

A photograph of a tropical beach scene. In the foreground, several traditional wooden fishing boats are beached on the sand. Two people are visible near the boats, one standing and one sitting. The middle ground shows a rocky shoreline with waves breaking. In the background, a lush green hillside is covered with numerous tall palm trees. A small building with a red roof is visible on the left side of the hill. The sky is overcast.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



FOREWORD

Science for People and the Planet

Behind every dataset, policy framework, and research partnership lies a human story. In an era marked by accelerating social and environmental changes, the Belmont Forum's mission is anchored in a fundamental truth: addressing global environmental crises requires connecting science, policy, and society to serve communities living on the front lines of change. Transdisciplinary research is far more than a funding mechanism or academic methodology—it is our shared vehicle for delivering meaningful, place-based solutions that safeguard both people and the planet.

In 2025, our global community demonstrated what is possible when rigorous science is combined with shared empathy, local wisdom, and cross-border solidarity. Our network expanded to reach more than 3,900 researchers and societal actors across 94 countries—building enduring bridges across disciplines and continents to protect vulnerable ecosystems and strengthen human resilience. Together, we successfully launched two transformative Collaborative Research Actions (CRAs), Ocean 2 and Resilience, while advancing pioneering scoping themes on Biodiversity and the Arctic in partnership with the Arctic Science Funders Forum. Recognizing that systemic transformation begins with people, we also launched the Advancing Leadership Program (ALP) to equip researchers and societal practitioners across all career stages with the collaboration and leadership skills needed to navigate our planet's complex future.

Our collective responsibility to humanity and the biosphere took center stage at the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI 2025) in Chicago, USA, which united over 1,400 participants from more than 80 countries. During this gathering, the Belmont Forum—together with partners including the Pew Charitable Trusts and the University of Illinois System—launched the [FAST Forum](#) (Funders Aligned for Sustainable Transformations).

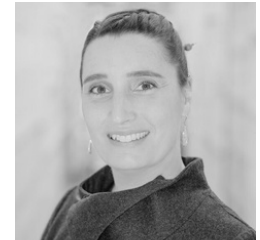
This initiative is designed to align diverse funders around a shared commitment: ensuring that sustainability science translates directly into tangible action and equitable benefits for communities worldwide.

To ensure that our work creates lasting, equitable impact, 2025 marked the establishment of the Belmont Forum Foundation (BFF). Formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit fundraising institution, the Foundation opens new pathways to diversify funding sources, elevate long-term impact, strengthen global partnerships, and break down systemic barriers. This structural step guarantees that researchers and societal actors, particularly from the Global South, have an equal voice and central role in shaping and leading global research agendas. This milestone reinforces our deep commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA), Open Data, and institutional transparency. These values were further woven into our everyday operations through multilingual upgrades to our BFFgo platform, enhanced peer-review frameworks, and a redesigned [website](#) focused on accessibility and user experience.

As we look toward 2026, our mission remains urgent, resolute, and hopeful. We will continue to deepen our research investments, advance ongoing and upcoming CRAs, fully implement the Advancing Leadership Program, and cultivate bold partnerships that turn transdisciplinary knowledge into transformative action.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Belmont Forum's members, associates, researchers, societal partners, and Secretariat. Your heartfelt dedication, compassion, and tireless collaboration make the Belmont Forum a vital beacon of hope—generating the knowledge, innovation, and practical tools needed to build a just, sustainable, and thriving world for generations to come.

Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard, Anna Stewart Ibarra, and Nicole Arbour
Belmont Forum Leadership



Nicole Arbour
Executive Director
Belmont Forum



Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard
Head of the Department
Environment, Ecosystem,
Biological Resources
ANR France
Belmont Forum Co-Chair



Anna Stewart Ibarra
Executive Director
Inter-American Institute for
Global Change Research (IAI)
Belmont Forum Co-Chair

I. 2025 OVERVIEW

Growing Our Transdisciplinary Community of Practice

In 2025, our growing community included more than **3,924 scientists and societal actors** supported across **94 countries**, fostering co-designed approaches to help address pressing environmental and societal challenges. To date, the Belmont Forum has supported **192 projects**, and advanced **7 active Collaborative Research Actions (CRAs)**: Driving Urban Transitions (DUT), Africa Regional (ARC), Tropical Forests (Forests 2024), Climate, Environment, and Health (CEH2), Climate and Cultural Heritage (CCH), Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SSCP), and Integrated Approaches to Human Migration/Mobility (Migration).

Building on this foundation, we launched **two new CRAs**, Ocean 2 and Resilience, bringing the total to **26**. Notably, Ocean 2 has been endorsed as a United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development action. In parallel, our members **approved two new CRAs**, Biodiversity 3 and Arctic 3, to begin their scoping processes in 2026.

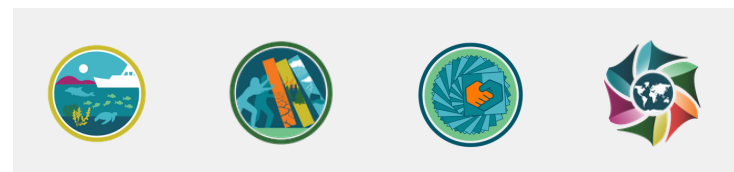
The Belmont Forum's growing influence is also reflected in our global policy and research visibility, with over **14,000 policy documents** identified across **42 countries**. We also made progress in advancing two policy frameworks: the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Statement (2024) and the **Open Data Policy** (2025). Both ended the year by defining their **Task and Finish Groups**, which will lead the development of implementation plans.

