



# Research Trends In Islam And Sustainable Development Based On Scopus Data: Bibliometric Analysis

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## Abstract

Islam has principles that support sustainable development, such as responsibility for protecting nature, social justice and balance. Despite its relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the link between Islam and sustainable development has been less explored in academic research. Therefore, further research is needed to analyze the trends and sparse research on Islam in supporting global efforts to achieve sustainability. This study aims to look at publications over the last ten years and to find novelty or research trends as well as research that is still rarely done. The method used is a bibliometric approach, with data collected systematically from the SCOPUS scientific database and then analyzed using software such as RStudio and VOSviewer in CSV/Excel format. Data collection was carried out from 2014 to 2024 over a period of 10 years. The result show that most relevant source was Iop Conference Series with 17 articles. Hassan R was the most prolific author (4 articles), and Universiti Sains Malaysia was the main affiliation. The most cited article came from Murphy Mj (2020) with 55 citations, while the US had the most citations (104). Malaysia leads in scientific production with 119 publications. Major trends related to this topic include planning, information management, and economic and social effects, while areas related to health and demographics are less researched.

**Keywords:** *Islam; R Studio; Sustainable Development; Trends; Vos Viewer*

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## INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development has become an increasingly important global agenda in the last few decades, especially after the adoption of the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDGs) by the United Nations in 2015 [1]. The SDGs set 17 main goals covering various aspects of economic, social and economic development. environment. These goals seek to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation and social injustice. In line with these goals, infrastructure planning in developing countries such as Indonesia has increasingly adopted sustainability-focused methods, including decision-making frameworks that balance environmental, economic, and social concerns [2]. Sustainability principles advocate practices that reduce waste and promote recycling, thereby preserving resources for future generations [3]. By ensuring that all individuals have access to resources and opportunities, sustainable development promotes inclusive growth that benefits all segments of society [4]. Inclusive sustainable development practices are increasingly being applied in community-based programs, including those in Muslim-majority contexts, such as sanitation initiatives that integrate sustainability principles with local religious values [5]. The integration of Islamic law (Maqasid al-Shariah) with sustainable development goals (SDGs) underscores the shared goal of fostering sustainable human life [6]. In this context, Islam as one of the religions with the largest followers in the world has significant potential to contribute to achieving the sustainable development agenda.

Islamic teachings offer many principles that support sustainability efforts. The concept of khilafah human leadership over the earth emphasizes humanity's responsibility to safeguard and protect nature [7]. The role of the Caliph includes the principle of intergenerational justice, where the current generation is tasked with preserving the environment for resource management and environmental protection for future generations [8]. Cholars argue that Islamic teachings provide a powerful framework for addressing contemporary environmental challenges, including climate change and resource depletion [9]; [10]. The concept of the caliphate encourages Muslims to engage in sustainable development practices that are in line with Islamic principles. This includes promoting renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and responsible consumption [11]. By emphasizing shared ethical responsibilities, various religious communities can work together to achieve shared sustainability goals [12]. Five practices underpin the sustainability approach based on this review, namely legal reform, sustainability metrics, technology for sustainable development, education for sustainable development, nature-based solutions, and Islamic financial instruments [13].

Islamic environmental organizations actively work to promote sustainability, with initiatives such as the Green Hajj movement aimed at reducing the environmental impact of religious practices [14]. The Qur'an and Hadith outline ecological responsibilities, encouraging believers to manage natural resources sustainably [15]. Sustainable development is mostly discussed in literature related to finance and Islam. In the context of sustainable development, many studies related to finance and Islam highlight three main principles of Islamic finance, namely the prohibition of usury, which encourages an interest-free system [16], risk sharing to avoid speculative practices

