



## Report on WUN delegation visit to the University of Nairobi, Kenya

12-13 June 2017

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*Group photo of the visiting WUN delegation, Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor, University of Nairobi, and senior UoN colleagues.*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	PAGE
Background and purposes of visit	3
Message by WUN Executive Director Prof. John Hearn	5
About WUN and the Global Africa Group	6
About the University of Nairobi	8
Program for WUN delegation visit	10
Key discussion points and outcomes of visit	11
Action items and key contacts	12
Selected images from the visit	14
Appendices:	17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WUN delegation presentation slides</li> <li>- WUN Global Africa Group <i>Strategic Plan 2016-18</i></li> <li>- WUN GAG book project Call for Chapter Abstracts</li> </ul>	



*L to R: Dr Susan Jim (University of Bristol), Prof Madara Ogot (University of Nairobi), Dr David Mickler (University of Western Australia), Rosemary Omwandho (University of Nairobi), Greg Morgan (University of Sheffield) and Eleonora Gandolfi (University of Southampton).*

## BACKGROUND AND PURPOSES OF VISIT



Following the University of Nairobi joining the Worldwide University Network (WUN) and becoming its newest member, and following the launch and inaugural strategic research workshop of the WUN Global Africa Group (WUN GAG) at the University of Ghana, Accra, 8-9 June 2017, the University of Nairobi (UoN) invited a WUN delegation to visit UoN on 12-13 June 2017 for mutual introductions and consultations.

The visiting WUN delegation, which greatly welcomed and appreciated the invitation to visit UoN, was comprised of the following members:

- **Dr David Mickler**, University of Western Australia & Co-Chair, WUN Global Africa Group;
- **Dr Susan Jim**, University of Bristol WUN Coordinator & Chair, WUN Coordinators Group;
- **Ms Eleonora Gandolfi**, University of Southampton WUN Coordinator;
- **Mr Greg Morgan**, University of Sheffield, Head of International Partnerships (Social Sciences).

*Prof. Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town & Co-Chair, WUN Global Africa Group, registered his apologies due to pre-existing university commitments.*

The delegation found the visit to be an excellent opportunity to outline to UoN management and researchers the aims, structures, themes and working methods of the Worldwide Universities Network and to highlight the various opportunities for research collaboration through the network.

Moreover, with the recent launch of the WUN GAG, the University of Nairobi—as the Network’s third African university member—has the opportunity to lead the Group’s agenda and work as WUN’s “East African Research Hub”, using the hubs model developed in the WUN GAG’s *Strategic Plan* (see appendices).

The visit was also an excellent opportunity to learn about the University of Nairobi, its research priorities, institutions and mechanisms, and to meet its senior management and researchers in a face-to-face setting.

The objectives of the visit, for the WUN delegation, were therefore as follows:

- (1) To welcome the University of Nairobi into the WUN family;
- (2) To outline and explain WUN and the Global Africa Group;
- (3) To learn about the University of Nairobi;
- (4) To discuss opportunities for the integration of UoN into WUN and WUN GAG, and to explore how UoN research priorities can be advanced through the Network;
- (5) To invite Prof. Peter Mbithi, UoN Vice-Chancellor, to host the WUN GAG’s next annual research workshop in 2018 in Nairobi.

The delegation would like to sincerely thank Vice-Chancellor Prof. Peter Mbithi for his invitation to visit and generous and warm welcome to UoN.

For supporting the visit, the delegation would also like to warmly thank Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC (Research, Production and Extension), who registered her apologies due to other pre-existing university commitments; Prof. Madara Ogot, Director, Research and Extension, Office of the DVC (RPE); Prof. Karuti Kanyinga, Associate Director, Institute for Development Studies; Mr Johnson Ileri Kinyua, Director, University Advancement, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, and Ms Rosemary Omwandho, Assistant Registrar, Office of the DVC (RPE).

We would also like to thank the UoN senior management, College Principals, heads of departments, directors, and other research and support staff for participating in the respective meetings during the two-day visit. We found this format to be both highly productive and collegial and we would here like to recognise your time and energy in supporting this visit.

An overview of key discussion points, outcomes and action items is provided below.

With thanks and appreciation,



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**Prof. Maano Ramutsindela**  
University of Cape Town  
*Co-Chair, WUN GAG*



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**Dr David Mickler**  
University of Western  
Australia  
*Co-Chair, WUN GAG*



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**Dr Susan Jim**  
University of Bristol  
*Chair, WUN  
Coordinators Group*

13 July 2017



*The WUN delegation meeting with VC Prof. Peter Mbithi and the UoN management board for roundtable consultations in the Council Chamber.*

**MESSAGE BY  
WUN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PROF. JOHN HEARN**



Dear Professor, President Peter Mbithi, Colleagues, Experts and Distinguished Guests.

On behalf of all of us in WUN, and with my personal regards, I wish you every success and enjoyment in the WUN consultations and meetings at the University of Nairobi.

We recognize Professor Peter Mbithi and the University of Nairobi as dynamic leaders, working to address global challenges and local dimensions through quality research and education at the highest international standards.

We are delighted that the University has joined WUN, and we look forward to building collegial teamwork and equal partnerships with Nairobi across WUN as soon as possible. In that regard, the recent launch of the Global Africa Group, and the subsequent current meetings in Nairobi, form an excellent platform for implementation.

I look forward to hearing the reports of the meetings, and to visiting Nairobi soon.

With warm regards,

John

## ABOUT WUN & THE GLOBAL AFRICA GROUP

**The Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) is a leading global higher education and research network made up of 21 universities, spanning 11 countries on five continents. Together we work to drive international research collaboration and address issues of global significance.**

WUN is the most active global higher education and research network with 90 active research initiatives, engaging over 2,000 researchers and students collaborating on a diverse range of projects. These initiatives are committed to addressing some of the world's most urgent challenges and are supported by prolific partners such as the United Nations Foundation, World Bank, OECD and World Health Organization.