Launched in 2025, the **Advancing Leadership Program (ALP)** is a comprehensive capacity-building curriculum designed to empower researchers and practitioners across all career stages with leadership and

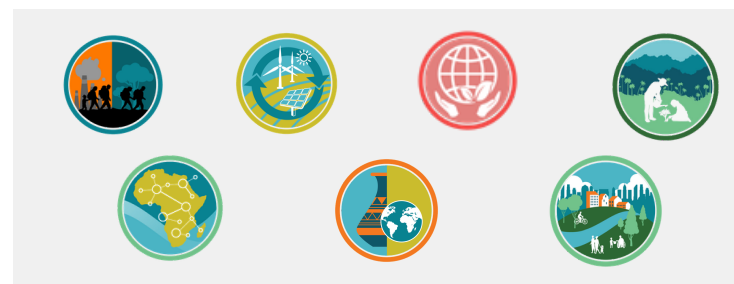
communication skills to support the more effective transdisciplinary collaboration. Late in the year, the **Belmont Forum Foundation (BFF)** was officially established as the fundraising arm of the Belmont Forum, aimed at supporting CRAs and flagship initiatives and helping deliver the Belmont Forum Challenge.

The Belmont Forum also deepened **international cooperation** through engagements, welcoming **CNR Italy** as its first of what we hope will be many visitors to the new offices in Panama, and working with the **International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** to advance understanding the challenges and opportunities for South-South research collaborations.

CRAs, Programs & Initiatives Launched



CRAs in Process



I. 2025 OVERVIEW

Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress SRI 2025

The fifth edition of the Sustainability Research and Innovation Congress (SRI2025) took place from 16–19 June 2025 at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk, hosted by the University of Illinois System in the **USA**. With its theme *Pathways to Sustainability Solutions*, SRI2025 convened a global community, bringing together more than **1,400 participants** from over **80 countries**.

The Belmont Forum community was strongly represented, with **55 participants** attending in person, including **members, associates, observers, and Secretariat**. Collectively, members and associates contributed as speakers in over **50 sessions** throughout the Congress, including *Fostering Multilateral Research Collaborations*, *Designing Sustainable Futures*, *One Health*, *Identifying Holistic Pathways to Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change*, *Sustainability Storytelling Night*, and *Leading Change*.

In addition, we coordinated our informative sessions, which gathered around **155 participants**, including researchers and funding organizations. These sessions provided a space for kick-off, mid-term, and end-term reviews of ongoing CRAs, strengthening collaboration and ensuring continuity across the Forum's initiatives.



Ethical and Respectful Scientific Collaborations with Indigenous Peoples

A special plenary session at SRI 2025 brought together diverse Indigenous and academic perspectives to explore principles and practices for ethical, respectful, and equitable research collaborations. The discussion featured leaders and experts from the Caribbean Cultural Institute, the Native Village of Eklutna, Indigenous advocacy networks in Bolivia, and academia, highlighting the importance of traditional knowledge systems, Indigenous leadership, and co-creation in sustainability research.

SRI 2025



+500
Speakers



20M
Media Impressions



119
Sessions



218
Online Participants



SRI2025 was our chance to ask big questions, form new partnerships, and rethink what's possible
(Nicole Arbour)

+1,400
participants



20
sponsors

1196
people onsite

+80
countries



I. 2025 OVERVIEW

Belmont Forum at the SRI 2025



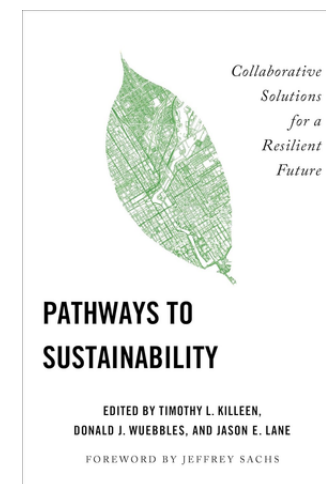
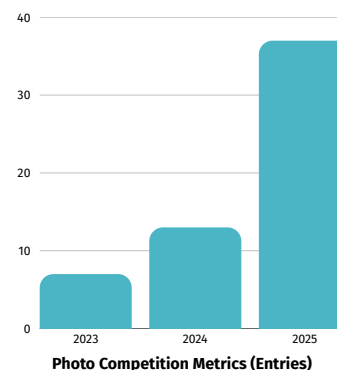
We developed our own program during SRI 2025. There were **16 sessions** with **424 registrants**, ranging from workshops, panel discussions, interactive training, and project-focused events connected to CRAs, engaging a diverse international audience.

On 19–20 June, the Belmont Forum held the 2025 in-person plenary meeting, bringing together **66 participants** from **19 member organizations**, **6 associate organizations**, and **8 observer organizations**, as well as the Secretariat, attending both virtually and in person.

A highlight of our program was the inaugural **Fast Forum**, a strategic initiative to foster collaborative, aligned investment in sustainability solutions. The Forum brought together over **40 philanthropic, corporate, and governmental funders**, creating a platform to strengthen coordination across the funding landscape from research discovery to real-world implementation.

The Belmont Forum partnered with EPIC-N to launch the **third edition** of

the **Transdisciplinary Photo Competition**, celebrating the art of visual storytelling in sustainability research. Attendees explored photo panels and voted for their favorites.



Launched at SRI 2025, the book features a **Belmont Forum chapter** that synthesizes the impact of transdisciplinary research.

The competition's [winning images](#) captured both beauty and meaning: Aylin Topal (**SSCP 2022 CRA**) earned first place for the portrayal of Istanbul's Yedikule Urban Gardens. Second in place, Christian Carolina Gallegos Magaña delivered a portrait of native stingless bees in Mexico (**EPIC-N**). Carlos Luis Leopardi Verde, third place, shot a scene of students returning from honey harvesting in Colima (**EPIC-N**).

II. INCREASING COLLABORATION

In 2025, the Belmont Forum continued to expand its global network through new memberships and partnerships. We welcomed the **Research Council of Zimbabwe** as a new member, broadening representation from the African continent. New observers, such as **The Degrees Initiative**, and strategic associates, including the **Inner Development Goals (IDG)**, joined our community. These relationships enrich our collaborative ecosystem and reinforce our commitment to advancing transdisciplinary sustainability research worldwide.

Participation of Global South organizations in BF CRAs also increased.

In Latin America, Argentina's National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (**CONICET**) and several Brazilian institutions, including the São Paulo Research Foundation (**FAPESP**), Santa Catarina Research Foundation (**FAPESC**), Pernambuco Research Foundation (**FACEPE**), Espírito Santo Research Foundation (**FAPES**), and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (**CNPq**), joined the Ocean 2 CRA as funding agencies. In Africa, the National Research Foundation of South Africa (**NRF SA**) joined the Resilience CRA, further enhancing regional representation.

