

2020

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through Partnerships Network Kick off Meeting Report



Dr Renuka Thakore
UCEM, UK
12/10/2020

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Introduction

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through Partnerships Network Kick-off meeting

GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through Partnerships Network Kick-off meeting was organised by Dr Renuka Thakore from Research, Innovations and Partnerships Department, UCEM, on 30 November 2020, 12:30 to 2:30 PM.

The research collaboration between Global South and Global North, and within, between and beyond low-, middle- and high- income countries to secure global sustainable futures is more important than ever. **GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through Partnerships Network** committed to create collaboration/partnerships across national borders and academic disciplines made a formal start to this grand and innovative initiative through a 'Kick-off meeting' on 30 November 2020.

Dr Renuka Thakore strongly believes that collaborations between various stakeholders, research partnerships between diverse academics and knowledge exchange and enhancement in education could be the key to achieving global sustainable futures. The objective of **GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through Partnerships Network** is to develop and facilitate an innovative and vibrant platform between researchers from diverse universities from all over the globe and to contribute to the sustainable development goals targets. The network has already secured partners from **27 countries (Austria, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Congo, Dubai, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom)**. This network aims to increase synergies and partnerships in research, education, and delivery of sustainable development goals.

Vision

“Through **GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through Partnerships Network** we want to increase the research and innovation capacity of the early career researchers, start-ups, targeted stakeholders, increase visibility and enthusiasm around collaboration in Global South and Global North, and within, between and beyond low-, middle- and high- income countries. All partners are keen to engage with each other between different disciplines and sustainable development goals” says Renuka Thakore.

The kick-off meeting was organised with an objective to shape and getting closer to realising the vision of the network and making it more viable with effective implementation. Everyone in the meeting was invited to contribute to the vision and strengthen the foundation of the network. Dr Thakore shared initial thoughts on importance of building global sustainable futures and stressed that those who were attending the kick-off meeting, shared the same thoughts. Dr Thakore, referring to the correlation between income and satisfaction, highlighting that the rate of decrease in poverty does not necessarily mean that the rate of satisfaction has increased. It is equally important to know that the absence of poverty does not guarantee happiness, but the presence often prevents it. This assessment is true in the current context of global future leading to unsustainable development. Dr Thakore highlighted that the progress through partnerships would be a vehicle, a global platform, to make early improvements in achieving sustainable futures. Just as the Sustainable Development Goals are for people, this network is also for people.

Multidisciplinary Partnerships Development Platform

Demand for capacity development, stronger links between research, policy and practice and the importance of a systems approach are the three continuing priorities for Global South early career researchers. Though several strategies have been employed to address specific barriers; open, inclusive, and proactively engaging platforms for developing and disseminating empirical research as well as monitoring and evaluating their effectiveness in delivering SDGs goals and targets are hardly any. Global South and Global North, and within, between and beyond low-, middle- and high- income countries need to steadily progress in research capacity, but major barriers to research are lack of empirical evidence on strategic transdisciplinary interventions. Despite an evolution in sustainable development thinking, local actors continue to use outdated development

strategies that are recognised as unsustainable. To realise multi-dimensional sustainable innovative strategies, research capacity outcomes need to be equally valued as research output on international platforms.

Given this context, it is important that the key players – academics, researchers, industry professionals, technocrats and research-oriented institutions – respond to ongoing and emerging climate change, environmental and sustainability challenges in the Global South and Global North, and within, between and beyond low-, middle- and high- income countries. Missing, however, are the ‘knowledge and skills’ to ‘integrate’ and ‘network’ these fundamental ingredients of capacity development in organic, real-time and innovative ways. Thus, the case is made for a considered, deliberate effort to build a platform that integrates all the above listed elements, ultimately to improve the research capacity and capability of researchers and sustainability professionals throughout the globe.

The fundamental objective of **SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through partnerships** is “to create a strong research environment” building to a multi-disciplinary and multisectoral team of endogenous professionals that would be capable of pursuing and utilising participatory and integrative approaches in solving public and environmental sustainability problems.