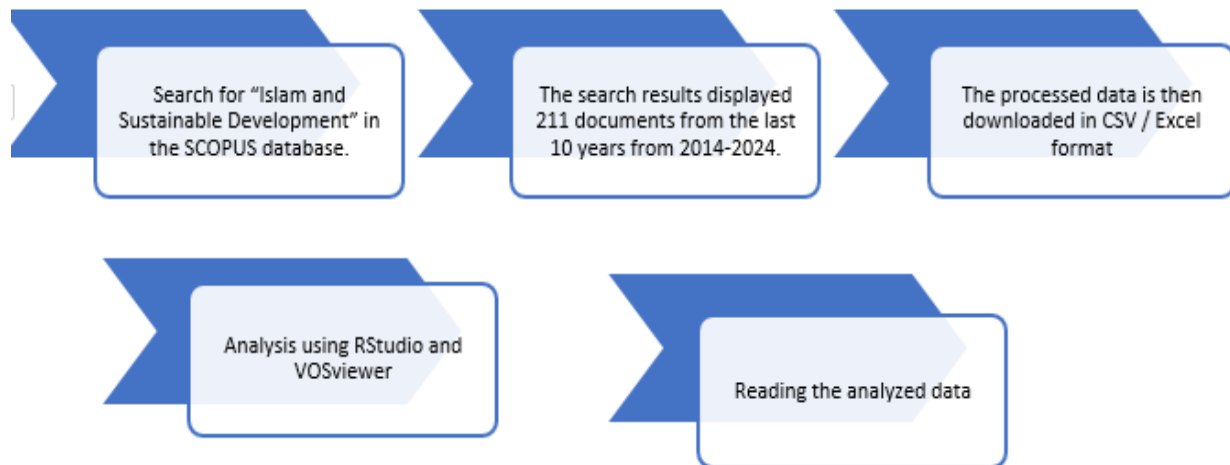
[17] and ethical investment that avoids sectors that are contrary to Sharia, such as alcohol and gambling [18]

However, the link between Islam and sustainable development has not yet been explored in depth in the academic literature. Despite the limited exploration of this link in academic literature, several national-scale projects in Muslim-majority countries demonstrate the integration of sustainability strategies in practice [19]. Research on how Islamic principles can be integrated into sustainable development policies is still relatively limited. On the other hand, countries with a majority Muslim population, such as Malaysia, Indonesia and several Middle Eastern countries, are starting to show commitment to implementing sustainable development policies in line with Islamic values. However, this contribution has not been fully recognized in the global discussion on sustainable development.

Therefore, further analysis is needed to understand research trends on the relationship between Islam and sustainable development. Bibliometric analysis can be a useful tool for mapping academic trends in this field, including identifying key topics, prominent authors, and institutions active in related research. By understanding trends and gaps in the literature, this research can provide deeper insight into the potential role of Islam in supporting the achievement of sustainable development goals globally. This research aims to fill this gap by mapping global trends regarding the relationship between Islam and sustainable development, as well as identifying areas that require further attention. Through this research, it is hoped that a better understanding can be formed about how Islamic principles can contribute to the sustainable development agenda, both in terms of policy and implementation in the field.

## METHODS

All articles analyzed in this study were obtained from the Scopus database. This database also facilitates the identification of leading authors and institutions, strengthening collaboration and knowledge sharing in areas such as quality improvement [20]. Data collection was carried out from 2014 to 2024 over a 10-year period, involving 211 documents using the keywords Islam and sustainable development. This analysis aimed to identify the extent to which this topic has been researched, emerging publication trends, and the relationships between key concepts used by researchers. By applying a bibliometric approach, data was systematically collected from the SCOPUS scientific database and then analyzed using software such as RStudio and VOSviewer in CSV/Excel format. VOSviewer creates a visual representation of author collaborations, keyword co-occurrences, and citation networks, helping in understanding the research landscape [21]. The methodological steps involved in this process are illustrated in the diagram below.