Organizations involved in 2025



32 Members
11 Associates



Belmont Forum Members and Associates in 2025

III. ADVANCING TRANSDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE

Growing Our Impact

2025 Portfolio Highlights: CRAs in Process*

-  96 funded projects
-  150 countries engaged
-  390 societal actors involved
-  550+ researchers collaborating
-  123 funding organisations
-  29 Journal articles
-  52 conference presentations

CRA	Stage	Projects	Funders	Countries	Researchers	Societal Actors	Journal Articles	Conference Presentation
SSCP	End-term	7	9	12	111	80	13	24
CEH2	Initial	11	13	44	195	29	-	-
Migration	End-term	5	11	18	52	1	10	23
CCH	Mid-term	16	15	21	208	40	6	5
ARC	Initial	10	19	25	105	16	-	-
DUT	Initial	47	39	30	343	224	-	-

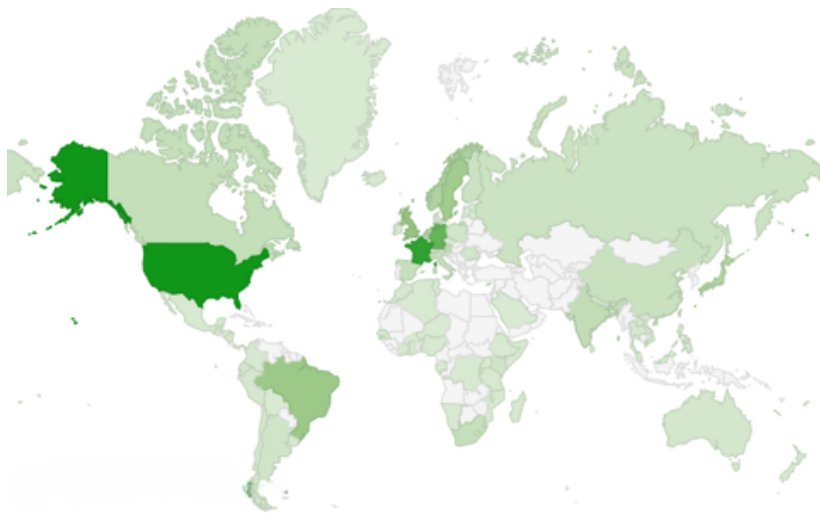
CRAs in process (Source: BFGO, 2025)

*Tropical Forest CRA has experienced delays. Data from this CRA was not included, as it was undergoing restructuring in 2025.

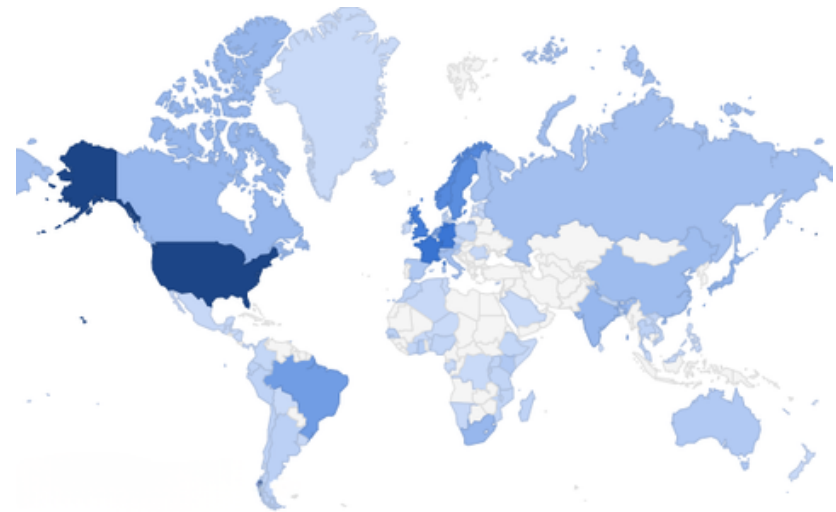
III. ADVANCING TRANSDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE

Growing Our Impact

The Belmont Forum's CRA portfolio has engaged researchers from over 80 countries. Participation spanned both established and emerging research communities, with strong representation from the **United States (512 awardees)**, **France (451)**, **Germany (346)**, **the United Kingdom (248)**, and **Brazil (225)**. Noteworthy contributions also came from other countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Oceania, and Europe.



Awardees per country per CRA (Source: BFGo, 2025).



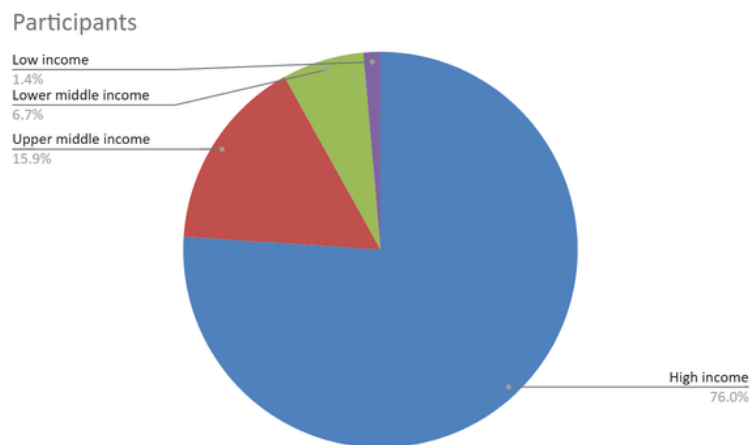
Funded Projects per country (Source: BFGo, 2025).

Our active CRAs in 2025 had projects across all regions of the world. The highest levels of participation were observed in the **United States (119 projects)**, **France (65)**, **Germany (62)**, **the United Kingdom (57)**, **Norway (49)**, **Sweden (47)**, and **Brazil (38)**. This engagement across Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Oceania highlights the Belmont Forum's ability to convene diverse research communities and foster international partnerships to help address complex sustainability challenges through transdisciplinary research.

