



UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS

AAUN AUSTRALIA AFRICA
UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

The Role of Higher Education in Achieving
Sustainable Development Goals

A Case Study of the University
of Mauritius

FORUM &
AGM

Professor (Mrs) Romeela Mohee,
CSK, FRSC(UK), FMAST

Vice-Chancellor
University of Mauritius
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Higher Education & Sustainable Development Goals



Challenges for African economies

- High poverty rates
- Environmental impact and Degradation
- Rapid Population Growth
- Urbanisation (waste disposal)
- Deforestation

Challenges for HEIs

- Critical shortage of quality faculty
- Limited capacity of governance
- Inadequate facilities and infrastructures
- Problems of quality and relevance of teaching and research
- Limited capacity of research
- Meeting increasing demand for equitable access

HEIs and SD

RIO Earth Summit – Agenda 21

- Promote and improve the quality of education
- Reorient the curricula
- Raise public awareness and understanding
- Train the workforce

HEIs as Agents of Change

- Model sustainable practices for society
- Skills of integration, synthesis, and systems-thinking
- Inspired, real-world problem-based research to address sustainability challenges
- Promote and enhance engagement between individuals and institutions

HEIs and UN SDGs

HEIs have a Major
role to play

Access to Quality Technical, Vocational and Tertiary education

Eliminate Gender disparities in Education and ensure Equal Access to all levels of Education

Empowerment of Women and Gender Equality

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic Growth and Productive Employment

Substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment

Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors and encourage Innovation

HEIs as Agents of Change

Drivers in Teaching*

- Global citizenship
- Environmental stewardship
- Social justice, ethics and wellbeing
- Futurethinking

Drivers in Research

- Impact of Research
- Orientation
- Research Uptake
- Engagement with stakeholders

Three Pronged Approach

- Meeting the Targets of SDGs
- Building Evidence-base for Policy-making
- Developing Strong Relationships with all Stakeholders



Teaching in Action

2015 marked the end of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Climate Change

- Impact Analysis performed on Climate Change
- Socioeconomic Perspective and Insights for Policymakers
- Assessing effects of Sensitisation Campaigns concerning Climate Change
- Green Economy Scoping studies and implementation of Green Campus

Medicine

- Effective data access models developed for immediate implementation
- Education strategies on medicines
- Provision of Continuous Medical Education (CME) through the Medical Update Group
- Investigations into the use of Traditional and Alternative medicines in the Local context for Consumer

Trade

- Analysis of Resource Efficiency in Mauritian Textile Sector for Sustainability Challenges
- Insight of Debt Repayment Capacities of Developing Countries,
- Export Diversification And Economic Growth; The Case Of SADC
- Trade and Environmental Impact Studies-Case Specific Analysis



Areas of Intervention The Mauritian-African Context

ICT

- Exploratory Studies on New Media Influence on Youth
- Impact Analysis of ICT tools on new generations
- On Campus implementation of broadband Internet and high-tech Communication tools
- Evaluating Technology as a tool for Sustainable Development with policy-oriented recommendations

Ocean Economy

- Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa; Drawing up policies and development plans for Sustainable development
- Use of Earth Observation Technologies in Disaster management
- IAEA-UNESCO Project on Submarine Groundwater Discharge in Coastal Zones in Mauritius
- Exploration And Sustainable Exploitation Of Deep Sea Minerals In The EEZ And ECS Of Mauritius

Tourism

- Dynamic Economic Impact Of Tourism For Island Economies
- Development of a Community Support Model For Tourism
- Factors Influencing The Sustainability Of The Mauritian Tourism Industry
- Assessment of Environmental Impact of Tourism



UoM Strategic Plan 2015-2020

- Measure enumerated to bring about Change
- Triple bottom line taken into consideration

Introduction of General Education Modules

- Broaden knowledge of Students on themes such as Globalisation, Entrepreneurship, Understanding Society etc.

Research themes relating to SD

- Climate Change
- Food Security
- Biodiversity and Conservation
- Renewable Energy and Energy for Sustainable Development
- Gender Issues in Entrepreneurship
- Ethics and Corporate Social Responsibility
- Sustainable Tourism
- Human Rights



Upgrading of Facilities

- Use of Photovoltaic Plates
- 66 Wi-Fi Access Points
- Broadband internet connected on Fibre Optic
- Implementing Paperless for a Green Campus

Setting up of new faculties

- Faculty of Ocean Studies for sustainable use of Marine resources
- Faculty of ICT in the pipeline

UoM Research & Community Engagement

Knowledge Transfer Office

Launched in April 2016

Vehicle for Research Uptake and Community Engagement

Engaging Industry, Government and the Community at large

Better address needs of Stakeholders

Participation in DRUSSA and HERANA Project

Strengthened partnerships with Private Sector firms and Parastatal Bodies

Active engagement of NGOs and Community Orgs in University Dialogue Meetings

Yearly UoM Research Week

Showcasing of Research Portfolios and findings

University grounds dedicated exclusively for the event for 5 days

Participation of Students and Researchers at all levels, with the presence of external stakeholders such as NGOs, Govt, Private Sector firms etc.