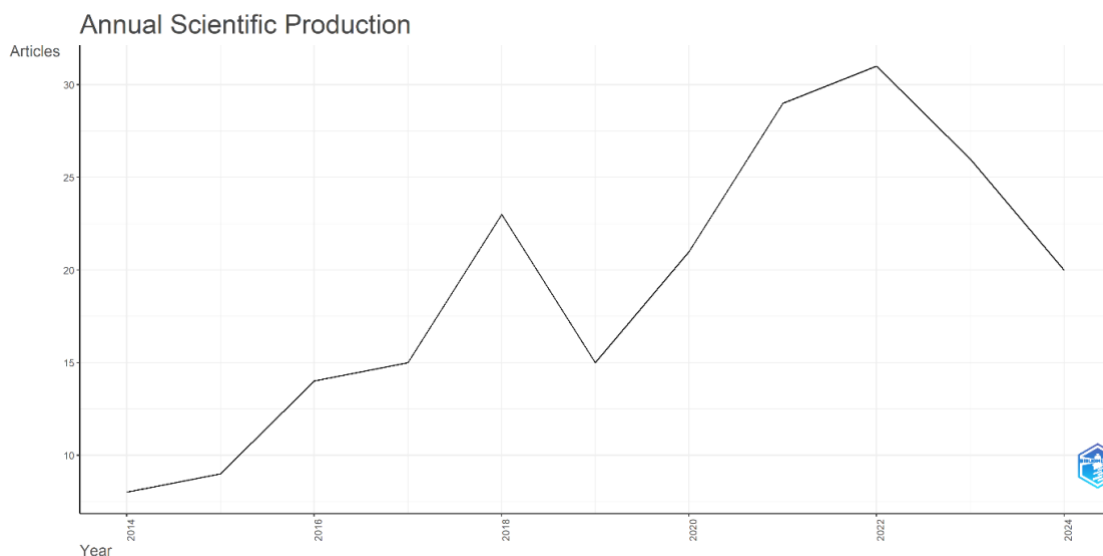


**Figure 1.** Flow of Data Collection and Processing

## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

### Development of the number of articles

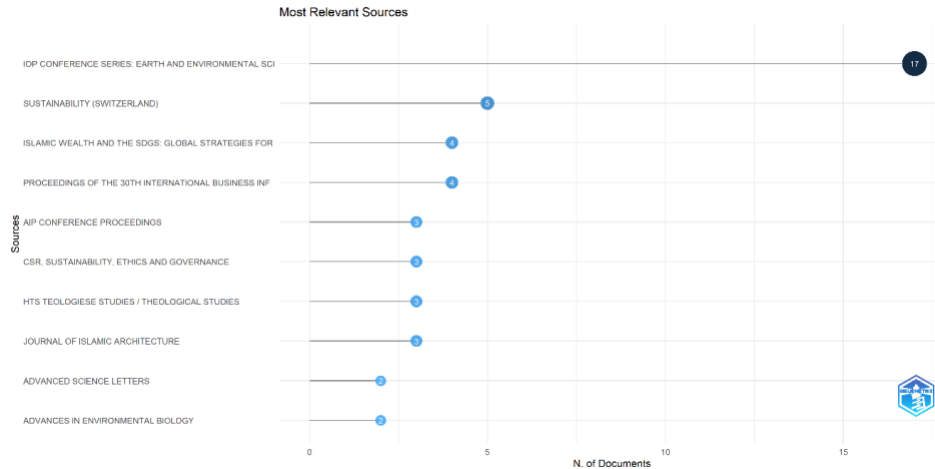
The results of the literature search using the Scopus database with the keywords “Islamic” and “Sustainable Development” produced 211 documents. The documents were published from 2014 to 2024. Analysis was conducted to obtain up to date data for the last ten years. The documents are sourced from journals and literature reviews from Scopus data. Figure 1 shows the development of the number of articles per year



