



**International Association for
the Study of the Commons**

**2021
ANNUAL REPORT**



Our Mission

The purpose of the International Association for the Study of the Commons is to bring together multi-disciplinary research, practitioners, and policymakers for the purpose of improving governance and management, advancing understanding, and creating sustainable solutions for commons, common-pool resources, or any other form of shared resource.

Our Vision

IASC stimulates a community of scholars and practitioners that collaboratively advances science, practice and outreach to stimulate a sustainable future of our shared resources.



Happenings 2020 - 2021

Reporting Period fiscal year: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Dear Members,

Based on the energy and momentum created by the 2019 IASC global conference in Peru, the IASC – Latin America regional chapter organized the 1st IASC Latin American Virtual conference, which was held June 1 – 4, 2021. This was a tremendous success with 616 attendants and being held entirely in Spanish and Portuguese languages, thus a novelty in IASC history. Thank you to the dedicated Latin American regional leaders and members for making this event happen.

We held an IASC 2020 Virtual Conference on African Commons on July, 13 – 27, 2020. For the African continent, it turned out that virtual meetings provide a good opportunity for geographically widespread people who were interested to participate – proven by more than 2,300 individuals attending parts of this event.

Due to COVID – 19 pandemic restrictions and following our idea of reducing CO2 Footprints, we have been keen on exploring the potential of virtual meetings. For the year 2021 we planned 9 thematic online conferences followed by a cross-cutting interactive general conference. The themes of the individual meetings ranged from traditional to new and global commons. Within this reporting period, we held the Commons in Space, Fisheries and Aquaculture Commons, Commons in the Anthropocene, Urban Commons, Polycentricity, Water Commons, and the Knowledge Commons Conference. The well-appreciated innovative format included presenters submitting pre-recorded videos, which were available to conference goers for viewing prior to the live events. This created room for actual debates during conference panels, even more so than at traditional in-person events. With that, we also took up suggestions we received during our last general membership meeting in Peru, where members called for more modern conference styles. Thanks to the Arizona Team, Marco Janssen and Caren Burgermeister, supported by the various conference chairs and steering committees, the IASC 2021 “Our Commons Future” series of global events have thus far been an overwhelming success.

In October 2020 (September 30 – October 9), Charles Schweik organized the third World Commons Week, yet, due to the pandemic situation the worldwide local events were somewhat curbed, but still 57 locations around the world participated in self-organized “local” online events. In addition, eight keynote webinars from around the globe were offered and recorded.

Happenings 2020 - 2021

The IASC Early Career Network (ECN) further constituted itself within the IASC. As of January 2021, Hita Unnikrishnan is the ECN Representative, with Dane Whittaker as Membership Officer and Maria Gerullis as Financial Officer. The group has its own mission statement and monthly membership meetings that accommodate different time zones for the constantly growing membership. At the time of writing this report, the ECN is 98 members strong.

We established closer connection with the In Common Podcast which is now linked to our website and vice versa. The podcasts series has been co-founded by Stefan Partelow and Michael Cox. They are the official podcast of the IASC and do also produce content in coordination with the International Journal of the Commons and the IASC Early Career Network.

Since January 2021 new Council members took up their responsibilities: Myself, Insa Theesfeld as the new president, Charles Schweik as president-elect and Marco Janssen as past president. We are supported by Council Members Inoue Makoto, Everisto Mapedza, Koffi Alinon, Deborah Delgado-Pugley, Gabriela Lichtenstein, Catherine Tucker, and Hita Unnikrishnan.

In mid-2021, new regional coordinators were welcomed to our team, Subrat Singh for Asia, Tanya Heikkila for North America, and Tobias Haller for Europe-CIS.

Finally, we have a new Newsletter format in which each edition aims to feature one of our members. Our aim is to present the diversity of our membership ranging from academics to practitioners, involving ethnic minorities, various genders, earlier career and senior scholars. We will show our regional and thematic spectrum, same as introducing the various roles that can be taken over in the IASC, ranging from early career members to former presidents. Enjoy reading!

The aim for the upcoming reporting period is to re-intensify the relationship with the Ostrom Workshop in Bloomington at the Indiana University. Several joint activities, visiting opportunities for IASC members, and a closely coordinated information policy for members and affiliates, respectively, are in preparation.

- Insa Theesfeld
President of the IASC 2021 & 2022



Financial Summary

IASC completed another fiscal year on 30 June 2021.

Statements of Financial Position

June 30	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$62,778	\$57,672	\$51,864
Liabilities:			
IASC2019 ¹			\$125,965
IASC2021 ²	\$27,660		
External Web-support ³	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
Ostrom Award ⁴	\$6,004	\$6,004	\$6,004
International Journal of the Commons	\$13,007	\$11,009	
Esther Mwangi Memorial Fund	\$2,320	\$1,320	

Statement of Activities

<u>Revenue</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Conference services	\$47,044	\$1,800	\$140,659
Membership dues	\$48,348	\$36,392	\$30,462
Donations (Designated)	\$1,000	\$1,820	\$33,352
International Journal of the Commons	\$7,793	\$4,588	
Other	\$31	\$33	\$125
Total Revenue	\$104,215	\$44,633	\$204,598
<u>Expenses</u>			
Secretariat (labor)	\$36,218	\$17,854	\$20,064
Secretariat (operations)	\$7,067	\$4,923	\$3,730
Ostrom Award			\$3,996
Commons Video Contest ⁵			\$2,800
International Journal of the Commons	\$5,796	\$3,579	
External website support	\$5,275	\$7,500	\$5,000
IASC2019		\$126,105	
IASC2021	\$16,500		
Africa Conference 2020	\$2,596		
Total Expenses	\$73,452	\$159,961	\$35,590

¹Collected payments received on behalf of Pontifical Catholic University of Peru

²Collected payments received on behalf of Arizona State University

³Committed funds for external web support paid by earmarked donation

⁴Funds earmarked for Ostrom Award activities paid by earmarked donation

⁵Funded by earmarked donation

