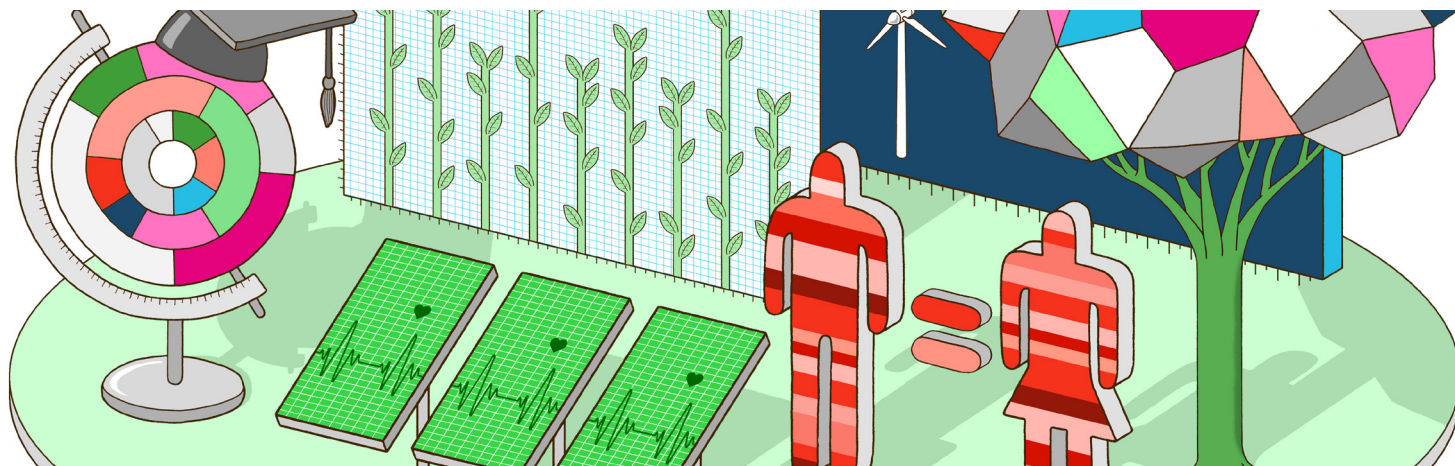


Analyze & understand societal impact research with SciVal

Updated: March 30, 2021

Web version: <https://www.elsevier.com/research-intelligence/societal-impact-research-with-scival>



What is your university's role in Societal Impact?

Increasingly, university leadership, governments, funders, the community, and more are demanding to understand university research's value. They want to know that the significant investment into research is going to help society.

A university can contribute to societal impact in multiple ways. For example:

- Interventions to target hunger among students and staff – for example, provide access to food banks
- Building standards to minimize water use
- Track application and admission rates of under-represented groups

According to a QS blog post, universities are responsible for advocating for the importance of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are many ways they can do this, including with their research.

“Provide research knowledge, innovations and solutions towards achieving the SDGs. As universities tend to receive private and public research funds to directly and/or indirectly solve world issues, universities are responsible for providing the in-depth academic and vocational training needed to achieve the SDGs.”

Understanding your research through a United Nations Sustainability Goals (UN SDGs) lens

In 2015 the United Nations (UN) announced the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and was subsequently

adopted by all UN member states.

The UN defined 17 individual SDGs:

Seeing your institution's research for each of these SDGs



- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. No Poverty | Infrastructure |
| 2. Zero Hunger | 10. Reduced Inequalities |
| 3. Good Health and Well-being | 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| 4. Quality Education | 12. Responsible Consumption and Production |
| 5. Gender Equality | 13. Climate Action |
| 6. Clean Water and Sanitation | 14. Life Below Water |
| 7. Affordable and Clean Energy | 15. Life on Land |
| 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth | 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| 9. Industry, Innovation and | 17. Partnership for the Goals |

helps you understand this vital way you contribute to societal impact.

To understand more about a university's role in societal impact and the United Nations Sustainable development goals, visit our [research leaders' guide](#).