A highly collaborative and participatory event (see Figure i), the kick off meeting for the development of the vision following the **1st International research workshop to creating partnerships and networking opportunities: SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through partnerships** was held online led by Dr Renuka Thakore, supported by Aled Williams, Director of Research, Innovations and Partnerships at UCEM.

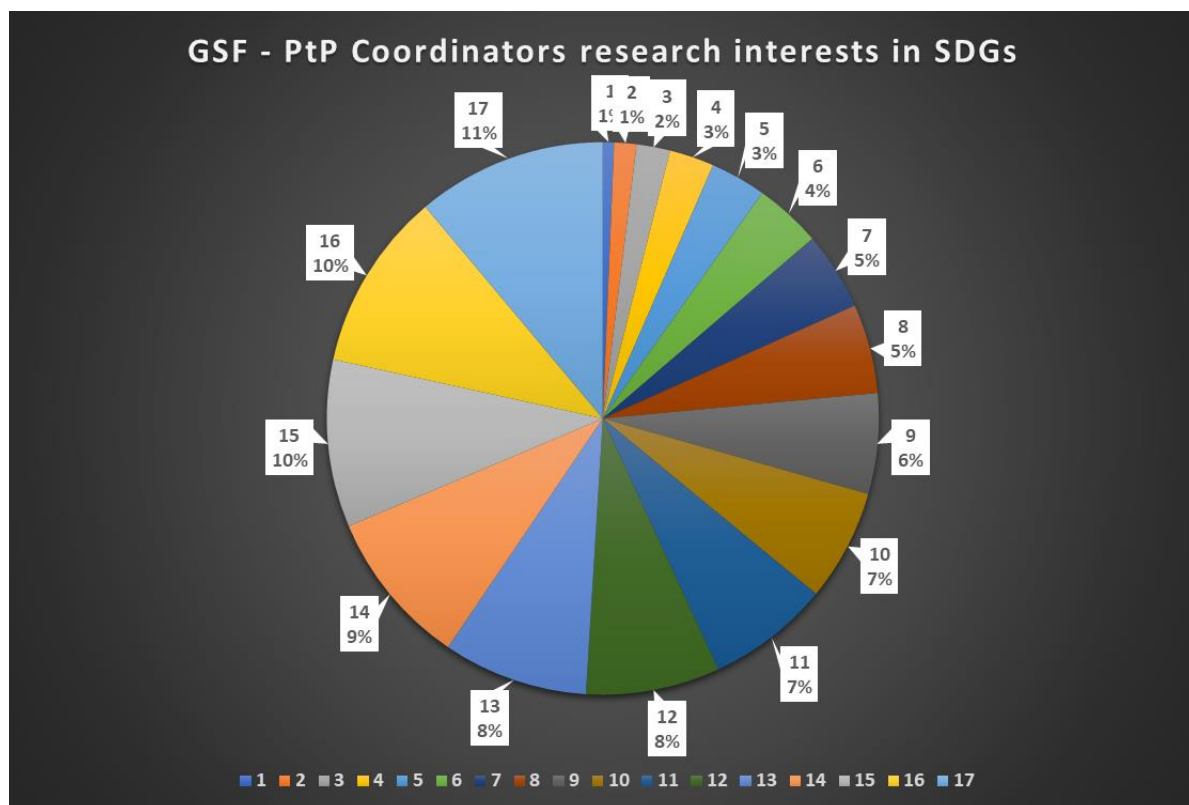


Figure i Coordinators research interests in sdgs

It was attended by several leading academics drawing from a major higher education institutions and knowledge generating centres. Using a participatory and integrative approach, commonly referred to as transdisciplinary, attempts were made to involve potential partners (the list of partners is provided in full report and is available from Dr Renuka Thakore – r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk) in the formulation and design phase of the vision of multidisciplinary partnership development platform. The SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: Progress through partnerships, which was natured through this collaborative process between the group of international researchers and non-researchers, identified and agreed the following key points for research and partnership development:

To tackle persistent global issues:

