



Global Africa Group

WUN Success Stories — AGM Dublin 2019



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

Origins, objectives & principles

- Co-Chairs model:
 - 2016-18: Maano Ramutsindela (UCT) & David Mickler (UWA)
 - 2019-21: Floretta Boonzaier (UCT) & Sue Parnell (Bristol)
 - Coordinator: Wilna Ventor (UCT)
- Created late 2015, Steering Committee formed 2016, formally launched by VC at U Ghana June 2017
- WUN Sustainability Fund grant of £10,000
- *GAG Strategic Plan 2016-18*
 - ‘Global-Africa’: Critically work at intersection of African development agendas, UN SDGs, existing expertise/interests of WUN researchers
 - Research priority themes
 - Linking research-policy-society, and with other networks
 - Promote inclusion and mobility (including PGs/ECRs)
 - Regional Research Hubs model: East, West, Southern Africa



What are “Global-Africa” collaborations in WUN?

“These are defined as collaborations that have relevance for Africa’s research and development agendas, are linked to international debates and scholarship, and involve dynamic and equal partnerships between the three African and twenty non-African university members of the Network in the setting of research priorities and in co-designing and co-producing research projects.”

Maano Ramutsindela & David Mickler
Inaugural WUN GAG Co-Chairs, 2016-18



Main collaborative activities

Launch & strategic research workshop
Accra, Ghana (June 2017)

New member induction and consultation visit
Nairobi, Kenya (June 2017)

Group book project workshop
Cape Town, South Africa (Dec 2017)

Public engagement forum
Perth, Australia (May 2018)

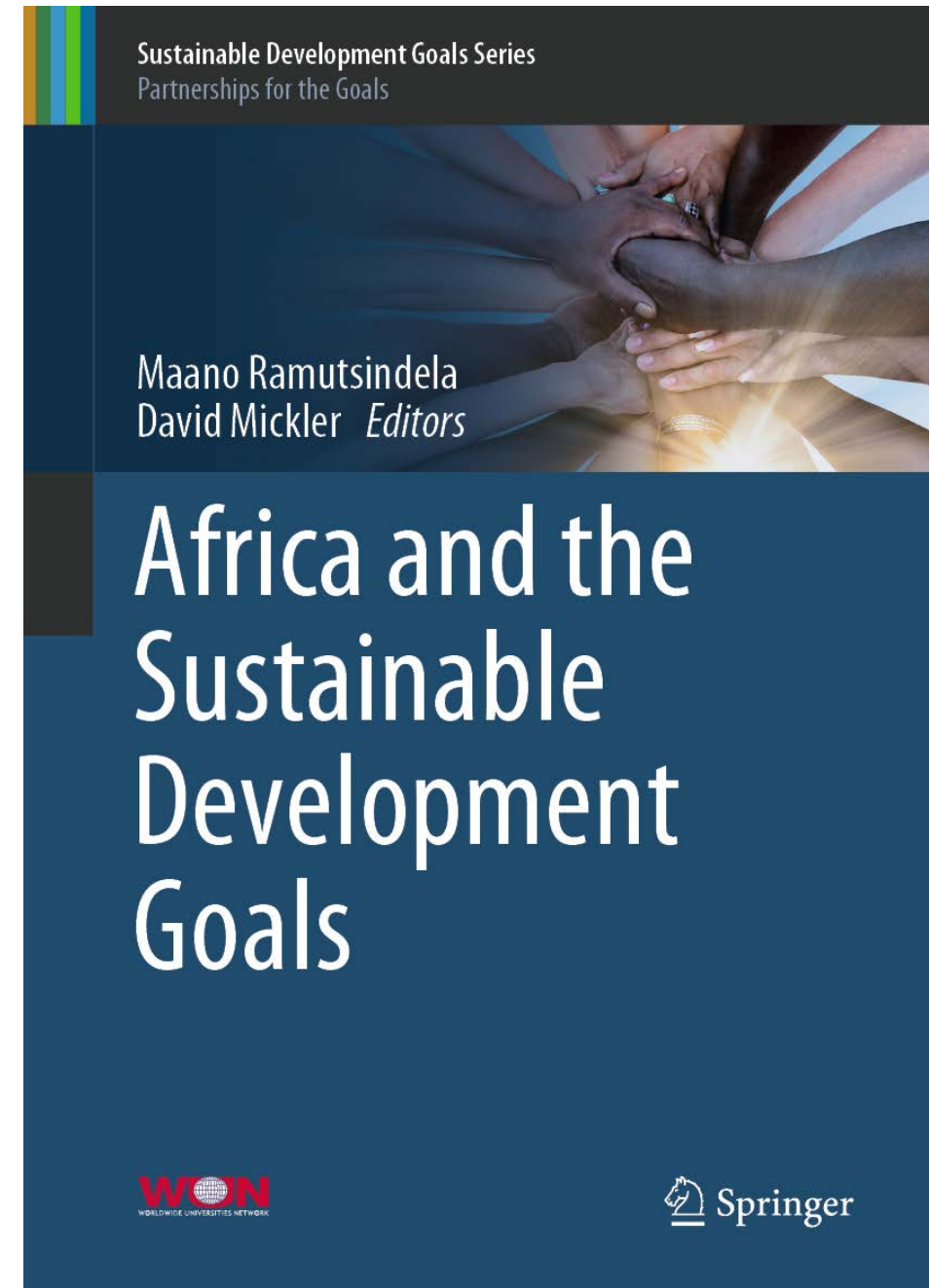
Research impact workshop
Nairobi, Kenya (Nov 2018)



Collaborative book project

- Project developed by GAG during 2017-18 to be published by Springer in Aug 2019; WUN logo on cover
- Collaboration principles → 26 co-authored chapters by 81 contributors (from 11 WUN member universities plus partners)
- Foreword by UN USG Bience Gawanas, Special Advisor on Africa to the UN Secretary-General (fmr AU Commissioner)

<https://www.springer.com/us/book/9783030148560#otherversion=9783030148577>



From the Foreword to *Africa and the SDGs* (2019):

“I will conclude by expressing my sincere gratitude for Worldwide University Network’s initiative to bring in African voices and for this wide reaching collaboration. It is my sincere hope that the network will continue to undertake further policy research work on critical areas of SDGs to help inform on approaches that work best for the effective and successful implementation of the goals in Africa. I particularly encourage African academics, especially young postgraduate and early career academics to further contribute to the advancement and achievement of the SDGs by bringing in their African perspectives, thus ensuring practical policies that positively influence the day to day lives of all Africans.”

Bience Gawanas

UN Under-Secretary-General and Special Advisor on Africa to the UN Secretary-General; former African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs



Key factors in success

- Situating critical thinking and collaboration/governance principles at the centre of our ongoing work
- Strong leadership by African WUN member universities and active support from Steering Committee
- Direct engagement with key policy frameworks (AU Agenda 2063, UN SDGs) and relevant practitioners
- Promoting group visibility: regular activities, social media, circulation of comprehensive post-activity reports
- Seeking inclusion while demonstrating, to diverse stakeholders, the added value of an international university network