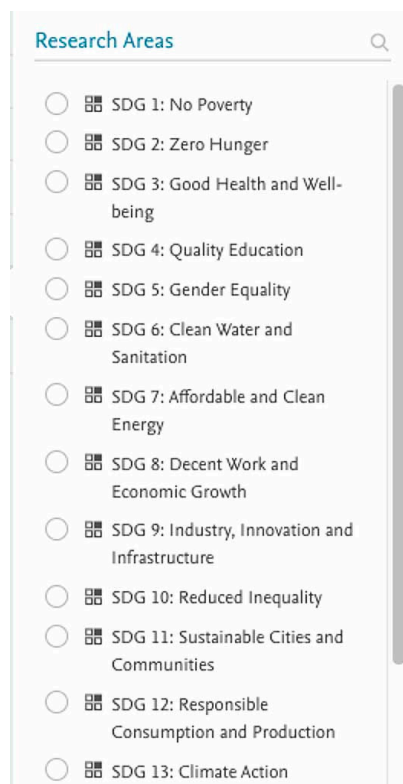
Analyzing Societal Impact related research in SciVal

Times Higher Education (THE), Vertigo Ventures, Elsevier and others collaborated on developing search queries to represent the research in the first 16 SDGs. These are periodically reviewed and refined. Full details of the methodology for each SDG search query are available on Mendeley.

SDG Research areas Using the same search strings, SciVal identifies the right research belonging to the correct sustainable development goal. These are all captured in pre-defined Research Areas.

With SciVal, you can go deeper into analysis to learn more about your SDG research. These include:

- Benchmarking your SDG research against others
- Understanding the top researchers in each SDG
- Discovering the research topics that are most prominent for SDG researchers



Caption: You can review the research in any Sustainable Development Goal by using pre-defined Research Areas.

NOTE: All examples use a period of 2015 – 2020.

Benchmark

Wageningen University & Research is located in the Netherlands. This university has produced the most research related to SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger (2021) ☆

View Research Area definition

2015 to 2020

Summary Institutions Countries & Regions Authors Scopus Sources Keywords

Top Institutions

Worldwide Academic reset filter

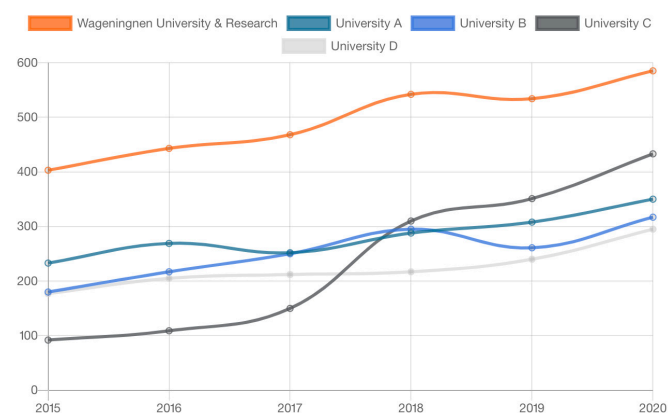
Top 100 institutions in this Research Area, by Scholarly Output

Institution	Scholarly Output	Views Count	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Citation Count
1. Wageningen University & Research	2,975	165,290	2.32	52,840
2. China Agricultural University	2,146	52,294	1.47	24,373
3. University of Chinese Academy of Sciences	1,801	44,101	1.56	19,761
4. University of Florida	1,765	54,665	1.67	22,538
5. Universidade de São Paulo	1,713	66,332	1.75	21,972

Caption: The top worldwide academic institutions in SDG 2: Zero Hunger (per SciVal)

Imagine that the university wants to know how they compare with other European universities on research about zero hunger. They can use SciVal benchmarking capabilities to compare themselves to the top five European universities.

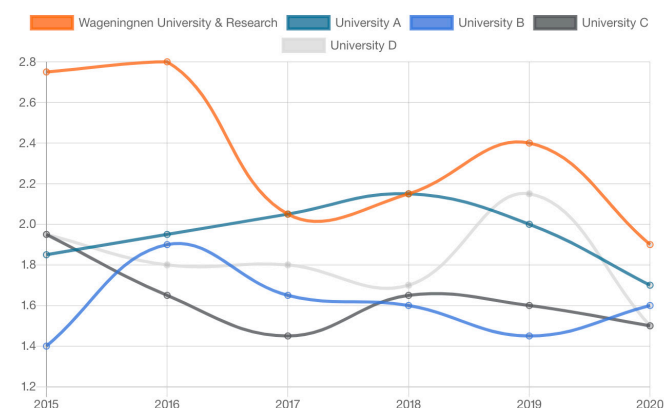
Benchmark by Scholarly Output



Caption: Benchmark the top 5 European institutions by scholarly output for SDG 2: Zero Hunger (per SciVal)

It is interesting to see that they have led the research on zero hunger in their region for several years, but that all of the universities are continuing to publish more, and some at a higher velocity.