We focus our research on four globally significant themes that drive our programmes and ignite our teamwork:

- [Responding to Climate Change](#)
- [Public Health \(Non-Communicable Disease\)](#)
- [Global Higher Education and Research](#)
- [Understanding Cultures.](#)

Within each of these areas is a collection of high-quality collaborative [research programmes](#) involving a number of WUN member universities along with other academic institutions, government, international agencies, foundations and industry. In order to achieve collective objectives, WUN draws upon the combined resources and intellectual power of its [membership](#). By creating new opportunities for international collaboration, WUN enables members to extend the reach and scope of their research and establish lasting partnerships that enrich their work.

WUN also fosters the next generation of researchers through its [Research Mobility Programme](#) (RMP). This program provides opportunities for early-career researchers, including postgraduate and postdoctoral students, to expand their knowledge, gain international experience and broaden their professional networks. The RMP provides access to expertise and resources that are not available within the awardee's own institution, while exposing them to ideas and cultures different from their own. WUN researchers can also apply for catalytic funding from the [WUN Research Development Fund](#) to spark collaborative activities.

WUN is proud of its ability to effect positive results in areas that impact both our immediate and long term futures. Through international collaboration, we will continue to create new knowledge, nurture emerging research talent and ultimately transform the world for the better.

### **Our vision**

As a leading international higher education and research network, we will be a force in developing innovative solutions to some of the world's most significant challenges.

### **Our mission**

WUN draws upon the combined intellectual power and resources of its members to create opportunities in international research and graduate education. It partners with government, international organisations and industry to stretch ambitions and develop the next generation of leaders.

**Website:** <http://www.wun.ac.uk/>

## The WUN Global Africa Group (WUN GAG)

The WUN GAG was formed in late 2015 as a cross-cutting, regionally-focused group comprised from WUN's wider membership (currently 14 WUN members). The WUN GAG Steering Committee produced the Group's *Strategic Plan 2016-18* in August 2016.

A number of key principles informed the development of the *Strategic Plan*:

- (1) The WUN GAG should facilitate inclusive and impactful research at the intersection of the [African Union's Agenda 2063](#), the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) and existing WUN research expertise. This led to the identification of five Priority Research Themes:
  - (a) *Environmental change and food security*
  - (b) *Public health*
  - (c) *Governance, inequality and social inclusion*
  - (d) *Higher education and research capacity*
  - (e) *Natural resources for inclusive growth and sustainable development;*
- (2) The WUN GAG should emphasise and support the physical mobility of researchers, including early career and postgraduate researchers, as a means to achieve genuine research collaboration and partnerships;
- (3) The imbalance in African vs non-African university members of GAG meant that a new approach was required to facilitate inclusive and productive collaboration. The approach chosen was one of supporting the GAG African member universities as regional research hubs (University of Ghana/West Africa; University of Cape Town/Southern Africa; University of Nairobi/East Africa), where workshops would be held to connect local/regional researchers and global WUN GAG members to develop specific projects around questions of mutual interest and expertise.
- (4) The WUN GAG should collaborate with like-minded networks, including:
  - [African Research Universities Alliance \(ARUA\)](#)
  - [Association of African Universities \(AAU\)](#)
  - [Association of Commonwealth Universities \(ACU\)](#)
  - [Australia Africa Universities Network \(AAUN\)](#)
  - As well as a range of other university and non-university-based individuals and organisations across government, industry, and the NGO and community sectors.

**Launch:** On 8 June 2017 the WUN Global Africa Group was formally launched in Accra by Prof. Ebenezer Oduro Owusu, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ghana, at the commencement of the Group's inaugural strategic research workshop.

**Website:** <http://www.wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/global-africa-group>

## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

**Vision:** A world-class university committed to scholarly excellence.

**Mission:** To provide quality university education and training to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and the global community through the creation, preservation, transmission, and utilization of knowledge.

The University of Nairobi is a body corporate established under the Universities Act 2012 of the Laws of Kenya and the University of Nairobi Charter. The university is the oldest university in Kenya. The University has its origins in the Royal Technical College of East Africa (RTCEA), which was established in 1956 to offer education and training in technology and business. Subsequently, the University of Nairobi was established out of the University College, in 1970.

From the first 215 students who registered to study in the Royal Technical College of East Africa when it opened its doors to students for the first time on 23rd April 1956, there are today 80,000 students enrolled in the University of Nairobi. Of this enrolment, 13,000 are pursuing postgraduate degrees. The University of Nairobi is the largest public university in Kenya, and also has the largest number of self sponsored students. The 'private wing' alone is larger than all the major private universities put together. Moreover with over 85,000 students enrolled, the University of Nairobi is one of the largest universities in Africa today.

The University of Nairobi offers one of the most diverse range of academic programmes in the East and Central African region. Whereas RTCEA started off with only seven academic units, namely: Faculty of Architecture and Art, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Commerce, Faculty of Engineering, Faculty of Science, Department of Surveying, and Department of Domestic Science, the university today has more than 100 schools, faculties, institutes and departments distributed in six colleges.

Today the University of Nairobi has the largest concentration of scholars in the country with about 50% of the Professors in the country. The University has been, and continues to be a centre for intellectual life, a locus of research activity extending the boundaries of knowledge, a resource for professional development, and a key player in the growing global network of scholarship. It has a great variety of disciplines within its wide array of academic programmes. These disciplines fall under: humanities and social sciences; natural and mathematical sciences; engineering and the built environment; arts and design; computing and informatics; law and business studies; medicine and health sciences; agriculture and food sciences; veterinary and animal sciences; and education. The programmes and related disciplines are backed up by an ever-expanding open learning facility. The diversity encourages shared ideas across disciplines and promotes multidisciplinary endeavours. The programmes are offered through six colleges that together house three faculties, six institutes, seventeen schools and sixty seven teaching departments. The university has broadened its physical horizons in order to reach its clients in all the provinces using nine (9) well established extra-mural centres and 2 satellite campuses. To date the university has produced over 170,000 graduates.