- Social inequalities such as poverty, poverty due to climate change, inequal distribution of knowledge and resource availability, needs of local people
- Unsustainable resource use, materialism and consumerism, urbanisation (especially organic urbanisation)
- Legal governance, health and wellbeing
- Affordability, inclusiveness and stakeholders' engagement

Priorities to tackle global issues:

- Working together – partnerships, teamworking, cooperatives
- Imparting education and creating self-employment opportunities to tackle poverty
- Socio-technical production - development of social complimentaries for food production, management and consumption, water management and consumption, and energy use and security.
- Creating political commitment working with local governance bodies, authorities, mayors and people
- Imparting knowledge and providing training
- Creating sustainable community knowledge working conscientious and working in partnerships while tackling urbanisation, sustainability of infrastructures, tackling desertification and climate change impacts

Dr Renuka Thakore is working enthusiastically to promote partnerships for this network. All participants felt involved and appreciated being invited and to be part of the workshop and the wider international research partnerships' development programme. According to participants, the proposed theme presented opportunities for projects of great relevance and with great results.

Dr Renuka Thakore is liaising with coordinators for the next steps, which will be soon disclosed. Renuka is eager to know your opinions and always welcomes a chat, email her: r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk.

Coordinators:

1. Austria

- Sarah Gold, HOLODECK architects, Austria
- Markus Zorn, Chalmers University of Technology – STINT, Sweden

Sarah and Markus have a strong interest for sustainable development. International collaborations and interdisciplinary work are of high interest for their future work. They are happy to share relevant knowledge and resources, such as local networks in the field of architecture and urban planning. They are motivated to engage through talks, workshops and networking within and beyond Global Sustainable Futures.

2. Botswana

- Dr Michael Nkuba, University of Botswana, Botswana.

Dr Michael Nkuba is interested in understanding the factors that influence sustainable use of ground water resources and sustainable soil management in climate change adaptation in rural areas. According to Michael, communication helps in sharing results to the various stakeholders such as policy makers, end users for the uptake of the results and inform policy. Policy briefs, stakeholder workshops, journal articles are some of the avenues for information sharing. Policy briefs are good for policy makers. Journal articles are for contribution to knowledge gaps. Stakeholder workshops are for feedback from the concerned parties about the research. Michael adds that there is a pressing need to strengthen and operationalise the concept of integrative multi-institutional and transdisciplinary research. It should make allowances for institutional inputs at multiple levels (communities, local authorities, small businesses, non-governmental organisations, government, and regulatory bodies), incorporating sectoral perspectives in a way that is practical and sustainable.

3. Brazil

- Prof Ana Célia Castro, Diretora do Colégio Brasileiro de Altos Estudos UFRJ, Brazil

- Prof Dr Irene Carniatto, Coordinator of the International Research Network in Resilience Climate Development - RIVEDRC - Climate Resilience Network, Western Paraná State University, Brazil
- Marcia, Brazil
- Dr Atila Calvente, Institute of Economics, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Leonardo Felipe de Oliveira Ribas, Attorney, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

Prof Dr Irene Carniatto is interested in Rural Development Sustainable and is the Coordinator for the International Resilient Development Research Network - Climate Resilience Network and is affiliated to the Disaster Protection, Research and Extension Center – CEPED, UNIOESTE. Irene is working on understanding the role of internationalization in the performance of the international research network in resilient development.

Professor Edlaine Faria de Moura Villela, is a study-coordinator for the study that aims to understand details of the behaviour towards social isolation, imposed by health authorities in order to reduce the “burden” on the health system and at the same time “flatten the curve” so that it is possible to save time until the development of a vaccine or specific treatment for COVID-19.

Maria is committed to reduce social inequalities such as poverty, poverty due to climate change, unequal distribution of knowledge and resource availability. She believes that the needs of local people are required to be satisfied. She also believes that there is ongoing need to develop local research capacity and capabilities in the providing basic sanitation and sustainable energy source to sustain schools in Brazil.

Dr Atila Calvente is involved in Cacaoio project. He amplifies philosophical-theoretical-methodological approaches in action-research to deal with possible local public policies to contribute to a multidimensional paradigm on reflexive basic ecological-holistic education integrated to school vegetable-flower gardens, the planting of 1 billion trees with universities and elementary, junior high schools, a project to reduce global warming and manage climate change...work on local autonomy and a construction of different worlds...reciprocity in the epistemology of silence, water and humble soils...

