Implementing the SDGs in East Africa: Translating collaborative research into policy impact

The aspirations for *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want* challenge governments, scholars and the international community to meaningfully contribute to Africa’s development agenda. Previous development agendas, many of which were imposed on African states, did not yield the expected results. Instead, they opened up Africa for exploitation and also marginalized ordinary people. In the era of the *UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which includes 17 *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, it is expected that research will provide much of the data needed to guide policy formulation and decision making. Two questions arise from this expectation: how can or should the research community organize itself to play a critical role in Africa’s development? How should research on SDGs engage with existing policies but also translate into impactful policies for ‘The Africa We Want’.

Using a regional approach, the proposed workshop will examine the roles of collaborative research in achieving SDGs in East Africa and explore research-policy linkages and gaps. A regional approach is useful for three reasons. First, the *Worldwide Universities Network Global Africa Group* aims to develop regional research hubs anchored on its member universities in the continent but also in alliance with other research networks like RUFORUM, the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUIA) and the Australia Africa Universities Network (AAUN). The University of Nairobi, as East African hub, is hosting this workshop. Second, the approach appreciates regional variation and context-specific development challenges to which research should contribute in tangible ways. Third, a regional approach provides a platform for developing regional policy responses to Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.
Expected workshop outcomes

Four main outcomes are expected from the workshop:

1. There will be deep engagement between policy practitioners, university leaders, network convenors, academics and postgraduate students on three key sets of issues:
   a. Key policy challenges for SDG implementation in East Africa;
   b. The roles of collaborative research in sustainable development in East Africa;
   c. Translating collaborative research into policy impact on SDGs in East Africa

2. Workshop participants will be provided with professional development through expert training to build capacity in four areas:
   a. Collaboration between academics and policy practitioners
   b. Policy writing
   c. Communicating research via the media
   d. Grant proposal writing

3. Production of three types of outputs:
   a. Policy briefing papers on the SDGs in East Africa: These will be published on the WUN GAG website and sent to targeted policy making bodies;
   b. A journal special issue/section: selected contributions to the workshop will be published in a Special Issue/Section on “Implementing the SDGs in East Africa: Translating collaborative research into policy impact” in an academic journal based on the continent;
   c. WUN Research Development Fund collaborative grant applications in the 2019 funding round.

4. The workshop will further support the University of Nairobi's role as an East African regional research hub and deepen linkages between WUN GAG and other relevant African research networks.

Expected workshop participants

- Academic and postgraduate student delegates of the WUN Global Africa Group, including from the University of Nairobi
- Academic and postgraduate student delegates from other Kenyan and East African universities
- Nairobi-based government and development practitioners in Kenya
Logistical arrangements

- **Workshop venue**
  
  University of Nairobi Towers, Nairobi, Kenya

- **Registration**

  Workshop registration is free but essential to secure your place due to limited places. The deadline for registration is 15 November.

  Please register online via the [UoN Research workshop link](#).

- **Workshop dinner**

  Thursday evening 29 November, venue TBC. Note: costs of dinner must be paid individually by participating delegates.

- **Expression of interest in being a speaker**

  If you would like to present on your research or other work (10-15 minutes) during a session then please email the workshop convenors with your name, position and a brief title and abstract of 150 words addressing the specific session or wider workshop theme. Please note there are limited speaking places available and a decision on speakers will be made by the convenors. The deadline for EoIs for speaking places is 29 October. Final workshop program announced on 1 Nov.

- **Workshop convenors** (WUN GAG Co Chairs)

  Prof. Maano Ramutsindela, University of Cape Town
  maano.ramutsindela@uct.ac.za

  Dr David Mickler, University of Western Australia
  david.mickler@uwa.edu.au

- **Local contact in Nairobi**

  Emmanuel Guantai guantai@uonbi.ac.ke

- **Accommodation**

  Delegates will need to organise and pay for their own accommodation.

- **Visas**

  Kenya has an e-visa system. Please see: [http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html](http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html)

  To obtain a workshop Letter of Invitation for visa and other travel purposes, please send your full details to Emmanuel Guantai after registering and a letter will be sent to you.
### Program

**Day 1: Thursday 29 November 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Session Theme</th>
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| 9.00-9.15    | **Welcome and Introduction**  
*GAG Co-Chairs, Prof. Maano Ramutsindela and Dr David Mickler;*  
*Vice-Chancellor University of Nairobi, Prof. Peter Mbithi* |
| 9.15-10.15   | **Panel of regional policy practitioners**  
*“Key Policy Challenges for SDG Implementation in East Africa”*  
*UNDP/UNEP;*  
*African Union/East African Community/IGAD;*  
*Kenyan government;*  
*Local government/Development NGO* |
| 10.15-11.00  | Q&A between audience and panel                                                 |

**Morning Tea (11.00-11.30)**

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| 11.30-12.30  | **Academic panel**  
*“The Roles of Collaborative Research in Sustainable Development in East Africa”*  
*WUN and regional university researchers (x 4)* |
| 12.30-1.30   | Q&A between audience and panel                                                 |

**Lunch (1.30-2.30)**

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| 2.30-3.30    | **Mixed academic/practitioner panel**  
*“Translating Collaborative Research on Sustainable Development into Policy Impact in East Africa”*  
*WUN and regional university researchers (x 2)*  
*Regional policy practitioners- Regional media representative* |
| 3.30-4.30    | Q&A between audience and panel                                                 |
| 4.30-5.00    | **Conclusions**  
*GAG Co-Chairs* |
### Day 2: Friday 30 November 2018

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<th>Times</th>
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<tr>
<td>09.00-11.00</td>
<td>Policy Writing Masterclass</td>
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<td>“How to translate your research into policy briefings”</td>
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<td><em>Led by regional policy practitioners</em></td>
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*Morning tea (11.00-11.30)*

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<tr>
<td>11.30-1.30</td>
<td>Research Communication Masterclass</td>
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<td>“How to communicate your research via the media”</td>
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*Lunch (1.30-2.30)*

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.30-4.30</td>
<td>Grant Writing Masterclass</td>
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<td>“How to translate your research into funding applications”</td>
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<td><em>Led by major funding body assessors</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>4.30-5.00</td>
<td>Conclusions and next steps</td>
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<td><em>GAG Co-Chairs</em></td>
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