III. ADVANCING TRANSDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE

Growing Our Impact

Belmont Forum's CRAs engaged **3,778 researchers** and participants in 2025, representing a broad range of economic contexts. While the majority of personnel were based in **high-income countries (2,873)**, substantial participation was also recorded from **upper-middle-income countries (599)** and **lower-middle-income countries (253)**, with contributions from **low-income countries (53)**.



Participation from low and middle-income countries (Source: BFGO, 2025)

New CRAs in Development



Biodiversity 3 was proposed by French Environmental Research Programming Agencies (FERPA) and responds to the accelerating global decline in biodiversity driven by shifts in climate patterns, land-use change, and pollution. This CRA aims to move beyond fragmented and short-term approaches by promoting long-term, integrated biodiversity monitoring that connects genetic, ecological, functional, and social dimensions. The call is expected to **launch in late 2027**.

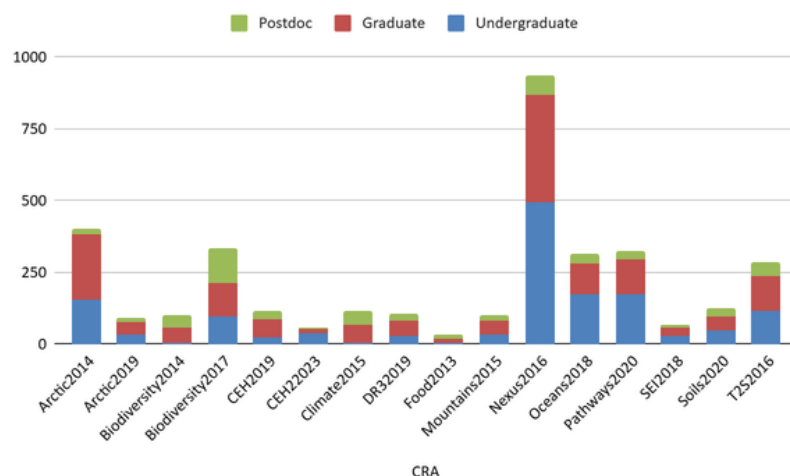


Arctic 3 was put forward by the Research Council of Norway (RCN). It seeks to understand and address the changes in the Arctic and their implications for global climate patterns. This CRA aims to close some of the knowledge gaps identified during the 2022-2026 process on the 4th International Conference on Arctic Research Planning ([ICARP IV](#)). The call will be developed and implemented by including Indigenous peoples, acknowledging the knowledge they hold to address these complex changes. This initiative will contribute to the 5th International Polar Year ([IPY-5](#)) in 2032-2033. Arctic 3 is expected to **launch in late 2027**.



Fostering the Next Generation of Scientific Leaders

Across Belmont Forum CRAs, early-career participation remains a strong feature. **Undergraduate (41%)** and **graduate (43%)** researchers comprise the vast **majority (84%)** of participants, compared to **16%** at the **postdoctoral** level. This distribution highlights the Forum's contribution to building the next generation of transdisciplinary researchers, particularly through large-scale CRAs such as **Nexus (2016)**, **Oceans (2018)**, and **Pathways (2020)**, which have mobilized substantial numbers of scholars. With fewer postdoctoral researchers, the Belmont Forum can further support career pathways beyond initial training stages. This may ensure that emerging talent can transition into advanced research and leadership roles within the global sustainability landscape.



Career Researchers by CRAs (Source: BFGO, 2025)

The **Advancing Leadership Program (ALP)** was officially announced at the SRI in June 2025, marking a milestone in the Belmont Forum's efforts to strengthen

leadership within its global community. Applications were opened to the global community, requiring candidates to apply as Transdisciplinary Pairs, composed of one researcher and one societal actor.

The development of the ALP has been supported through a range of strategic partnerships and collaborations, including the **Inner Development Goals Initiative**, the **International Science Council (ISC)**, **EPIC-N**, the **Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)**, **TSRI/PMU-B**, the **Creative Climate Fellowship**, **GIYSCC**, the **UMCES Integration and Application Network**, **UNESCO-TWAS**, **Southern Voice**, and the **University of Wisconsin-Madison**. These collaborations help shape a program that is globally relevant, inclusive, and grounded in transdisciplinary practice.



Impacts of CRAs (2022-2025)

SSCP: How Cooperation and Community are Building Resilient Global Food Chains



Global food systems face challenges related to high greenhouse gas emissions, insecurity, and labor unfairness, while local food production is increasingly threatened by urban expansion, as seen in the historic Yedikule Urban Gardens in İstanbul (image). The Co-Creating Sustainable Transformations of Food Supply Chains through Cooperative Business Models and Governance (CO-SFSC) project addresses these issues by bringing together researchers and stakeholders from six countries (Sweden, Turkey, Germany, Taiwan, and Thailand) to help strengthen food systems through cooperative business models and governance.

In 2024, the project achieved a milestone in Germany by supporting the organic food retailer Die Glaskiste in Freiburg in transitioning to a member-owned cooperative. The transformation improved the business's financial resilience by securing a portion of its income through member support and increasing profitability, while providing a model for other food enterprises seeking long-term sustainability.

CO-SFSC also fostered direct connections between producers, cooperatives, and buyers, helping to shorten supply chains and expand

market opportunities. In Germany, the project linked local producers with public caterers, while collaborations between partners in Germany and Turkey created new channels for organic products. Through these practical, society-driven actions, CO-SFSC is developing scalable pathways toward more resilient, sustainable, and locally connected food systems.



Yedikule Urban Gardens in İstanbul by Aylin Topal (CO-SFSC project - SSCP CRA)

Impacts of CRAs (2022-2025)

Ocean 1: How Diverse Actors are Uniting to Redefine Global Coastal Governance



The Coastal Ocean Assessment for Sustainability and Transformation (COAST Card) project offers a transdisciplinary framework to address climate variability, pollution, and population growth threatening global coastal systems. Supported by an international partnership including DOST-PCIEERD (Philippines), JST (Japan), MoES (India), NSF (USA), and RCN (Norway), the research shifts from fragmented data to an integrated, inclusive approach for coastal governance.