To Promote University-Community Partnerships

Staff members encouraged to undertake community outreach activities

Include local stakeholders in teaching and research agendas.

Creating broad public awareness

Recognition and rewarding achievements in community engagement activities.

Allocation of funds to Faculties community engagement activities.

Faculty-generated funds will be ploughed back into the Faculty for Research Uptake activities

Regular monitoring of research uptake through KPIs and OVI

Partnerships with national, regional and international agencies.

Regularly providing information to KTO on community initiatives

Disaster Management and Monitoring; A Case Study

Monitoring for Environment & Security in Africa (MESA)

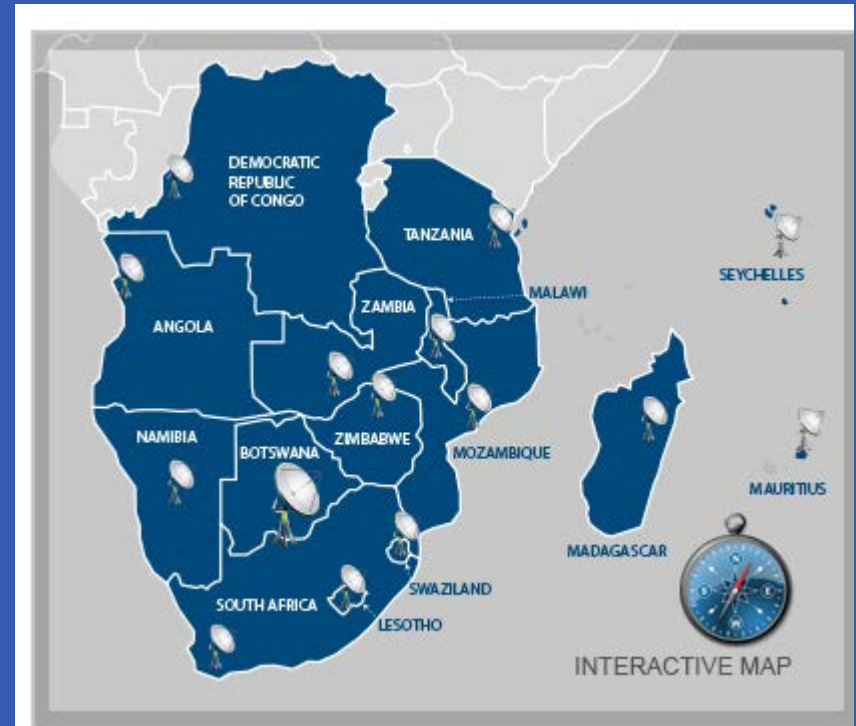


Purpose of the MESA Project

To use **Earth's Observation Data and Technology** to support African decision makers and Planners in drawing up **National, Regional and Continental Policies and Development Plans** aimed at Sustainable Development.

MESA – In Short

- Quick, Complete. Unbiased information from the Earth's Observation Satellite,
- Needed to support Planning and Decision Making,
- For better management of Agriculture & the Environment,
- At a time when all are threatened by **climate change impacts**.





HEIs, SDGs and Tourism

Higher education institutions offering tourism programs should recognize the role of tourism in achieving the SDGs.

Appropriate funding for Research and other resources

Tourism has the potential to be a tool, or can represent a partial solution, for poverty reduction as well as ensuring environmental sustainability, and the empowerment of women and girls.

Especially in the developing world, increasing tourism demand is seen to be economically beneficial,

Due to the new global-scale role, tourism has become an important social policy tool for community development providing jobs and economic benefits for the poor and previously disadvantaged people

World Trade Organisation Chairs Program (WCP)

Strengthen the **human and institutional capacities of universities** from developing countries to **support governments** in the formulation of **sound trade policies**.

WCP Mauritius

- Organised a number of International Conferences on Issues related to Regional Integration, Non Tariff Measures and Trade in Services
- Organised a number of speaker series on various aspects of Trade including both the economic and legal implications
- Published papers on trade related issues
- Published book chapter on export diversification and trade facilitation

MSc Social Protection Financing

Aims of the Program

- Improving the overall understanding of social security
- Analysing and developing strategies to enhance the effectiveness of social security systems and
- Raise awareness and mobilise key actors and resources with a view to improving both the quality and coverage of social security.

More than **130 officials** from the Government and Private social security funds from **more than 14 countries** in Africa have been trained under this Program. More than **one third** were women.