Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to present the 18th Issue of *Consilience: The Journal of Sustainable Development*. The Editorial Board has worked thoughtfully to assemble one of *Consilience's* most variegated and pertinent publications to date. The Journal's shortest issues yet, Issue 18 highlights a diversity of subjects unified by a pressing uncertainty in the world of sustainable development—that of leadership. Each piece takes for its author or subject a different agent responsible for advancing some aspect of sustainable policy and economy. Together, the pieces form a patchwork of potential leaders, leaving the reader's approbation free to identify the most convincing approach to the ever-complex task of sustainable development.

Only days before President Trump announced his intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, Pope Francis gifted Trump a copy of his 'Laudato Si', a 192-page encyclical that cites "scientific consensus" to rebuke environmentally and socially *un*sustainable action. The utter irony captured in the direction of this exchange crystalizes the dramatic shift in (global) sustainable leadership. The United States' abdication of its role as a sustainable development champion—or at least, a disposed participant—exemplifies a broader shuffle in leadership roles throughout the world. Beyond the international playing field, other polity levels and private entities increasingly assume responsibility for driving sustainable policy and practices. We hope that together the following pieces illuminate this fluctuating landscape and inspire dialogue that will ultimately prompt sustainably minded leadership and policy.

In the first piece of the issue, Arogyaswamy uses the Pope's encyclical letter to ultimately frame the growing role of corporations in driving clean energy investment. Sutton, on the other hand, provides an illuminating view of how relevant stakeholders, including producers themselves, view oil production in Alberta's bituminous sands deposit. For a contrast in scope, we present the UCLA analysis of WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) programs in Uganda and Lempert's critique on the UN's 2015 Sustainable Development Goals. The former identifies a clearly positive outcome of targeted community investment. The latter exposes a flawed logic behind the far-reaching SDGs. Iyalomhe calls on the Nigerian government to do a better job equipping its higher education students with environmental management instruction. Goldman invokes the support of the supranational European Union to employ new immigrant populations constructively in a 'New Deal' style. In his opinion piece, Zambakari calls attention to land grabs in Sudan being carried out by businesses and foreign sovereign capital.

As always, we welcome constructive feedback and hope that our work inspires you to engage with the issues. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at contact@consiliencejournal.org.

I would also like to briefly announce our upcoming partnership with JSTOR, which will be including *Consilience* in its open-access section. We look forward to sharing past and future work with an even broader audience.

Regards,

David Medoff Editor-in-Chief