By merging three different tools (status assessments, societal guidance, and prioritized actions), this initiative fosters social learning among natural scientists, industry leaders, and citizens. This cooperative model has achieved results globally: in the Philippines, it empowered Manila Bay governance through comprehensive surveys; in the United States, it integrated an Environmental Justice Index into the Chesapeake Bay watershed; in Japan, it utilized "Get the Grade" games for democratic decision-making; and in India, it bridged academic disciplines to plan coastal health management in Goa.

To ensure lasting impact, the project prioritizes capacity building through professional certification programs, educational resources, and stakeholder tool guides. By centering human voices and diverse expertise, the COAST Card project provides a scalable, resilient blueprint for monitoring and protecting vulnerable coastlines.



Thong Nguyen (COAST Card project - Oceans 1 CRA)

IV. GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

The Secretariat Team

In 2025, Secretariat members provided support to the implementation of CRAs, the organization of plenaries, valorization meetings, capacity-building activities, and workshops, as well as the management of administrative and governance processes. We acknowledge with gratitude their dedication and collaboration:

Nicole Arbour

Anne-Teresa Birthwright

Connie Bolte

Daniella Melo

Elisabeth Ervin-Blankenheim

Emmanuel Chitechi

Fany Ramos Quispe

Gabriella Servi

Hilario Espinosa

Kades Ben Mabiala

Kasan Aksonrthong

Larisse Faroni Perez

Laurent Bernadou

Yiwei Zhang

The Secretariat was also pleased to welcome **two new team members**: *Rumbidzai Kuwora* (RCZ) and *Forbes Chinyemba* (RCZ). We also extend our sincere appreciation to *Regina Mae Francia* (NSF) for her contributions during her time at the Secretariat.



Changes in the Steering Committee

We held elections for the Co-chair position and for one Steering Committee seat. During the Virtual Plenary in November 2025, **Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard (ANR)** was re-elected Co-chair. **Mauricio Bacci (FAPESP)** was elected Steering Committee member following the conclusion of **José A. Puppim de Oliveira's (FAPESP)** mandate.

The Belmont Forum also acknowledges a change in representation from **JST (Japan)**, with **Ms. Junko Shiraishi** joining the Steering Committee to succeed **Masae Sugawara**. This transition reflects an internal organizational change rather than the completion of a formal mandate. We extend our appreciation to **José** and **Masae** for their valuable contributions over the past years. Their commitment has been instrumental in advancing our governance and mission.

IV . GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Enhancing Our Community



Belmont Forum Foundation (BFF)

Aspiring to expand the Belmont Forum's ability to engage diverse funders to widen revenue streams, the [Belmont Forum Foundation \(BFF\)](#) was established in Delaware, the US, in June 2025. The BFF officially became a nonprofit entity after a structured consultation process, approval by the BF Steering Committee, and legal establishment. Following this, we formally launched [the Foundation](#) and kicked off the operational framework, including governance, banking, and branding. This was a step toward not only strengthening our long-term financial stability but also creating an experimental space for innovative funding instruments.

Designed to complement existing funding mechanisms, the [Belmont Forum Foundation](#) enables new pathways for resource mobilization, such as philanthropic contributions, prize and award funding, and partnerships with international organizations. It also holds space for funding instruments aimed at **longer-term support for research projects** and enhancing flexibility in funding delivery. Other efforts are underway to develop re-granting mechanisms and secure initial funding partners.

Strategically, the Foundation will support Collaborative Research Actions (CRAs) and flagship initiatives delivering the **Belmont Challenge**, while also advancing fair participation by mobilizing resources for researchers from **low- and middle-income countries** and societal actors.

South-South Research Collaboration

Developed in partnership with the [International Development Research Centre \(IDRC\)](#) and informed by exchanges at the [Global Research Council \(GRC\) regional meetings](#), the Belmont Forum advanced a discussion paper on South-South research collaborations. By acknowledging global and regional funding constraints and their impacts on Southern countries, the paper highlights the strategic importance of strengthening collaboration among Global South research funders and partners to sustain and scale Southern perspectives and practices in sustainability research.

The document outlines key recommendations to enhance South-South research collaborations:

- fostering human and institutional capacity development
- opening and sustaining spaces at a global scale for positioning research agendas that truly consider Southern countries' priorities, perspectives, capacities, and practices
- and mobilizing financial resources through flexible and adaptable mechanisms and tools to enable countries' participation in multilateral collaborations, with their own possibilities and priorities

This effort is opening dialogues between the Belmont Forum and regional partnerships as well as with national research funders from [Africa, Central and South America, and Asia](#).

The South-to-South collaboration paper is under development and will be published in 2026. This is a first step in coordinating funding strategies and practical implementation pathways to boost Southern countries' participation in BF's CRAs.

V. FUNDING GLOBAL RESEARCH

The Belmont Forum is an international partnership that mobilizes funding for environmental change research and accelerates its delivery to remove barriers to sustainability through collaboration. These CRAs have continued to bring together the international community in an inclusive way, in alignment with global challenges.

Our members and associates contribute with resources, both direct and in-kind, to the design and implementation of CRAs. These contributions support the Secretariat's tasks and activities, and the implementation of each CRA.

Since its inception, the Belmont Forum has committed over 320 million euros to Collaborative Research Actions across 94 countries. This funding has supported more than 192 transdisciplinary research projects since the first CRA was launched in 2012. On average, 14 million euros are committed per multilateral funding call, with individual projects receiving an average of 1 million euros across 22 funded CRAs.

These figures will increase as the in-kind contributions are estimated. Scientists and societal actors who volunteered their time to execute the projects, or the members' and partners' personnel who provide support to the secretariat, add immense value to achieve the Belmont Forum goal.

I want to express my gratitude to the project representatives. We've seen significant progress in various CRAs, highlighting the excellent science being done. We should continue to consider how to further support the research community. Many developments have been led by the Secretariat, for which we are very thankful, as these improvements enhance our processes and activities. These include supporting research communities and stakeholder engagement through data policies and tools, and engaging with partners such as the UN and the FAST Forum to promote sustainability research. Administrative improvements, such as a successful audit and an improved project evaluation review process, are also vital for building trust in our capacities. Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of training and coordination between projects and activities, which, though still developing, greatly benefit the community. I encourage continued creativity in bringing new ideas to fruition.

