



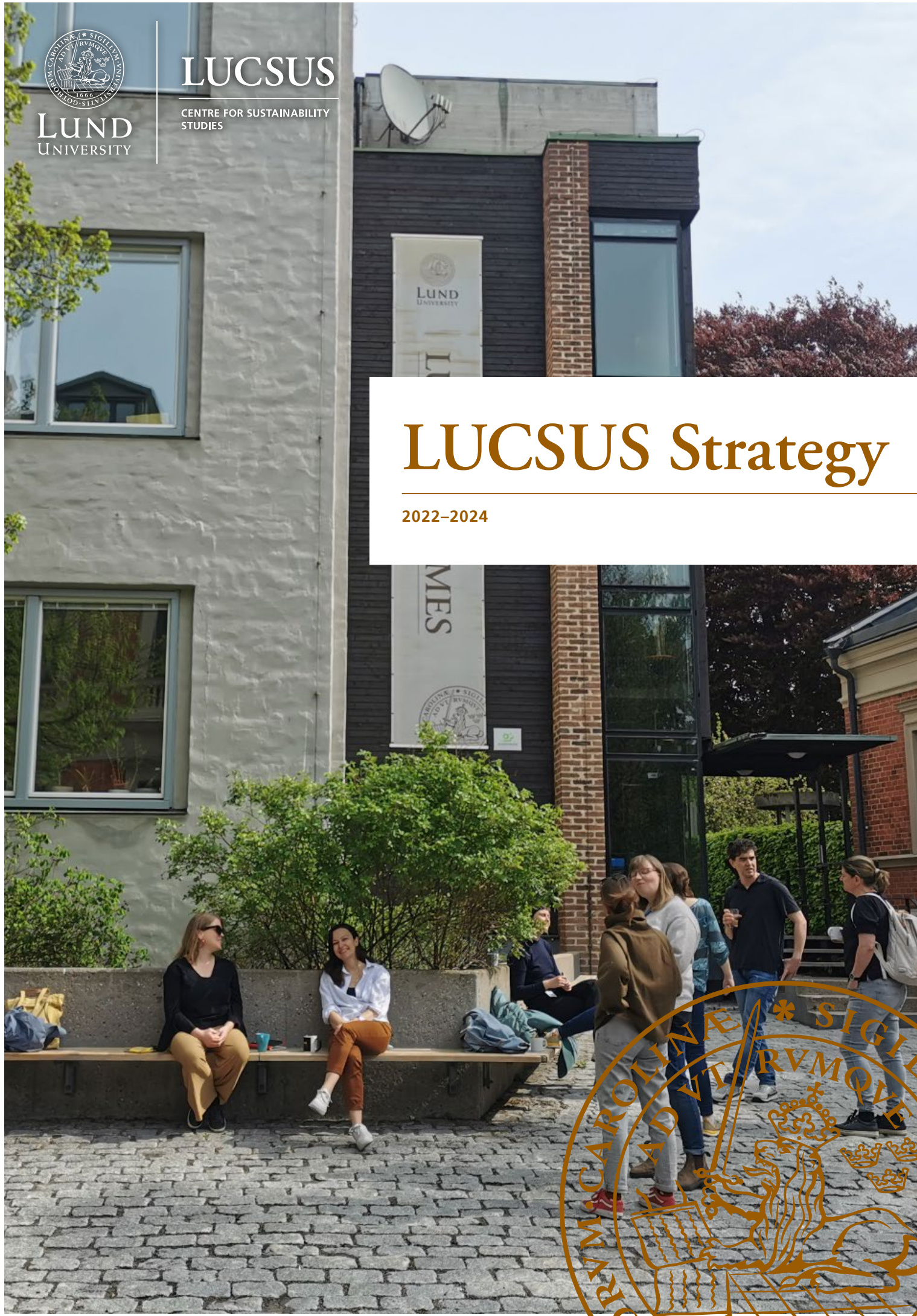
LUND  
UNIVERSITY

LUCSUS

CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABILITY  
STUDIES

# LUCSUS Strategy

2022–2024







## Introduction

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**Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS) is a world-class sustainability centre for research, teaching and impact where we work to understand, explain, and catalyse social change and transformations in relation to material limits in the biosphere.**

LUCSUS was established as an independent centre at Lund University in 2005 but since 2019, LUCSUS belongs to the Faculty of Social Sciences. LUCSUS has a unique way of addressing complex sustainability issues from a critical and an integrated natural and social science perspective, and with a solutions-based approach. Sustainability is a complex field – and best understood and explained through interdisciplinary research in close collaboration with society.