**Figure 2:** Development of the number of articles per year



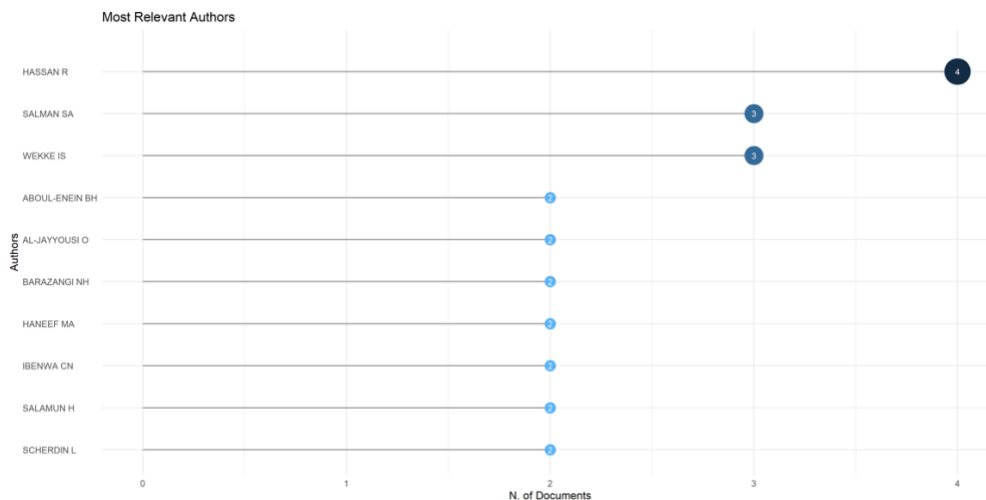




**Figure 5.** Ten Most Relevant Journals

Figure 5 explains that the ten most relevant journals in the study of Islam and Sustainable Development include Iop Conference Series: Earth And Environmental Science, Sustainability (Switzerland), Islamic Wealth And The Sdgs: Global Strategies For Socio-Economic Impact, Proceedings of the 30th International Business Information Management Association Conference, Ibima 2017 - Vision 2020: Sustainable Economic Development, Innovation Management, And Global Growth, Aip Conference Proceedings, Csr, Sustainability, Ethics And Governance, Hts Theological Studies/Theological Studies, Journal of Islamic Architecture, Advanced Science Letters, Advances In Environmental Biology. Iop Conference Series: Earth And Environmental Science with 17 articles was the most identified in this study.

### Most Relevant Authors



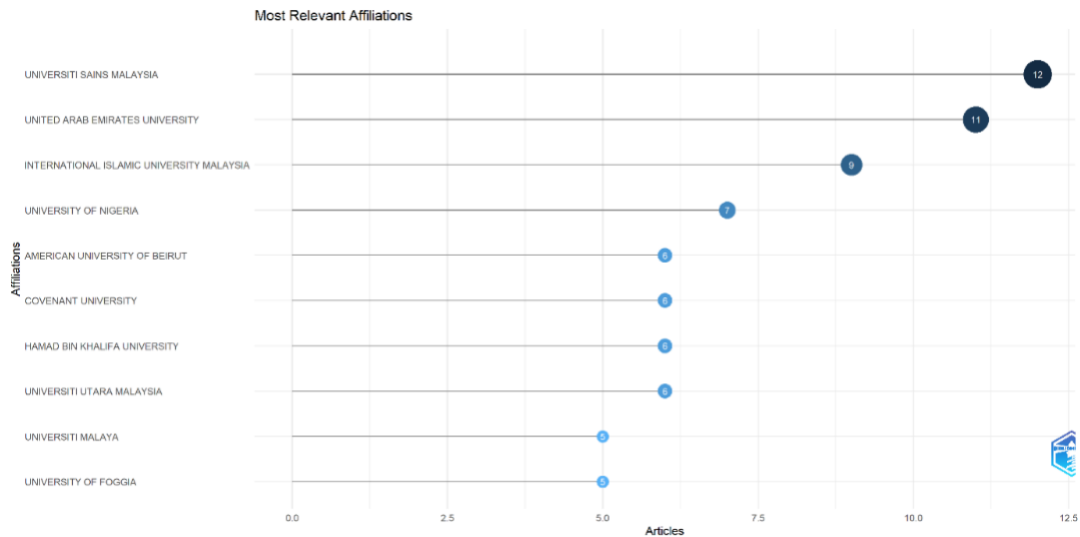
**Figure 6:** Ten Most Relevant Authors

Figure 6 displays the ten authors most relevant to Islam and Sustainable Development. The ten authors include Hassan R, Salman SA, Wekke IS, Aboul-Enein BH, Al-Jayyousi O, Barazangi

NH, Haneef MA, Ibenwa CN, Salamun H, Scherdin L. Hassan R is the author with the most published articles related to the theme of Islam and Sustainable Development with 4 articles.