Anne-Hélène Prieur-Richard, ANR

During the 2025 Belmont Forum In-person Plenary

CRA Name	M €
2012 Freshwater	10.3
2012 Coastal	8.2
2013 Food	20.1
2014 Arctic	16.3
2014 Biodiversity	2.9
2015 Climate	15.4
2015 Mountains	8
2016 Nexus	25.3
2016 T2S	19.9
2017 Biodiversity	28.4
2018 Oceans	12.9
2018 SEI	4.5
2019 Arctic II	7.2
2019 CEH	15.6
2019 DR3	12.1
2020 Pathways	3.9
2020 Soils	7.8
2022 Migration	12.3
2022 SSCP	10.7
2023 CCH	14.5
2024 CEH 2	15.1
2024 ARC	10.7

Committed Project Funds
from 2012 – 2025

Africa Regional Call (ARC)

Projects Approved for Funding in 2025



In support of the African Union's climate, environment, and sustainability goals and priority areas for Agenda 2063, the National Research Foundation, South Africa (NRF) has led the development of this Belmont Forum CRA to address knowledge gaps and priorities in addressing climate change vulnerability across the continent.

Three themes (or areas) of concern emerged from scoping sessions with the community: 1) Water – Energy – Food – Health Nexus; 2) Pollution; 3) Disaster Preparedness, Responsiveness, and Recovery.

In addition to the three call Areas, the green and blue economy was identified as a cross-cutting issue, and education and awareness were identified as cross-cutting activities to be encouraged.

The CRA call was launched in 2024, with selected projects announced in 2025 and planned durations of 36 to 40 months.

ACCENTS-4CO2

This project transforms CO₂ into bio-engineered carbonates for applications in agriculture, energy, water, and health. It focuses on scalable green technologies and nano-solutions across the Water–Energy–Food–Health nexus. There is a strong emphasis on capacity building and South–South/North–South collaboration.

ICWE-SD Congo

ICWE-SD Congo examines climate impacts on the Water–Energy–Food–Health nexus in the Congo Basin. It integrates interdisciplinary data and community engagement to develop scalable solutions. The project seeks to deliver policy guidance and frameworks for transboundary resource management.

FEAT4AFRICA

FEAT4AFRICA promotes urban food security through innovative agri-food technologies (e.g., hydroponics, aquaponics). It aspires to empower women and youth via Living Labs and circular food systems. It aims to produce nutrient-rich food

PURE-MW

This project addresses water pollution from emerging contaminants in Kenya (e.g., pharmaceuticals, EDCs). It intends to develop technologies for pollutant removal and recovery of valuable compounds. It plans to build local expertise and prototypes for sustainable water treatment.

Africa Regional Call (ARC) Funded Projects



FEWTURE

FEWTURE is designed to advance sustainable Spirulina production to support food security, health, and bioenergy. It combines research, training, and infrastructure development across African contexts. One of its proposals is to promote Spirulina as a multi-benefit solution within the sustainability nexus.

SHIELD

SHIELD investigates cascading impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. It combines climate data, local knowledge, and participatory research. It concentrates on delivering frameworks and policy recommendations for heat adaptation.

BIO-NEXUS

BIO-NEXUS explores engineered biochar for water, food, and energy security in Sub-Saharan Africa. It will evaluate technologies, economic viability, and environmental benefits. This project seeks to support circular economy approaches and improved community well-being.

COPPAQ

CoPPAQ addresses air pollution and extreme heat in peri-urban African areas. It combines modeling, remote sensing, and stakeholder engagement. This project focuses on co-designing solutions for resilience, health, and climate adaptation.

SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND DAIRY INDUSTRIES' WASTEWATER TREATMENT

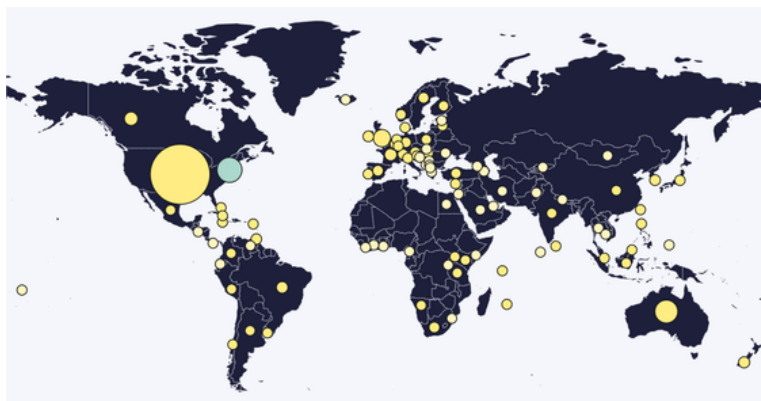
This project transforms industrial wastewater into resources like energy, nutrients, and clean water. It will use integrated technologies and circular approaches (e.g., biodiesel, protein from waste). Sustainable Solutions For Slaughterhouse And Dairy Industries' Wastewater Treatment aims to support sustainability, pollution reduction, and livelihoods in developing regions.

CO-CREATING CIRCULAR SANITATION SYSTEMS

This project develops circular sanitation solutions for low-income communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. It concentrates on resource recovery, off-grid systems, and financially viable service models. Co-creating Circular Sanitation Systems attempts to enhance hygiene, food security, and local capacity through co-creation.

VI. COMMUNICATING BROADLY

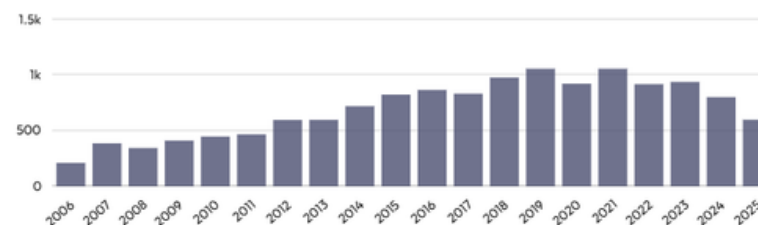
Our policy footprint demonstrates a broad global presence, with **16,563 policy documents** across **95 countries**. The distribution remains concentrated, with the **United States** accounting for nearly half of all documents (**48%**), followed by **Australia** (**13%**) and the **United Kingdom** (**8%**). While representation from the Global South is growing, it remains relatively limited, offering opportunities to further expand the Belmont Forum's policy reach and influence across diverse geographic contexts.



