



# Global Africa Group Strategy 2016 - 2018

## Research collaboration, innovation & impact

### Equal Partnerships for Sustainable Development

#### Who are we?

The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) is a global network driving international research collaboration and developing research talent. WUN's membership spans 19 universities from 11 countries on 5 continents. We foster over 100 active research programs, engage over 2,000 researchers and students, and work with government, international agencies and industry.

In 2015 WUN formed a **Global Africa Group** to enhance the opportunities - enabled by our global network - to build research collaborations, innovations and impact in support of Africa's development agenda. The Global Africa Group builds on the existing expertise and international partnerships amongst the Worldwide Universities Network's members in Africa and abroad, to identify sustainable and equitable solutions to critical local, regional and global challenges of relevance to Africa.

#### What do we do?

Our targeted collaborative research program is designed to support sustainable development and capacity-building in Africa through providing the evidence-base for innovations and impacts in both the natural and social sciences. Our five research priorities sit at the intersection of WUN's existing expertise and research collaborations, Africa's development agenda as outlined in the African Union's *Agenda 2063* and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

#### How do we do it?

Using a regional research hubs model centred upon our African members, global-regional collaboration and mobility are the cornerstones of our approach. Our comparative advantage is that we provide practical opportunities for international and African researchers to connect both across and beyond the continent. Through people-to-people links and mutually-developed research programs, the WUN Global Africa Group is building research capacity to harness Africa's vast potential with an African-centred research agenda.

The three-year strategic plan for the WUN Global Africa Group aims to strengthen the depth of WUN's engagement with Africa around our five African-focused research priorities. We work to achieve our objectives through local, regional and international development partnerships.

Please get in touch if you would like to know more about the network and how to be involved. We look forward to hearing from you.

John Hearn,  
*Executive Director, Worldwide Universities Network*

Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town  
David Mickler, University of Western Australia  
*Co-Chairs, WUN Global Africa Group*

#### Our five research priorities



**Environmental change and food security**



**Public health**



**Governance, inequality and social inclusion**



**Higher education and research capacity**



**Natural resources for inclusive growth and sustainable development**

#### WUN Global Africa Group Steering Committee Universities

The University of Basel  
The University of Bergen  
The University of Bristol  
The University of Cape Town  
The University of Ghana  
The University of Leeds  
Maastricht University  
The University of Massachusetts Amherst  
The University of Nairobi  
The University of Sheffield  
The University of Southampton  
The University of Sydney  
The University of Western Australia  
The University of York

# VISION

Realising research-informed solutions that address local, regional and global challenges.

# MISSION

The Global Africa Group of the Worldwide Universities Network is an innovative international research network addressing key African development challenges through global-regional collaborations and partnerships.

## OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES FOR 2016-2018



## STRATEGIES

### 01

- Build on WUN members' research strengths around five key areas of engagement with Africa
- Engage with African scholars in developing research projects that support Africa's sustainable development
- Fund research programs that clearly define the research impact pathway
- Develop competitive research proposals that will attract further and sustainable funding

### 02

- Using a regional research hubs model centred upon our African university members, provide opportunities to connect researchers in Africa with those globally working on key African challenges
- Provide African scholars, particularly women, with international links, networks and exchange with leading counterparts from around the world
- Provide support for two-way staff and student exchanges, research training and collaborative teaching opportunities
- Through research partnerships, expand the number of WUN and WUN+ members active in Africa

### 03

- Establish the WUN Global Africa Group as a leading voice for promoting tailored, evidence-based policy solutions to Africa's challenges
- Work alongside other relevant organisations and networks, including the African Research Universities Alliance, the Australia Africa Universities Network, the African Union, African Development Bank and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to increase the development impact of research

## VALUES



**DEVELOP**

Actively develop our global research alliance and education programs to meet our objectives.

Nurture and invest resources in the intellectual strengths and priorities of our members.



**NURTURE**



**INNOVATE**

Seek and instigate innovation in knowledge management and educational exchange.

Promote opportunities that accelerate internationalisation for global collaborations between universities and with government, international organisations and industry on issues of global significance.



**COLLABORATE**



**IMPACT**

Exist to make a difference. Our research produces new knowledge that influences policy and impacts society to improve lives.

## OUR ADVANTAGE

The WUN Global Africa Group brings the established network, infrastructure and expertise of the Worldwide Universities Network. WUN members have partnerships with over 50 African universities across 19 countries on the continent. The Global Africa Group draws on these established partnerships, networks and infrastructure to focus on building sustainable evidence-based policy solutions for demonstrable results, impact and influence in supporting Africa's development agenda. We promote global collaboration and capacity building through networked mobility and developing regional research hubs in Africa.

## MEMBERS





## STRATEGY

1. Build on WUN members' research strengths around five key areas of engagement with Africa
2. Engage with African scholars in developing research projects that support Africa's sustainable development
3. Fund research programs that clearly define the research impact pathway
4. Develop competitive research proposals that will attract further and sustainable funding

## KEY ACTIONS 2016-2018

1. Focus on five priority areas for 2016-2018:
  - Environmental change and food security
  - Health
  - Governance, inequality and social inclusion
  - Higher education and research capacity
  - Natural resources for inclusive growth & sustainable development
2. Communicate priorities for the Global Africa Group to all WUN members and WUN+ members in Africa by 2016
3. Hold two Global Africa Group strategic workshops per annum during 2016-18
4. Seed fund up to five African-global research projects in 2016-17
5. Through the WUN Sustainability Fund, provide support to secure significant and sustainable external funding for two research projects per annum in 2017-2018
6. Implement annual research impact program of reporting by 2017



## STRATEGY

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2. Provide African scholars, particularly women, with international links, networks and exchange with leading counterparts from around the world
3. Provide support for two-way staff and student exchanges, research training and collaborative teaching opportunities
4. Through research partnerships, expand the number of WUN and WUN+ members active in Africa

## KEY ACTIONS 2016-2018

1. Hold a strategic research workshop at the University of Ghana (UG) in early 2017. Develop UG as a regional hub for West Africa, connecting regional universities, researchers and development priorities to WUN members and funding opportunities
2. Engage WUN Global Africa Group partners in WUN Passport and Research Mobility Programmes
3. Establish two scholarships or professional exchange programs, working with relevant organisations, such as the African Union, African Development Bank and Regional Economic Communities (RECs)
4. Expand the number of WUN members based in Africa, as negotiated, by 2018
5. Engage Australia-Africa alumni and stakeholders in teamwork to maximise impact



## STRATEGY

1. Establish WUN Global Africa Group as a leading voice for promoting tailored, evidence-based policy solutions to Africa's challenges
2. Work alongside other relevant organisations, including the African Research Universities Alliance, the Australia Africa Universities Network, the African Union, African Development Bank and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to increase the development impact of research

## KEY ACTIONS 2016-2018

1. Expand the WUN Global Africa Group website to be a trusted source of information on African development challenges
2. Institute a series of evidence-based policy briefs
3. Working with ARUA, AAUN and other networks, promote African experts to speak at conferences, fora and events on improving the evidence-base for African policy development
4. Create a searchable database of WUN Global Africa Group projects, outcomes, experts and develop WUN Global Africa Group social media profile