Benchmark by FWCI

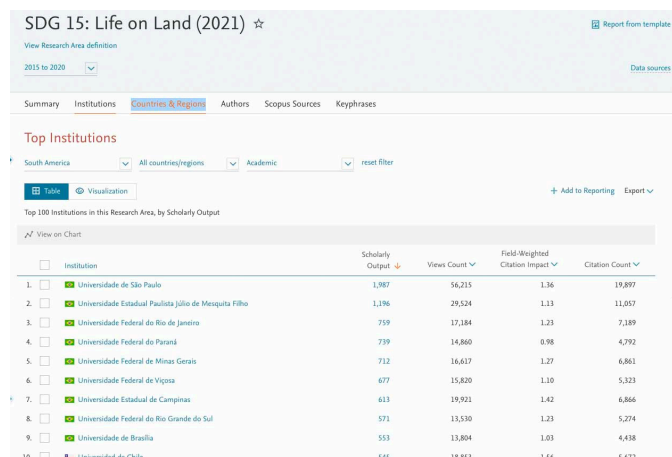


Caption: Benchmark the top 5 European institutions by Field-Weighted Citation Impact for SDG 2: Zero Hunger (per SciVal)

It is also reassuring to see that their Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) is generally high – consistently above 2.0.

Top Authors

Turning to another area, looking at SDG 15: Life on Land, in South America, you can see that the University of Sao Paulo (USP) is the top producer.



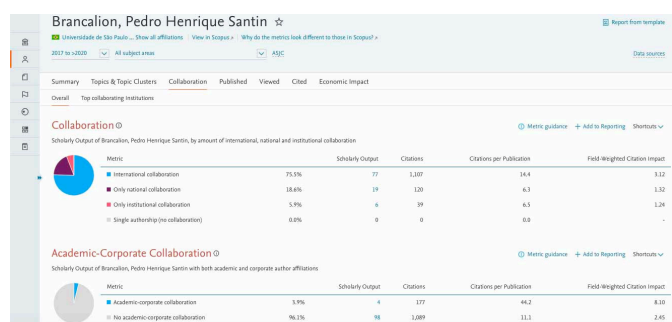
Caption: The top South American Institutions by document count for SDG 15: Life on Land (per SciVal)

From this point, you can also see who at USP has produced the most about life on land in South America.

Author	Affiliation	Scholarly Output	Views Count	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Citation Count
1. Brancalion, Pedro Henrique Santin	Universidade de São Paulo	100	4,209	3.11	2,584
2. Rodrigues, Ricardo Ribeiro	Universidade de São Paulo	50	1,761	2.48	839
3. Ferraz, Silvio F.B.	Universidade de São Paulo	40	1,647	2.34	823
4. Silveira, Luis Fabio	Universidade de São Paulo	34	638	0.98	208
5. Metzger, Jean Paul	Universidade de São Paulo	33	1,494	3.24	660
6. Ribeiro, Milton Cezar	Universidade Estadual Paulista Júlio de Mesquita Filho	27	1,012	1.92	326
7. Chiarello, Adriano Garcia	Universidade de São Paulo	25	756	1.26	248
8. Ferraz, Kátia Maria Pascholetto Micch	Universidade de São Paulo	25	921	1.54	328

Caption: The top South American authors SDG 15: Life on land (per SciVal)

Dr. Pedro Henrique Santin Brancalion is the top USP and South American author about life on land. With this information, you can use SciVal and Scopus to find out more about Dr. Brancalion.



Caption: SciVal overview of Dr. Pedro Henrique Sanin Brancalion collaboration

From here, you can see that most of Dr. Brancalion's research is collaborative. There are many benefits from collaborative research; in general, it is a good indicator.

Top Corporations

You can view the top companies publishing on SDG 15.

