WORLD RESOURCES FORUM '25

Call for Abstracts

New Resource Strategies for a Fair and Sustainable Future

2-5 September 2025, Geneva & Online

The World Resources Forum (WRF) is a world-leading conference in the field of sustainable natural resource governance and management. We act as a multi-stakeholder platform to foster an open and solution-oriented dialogue among policy-makers, scientists, businesses, and civil society organisations. WRF'25 'New Resource Strategies for a Fair and Sustainable Future' will take place in a hybrid format in Geneva (Switzerland) on 2-3 September, and online on 4-5 September 2025.

WRF'25 focuses on three sectors with significant resource use and environmental, social and economic impacts (**"resource hotspots"**): the extractive sector, the built environment and consumer & industrial goods. Our goal is to invite scientific contributions that propose innovative strategies and tools to enhance sustainability and fairness across these sectors within planetary boundaries. We are particularly seeking research that explores the role, potential, challenges and opportunities of six key **"Drivers for Change"** across the three sectors: Circular Economy; Multilateral Governance; Innovation, Design and Digitalisation; Finance & Trade; Indicators, Methods & Standards; and, Sufficiency. Submissions that propose strategies for governments, industry and civil society, put forward interdisciplinary approaches, and utilise innovative methods to assess impacts are highly encouraged.

Contributions

- Address one or more of the three sectors
- Apply one or more of the "Drivers for Change"
- Can be submitted for either oral or poster presentation
- Should present original results or updates from previous presentations and/or publications
- Abstracts should include context, research question(s) and/or goals, approach, results, conclusion and up to three bibliographical references
- Written in English and max. 400 words (excluding references)

Procedure

- Read the Call for Abstracts and assess relevance of your work for the "resource hotspots" and "Drivers for Change"
- Submit your abstract online in the dedicated abstract management portal
- The abstract undergoes a double peer-review process by the WRF'25 Scientific Committee
- Accepted oral and poster presentations can either be presented in-person in Geneva or online
- Both, for in-person and online presentations, registration to the conference is required

Timeline

October '24	January '25	April '25	May-August '25
Call for Abstracts open	**Abstract Submission deadline**	**Notification of acceptance**	**Submission full journal paper (optional)**

Global Sustainability Journal - Special Issue WRF'25

We are excited to announce a special opportunity for contributors to the WRF'25 Scientific Sessions! Authors of accepted abstracts will have the option to submit a full paper for peer-review and potential publication in Global Sustainability, a globally renowned open-access journal by Cambridge University Press. This collaboration provides a unique avenue to increase the impact and visibility of your research by engaging with a global academic community focused on sustainability challenges and solutions. Further details on submission guidelines and timelines will be provided soon.

Resource Hotspots & Focus

Extractive Sector

- Large-scale mining
- Artisanal and small-scale mining
- Deep-sea mining
- Critical and strategic raw materials
- Conflict minerals

Built Environment

- Cities
- Buildings
- Infrastructure
- Building materials
- Buildings-energy-mobility nexus

Consumer & Industrial Goods

- Plastics and packaging
- Electronics
- Healthcare
- Batteries and energy storage
- Textiles and apparel

Drivers for Change per Resource Hotspot

The list below presents examples of potential topics related to the 'Drivers for Change' across the three resource hotspots. This list is not exhaustive, and additional relevant topics are welcome.

CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Exploring systemic circular economy perspectives across sectors, considering:

- **Extractive Sector**: Multi-resource extraction, recycling targets for rare and critical raw materials, tailings management.
- **Built Environment**: Cradle-to-cradle design, design for deconstruction, balancing life-extension versus reconstruction in buildings and cities.
- **Consumer & Industrial Goods**: Circular business models (e.g. products-as-a-service), inclusive recycling (e.g. electronics, batteries, plastics), education on sustainable consumption and production.

MULTILATERAL GOVERNANCE

Exploring governance frameworks that promote sustainability, considering:

- **Extractive Sector:** Conflict minerals, deep-sea mining, artisanal & small-scale mining governance and due diligence.
- **Built Environment:** Paris Agreement, UNEA recommendations, smart city governance.
- **Consumer & Industrial Goods**: Global Plastics Treaty, eco-labels, transboundary movements of waste, corporate sustainability reporting.

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FINANCE & TRADE

Exploring financial mechanisms and trade policies, considering:

- **Extractive Sector:** Conflict minerals supply risks, investments in artisanal & small-scale mining.
- **Built Environment:** Financial incentives for low-carbon buildings, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for urban infrastructure.
- **Consumer & Industrial Goods:** Circular business models, sustainable financing for SMEs, incentivising policies for batteries, electronics, and plastics.

INDICATORS, METHODS & STANDARDS

Exploring standards and metrics that guide sustainable practices, considering:

- **Extractive Sector:** Assurance schemes, ethical sourcing standards, life cycle assessments for resource extraction impacts.
- **Built Environment:** Green building certifications, life-cycle assessment (LCA) methods, Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting for infrastructure.
- **Consumer & Industrial Goods:** Certification labels, product environmental footprints, global sustainability indices for consumer goods.

INNOVATION, DESIGN & DIGITALISATION

Exploring the role of innovation and digital tools, considering:

- **Extractive Sector:** Digitalisation for traceability and resource monitoring, innovations in processing technologies.
- **Built Environment:** Digital twin cities, material and product passports, mobility solutions, smart infrastructure.
- **Consumer & Industrial Goods:** AI for supply chain optimisation, blockchain for product tracking, digital platforms for product exchanges.

SUFFICIENCY

Exploring strategies that promote sufficiency in resource use and consumption, considering:

- **Extractive Sector:** Resource distribution equity, policies preventing over-extraction.
- **Built Environment:** Resource sufficiency in design, space and energy needs for sustainable living.
- **Consumer & Industrial Goods:** Sustainable consumption patterns in fashion, food and mobility, sufficiency strategies in healthcare products.

Submit your abstract

Learn more

wrf2025.org/callforabstracts/
Global Sustainability Journal - About

Get in touch

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