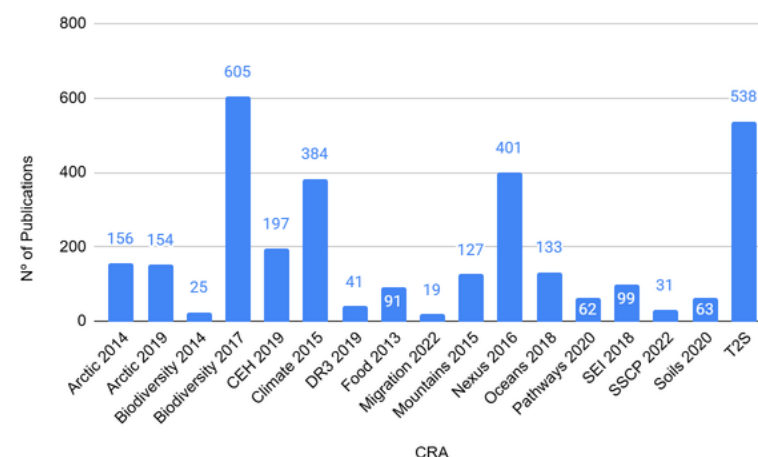
Global distribution of policy documents referencing the Belmont Forum (Source: Overton, 2026)

Publications referencing the Belmont Forum reveal a sustained presence in the global policy landscape. Annual outputs remained consistently elevated in 2025, with 654 publications. The vast majority of references originate from the **public sector (94.1%)**, followed by the **third sector (5.7%)** and the **private sector (0.2%)**.

Most references appear in **publications** (14,849 documents) and **transcripts** (1,438), spanning diverse policy domains (clinical guidance, working paper, legal documents, periodical, scholarly article, blog post, press release, white paper). The strongest concentrations are in **science and technology, economy, business and finance, health, education, and environment**, demonstrating the Belmont Forum's broad and transdisciplinary influence on evidence-informed policymaking.



Annual number of publications referencing the Belmont Forum (2022-2025) (Source: Overton, 2026)



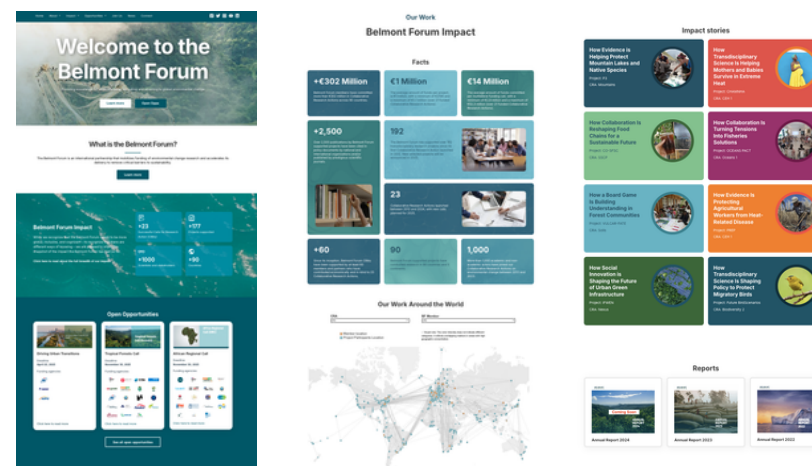
Number of Publication by CRA (Source: Bfgo, 2025)

VI. COMMUNICATING BROADLY

Outreach and Social Media

The Belmont Forum has continued to strengthen our digital presence and outreach, expanding our audience and engagement across multiple platforms. Our **newsletter** steadily grew, with **514 new subscribers** joining in 2025, bringing the total subscriber base to **3,810**. **Email** campaigns continued to be an effective communication tool. A total of **50,329 emails** were sent, generating **2,337 clicks**.

We reached **71,167 users** across our social media platforms, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#). These are unique individuals who were exposed to our content throughout the year. This year, we created two profiles on [Bluesky](#), one for the BF and another for [the Foundation](#). This is a strategy to diversify channels and engage with emerging online communities.



BFGo Platform

In 2025, [BFGo](#), our grant operations system, continued to support the community with a multilingual tool to improve accessibility, efficiency, and integrity across operations. After a successful pilot (ARC and Forests), the tool was enabled for Ocean 2 and Resilience CRAs. It assists with translating call texts and supporting applications in multiple languages (English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese).

We also developed a new Reviewer Module, designed to streamline and standardize the peer review process. The module supports the full reviewer lifecycle from invitation and onboarding to assignment and participation, through an integrated digital workflow. It aims to promote consistency and reduce risks related to data use, confidentiality, and conflicts of interest, while aligning with member policies and practices. It also increases efficiency for GPCs and TPOs in managing reviewers and improves the overall experience by providing online access to forms, guidance, and training materials. Reviewer guidelines continue to evolve, including the introduction of policies on the responsible use of AI in the review process.

Website Updates

Our [official website](#) went through a redesign in 2025. We aimed to enhance accessibility, usability, and the communication of our impact. The process was highly user-centered, incorporating user story workshops, in-depth interviews, and a comprehensive website audit.

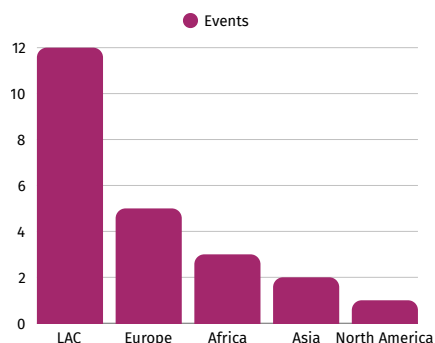
User feedback highlighted the need for clearer and more concise information, reduced use of technical jargon, and better organization of content tailored to different audiences, including applicants, members and associates, and prospective societal actors. Users also emphasized the importance of regularly updated content, particularly regarding Belmont Forum activities, project results, and success stories, as well as improved tools for navigating information.