The University of Nairobi, by its history and position, finds itself with the inherent role of providing leadership in the domain of higher education. This role is being fulfilled in the context of changing paradigms. The leadership demanded of the University has to be demonstrated in the context of a global arena. The external environment within which



this role has to be performed has changed dramatically and it has acquired an international character. Indeed, this international network of knowledge and exchange is increasing opportunities within and across disciplines, and creating new partnerships and collaborations, resulting in remarkable improvements in higher education worldwide and strengthening the quality of life.

The institution is considered a source of excellence and a leader in new initiatives in response to national and global needs. Its academic staff have serviced and consulted for Government and other institutions locally and internationally. Other notable strengths include a vast base of highly qualified academic staff whose talent, academic achievements and diversity are unparalleled in the region. The clients for this teaching force is a brilliant and talented student base undertaking a large array of the University's degree programmes in response to national priorities. The academic staff also provide consultancy and capacity building services to a wide array of clients with the country, regionally and globally. The university current has a research portfolio of over KES 4 Billion (US\$40 million).

The University can boast of being linked with 211 international institutions around the world, covering a diverse range of disciplines, and equalled by the diversity in programmes. These linkages have continued to strengthen our consultancy and research opportunities and capabilities within and out of the country.

**Website:** <http://www.uonbi.ac.ke/>



## **PROGRAM FOR WUN DELEGATION VISIT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

### **DAY 1                      Monday 12 June 2017**

- 09.30-11.00              Meeting with the Director, Research and Extension, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension), Prof. Madara Ogot; Director CIPL; Director Graduate School. (Council Chamber)
- Opening remarks and introductions - Prof. Ogot
- Outline of “The Current Status of Higher Education and Research Capacity in Kenya” - Prof. Ogot
- Remarks and presentation by WUN Delegation
- 11.00-11.30              *Tea Break*
- 11.30-13.00              Meeting with Principal and Researchers from College of Humanities and Social Sciences (Principal’s Boardroom)
- 13.00- 14.00              *Lunch break (Nairobi Safari Club)*
- 14.30-16.00              Meeting with Principal and Researchers from College of Biological and Physical Sciences (Principal’s Boardroom)

### **DAY 2                      Tuesday 13 June 2017**

- 09.00-10.30              Meeting with Vice Chancellor and UoN Management (Council Chamber)
- 10.30-11.00              *Tea Break and group photo*
- 11.30-13.00              Meeting with Principal and Researchers from College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences (Principal’s Boardroom)
- 13.00-14.00              *Lunch break (VetLab)*
- 14:30-16.00              Meeting with Principal and Researchers from College of Health Sciences (Principal’s Boardroom)
- Networking and departure*

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND OUTCOMES

The WUN delegation found the visit to UoN be both highly productive and collegial. The visit format—meeting alternatively with senior central UoN management and researchers in respective UoN Colleges—gave delegates a clear sense of the wider higher education and research environment in Kenya and the location of the University of Nairobi within those contexts, as well as some of the research interests, priorities, challenges and opportunities for UoN and its staff.

The WUN delegation made a presentation (see appendices) to senior management and respective Colleges on (i) the aims, structure, themes and working methods of WUN, (ii) the aims and methodology of the WUN Global Africa Group, including the Group's recent launch and inaugural strategic research workshop at the University of Ghana, and (iii) the specific WUN research engagement, collaborations, and contacts for their respective home universities (Bristol, Southampton, Sheffield and Western Australia).

In separate very helpful UoN overviews, VC Prof. Mbithi and Prof. Ogot provided excellent summaries of key issues, including the following points:

### UoN and the wider higher education landscape in Kenya

- UoN is fifty years old and is the principal university of Kenya. As such it has a responsibility for mentorship and supporting the development of other Kenyan universities;
- UoN has enormous expectations to perform, and to lead and develop the nation, including through the provision of high quality graduates who will go on to play important leadership and technical roles in Kenya's development;
- UoN is also undertaking a process of training the next generation of academics to be the future leaders of the University. Staff Mobility is a crucial form of professional development towards this end;
- High quality research is critical to solving Kenyan and global challenges;
- The new National Research Fund, with 2% GDP funding target, will create greater opportunities for collaborative research, infrastructure grants and postgraduate research training.
- UoN works in partnership with other Kenyan universities and institutions, although there is a heavy concentration of resources and expertise in Nairobi;
- The University sees a crucial role for engagement between academia, industry, governments, civil society and other stakeholders;
- UoN has been searching for international partnerships to provide UoN staff with opportunities to design and deliver collaborative projects;
- As a new member of WUN, UoN needs some support to get started in the Network, and would like to get started on collaborative projects as soon as possible. One good early example is the proposed WUN GAG collaborative book project on *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*.

### Key institutional research challenges and opportunities for UoN

- Collaborative research is a key priority for UoN and international research networks will open doors for UoN researchers; but UoN wants to avoid inactive

international research networks and focus on utilising active networks that emphasise outcomes rather than just activities;

- Need for enhanced training for staff and students in research methods (including opportunities for co-supervision with international partners);
- Research management infrastructure and resources is a challenge. The new UoN Graduate School will help, and there is also a need to enhance the International Office;
- Needs to build on traditional Social Sciences research programs as well as develop stronger STEM research programs;
- Interested in opportunities for visiting professorships through international networks;
- Need greater integration of postgraduate students into research networks and activities (including WUN) and opportunities for other students to undertake experiential learning (work placements/internships).

#### Key thematic research challenges for Kenya and its region

- Poverty;
- Agriculture and food security;
- Urbanisation / cities;
- Public health;
- Youth unemployment;
- Natural resources;
- Conflict and security.

