



WUN Global Africa Group collaborative book project on  
***Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals***

Book authors' workshop  
Saturday 2 December 2017  
University of Cape Town, South Africa

**WORKSHOP REPORT**



## Workshop Background and Purpose

In 2017, the WUN Global Africa Group (GAG) developed a collaborative book project entitled *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals*. The project is in line with the GAG *Strategic Plan 2016-18* objective to develop collaborative research projects at the intersection of the African Union's *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*, the UN *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (containing the Sustainable Development Goals), and the existing research expertise and interests within the WUN membership. The project also supports the Group's strategic objectives of promoting our three African WUN members as regional research hubs and promoting WUN researcher mobility.

As set out in the call for chapter abstracts in early 2017, the book's rules of chapter co-authorship include that each chapter must have at least one Africa-based co-author and at least one WUN-member-based co-author. We are delighted to have achieved a terrific collection of chapters that meet these key criteria. We are happy to report that our co-authorship principles have achieved gender balance as well as the inclusion of chapter contributions by early career researchers and practitioners, and senior academics. The book project, which is Co-Edited by WUN GAG Co-Chairs Prof. Maano Ramutsindela (UCT) and Dr David Mickler (UWA), will be published in Springer's *Sustainable Development Goals* series in late 2018/early 2019 and involves some 50+ WUN researchers within a total group of 70+ contributing co-authors. The book series can be accessed at <http://www.springer.com/series/15486>

On Saturday 2 December 2017, GAG held a book project authors' workshop at the University of Cape Town. The workshop was designed to bring the group together to individually present and collectively review initial draft chapters. The aims of the workshop were to inspire a sense of research collaboration across the diverse group, to obtain new ideas from the cross-pollination of disciplinary perspectives, different approaches and issues, and various case studies, and to provide a platform to refine each initial draft chapter ahead of the submission of final draft chapters on 31 January 2018. By holding the author workshop back-to-back with the Australia Africa Universities Network's (AAUN) Africa Forum (3 December in Cape Town), the authors' workshop also aligned with the Group's strategic objective to ally with like-minded networks where possible and we were pleased to have active participation by several AAUN members. The workshop was supported by a small WUN Sustainability Fund grant, which covered the costs of workshop hosting, provided for some partial travel subsidies to support participation by eligible African-based authors from WUN members, and will contribute towards other book production costs.

The workshop was held in Studio 5 in the Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, Upper Campus, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, Cape Town, South Africa. Recommended accommodation was at Protea Hotel by Marriot, located in Mowbray. A workshop group dinner was held at Den Anker restaurant at V&A Waterfront.

## Format of Workshop

For the workshop, each chapter presentation was organised into the nominal order in which it will appear in the book, divided into three sections:

- *Part I: Africa's Sustainable Development: Approaches, Institutions, Agendas;*
- *Part II: Scientific Evidence and Critical Thinking on the SDGs in Africa;* and
- *Part III: Africa and the SDGs: The Role of Collaborative Research.*

The workshop proceeded in this order of chapters, although the final book may reflect a modified order following review and discussion. Not all chapters were presented at the workshop due to some authors' unavailability.

Each chapter had a 20-minute slot for presentation and initial comments. The presentations were for 10 minutes, leaving 10 minutes for comments and questions by the other participants. A concluding session at the end of the workshop allowed for general comments on the themes, ordering and other matters.

Following the workshop, contributors would therefore have both written (by the co-editors) and verbal feedback on their draft chapters. Contributors will then have until 31 January 2018 to incorporate this feedback in order to produce and submit a final draft chapter.



## Workshop Program

### Saturday 2 December 2017

- 8.30am** Bus departs from Protea Hotel for University of Cape Town
- 8.45am** Arrival and registration, collection of workshop folders, in foyer of Environmental and Geographical Sciences (EGS) building
- 9.00am** **Start of workshop, EGS Studio 5 upstairs: welcome, introductions, project and workshop outline by co-editor**
- 9.20am** **Session 1**  
***Africa's Sustainable Development: Approaches, Institutions, Agendas***
1. Varieties of Knowledge Society and the SDGs
    - Presenters: John Higgins and Tor Halvorsen
  2. Lifelong Learning and the SDGs
    - Presenter: Florida Karani and Julia Preece
  3. *[China's Economic Embrace of Africa in Comparative Perspective]*
    - *Paper unable to be presented*
  4. The AU's African Governance Architecture and SDG 16: A critical analysis of intersections
    - Presenter: David Mickler
  5. *[African Mining and the SDGs: From Vision to Reality?]*
    - *Paper unable to be presented*
  6. Minding the Gap? The Media and the Realization of the SDGs in Kenya
    - Presenter: Jacinta Maweu
  7. *[The SDGs and Human In/Security in Africa: A Ghanaian Example]*
    - *Paper unable to be presented*
  8. SDG 17 and Ghana's Development Agenda
    - Presenter: Ibrahim Bedi
- 11.00am** Morning tea in downstairs kitchen / staff lounge
- 11.30am** **Session 2**  
***Scientific Evidence and Critical Thinking on the SDGs in Africa***
9. Research Data Management as a Strategic Imperative for SDGs Scientific Evidence
    - Presenter: Connie Bitso
  10. *[Prioritising Health Systems to Achieve SDGs in Africa: A Review of Scientific Evidence]*

