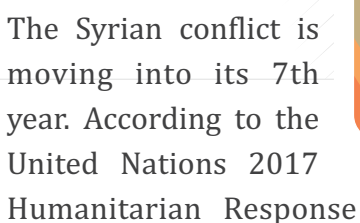


# Transforming our world NEWSLETTER



*By Joseph Cook and Nsioh Macnight*

Plan for the Syrian Arab Republic, there has been a rapid rise in humanitarian needs across the country. The report highlights that 13.5 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance, 6.3 million are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), up to \$3.4 US billion are needed to meet the humanitarian needs, 7 million are food insecure, 1 in 3 Syrian children are out of school, 60 % require health assistance, and 30,000 people suffer war-related trauma every month. With the hope of bringing the conflict to an end, the United Nations have been facilitating discussions between the parties involved in the hostilities. [Read more](#)

— JOHN LENNON

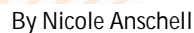
KAFUNGWA, Mebeelo [Zambia]  
UNU-IAS

“The peace negotiations are focused on ensuring the talks are Syrian-led and ultimately, Syrian-owned



Figure 1 consists of two maps of the Balkan region. The left map is a political map showing the administrative boundaries of countries and regions. The right map is a thematic map showing the distribution of the Albanian population, with a high concentration in the western and central parts of the region.

requires modeling methods to understand and project the spatial patterns. However, if we are to achieve urban sustainability, there is need to innovate new analytic frameworks that include all variables of land use change. [Read more](#)



'playable' conference, debuting an interactive policy game, HiveMind, in order to simulate the commitment, strategy and funding required to achieve the 17 SDGs. [Read more](#)





# UNU-IAS International Symposium underscores the link between Biodiversity and Sustainability

By  
Christmas de Guzman



Attended by various experts, researchers, students and other representatives from the academic and development sectors, an international symposium with the theme "Biodiversity and Sustainability: Linking People and Nature" was held last 12 March at the United Nations University (UNU) U Thant International Conference Hall. Co-organized by the UNU Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) and the Integrated Research System for Sustainability Science (IR3S) at the University of Tokyo, the symposium was

opened with a welcome remark by Dr. David Malone, rector of the UNU, who pointed out that Japan, as a country, presents this connection between traditional culture and biodiversity. [Read more](#)

## Leadership for Sustainability

By Tamara Luisce



We live in a world where the need for leaders that can understand sustainability and lead accordingly in business, government and civil society is urgent. Now, more than ever, we need to be prepared to make informed choices and develop strategies that will realize sustainability goals in all sectors of the globalized world. At the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), fourteen students and professionals from eleven countries around the world met from March 13 to March 21, 2017, to participate in the Leadership for Sustainability course. The countries represented

were Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Cameroun, Ethiopia, Greece, India, Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. [Read more](#)