#### **Key outcomes of WUN delegations' visit**

- (1)** WUN delegation learned about UoN's research landscape, priorities, opportunities and challenges and enhanced network collegiality by meeting face-to-face with UoN staff;
- (2)** Delegation raised awareness among UoN staff of WUN's aims, themes, structure and working methods;
- (3)** Delegation raised awareness among UoN staff of WUN GAG's recent launch and inaugural strategic research workshop in Accra, 8-9 June 2017, and of the GAG's research priorities and proposed projects; including the collaborative book project on *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* (Call for Chapter Abstracts);
- (4)** Productive discussions of the various intersection of UoN, WUN and WUN GAG research priorities;
- (5)** Appointment of Prof. Madara Ogot, Director, Research and Extension, Office of the DVC (RPE), as UoN's WUN Coordinator. In this role, he will be the main liaison between WUN-UoN, participating in the WUN Coordinators Group (currently Chaired by Dr Susan Jim);
- (6)** Confirmation of appointment of Prof. Shem O. Wandiga, Acting Director, Institute for Climate Change and Adaptation, as UoN Representative on the WUN GAG Steering Committee;
- (7)** Acceptance by VC Prof. Peter Mbithi, via a seconded motion of the UoN Management Board, of WUN GAG Co-Chairs' invitation to have the University of Nairobi host the GAG's 2018 annual research workshop.

## ACTION ITEMS

#	Action item	Responsibility	Dates
1.	Circulate to relevant UoN staff the updated Call for Chapter Abstracts for WUN GAG collaborative book project on <i>Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals</i> .	Prof. Ogot; Prof. Wandiga	ASAP — deadline 31 July 2017
2.	Disseminate Report of WUN GAG Launch and Inaugural Strategic Research Workshop, Accra 8-9 June 2017, to UoN staff, inviting them to consider the research themes and consider contributing to proposed projects drafted at workshop.	Prof. Ogot; Prof. Wandiga	ASAP
3.	Liaison between UoN and WUN GAG Co-Chairs on setting a date in 2018 for the next annual GAG research workshop at UoN	Prof. Ogot; Prof. Wandiga; GAG Co-Chairs	Ahead of next WUN GAG teleconference (2 Aug 2017)
4.	UoN to participate in next WUN GAG teleconference, 2 Aug 2017 (Agenda and specific time to be provided by WUN Secretariat)	Prof. Wandiga; Marije Nieuwenhuis (WUN Secretariat)	2 Aug 2017
5.	Liaison between UoN and WUN GAG Co-Chairs on setting the theme/s and agenda for the 2018 GAG research workshop at UoN.	Prof. Wandiga; Prof. Ogot; GAG Co-Chairs	From Aug 2017

## KEY CONTACTS

### **WUN**

Prof. John Hearn, Executive Director

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[mnieuwenhuis@wun.ac.uk](mailto:mnieuwenhuis@wun.ac.uk)

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Dr David Mickler, Co-Chair, WUN GAG

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### **UoN**

Prof. Peter Mbithi, Vice-Chancellor

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Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC (RPE)

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Prof. Madara Ogot, WUN Coordinator

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Prof. Shem Wandiga, WUN GAG Representative

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Rosemary Omwandho, Office of DVC (RPE)

[rosemary.omwandho@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:rosemary.omwandho@uonbi.ac.ke)

## SELECTED IMAGES FROM THE VISIT











# 2015-2016 IN NUMBERS



**86** INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GROUPS



**47** CONFERENCES AND STRATEGIC WORKSHOPS



**16** PROJECTS COMPLETED AND RETIRED

**139** ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS



**42** GRANTS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS



EQUALING £8,016,440

**2,302** RESEARCHERS ACROSS THE WORLD



**31** ENGAGEMENTS IN



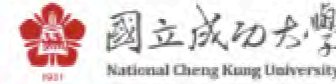
POLICY DEVELOPMENT

**4** GLOBAL CHALLENGES



**WUN**

WORLDWIDE UNIVERSITIES NETWORK



## Dr Susan Jim

- IAS/WUN Research Development Manager / WUN Coordinator (Chair)

- University of Bristol



## Ms Eleonora Gandolfi

- International Partnerships Manager / WUN Coordinator

- University of Southampton



## Dr David Mickler

- Political Science & International Relations / Co-Chair of WUN Global Africa Group

- University of Western Australia



## Mr Greg Morgan

- Head of International Partnerships (Social Sciences)

- University of Sheffield



# Welcoming the University of Nairobi to the WUN family

## a. Governance and leadership

- Partnership Board
- Academic Advisory Group
- Coordinators Group

## b. Research profile: Global Challenges and Regional Interest Groups

- Global Higher Education and Research
- Public Health – Non-communicable Disease
- Responding to Climate Change
- Understanding Cultures
- Global China Group
- Global Africa Group



- Inaugural strategic research workshop, 8-9 June 2017, University of Ghana

- c. [Research Development Fund](#): Central seed funding scheme
  - Annual call – deadline October/November
- d. [Research Mobility Programme](#)
  - PhD Students, Early Career Researchers, Senior Professors
- e. Research Experience for Undergraduates
  - New initiative under discussion, led by University of Rochester
- f. Update from Global Africa Group Strategic Workshop, University of Ghana
  - Five themes with overlap to Global Challenges
  - Potential projects put forward by group, *e.g.* Public Health Theme
  - Next steps – seed funding via WUN Research Development Fund
  - Next workshop

# Summary of WUN GAG Public Health Discussions



**Overarching theme:** *Development of new strategies to tackle infectious diseases in Africa with traditional and biochemical medicine*

- *Traditional medicine, indigenous knowledge systems, demonstrating efficacy and African solutions to African problems*
- *Plant and microbial product identification for infectious diseases*
- *Biochemical and physical mechanisms of infection*

**Rationale:** Use of traditional medicine up to 80% of population); potential benefits, monitoring toxicology; bolstering under-developed healthcare systems; more effective drug regimes

**Aims:** establishing who uses traditional medicine and their perception of it; demonstrating the efficacy of these medicines in a clinical setting; how this knowledge can impact on public health policy

**Expertise:** Chemists, epidemiologists, biophysicists, geneticists, social scientists, pathologists

- WUN Partners – Bergen, Bristol, Ghana, Sheffield
- WUN+ Partners –

**Funding:** Global Challenges Research Fund, Newton Fund, H3Africa, NIH, Wellcome Trust, Royal Society, Gates, Commonwealth Split-site (PhD) scholarships, DFID, World Bank

# Summary of WUN GAG Public Health Discussions



**Overarching theme:** *Using citizen science to assess the human health, productivity, and economic impacts of air pollution and pollen in a sub-Saharan African setting*

**Aims:** Identification of community (African cities), co-producing design of air pollution monitoring experiments, identification and quantification of pollutants, modelling of distribution of exposures across different demographic sectors, investigating health and economic outcomes, development of mitigation measures to lower exposures, impact on policy makers.

