the years 2023 (8328) and 2022 (42,618); source *Sustainability (Switzerland)*—MDPI (2702) followed by *Journal of Cleaner Production*—Elsevier (703) and *Journal of Lifestyle and SDGs Review*—Editora Alumni In (593); author Leal Filho, W.—Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften Hamburg (54), followed by Bekun, F.V.—İstanbul Gelişim Üniversitesi (51) and Fu, B.—Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences Chinese Academy of Sciences and Nhamo, G.—University of South Africa (43); affiliation Chinese Academy of Sciences (799) followed by Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (417) and University

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of Chinese Academy of Sciences (403); country USA (5763) followed by UK (5163) and India (4891); document type Article (27,508) followed by Book Chapter (5844) and Conference Paper (4694); scientific area Social Sciences (17,461) followed by Environmental Science (16,126) and Energy (7828) and funding support National Natural Science Foundation of China (1623) followed by European Commission (1284) and Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (921).

Table 1. Documents (44,298) by (source Scopus/Elsevier, January 28th, 2025).

No.	Year	Source	Author	Affiliation
1	2024 (11,485)	*Sustainability* (2702)	Leal Filho, W. (54)	Chinese Academy of Sciences (799)
2	2023 (8308)	*Journal of Cleaner Production* (703)	Bekun, F.V. (51)	Organisation Mondiale de la Santé (417)
3	2022 (6643)	*Journal of Lifestyle and SDGs Review* (599)	Fu, B. (43)	University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (403)
4	2021 (5452)	*Sustainable Development Goals Series* (514)	Nhamo, G. (43)	University College London (340)
5	2020 (4124)	*IOP Conference Series Earth and Environmental Science* (493)	Alola, A.A. (42)	University of Oxford (330)
6	2019 (2628)	*Sustainable Development* (380)	Bhutta, Z.A. (41)	University of Johannesburg (320)
7	2018 (1913)	*E3s Web of Conferences* (337)	Adebayo, T.S. (40)	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (301)
8	2017 (1166)	*Environmental Science and Pollution Research* (317)	Nasr, M. (40)	Universidade de São Paulo (300)
9	2016 (669)	*Science of the Total Environment* (304)	Liu, J. (38)	Ministry of Education of China (286)
10	2015 (288)	*Environment Development and Sustainability* (260)	Raman, R. (38)	The University of Queensland (279)

Table 1. *Cont*.

No.	Country	Type	Area	Funding Support
1	USA (5763)	Article (27,508)	Social Sciences (17,461)	National Natural Science Foundation of China (1623)
2	UK (5163)	Book Chapter (5844)	Environmental Science (16,126)	European Comission (1284)
3	India (4891)	Conference Paper (4694)	Energy (7828)	Ministry of Science and Technology of China (921)
4	China (4860)	Review (4000)	Engineering (7472)	Horizon 2020 Framework Programme (570)
5	Australia (2799)	Book (796)	Business, Management and Accounting (6810)	UK Research and Innovation (439)
6	Spain (2631)	Editorial (513)	Computer Science (5980)	National Key Research and Development Program of China (398)
7	Germany (2223)	Note (458)	Economics, Econometrics and Finance (5523)	Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (350)
8	Italy (2185)	Conference Review (143)	Medicine (4955)	Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (3603)
9	South Africa (2049)	Short Survey (76)	Agricultural and Biological Sciences (3877)	Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (347)
10	Canada (1817)	Letter (75)	Earth and Planetary Sciences (3459)	Chinese Academy of Sciences (320)

DATA AVAILABILITY

No data were generated from the study.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest.

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