- *Paper unable to be presented*
- 11. Prioritising Women's Mental Health for the Achievement of the SDGs in Africa
  - Presenter: Maxine Spedding
- 12. Talent Management Challenges for Women in South Africa
  - Presenter: Linda Ronnie
- 13. *[Securing Inclusive Growth: Mentorship, Youth Employment and Employment Creation in Kenya]*
  - *Paper unable to be presented*
- 14. *[The Challenge of Decent Work in Africa]*
  - *Paper unable to be presented*
- 15. *[Upscaling Agriculture and Food Security in Africa in Pursuit of SDG 1, 2 & 8: What Role Does China Play?]*
  - *Paper unable to be presented*
- 16. *[Towards a Model of Accountability for Sustainable Development in the Extractive Industries of Anglophone West African Countries]*
  - *Paper unable to be presented*
- 17. *[Historical to Post-Colonial Transitions in Human-Environment-Societal-Wildlife Relationships in East Africa: Accessing the Past to Constrain a Sustainable Future]*
  - *Paper unable to be presented*
- 18. Biodiversity Commitments, Wildlife Crime and the Land Question
  - Presenter: Paballo Chauke

**1.00pm** Lunch in downstairs kitchen / staff lounge

**1.30pm** **Session 3**  
***Africa and the SDGs: The Role of Collaborative Research***

- 19. *[The SDGs and African Higher Education]*
  - *Paper unable to be presented*
- 20. Drivers of International Research Collaboration in Africa
  - Presenters: Jaco Blanckenburg and Charl Swart
- 21. A Case Study of Collaboration for Water Innovation
  - Presenters: Kirsty Carden and Vanessa Speight
- 22. Addressing the Challenges of North-South Collaborations: Plant and Microbial Product Identification for Infectious and Non-communicable Diseases in Africa
  - Presenter: Dorcas Osei-Safo

23. A Collaborative Framework to Address Climate Impacted Non-Communicable Diseases in Urban Africa

- Presenter: Andrea Rother

24. *[Multiplex Learning: An Evidence-based Approach to Design Policy Learning Networks in Sub-Saharan Africa for SDGs]*

- Paper unable to be presented

- 3.00pm** General discussion and conclusions session
- 3.45pm** End of workshop. Bus collects participants and returns them to Protea Hotel
- 6.30pm** Bus departs from Protea Hotel for Den Anker restaurant, V&A Waterfont
- 7.00pm** Group dinner at Den Anker restaurant, V&A Waterfont
- 9.15pm** Bus returns participants to Protea Hotel. End of workshop program.
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## Workshop Outcomes

The workshop was conducted in a strong spirit of collegiality. Useful feedback and questions were provided for each presentation, and there was strong engagement by the participants.

The following questions and discussion points were raised during the final session:

- Can Part III of the book be simply titled “Africa and the SDGs: The Role of Collaboration” (not “collaborative research”, because some of the chapter discuss broader forms of collaboration)?
- Can the editors share a common chapter structure or outline with the authors?
- Many chapters focused on the role of education. Education and therefore lifelong learning is therefore key cross-cutting themes.
- The book should keep in mind the SDG promise of “No One Left Behind” as a core theme.
- Do we really have to stick to the 5,000 word limit? Can the timeline be revised to give authors longer to produce full drafts?
- The book should highlight how there are tensions between the SDGs and the realities on the ground in Africa. The book should produce critical analysis of the SDGs.
- Can we set up an online repository for the book to share materials, links, references? Can the WUN GAG website do this? At a minimum we should start common bibliography of key sources to share with each other – perhaps we can create a document and circulate so that people can add 3-5 key sources each?
- A group discussion platform would also help authors to identify points of convergence, key points, tensions, linkages.
- Can the book include a map of Africa highlighting the location of case studies, etc?
- How will we translate the research to a wider audience? Can we produce and disseminate a policy briefing paper containing key findings along with the book? The briefing should contain visuals, illustrations to make the research come alive.
- Can you send the house style guide? We need this for consistency of referencing, titles etc.
- Will there be any shifting of the chapter order following the workshop?
- There are 55 countries in Africa – should the book cover more case studies and diversity?
- The book should be framed in terms of SDG 17 on global partnerships for development.
- What is the role of academia in relation to the SDGs – is it reflection and critique, or implementation of the goals?
- Oceans and the related SDG on Life Under Water are not included in the book, but remain very important.

The workshop achieved the objectives set out above, despite not all chapters being presented due to the unavailability of some authors. The workshop provided a strong basis and impetus to move the project forward into the next phase.

The GAG Co-Chairs are exploring further opportunities in 2018 to highlight the book project.

The GAG co-chairs and book co-editors would like to sincerely thank Wilna Venter, Emmanuel Mogende, Vera Ribeiro, Kelly Webster and other UCT staff for supporting the organisation and convening of the book workshop.

Thank you, Maano and David.



Co-Chairs, Global Africa Group  
Prof. Maano Ramutsindela (UCT)  
Dr David Mickler (UWA)

## Workshop participants

| Name                      | University        | Email                                                                                                | Chapter |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
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