**Expertise:** Air pollution experts (modelling), citizen scientists, public health scientists (including clinicians, allergologists), economists, social scientists, policy makers

**Current partners:** WUN – Bristol, Cape Town, York (Stockholm Environment Institute)  
WUN+ – Lagos

**Funding:** WUN Research Development Fund, Global Challenges Research Fund, Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Nigeria



# Summary of WUN GAG Natural Resources Discussions

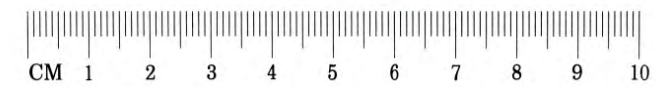
**Title:** Critical metals and progress toward the green economy in Africa.

**Rationale.** Society ever more dependent on a suite minerals that drive advanced technologies, and which are inextricably linked to sustainable development in the future. The deport of these elements are poorly understood and offer significant opportunities to develop new steams of critical elements. For example, gallium in bauxite. Also to investigate critical metals that are also conflict minerals (e.g Tungsten- tantalum – governance analysis). This grant recognises an opportunity to consider the scientific and socio economic challenges that need to be met to allow these metals to fuel an inclusive green economy. Recycling. Manufacturing demand in Africa and capital flow.

**WUN Expertise:** Southampton Critical Grants; Leeds Policy & Governance.

Geology. Bergen policy governance – social science. Accra Gallium markets – potential. Accounting Bristol. Nairobi Environmental. Non – WUN – BGS. Invite to WUN members to join this consortium.

**Funding:** WUN seed corn; NERC; EU Horizon 20:20. DIFID. African Development Bank – Economic commission for Africa. GCRF. South African Research Foundation. Bilateral agreements between South Africa and associated nations. Ministry of environment Nigeria TET Fund.



**Actions:** Jamie to contact African Development Bank and Economic Commission for Africa.

**Action:** SR – work up the page. Explore E Horizon 20:20 and GCRF, DIFID

**Action:** To to explore opportunities S- eptember call for a workshop.

***Generate 1 page that will be distributed around the WUN workshop participants***

**Title:** Oil Platform Decommissioning

**Rationale:** Maturing assets in the Gulf of Guinea, Nigerian Delta that require decommissioning in environmental sensitive manner. Onshore and offshore with contrast ecosystems. Potential for policy learning between EU – North Sea and Africa and vice versa. Best practice in both geographical contexts but delivered by the same corporate entity. Investigation of the level of compliance with international and local agreements.

This needs a cautious approach.....

What are the accounting dimensions. What are the African Union Policy Dimensions.

**WUN Expertise:** Accounting Ghana - Southampton – ecosystems. Bergen Ecosystems. Decommission legal issues. Perception analyses. Reading Business School. Aberdeen – decommissioning. Bristol accounting. Potential countries Ghana; Nigeria.

**Funding:** Norwegian Research Council. WUN Seed corn. EU-Horizon 20:20. Potential funding of initial WUN- RTF workshop/sandpit.

Action: Jamie Petroleum in Leeds.

# Summary of WUN GAG Natural Resources Discussions



**Title:** Catchment Area Development, Conservation and Degradation

**Rationale:** Land use change in catchment areas in response farming, industrial development and mining. Pollution. Policy issues trans boundary water issues. Opportunities for economic development and the development of energy resources. The river as population/migration laboratory, population resilience to flooding. Degradation of coastal environments due to flooding. Volta as a case catchment. Security issues due to military conflict over water resources and refugee crisis.

**WUN Expertise:** Local Expertise. Bergen – do everything, Water @ Leeds, Southampton Engineers. Mohammed - Ghana

**Funding:** NERC, NORAD, Embassies. EU. Local funding for workshops – Tor, Mohammed

**Action:** Tor to revise current text to a more manageable form.....

Potential Others:

**Title:** Migration land use and security around major infrastructure projects in Africa.

Rapid Urbanisation.

# Summary of WUN GAG Governance Discussions



**Rationale:** Migration is a global challenge. On the one hand, we have grand regional integration schemes that seek a 'borderless Africa'. On the other hand, we have great concern about irregular migration across borders and continents. It is a complex phenomena with multiple impacts, and we need to identify and isolate key variables driving migration. There are trans-continental, inter-continental and internal migrations. Migration is linked to a multitude of factors, including inequality, social exclusion, climate change, and political conflicts. There is currently a lack of understanding of how the communications ecosystem shapes decision-making on migration. What information do potential migrants have about the benefits, risks and other dynamics of the destinations (and routes) that they may be considering taking? We need to understand people's choices from their own contexts, own perspectives.

## Research Questions:

- What are the current push and pull factors driving migration?
- What flows of information surround people in relation to migration, and how do people make sense and make decisions on the basis of these?
- One form of research might be long-term ethnographic studies in communities from which migrants are leaving. Another would be discourse analysis of media, including social media, and messaging by governments, NGOs. Analysis of Diaspora messaging is a complimentary form of analysis.