Institution	Scholarly Output	Views Count	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Citation Count
1. California Academy of Sciences	95	2,067	1.43	1,411
2. AZTI	87	4,655	2.57	1,665
3. Microsoft USA	59	4,499	3.57	3,204
4. Ducks Unlimited	52	1,099	0.94	283
5. Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden	48	2,201	1.04	618
6. Royal Ontario Museum	48	905	1.31	542
7. Electricité de France S.A.	43	1,187	2.71	597
8. Fera Science Ltd.	41	1,727	3.15	1,027
9. Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc.	39	827	1.70	592
10. WEIKER	37	1,892	1.27	431

Caption: Global top industry partners publishing on SDG 15: Life on Land

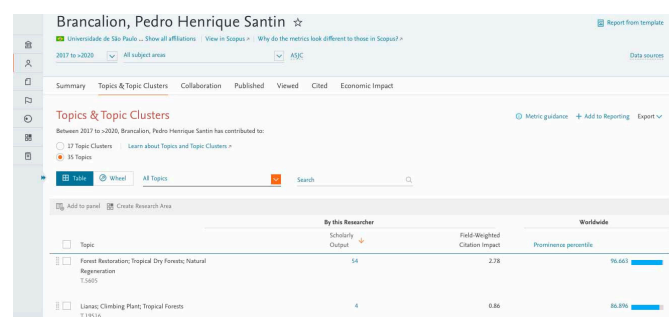
Institution	Scholarly Output	Views Count	Field-Weighted Citation Impact	Citation Count
1. Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria - Agrosavia	22	956	0.96	210
2. Petrobras	18	640	1.48	136
3. Fibria	17	357	1.95	90
4. Vale S.A.	17	328	0.65	79
5. Suzano Group	16	444	1.18	148
6. Arauco	6	118	0.41	3
7. Centro de Ecología Aplicada Ltda	5	73	0.22	8
8. SENAI CIMATEC	5	259	3.79	49
9. Volantim Metais	4	99	0.43	23
10. Centro de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento em Telecomunicações	3	54	0.99	31

Caption: South American top industry partners publishing on SDG 15: Life on Land

Topics

Another way to look at research is to understand the Topic it covers. A Topic is a collection of documents with a common focused intellectual interest. Publications are clustered into Topics based upon a direct citation analysis. Learn more about [Topic Prominence in Science](#)

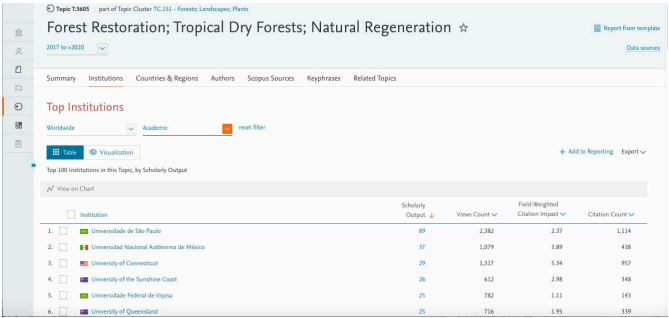
There are approximately 96,000 topics in SciVal.



Caption: Dr. Brancalion's most prominent topic of research is Forest Restoration; Tropical Dry Forests; Natural Regeneration topic

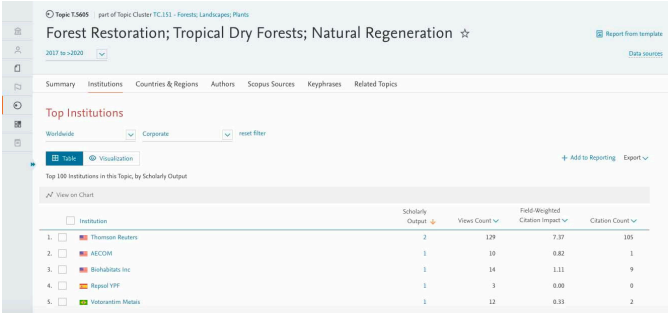
In SciVal, you can see that he publishes the most on the Forest Restoration; Tropical Dry Forests; Natural Regeneration Topic. This Topic is promising since it's in the 97th prominence profile. In general, this indicates that the Topic has a lot of momentum and is unlikely to die out soon.

You can also see other institutions publishing on this Topic.



Caption: The top global institutions researching this Forest Restoration topic

You can also see the top corporations publishing on it.



Caption: The top global corporations researching this Forest Restoration Topic

By combining the data in SciVal, with the knowledge of the institutions and researchers, you can develop your research strategy into global areas that are important for society.

There are many ways to analyze research with SciVal. If you want to see more, or information specific to you instituion: