

IUSSP Scientific Panel: Population-Environment Research Network – [PERN](#)

Activities 2021-2025

Report to the IUSSP General Assembly 2025

Launched in 2001, the Population-Environment Research Network seeks to advance academic research on population and the environment by promoting online scientific exchange among researchers from social and natural science disciplines worldwide. Members of the Scientific Committee and the management team are listed [here](#), and more information on PERN is available [here](#). There were 1757 members in PERN's email list in August 2025, while the PERN cyberseminar list had 818 members.

Between 2021 and 2025, PERN organized three [cyberseminars](#) (listed below). Each cyberseminar included a background paper, position papers by the invited experts, and a kick-off webinar.

- The habitability concept in the field of population-environment studies: relevance and research implications (13-20 March 2023) ([webinar](#))
- The demography of sustainable human well-being (14-21 March 2022) ([webinar](#))
- Refugee and internally displaced populations, environmental impacts and climate risks (10-19- March 2019) ([webinar](#))

A major accomplishment over the report period was the upgrading and updating of [PERN's website](#). As part of this rebuild, some of the pages were simplified, others were merged, the eLibrary was discontinued and its [content](#) archived, and there were changes in the [membership](#) sign-up process. Many thanks to the PERN team, who developed the new website and archived all the content of the old site, to our SC members for their comments and photos, and to former co-chair Alex de Sherbinin for his overall support. The new website was launched in December 2024, and up to August 2025 it has had 20,100 visits from 3,967 unique users.

Until April 2025, PERN received in-kind support from the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC), managed by the Center for Integrated Earth System Information (CIESIN) at Columbia University (which now hosts the website) (NASA terminated CIESIN's SEDAC contract on April 30, 2025)