**Expertise:** UG Centre for Migration Studies; Leeds Migration Research Network; UWA Migration, Mobilities and Belongings Research Cluster; Bergen Centre for Migration and Ethnic Relations; Bristol Migration Research Group; UG Communication Studies Department; Leeds School of Media and Communication; UCT Communications Department; UG LECIAD; UWA International Relations

**Funding:** Global Challenges Fund; Horizon 20:20; AU; ECOWAS; UK ESRC/DFID; Bristol-IOM linkage

# Summary of WUN GAG Education Discussions



**Overarching theme:** Pedagogical techniques for evaluation of the impact of research in Africa and on policy makers

**Rationale:** Evaluation of pedagogical techniques used by teachers in challenging environments (including the effects of temporary movement in-countries, conflicts and lack of infrastructures)

**Expertise:** Education, Sciences, Teachers training,

- WUN Partners – Ghana, Southampton, UCT
- WUN+ Partners –

**Funding:** Global Challenges Research Fund, Newton Fund, British Council, Gates, Commonwealth, DFID, World Bank

# Summary of WUN GAG Education Discussions



**Overarching theme:** *Collecting and sharing research data to inform policy makers while engaging with schools and students communities.*

**Rationale:** To train students in the science subjects while collecting data related to air pollution in schools

**Expertise:** Education, Sciences, students enagement, learning

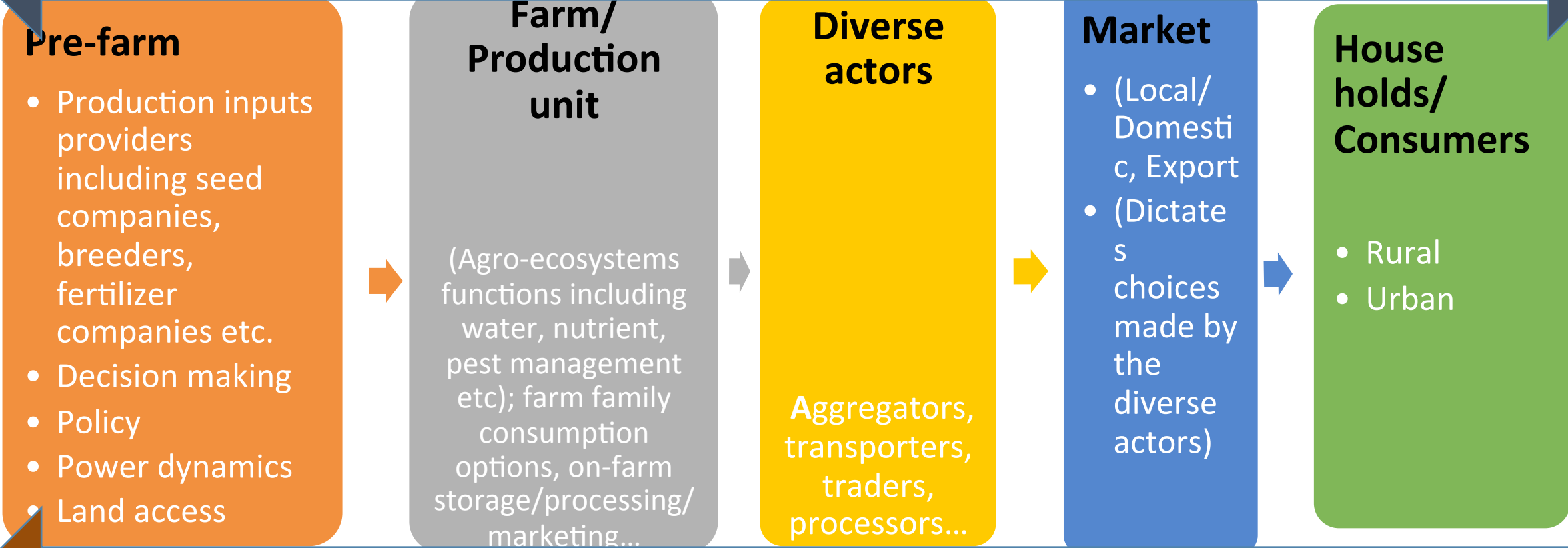
- WUN Partners – Ghana, Southampton
- WUN+ Partners – TBC

**Funding:** Global Challenges Research Fund, Newton Fund, British Council, Gates, Commonwealth, DFID, World Bank

# Summary of WUN GAG Climate Change Discussions

## Food security and better livelihoods through climate-smart and sustainable food systems

Different actors (varying scale and forms)  
Conflicting interests, common goal?



- Agri-infrastructure (roads infrastructure, powering the food supply chain (sustainable energy options)....
- Support services – research, capacity development, extension, credit, markets



- f. Key research areas and mobility opportunities
  - University of Bristol
  - University of Sheffield
  - University of Southampton
  - University of Western Australia

PB – **Professor Hugh Brady**, Vice-Chancellor & President

AAG - **Professor Nishan Canagarajah**, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research

CG - **Dr Susan Jim**, Institute for Advanced Studies, Research & Enterprise Development

Research Areas - **4 University Research Institutes (URIs)** & **7 Specialist Research Institutes (SRIs)**

- ***Cabot Institute***: global environmental change; food, water and energy security; natural hazards, and future cities
- ***Elizabeth Blackwell Institute***: building new translational health research communities
- ***Brigstow Institute***: being human in the 21st century, living well with technologies, difference, uncertain futures
- ***Jean Golding Institute***: interdisciplinary research in creating, processing, investigating and exploring big data
- **7 SRIs - *BioDesign, Heart, Composites, Migration & Mobility, Population Health, Poverty, Quantum Information***

## Education

21,000 Students / 14,000 UG / 3,500 PGT / 3,500 PGR. Over 200 degrees in 6 faculties. 250 PhD scholarships. 1 in 6 students are international from over 120 countries outside EU. Welcoming 200 study abroad UG pa.