### Most Relevant Affiliations

Based on the results of data analysis using Biblioshiny, the ten most relevant affiliations/organizations for the theme of waqf intention are shown in Figure 6.

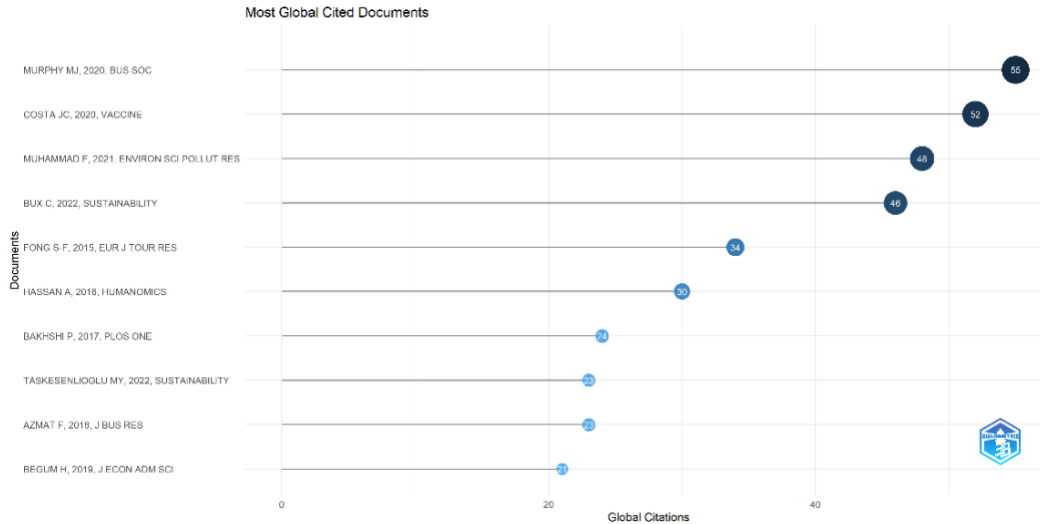


**Figure 7.** Ten Most Relevant Affiliations/Organizations

Figure 7 explains that there are a total of ten most relevant affiliations/organizations in the study of Islam and sustainable development including Universiti Sains Malaysia, United Arab Emirates University, International Islamic University Malaysia, University Of Nigeria, American University Of Beirut, Covenant University, Hamad Bin Khalifa University, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Malaya, University Of Foggia. Universiti Sains Malaysia is the affiliation / organization that publishes the most articles related to the theme of Islam and sustainable development with 12 articles. This means that the most authors identified in this study are affiliated with Universiti Sains Malaysia.

