



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

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024



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 2023 - 2024

Reporting Period fiscal year: July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

Dear Members,

Based on the energy and momentum created by the 2023 IASC Global conference “The Commons We Want”, the IASC’s membership totaled 842 members. (You can read Tobias Haller’s report here: https://www.uniaktuell.unibe.ch/2023/commons_konferenz/index_eng.html)

Here is a list of the IASC events that happened during this fiscal year:

Sociocracy series in Mid - Sept 2023 – 4 sessions

IASC Practitioner Workshop on Sociocracy Self-Governance Practices
This was a 4-session training workshop is a joint venture between the nonprofit organization Sociocracy for All (SoFA) and IASC, designed to train people living or working in self-governing settings such as intentional communities such as cohousing, or in a worker cooperatives, or ANY organizational setting where people want to learn how to self-govern based on the values of equality.

ECN Seminar on Academic Writing - Oct 18, 2023

Writing and getting a research article published can be daunting, even more so if it is your first one! IASC ECN attended this seminar during which they got insights and tips from more experienced researchers on the nitty gritty of writing and publishing in academia.

3rd Commons in Space conference November 15-17, 2023

This conference brought together scholars and practitioners on the commons in space. The increasing dependence of our societies on space infrastructures (GPS, remote sensing, internet access, etc.) and the potential mining of rare minerals for energy transitions are causing new sustainability challenges due to the lack of governance of human activities in outer space.

It covered topics from space debris and congesting orbital space due to increasing satellites, mining of celestial bodies, protection of dark night sky, utilization of different space resources in our solar system, and earth-space sustainability challenges. The increasing number of private and state actors involved in space exploration and the utilization of Earth’s orbit without a clear governance framework points to an urgent need to debate governance solutions.

Happenings 2023 - 2024

6th Annual World Commons Week 2023: Dec 4-10, 2023

Indigenous and Alternative Perspectives on the Commons.

All 7 IASC regions in conjunction with In Common podcast participated online with a variety of speakers and discussions. In addition the ECN held a panel discussion in which 3 members of the ECN gave lightning talks. Also the Ostrom Workshop held a special panel webinar celebrating their 50 year anniversary.

IASC Africa Webinar Dec 13, 2023

The IASC Africa region held a webinar in English and in French. This 3rd edition of the webinar contributed to the reflections sparked by the last biennial conference held in Nairobi. On this, a major idea consists in evolving beyond the original conceptualization of the commons by allocating their apprehension as a process in its own dynamic. It is a question of extending the field of analysis to integrate the commons which are actually developing in various territories, including urban spaces which remain little investigated by the scientific community. It is still a matter of admitting the need for a conceptual renewal to better understand the social, economic and institutional dynamics that can be identified within socio-ecological systems, while ensuring, of course, to articulate this conceptualization with rigorous scientific methods.

Discussion themes were:

- Commons in development: typology test and foresight elements
- Understanding institutional and organizational changes
- Governance of urban commons in Africa

Prosocial World Webinars December 13th 2023 & January 18th 2024

Generalizing Ostrom's Core Design Principles and Putting Them to Use
The nonprofit organization ProSocial World, founded by Wilson and Paul Atkins, along with their book Prosocial: Using Evolutionary Science to Build Productive, Equitable, and Collaborative Groups. The ProSocial method has been applied to building the commons in contexts as diverse as schools, organizations, the United Nations, disease control and bioregional sustainability groups.

Wilson and Atkins ran three 90 minute webinars to IASC regional communities to provide an overview of their work including theory, evidence, examples and interactive discussion. These webinars were free and open to anyone.



Happenings 2023 - 2024

Space Commons webinar celebrating the 2024 Solar Eclipse: April 1, 2024

A Webinar jointly sponsored by the Ostrom Workshop Space Governance Lab and The IASC's North America Region.