## Research Mobility Opportunities

### 1. *Institute for Advanced Studies Benjamin Meaker Visiting Professorships*

- Brings distinguished researchers to Bristol for up to 3 months
- ‘Fast-track’ and medium term visits (termly and annual deadlines)

### 2. *UoB’s Strategic Research Fund*

- International/GCRF priorities (Sept 2017 deadline)

### 3. *WUN Research Mobility Programme*

- Support for Bristol PhD students and Early Career (tenured) Staff
- PhD Research Internships at IOM-GMDAC – Pilot
- Staff and PhD Student Exchange with CUHK

## WUN TEAM

**Sir Professor Christopher Snowden**, President – Partnership Board

**Prof Colin Grant**, Vice President International - AAG

**Prof Peter Smith**, PVC International (Global Projects) – AAG

**Eleonora Gandolfi** – International Relations – Coordinator (0.5 FTE WUN)

## TACKLING SOCIETY'S GREATEST CHALLENGES

Distinctive interdisciplinary approach

Accessing new funding (Global Challenges Research Fund, Gates Foundation)

4 interdisciplinary Institutes (Including Global Health Institute)

5 Strategic Research Groups

**WATER, ENERGY  
AND FOOD  
SECURITY**



**MONITORING OF  
EQUIPMENT,  
HEALTH AND  
NATURAL  
PROCESSES**



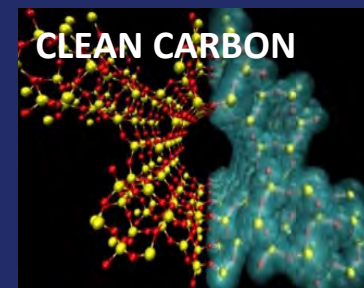
**ANTI-MICROBIAL  
RESISTANCE**



**AUTONOMOUS  
SYSTEMS  
TECHNOLOGY**



**CLEAN CARBON**



**LIFE SCIENCES:**

- New pathways to health
- Life technologies
- Global change
- Human nexus



**MARINE &  
MARITIME**



**ELECTRONICS,  
OPTICS, NANO AND  
QUANTUM  
TECHNOLOGIES**



**WEB SCIENCE**



- Selected mobility programmes Southampton

- Local WUN Research Mobility Programme (RMP) - *outgoing*

Small travel grants accessible to UoS PhS students and ECRs; one call per year

[www.southampton.ac.uk/research/research-funding/researcher-mobility.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/research/research-funding/researcher-mobility.page)

- Global Partnerships Award- *incoming/outgoing*

Provides 'seed funding' for joint international research or education-related activities with an international dimension that are at an early stage of development. Applications open to UoS staff only

[www.southampton.ac.uk/research/research-funding/global-partnerships-award.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/research/research-funding/global-partnerships-award.page)

- Diamond Jubilee Visiting Fellows (DJVF) - *incoming*

Awards outstanding middle career academics from key partner universities with a 3 yrs fellowship to develop individual or faculty collaborations. Applications are submitted by a UoS faculty member. One call per year

[www.southampton.ac.uk/global-connections/visiting-fellowships.page](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/global-connections/visiting-fellowships.page)



# Sheffield WUN team

**Professor Sir Keith Burnett**, President & Vice-Chancellor -Partnership Board

**Professor Gill Valentine**, Vice-President & Head of Faculty (Social Sciences) - AAG

**Dörte Stevenson**, Head of Partnerships and Global Opportunities, Global Engagement

**Danielle Bertrand**, International Partnerships Officer, Global Engagement- new WUN Coordinator

## University of Sheffield: Research highlights

- The university is one of the 24 research intensive universities that make up the Russell Group
- There are 82 research centres and institutes at the university. Our research institutes and centres have been created to address global challenges facing society, today and in the future. They are often interdisciplinary, with external collaboration and funding, and have earned international recognition <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/research/centres>
- Our research strengths include the following areas: Advanced manufacturing, Translational neuroscience, Political economy, Molecular science, engineering application & social impact, International Development
- We are in the top 10 per cent of all UK universities for quality of research, according to the results of the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Sheffield's quality, breadth and volume of research activity is further demonstrated by the fact that 99% of research at Sheffield was assessed as internationally recognised or better



# Mobility programmes

- The **Study Abroad** programme offers undergraduate students from Sheffield and overseas the chance to spend part of their degree at a university in another country. Study Abroad allows overseas students to come and study in Sheffield for a semester or a year - inbound/ outbound UG students
- **Erasmus+** supports higher education students to study abroad for up to one year in another European university or to gain valuable international work experience in a European organisation. Sheffield is one of the largest sending and receiving universities in the UK - inbound/ outbound UG, Masters and PhD students
- **Summer Schools** students spend between 1 and 8 weeks at one of our partner university summer schools in Europe or further afield- outbound UG students
- The **Research Mobility Programme (RMP)** offers funding to visit international WUN partners to establish and cultivate research links - outbound PhD students



## Collaborative research opportunities for WUN partners

- **The Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)** is a five year (2016-2021) £1.5bn investment to ensure UK research takes a leading role in addressing the problems faced by developing countries. It provides a unique opportunity for UK academics to work with partners around the world and address some of the biggest problems of our time
- **Strategic Partnerships for Higher Education Innovation and Reform ) SPHEIR** is a new £45 million DFID fund to support higher education transformation in focus countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Middle East
- **The Newton Fund** is a £75 million per annum (for 5 years) programme run by The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and delivered by a range of partners including UK Research Councils and Academies. It aims to develop science and innovation partnerships that promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries



- Key members:

**Prof Dawn Freshwater**, *Vice-Chancellor* – Chair, Understanding Cultures Steering Group

**Prof Robyn Owens**, *Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)* – AAG

**Prof Peter Davies**, *Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)* – Partnership Board, Chair of the Responding to Climate Change SG

**Dr Judith Berman**, *Associate Director (University Partnerships)* – Coordinator

**Mr Iain Watt**, *Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)* – Acting Coordinator

- Standout (signature) areas

- Oceans Institute
- Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems
- Institute of Agriculture
- International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR)

UWA's Student Scholarship Travelling Fund provides \$1,500 per student to support outbound mobility, short or long term. From 2018 the funding will prioritise Asia and S. America.