The redesigned website presents clearer and more visible data on BF's impact, including enhanced visualizations of funded projects and CRAs. New interactive features such as dynamic maps and improved search functionalities enable users to easily explore past, current, and upcoming funding opportunities. The website also has multilingual capabilities, expanding accessibility and supporting broader global engagement.

V I . COMMUNICATING BROADLY

Belmont Forum's Multilateral Engagement

The Belmont Forum reinforced global presence through active participation in **23 events**, ranging from international conferences to high-level forums, and strategic dialogues across **15 countries**.



Capacity-Building Activities

We delivered broad capacity-building activities designed to boost skills, promote knowledge exchange, and support the global research community in addressing complex sustainability challenges. A diverse portfolio of training was delivered throughout the year, covering areas such as transdisciplinary research, grant writing, data management, open science, and science communication. These activities attracted over **900 registrations** across all **12 sessions**. The Theory of Change Training stood out, and **241 participants** registered. This shows strong demand for impact-oriented approaches.

The Belmont Forum expanded capacity-building efforts through engagement at the **SRI 2025 conference**. We offered **9 training sessions**, attracting over **200 registrations** and extending our reach and engagement. These activities included a modification of the TD Game, the **Sci Comms Game**, an interactive tool designed to strengthen science communication skills in transdisciplinary contexts by encouraging participants to reflect on audiences, messaging, jargon reduction, and power dynamics in knowledge exchange.



Asia and the Middle East

- Fifth Foundations Dialogue
- Muscat Global Knowledge Dialogue & ISC Third General Assembly



North America

- Funders Forum for Strategic Funding Alignment (NY Climate Week)



South America

- Southern Voice Conference 2025
- Women of Impact Awards
- IAI's COP33
- Americas GRC Meeting



Europe

- UNDRR Global Platform
- ISC and UNESCO Convene Meeting of Science Funders
- UN Ocean Conference
- 4th International Conference on Financing for Development
- GRC Meeting



Central America

- Latin America and the Caribbean International Economic Forum 2025
- Earth Day meeting at the Fundación Ciencia en Panama
- Peace Forest Initiative Workshop
- ESRI Community Users Event
- CBD-SBSTTA-27
- CBD-SB8J-1
- APANAC
- Ocean Accounts Exchange



Africa

- G-STIC Conference
- GRC Meeting
- GRC Meeting

VII. MOVING FORWARD

2026 On

The Belmont Forum will continue to expand its strategic research portfolio. Two **new CRAs** are expected to be taken forward: **Arctic 3** and **Biodiversity 3**. Both initiatives will enter the scoping phase in 2026. This stage creates an inclusive space for dialogue among researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and societal actors to help shape both CRAs. BF scoping processes ensure that calls are responsive to real-world challenges, grounded in diverse perspectives, and aligned with global sustainability priorities.

We expect to complete the selection of the **Advancing Leadership Program** pairs and formally initiate the program in the second quarter. This will be the time to deliver ALP activities and workshops. The program is intended to strengthen leadership skills, foster collaboration, and empower participants to drive solution-oriented research across sectors and regions.

By developing implementation plans for our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) and Open Data frameworks, we will take a step forward in operationalizing our governance commitments. Building on the DEIA Statement and the Open Data Policy already established, our focus is on translating these principles into concrete actions, processes, and measurable outcomes. To support this effort, dedicated DEIA and Open Data Task and Finish Groups were established and will begin working in 2026. This brings together the Belmont Forum community to collaboratively design these implementation plans.

Challenges & Looking Ahead

In 2026, we will reflect on the last 5 years of Global SRI engagement. The Belmont Forum will work with Future Earth, our co-convenor, to determine how best to serve our community in the future. In the meantime, we will be supporting the SRI Africa Regional event. Rather than convening a dedicated programme, we plan to deliver sessions on ALP, on scoping discussions for upcoming CRAs (Biodiversity 3 and Arctic 3), and further develop the concept of the South–South Collaboration paper.

The Belmont Forum Foundation (BFF) is expected to become operational, advancing fundraising activities, philanthropic partnerships, and new funding mechanisms to support CRAs and other strategic initiatives.

Our in-person plenary is confirmed to be held in Bangkok, hosted by Thailand Science Research and Innovation (TSRI).



WEBPAGES

ADVANCING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

<https://belmontforum.org/alp>

ARC

<https://belmontforum.org/cras#arc>

BELMONT FORUM

www.belmontforum.org

BFGO

www.belmontforum.org

BLUESKY

<https://bsky.app/profile/belmontforum.bsky.social>

CCH

<https://belmontforum.org/cras#cch2023>

CEH 2

<https://belmontforum.org/cras#ceh22023>

DUT

<https://belmontforum.org/cras#dut>

FORESTS

<https://belmontforum.org/cras#forests>

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBelmontForum>

GLOBAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

<https://globalresearchcouncil.org/meetings/>

INSTAGRAM

https://www.instagram.com/belmont_forum

LINKEDIN

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/18034390>

MIGRATION

<https://belmontforum.org/cras#migration2022>

OCEANS 2

https://belmontforum.org/cras-in-scoping#ocean_2

OVERTON

<https://www.overton.io/>

PATHWAYS TO SUSTAINABILITY: COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/drjasonlane_excited-to-share-that-the-manuscript-activity-7284608954498785280-8dyF/

RESILIENCE

<https://belmontforum.org/cras-in-scoping#resilience>

S&CC

https://belmontforum.org/projects?fwp_project_call=ceh2019

SRI

<https://sricongress.org/sri2025-africa-satellite-event/>

SSCP

<https://belmontforum.org/cras#sscp2022>

TWITTER

https://x.com/Belmont_Forum

WHOVA

https://whova.com/xems/view/basics/srais_202506/

YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/@belmontforum6203>