LUCSUS consists of a team of about 30+ international researchers and teachers from a range of countries and academic backgrounds. Our unique international, interdisciplinary setting offers both researchers, master

students and PhD candidates a vibrant learning and research environment which provides a forum for professional and intellectual development in sustainability.

This strategy framework is setting out our objectives and strategies for the coming three years and focuses on *research, education, impact and outreach*, as well as the *environment* in which these are carried out. This framework will guide LUCSUS internally and serves as the basis to develop a more detailed plan of actions.

It aligns with the Lund University vision and strategy, as well as on the core values of autonomy and academic freedom on which European universities agreed in the Magna Charta Universitatum. The strategy also aligns with the laws which a Swedish public authority is obliged to follow, safeguarding democracy, legality, impartiality, freedom of opinion, respect for the equal value of all human beings, efficiency and service as well as democratic principles and human rights and freedoms.

### **LUND UNIVERSITY VISION**

A world-class university that works to understand, explain and improve our world and the human condition.

## LUCSUS VISION

*A world-class sustainability centre for research, teaching and impact and outreach where we work to understand, explain, and catalyse social change and transformations in relation to material limits in the biosphere.*

# 1. Research that matters

► **Research vision:** At LUCSUS we create innovative, rigorous theoretical and empirical knowledge to understand, explain, and influence practice in pressing sustainability challenges.

### GOAL 1.1

LUCSUS research is at the forefront of sustainability science, innovative, of the highest quality and leads to novel insights and actionable findings.

#### Strategies:

- Develop and support staff to become highly qualified researchers.
- Secure and foster our interdisciplinary profile and recruitments of lectureships.
- Produce and support a creative, comprehensive, cutting-edge body of scholarly publications at the frontiers of sustainability science.
- Support excellence and training in attracting grants for researchers at all levels by effective use of external and internal resources.
- Produce research with respect, sensitivity and inclusion, following the highest ethical standards.
- Create and support a research culture that is collaborative, innovative, and supportive, both within LUCSUS and through strategic partnerships.
- Strengthen LUCSUS interdisciplinary profile in the Social Science faculty and foster as well as support collaborations across all university faculties and departments (including SHAPE and STEM subjects).

### GOAL 1.2

LUCSUS PhD school trains rigorous, creative, and empowered researchers.

#### Strategies:

- Attract a sustainable number of excellent early-career scholars to our PhD program.
- Support and equip PhDs with knowledge, skills, tools and ethical competence to produce independent cutting-edge research that addresses critical societal questions.
- Provide and develop effective mentoring and support for PhDs for intellectual career development pathways.
- Develop collaboration and coordination between projects, supervisors and PhDs through informal and formal mechanisms.
- Train LUCSUS PhDs to collaborate and communicate their expertise effectively with a range of academic and societal stakeholders.
- Foster collaboration and synergies between our research school and the Agenda 2030 graduate school.

### GOAL 1.3

LUCSUS research and education is intertwined.

#### Strategies:

- Systematically integrate LUCSUS research into teaching at all levels.
- Create and establish transparent opportunities and routines for Master's students to engage with and contribute to ongoing research at LUCSUS, through project assistantships and thesis projects.
- Teach and provide an understanding of the research process, including research design, validity, interpretation, and communication to students to enhance their research skills.

## 2. Educating agents for sustainability

► **Education vision:** LUCSUS produces world-class interdisciplinary education in sustainability science and equips change agents with tools for solving sustainability challenges.

### GOAL 2.1

LUCSUS has a diversified and relevant interdisciplinary teaching portfolio.

#### Strategies:

- Provide and develop a range of timely courses and programmes within LUCSUS, and at other departments and faculties (within and outside Lund University).
- Develop our offering of commissioned education courses and programmes (for external stakeholders nationally and internationally).
- Develop a strong education profile in sustainability science within the Social Science and other faculties, including the Graduate School.

### GOAL 2.2

LUCSUS education is of outstanding quality, in content, pedagogy and administration.

#### Strategies:

- Continuously improve and develop course/programme content and quality (at the forefront of sustainability science) to meet current and future sustainability challenges.
- Develop and support staff to become highly qualified and reward and build expertise in teaching and pedagogy.

- Create a stimulating learning environment where education and research are intertwined.
- Establish and improve efficient and professional routines for course and student administration.

### GOAL 2.3

LUCSUS attracts highly qualified students from diverse academic backgrounds.

#### Strategies:

- Develop and improve our marketing strategy and recruitment process to secure high quality student applications.
- Reinforce diversity in education through proactively widening participation.
- Enable an attractive environment for international students.