UWA Research Collaboration Awards have the dual purpose of promoting either international research collaboration or industry research partnerships. The overall goal of the program is to facilitate collaborations that will lead to long term research alliances.

- Amount – up to \$30k for incoming and/or outgoing mobility
- Priority partners – WUN, ARWU top 100, C9....
- To be successful the application must include an ECR or PhD student.

Endeavour Awards aim to promote long lasting links of mutual benefit with partner institutions. Outgoing and incoming

- Endeavour Executive – 4-6 months for professionals
- Endeavour Postdocs – 4-6 months
- Endeavour Masters and PhD – 4-6 months of or the whole PhD.

# Funding Opportunities

ARC Discovery Projects scheme provides project based funding of between \$30-500k per year for up to 5 years. This may include a Discovery International Award to overseas researchers working in Australia on a project.

ARC Linkage Projects scheme promotes national and international, collaboration and research partnerships between key stakeholders in research and innovation, including universities, government, business, industry and end users.

National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding supports research across the full spectrum of health and medical research from basic science through to clinical, public health and health services research.





# 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



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.



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.



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

1. 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
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







## **WUN Global Africa Group**

### **Call for Chapter Abstracts**

#### *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*

**Deadline: 31 July 2017 (extended)**

The WUN [Global Africa Group](#) (WUN GAG), which is co-chaired by Prof Maano Ramutsindela (University of Cape Town) and Dr David Mickler (University of Western Australia), is an international research network that was officially launched at the University of Ghana on 8-9 June 2017. WUN GAG aims to enhance the opportunities for building global research collaborations, innovations and impact in support of Africa's development agenda.

Towards this end, the WUN GAG is developing a new collaborative research project and publication on *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*, which will take the form of an interdisciplinary, peer reviewed, edited book to be published by a major university or commercial publisher in 2018.

The book will feature individual chapter contributions from researchers across various disciplines at WUN GAG member universities and their collaborating partners in Africa and beyond. The project will highlight both research already being done in the WUN and, importantly, the substantial value of innovative global research networks in producing inclusive, collaborative, transformative and impactful research in line with the "Global Partnership for Sustainable Development".

**This is a *Call for Abstracts for prospective chapter contributions to this book project.***

The project will draw upon the expertise and international research partnerships forged through the WUN Global Africa Group. It is expected that abstracts will come from a range of different disciplines, although final chapters should be accessible to a more general rather than a narrow discipline-based or technical audience. Each chapter of 5,000 words (including references) should be co-authored by two or more contributors.

*Note: Each chapter contribution must have at least one Africa-based co-author and at least one co-author from a WUN member university. Chapters should be both conceived and produced through collaboration.*

The book will be divided into four parts along the following lines:

### **Part 1: Theoretical reflection on the SDGs**

The book begins by tracing the conception and formulation of [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), and the debates that preceded their adoption by the United Nations. The goal in Part 1 of the book is to understand SDGs as a text that evolved throughout the negotiation process, and how scholarly analyses placed them in broader and varied contexts to develop critiques. We call for papers that engage with theoretical debates on SDGs from any vantage point.

### **Part II: The SDGs and Africa's development agenda**

The second part of the book locates the SDGs within African contexts. A key question is what are the intersections or tensions between SDGs, African and other development agendas, and how can we explain them? To answer this question we call for papers that use case studies to evaluate the impact/implications of one or more SDGs on Africa.

### **Part III: Scientific evidence: Rethinking SDGs**

Taking the SDGs as a starting point in Africa's development risks marginalizing existing scientific evidence of what is crucial for the survival of Africa's citizens and Africa's growth. What does scientific evidence tell us about priorities for African states that should inform the direction and implementation of SDGs in Africa's regions? What are the silences in SDGs? Which obstacles should be removed in order to realize the objectives of any of the SDGs? How should we measure the success or failures of SDGs? We invite papers that tackle any of these or related questions.

### **Part IV: Collaborative research for SDGs**

The UN makes it explicit that the realization of SDG objectives depends on collaboration by various stakeholders at various levels. It is expected that collaborative research would deliver scientific results that would guide the SDGs. This raises important questions, namely what are the weaknesses in existing research collaboration or networks? What form should collaborative research take to avoid or overcome the pitfalls associated with the North-South divide? How should collaborative research be configured to be relevant to SDGs in Africa. In other words, how can we understand the role and impact of global research collaboration and networks in relation to Africa and the SDGs? We seek papers that speak to the structure, norms and values of existing collaborative research and what has come out of those collaborative efforts. Prospective authors may also want to think about any issue that relates to collaborative research, including best practices.

## Call for Abstracts

Abstracts will be selected on the basis of both quality and appropriate balances between topics, gender of authors, and collaborating institutions. Prospective collaborators are encouraged to include early career and doctoral research students as contributors.

Prospective contributors and their collaborators are invited to submit a chapter abstract (max. 300 words) by **31 July 2017** to Maano Ramutsindela ([maano.ramutsindela@uct.ac.za](mailto:maano.ramutsindela@uct.ac.za)) and David Mickler ([david.mickler@uwa.edu.au](mailto:david.mickler@uwa.edu.au)).

Notification of accepted contributions will be made at in the first week of August 2017. Once abstracts have been selected, a full edited book proposal will be prepared and submitted to major university and commercial publishers in August alongside applications for publication support grants. We hope to secure a publishing contract by October 2017 after which we will plan for a workshop at the University of Cape Town in mid-October 2017 with all authors. The tentative draft chapter deadline is 30 January 2018.

## Links

WUN Global Africa Group:

<http://www.wun.ac.uk/wun/research/view/global-africa-group>

UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

Common African Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda:

<http://cap.africa-platform.org/>

African Union's Agenda 2063:

<http://au.int/en2/agenda2063>

