

EDITORIAL

This Editorial is being published in the 20th year since this journal's founding in 2005. The year of 2025 also marks the 25th year of the existence of the Knowledge Management for Development (KM4Dev) community which is being celebrated in the '25 years together' campaign. Since the journal's first issue in 2005, we have published over 389 papers, spread over 41 issues in 18 volumes, covering many key themes of Knowledge Management for Development (KM4D), a hybrid field between mainstream knowledge management and sustainable development. We have had many Special Issues, focusing on a theme or geographical region in English, Spanish and French, and also a number of non-thematic issues.

This is a non-thematic issue, covering a wide range of themes relevant to the field of KM4D. These include transdisciplinary practice in the USA and Brazil, communities of practice, and an overview of KM4dev's multiple activities in 2024.

The poem

The first contribution in this issue is the poem 'Echoes of Knowledge' (Mabel Shu) which is the third poem that we have published in this journal. This reflects the journal team's and the KM4Dev community's recognition of the importance of multiple knowledges. Mabel also touches on many key themes, such as the importance of knowledge sharing, power, capacity building, epistemic justice and co-creation. In a creative way, it raises questions about knowledge management and different perspectives on it.

Papers

The second contribution is the first of the three papers, 'Transdisciplinarity as strategy: lessons from the Maine aquaculture industry, USA' (Katrina Pugh, Teresa Johnson, Linda Silka and Nancy Dixon), which examines the role of the Core Group of the Maine Aquaculture Hub, an organization established to develop aquaculture in Maine, USA. It is unusual for this journal to include a paper from research in the USA but we have included it in this case because it is very relevant to transdisciplinary practice, something very much aligned with the fifth and six generations in the generational framework of knowledge management proposed by KM4Dev (Boyes et al, 2023), and it provides a very useful example of interaction within communities of practice which have a global relevance. In particular, the methodology of conversation analysis and strategic thinking provides useful pointers on how KM4Dev itself can analyse and improve its own conversational interactions in both its knowledge cafes and its online discussion forum.¹

In the next paper ‘An analytical framework for examining communities of practice in water management: a reflection on what they do and contribute to?’ (Laurent-Charles Tremblay Lévesque, Jeroen Warner, Jaime Hoogesteger, Gergana Majercakova and Nicolas Jarraud), the authors develop an analytical framework to understand better what water-related communities of practice do and what they contribute. The framework was co-developed, drawing from the experience of over 50 experts in communities of practice for water and environmental management. The research aims to assist coordinators of communities of practice to make more informed decisions about the design and maintenance of their water-related communities. However, the framework and approach is relevant to communities and other sectors.

The third paper, ‘Confluence of knowledge: cyclical steps for transdisciplinary research in practice, Brazil’ (Gabriela De La Rosa) shares insights from a transdisciplinary process co-developed with a fishing community and an academic research team in Brazil. It discusses steps for taking transdisciplinary research into practice, while also offering critical perspectives. By reflecting on these steps, the author aims to support researchers who involve multiple stakeholders and multiple knowledges to better understand the responsibilities and practical demands involved in converging different types of knowledges.

A review of KM4Dev in 2024

The final contribution in this issue is a Community Note ‘The state of the Knowledge Management for Development (KM4Dev) community in 2024’ (Toni Sittoni, Sarah Cummings, Bruce Boyes, Paul Atsu, Rocio Sanz, Denise Senmartin, Gladys Kemboi, Fitsum Habtemariam and Chris Zielinski). Written by members of the KM4Dev core group, it reviews, for the first time, the annual activities of KM4Dev, taking the year 2024. It starts with the top ten KM4dev buzzwords in 2024. Next, it review KM4Dev’s known impact on sustainable development, focusing on the advocacy campaign to successfully influence the text of the UN’s Pact of the Future (UN, 2024). Next, it provides an overview of KM4Dev’s core activities: interactive platforms, knowledge cafes, the Youth Leadership Forum, the KM4Dev-SIKM peer mentoring programme, and the Knowledge Management for Development Journal. In the next section, it describes the people who have played a formal role in the community as members of the core group, celebrating the awards and academic achievements of KM4Dev’s members. Next, it highlights some important activities: the face-to-face meeting which took place in Cape Town, South Africa in January, the support to the development of the fourth, forthcoming edition of the ‘Agenda Knowledge for Development’, new developments around the KM4Dev ‘Knowledge Sharing toolkit’, and some key events in the knowledge management and KM4Dev calendar. Finally, plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of KM4Dev in 2025 in the ‘25 years together’ campaign are briefly presented.

The *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* editorial team hopes you, the reader, enjoys these contributions and we look forward to publishing more issues in 2025 as we celebrate the journal's 20 year anniversary and '25 years together' with the KM4Dev community.

Sarah Cummings,
Editor-in-Chief, *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*

References

Boyes, B., S.J.R. Cummings, F. Tesfaye Habtemariam and G. Kemboi. (2023). 'We have a dream': proposing decolonization of knowledge as a sixth generation of knowledge management for sustainable development. Special Issue on 'Uncomfortable truths in international development: approaches to the decolonization of knowledge from development practice, policy and research.' *Knowledge Management for Development Journal* 17(1/2). 11-41. <https://km4djournal.org/index.php/km4dj/article/view/548/673>.

About the author

Sarah Cummings PhD is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Knowledge Management for Development Journal*. She was previously co-Director and Communications Director for the IKM Emergent Research Programme. She is a member and co-leader of the KM4Dev community. She currently works as Research Fellow at Knowledge, Technology and Innovation at Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands. She has her own business, Knowledge Ecologist, where she undertakes knowledge-related consultancies for the UN.
E-mail: sarahcummingswork@gmail.com

¹ <https://dgroups.io/g/km4dev/>