### Most Cited Articles

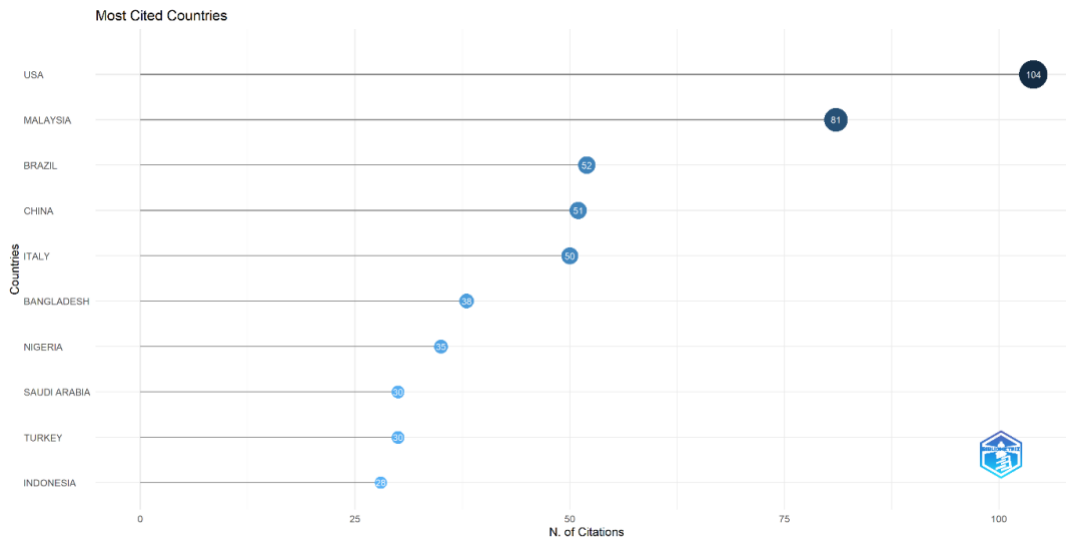
Based on the results of data analysis using Biblioshiny, the ten most cited articles on the theme of Islam and sustainable development are shown in Figure 8.



**Figure 8. Ten Most Cited Articles**

Figure 8 explains that the most cited article related to the theme of Islam and sustainable development comes from Murphy Mj, 2020, Bus Soc with 55 citations, followed by Costa Jc, 2020, Vaccine with 52 citations. In third place was Muhammad F, 2021, Environ Sci Pollut Res with 48 citations. The rest of the documents had between 21 and 34 citations in the top ten.

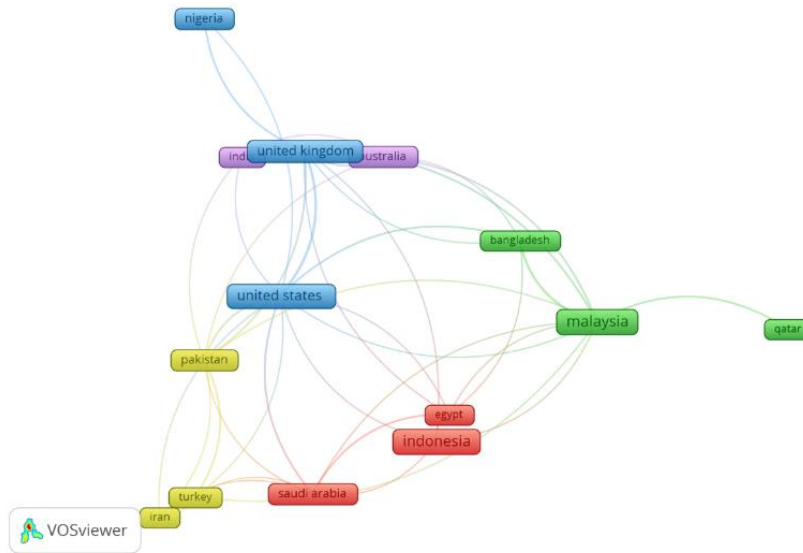
### Most Cited Countries



**Figure 9. Most Cited Countries**

Figure 9 displays a chart showing the top 10 ranked countries by number of citations. The United States (USA) takes the top spot with 104 citations, indicating that it is the most referenced country. In second place is Malaysia with 81 citations, followed by Brazil with 52 citations, and Italy with 51 citations. Other countries such as Bangladesh (38 citations), Nigeria (35 citations), Saudi Arabia (30 citations), Turkey (30 citations), and Indonesia (28 citations) also made the list, with Indonesia

ranking at the bottom. This diagram illustrates the dominance of the United States (USA) in the number of citations, while other countries have significant variations in the number. Based on Vos Viewer data, Co-Author by country is shown in Figure 9.