### GOAL 2.4

LUCSUS produces highly qualified, attractive graduates for career paths both within and beyond academia.

#### Strategies:

- Teach and equip students with up to date and socially relevant knowledge, understanding and skills to tackle sustainability challenges.
- Expand and develop routines for collaboration and partnership with alumni, other higher education and research institutions, society and industry, nationally and internationally.
- Explore possibilities and develop models for student mobility and work experience.





### 3. Impact that creates change

► **Impact vision:** LUCSUS research, teaching and communication contributes to social change and transformations for sustainability.

Impact is the good that our research and teaching does in the world. Creating societal and environmental impacts beyond academia is in the very core of our work. At LUCSUS we work with policy, capacity building, and societal dialogue as pathways to make an impact for sustainable transformation – from a local to a global level.

We work collaboratively with external stakeholders and organisations to engage with different kinds of impact, such as environmental, understanding and awareness, attitudes and behavior change, capacity, policy and decision-making, health and economy. Some of them are obvious, direct, tangible and measurable, while others are less tangible, collective, long-term, and build on the efforts of many actors.

#### GOAL 3.1

LUCSUS work supports and contributes to policies and networks that advance sustainable societal transformations, from the local to global level.

##### Strategies:

- Actively engage with decision-makers to support informed and evidence-based actions.
- Expand, encourage and facilitate boundary-crossing and interdisciplinary research collaborations and partnerships with external stakeholders, including civil society, government/public sector, academic institutions, and industry.
- Representation on relevant advisory boards and strategic panels and committees, within and outside academia, and participation in local, national, and global climate and sustainability meetings aimed at policymakers and the science-policy interface.
- Contribute to scientific assessments and policy documents.

#### GOAL 3.2

LUCSUS enhances individual, organisational, and societal capacity in dealing with and solving sustainability challenges.

##### Strategies:

- Enhance collaborations with partners from civil society and the private and public sectors.
- Provide and develop knowledge, skills and tools needed to support action for sustainable development.
- Provide and develop education and training/develop capacities in leadership, planning, and implementation skills for sustainable transformations.

#### GOAL 3.3

LUCSUS engages and communicates with society, to inform understanding and advance dialogue on sustainability.

##### Strategies:

- Strategically communicate and disseminate our research to wider society through collaborations, outreach activities, media and other communication channels.
- Influence and advance the societal debate on sustainability issues by taking an active role in media and public discourse.



## 4. LUCSUS is a world-class educational and research environment that attracts, recruits and supports diverse talent.

► **Environment vision:** LUCSUS supports personal and professional development and attracts qualified students, researchers and administrative staff from different backgrounds. We protect and support diversity, pluralism, transparency and collegiality to create an organisational environment that is supportive, participatory, open, collaborative, and fun. We lead by example and we strive to embody the sustainable change we want to see in the world in our work and practices.

### GOAL 4.1

LUCSUS provides a safe, healthy, diverse and supportive working environment for staff and students.

#### Strategies:

- Develop a preventative approach (in our work environment) and follow existing laws, policies and guidelines.
- Build a culture of care and shared responsibility for, and contribute to, a good work and study environment.
- Develop a diverse, inclusive, equitable, fair, gender equal and supportive work environment.
- Build and enable open, participatory and collaborative practices for research and education.

### GOAL 4.2

LUCSUS attracts and recruits talent and supports professional development.

#### Strategies:

- Follow transparent merit-based approaches for recruitments and promotions
- Develop and ensure career pathways and support merit for professional development within Lund University and beyond.
- Professionalise and make effective recruitment processes.

### GOAL 4.3

LUCSUS have a thriving, productive and stimulating working environment, where we embody the changes we want to see in the world.

#### Strategies:

- Support, apply and develop climate compatible work policies.
- Support, apply and develop diverse, inclusive and gender-equal work practices and ensure equal opportunities for both students and staff.
- Support, apply and develop open, efficient, collegial and respectful work environment.
- Actively contribute to an open work environment and shared communication platforms and open channels.







LUCSUS staff in Västra hamnen, Malmö, during LUCSUS strategy day.



# LUCSUS core values

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- Our Environment Is: Open, Collaborative, and Empowering
  - Our Perspectives Are: Bold, Creative, and Challenging
  - We Strive To: Bridge Boundaries, Illuminate Possibilities, and Catalyse Change
  - We Act With: Integrity, Hope, and Joy
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Illustrations: Catrin Jakobsson. Photos: Cecilia von Arnold.