In early April, a full solar eclipse tracked across the North American continent. In honor of this event, and in this new era of commercialized space travel, multiple countries landing machines on the lunar surface, and especially the plans of both NASA and China and Russia to establish long-term habitats on the Moon, provided a good time to consider the future sustainability of the lunar surface.

Questions consider during the Webinar:

- With space debris filling Earth orbit, are we destined to do the same to the lunar surface?
- How will the planned establishment of long-term Moon habitats by the U.S., China and Russia and resource mining affect the lunar surface?
- Can we avoid the tragedy of the lunar commons?

ECN Workshop on Becoming a Reviewer: April 3, 2024

The workshop hosted by Ruth Meinzen-Dick and Frank van Laerhoven, two experienced editors of the IJC (International Journal of the Commons), and moderated by ECN member Désirée Schwindenhammer, was open to all interested IASC-ECN members. It is not required to volunteer as a reviewer or to share something written. All were welcome to tune in for the informative part. However many attendees did feel encouraged to participate as a reviewer and/or author.

3rd IASC Europe & CIS Colloquium Series : Apr – June 2024

The sub-theme of the series "Commons and Crises: Challenges and Opportunities" was dedicated to the pressing issues related to various crises we are facing around the world. Particularly interested in understanding the challenges and opportunities these various crises present for the commons (e.g., crises related to climate, biodiversity, migration, poverty, health, energy, etc).



Happenings 2023 - 2024

IASC Africa Virtual Webinar Series – May 22, 2024

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and the Commons featured panelists Everisto Mapedza, Amos Karino Leuka, and Tobias Haller.

Early Career Workshop on the Study of the Commons: May 27 – 29, 2024

This workshop brought together early career researchers of the IASC-ECN, practitioners, IASC academicians and senior scholars from the field to exchange knowledge, discuss emerging trends, mentor and foster collaborations in this domain. The online workshop provided a platform for early career scholars and professionals to present and discuss their research, ideas, experiences related to commons, and to seed working groups within the ECN network. It was conducted with a strong emphasis on pastoral and mentoring support provided through the involvement of senior scholars who directly engaged with each submission and its broad theme.

Reimagining the State in Governing the Commons: Synergies in Analytical Frameworks and Tools: June 22 - 23, 2024

In conjunction with the WOW7 in Indiana University in Bloomington Indiana, we celebrated the IASC's longtime partnership with The Vincent and Elinor Ostrom. IASC was founded at the Ostrom Workshop back in 1989 with Lin Ostrom serving as IASC's first President, and the Ostrom Workshop still serves as IASC's legal home.

This two-day workshop brought together scholars interested in reimagining the role of the state in governing the commons, and the types of analytical frameworks and tools to help extend this area of research. The workshop focused primarily on new insights coming from work on state-reinforced self governance (SRSG) and the Institutional Grammar (IG), as well as how these two approaches can inform one another.



Financial Summary

IASC completed the 2023 fiscal year on 30 June 2024.

Fiscal Year	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Net Asset at beginning	57,672	62,777	58,491	78,735
Revenue				
Contributions	49,348	39,123	57,919	32,514
Service Revenue	54,837	14,079	133,921	11,217
Investment Income	31	10	11	11
Other Income	0			
Total Revenue	104,215	53,212	191,852	43,741
Expenses				
Management	31,541	38,547	39,667	40,627
Accounting	675	675	700	765
Information Technology	10,493	9,380	17,577	17,323
Conferences	16,500	14,434	80,233	37,238
Insurance	673	76	250	0
Publication Costs	5,796	0	0	0
Banking Costs	3,097	2,205	5,618	2549
Total Expenses	73,452	65,316	144,045	98,502
Excess	30,763	-12,104	47,806	-54,761
Total Assets ending	114,268	102,164	149,961	95,200
Net Asset at ending	62,777	58,071	78,735	60,708
Liabilities beginning	25,833	51,491	44,093	71,225
Liabilities ending	51,491	44,093	71,225	35,492
Donations	1022	45	71	400