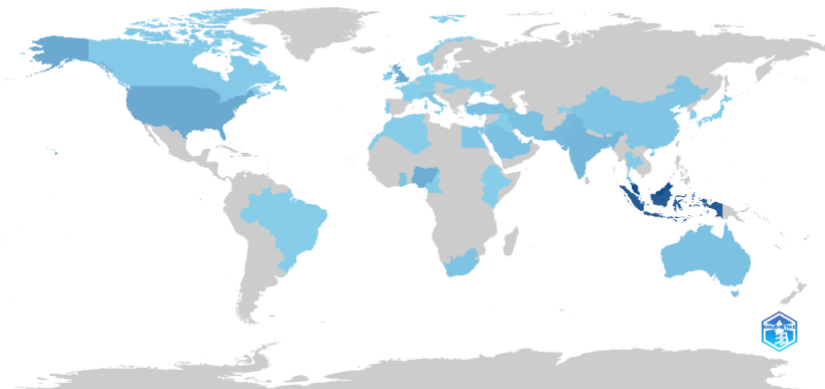


**Figure 10.** Co-authors by country

Based on the bibliometric analysis results shown, the 10 largest countries are United States, United Kingdom, and Malaysia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Australia, Egypt, Turkey and Indonesia stand out as countries with the largest contribution in the number of documents, citations, and network strength. The United States has 24 documents with 214 citations, showing great influence in the scientific community, followed by the United Kingdom with 21 documents and 46 citations. Malaysia, despite having the highest number of documents (44 documents), also received 165 citations, demonstrating an important position in the research network. Indonesia also contributed significantly with 42 documents and 53 citations.

### Country Scientific Production

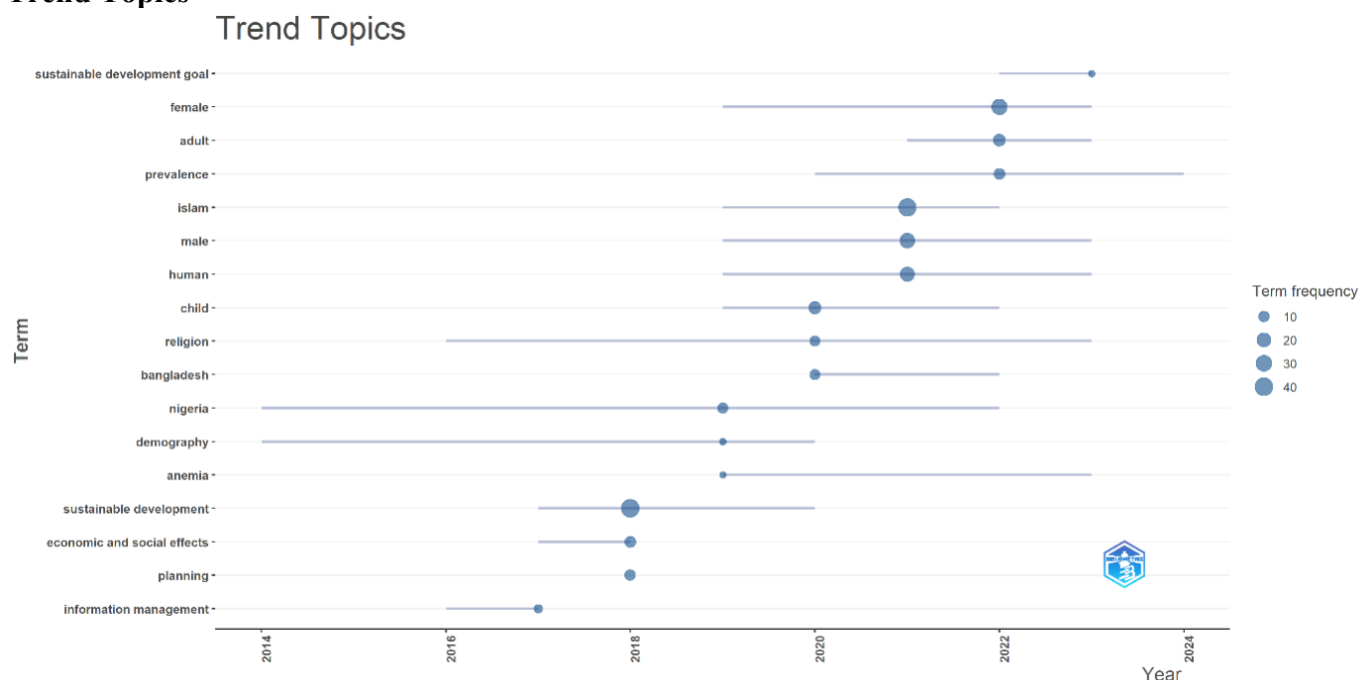
Country Scientific Production



**Figure 11.** Country Scientific Production

The results of data processing in Rstudio show a map of the distribution of publications related to multiple representations in Islam and sustainable development. Countries with the most publications are marked in dark blue, while those with fewer are in light blue, reflecting the variation in contributions between countries. Malaysia tops the list with 119 scholarly publications, followed by Indonesia with 105 publications. The United States and the United Kingdom contributed 33 and 30 publications respectively, while Nigeria ranked fifth with 29 publications. India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates and Iran also contributed, albeit in smaller numbers, with 21, 20, 16, 15 and 13 publications respectively. This data shows the different levels of scientific productivity in different countries, with Malaysia and Indonesia being the biggest contributors in the Southeast Asian region.

## Trend Topics



**Figure 12.** Topic Trends from 2014 to 2024.

This figure shows the trend of publication topics from 2014 to 2024. “Sustainable development goal” dominates with high frequency since 2017, while keywords such as ‘female’, ‘islam’, and ‘prevalence’ are also significant. Terms such as “nigeria” and “bangladesh” have started to appear more frequently in recent years. The size of the circles reflects the number of publications, with larger circles indicating higher frequency. There has been an increased interest in linking Islamic values to the sustainable development agenda (SDGs) in recent years. This is consistent with the growing global awareness of the importance of religious and ethical approaches in achieving sustainable development goals. Meanwhile, it can be noted that what can still be researched because there are still few who research it is the topic of the relationship between Islam and

sustainable development with “planning,” “information management,” and “economic and social effects.

## CONCLUSION

The keywords “Islamic” and “Sustainable Development” yielded 211 documents. The documents were published from 2014 to 2024. The highest number of articles occurred in 2022, namely 31 articles. Most relevant sources are IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science as many as 17 articles are the most identified in this study. Most Relevant Authors is Hassan R is the author with the most article publications related to the theme of Islam and sustainable development with a total of 4 articles. The Most Relevant Affiliations identified in this study are affiliated with Universiti Sains Malaysia. The Most Cited Article came from Murphy Mj, 2020, Bus Soc with 55 citations. Most Cited Countries, namely the United States (USA), took the top spot with 104 citations. Based on Country Scientific Production, the distribution map of publications related to multiple representations shows that Malaysia ranks top with 119 scientific publications. Trend Topics on the relationship between Islam and sustainable development with “planning,” “information management,” and “economic and social effects. In addition, keywords related to health, demography, and population studies (such as Child, Male, Female, Adolescent, Cross-sectional study, Prevalence, and Bangladesh) are far enough away from the concepts of Islam and Sustainable Development that they can be used as research because there are still few who examine them.

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## AUTHORS CONTRIBUTIONS

Ade Lentu Hoya was responsible for the conceptualization of the study, overall supervision of the research process. La Ode Irman Jaya drafting the main manuscript, and performing the final review. Amnan Haris contributed to method and data collection from scopus and vos viewer. Jaenal Abidin involved in the literature review, manuscript editing, and English language refinement. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript prior to submission.

## CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest. This research was conducted independently, and all aspects including the selection of the research topic, study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and manuscript preparation were carried out without any external influence or involvement from funding agencies or third parties.

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