Leonardo Felipe de Oliveira Ribas is interested in identifying the model of violation applied by the Brazilian Agroindustrial food system with the DHAA commons in Brazil, which makes it return to the FAO Hunger Map, through the main economic, political and legal surrounding scans to DHAA commons.

4. Burkina Faso

- Ibrahim Neya, International Institute for water and environmental engineering (2IE), Burkina Faso

Ibrahim Neya is interested in assessing the scientific principles underlying thermal and luminous behaviour of buildings. For that purpose, Ibrahim uses computer-aided design software like EnergyPlus and climate data to explore a wide range of technologies mainly passive strategies to build low energy sustainable and comfortable buildings. Ibrahim Neya is also learning to build a smart home Action for Google Assistant to control connected devices. He has skills in machine learning and programmatic languages like Python, R and Matlab. Finally, he adapts and quickly learns new skills related to the Internet of Things, big data and artificial intelligence to increase the project impact.

5. Cameroon

- Mfonkwet Njiaghait Yunchahou, Geographical Information System specialist, Forest For Life, Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF), Cameroon.
- Dr Che Kingsley Chenikwi, Logistics Consultant, Shanghai, China

Mfonkwet Njiaghait Yunchahou is interested in various research areas from sustainable management of natural resource through forest to water resources. He is concerned about the heavy concentration of farmers in lowlands despite mountains being more fertile. He is leading on the project for the mobilization of biodiversity data in museums in Cameroon. He believes that the development and access to information is based on the establishment of an excellent means of communication. In Africa, the lack of resources for data collection and communication is a major challenge. Thus, an online exchange platform and the use of social networks will be used in his project.

Dr Che Kingsley Chenikwi is interested in the development of a sustainable transportation network in Africa specifically sub-Saharan Africa to support Agro-supply chains and other sectors. Dr Chenikwi is excited to be a part of this network and to partner with researchers with similar interest and find solutions to existing transportation challenges within the region.

6. Congo

- Dr Jonathan Ilunga Muledi, Teacher, University of Lubumbashi

Dr Jonathan Muledi is interested in the research topic "contribution to the sustainable exploitation of Miombo ecosystems in the DRC in the context of environmental change". The aim is to set up a scheme for the sustainable exploitation of forest resources through: awareness raising, training by action, and alternative income-generating activities (AIGR). It aims to pragmatically convince people to change bad activities while increasing their livelihoods. This will enable the forest to restore itself and regain all its ecological functions lost due to degradation. The role is the dissemination of knowledge to drive positive changes within different strata of society. The tools applied by Jonathan are: Capacity building, conferences, videoconferencing, congresses, exhibitions, seminars, print and audio-visual media, Internet, Social networks (WhatsApp, Facebook, etc.). Jonathan believes that there should be a good policy to help local people produce food and address climate change.

7. Dubai

- Tushar Khiste, Projects Construction & Planning Manager at Dubai Sports City, Dubai

8. Ethiopia

- Dr Kassa Teka Belay, Associate Professor, Soil Resources and Watershed Management, Mekelle University, Ethiopia.
- Dr Dawit Mekonen, Arba Minch University, Ethiopia & Technical University of Munich, Germany.

According to Dr Kassa Teka Belay, poverty reduction is extremely important for Africa and from this perspective, minimizing drought impact in Africa is very important. Drought is one of the natural disasters which has a great impact on environment, social and economy in most developing continents such as Africa. Therefore, analysing and predicting the duration, frequency and severity of drought is important to eradicate poverty in Africa. This will require working on water sources, drought analysis, protection management and forecasting to assess its impact on the income of society. Kassa believes that communication plays a great role in research. So, his strategic communication tools in his research are collaboration work, team discussion, presentation of activities to concerned body, etc.

Dawit Mekonen is interested in collaborating and transdisciplinary projects. According to Dawit, unlocking potential indigenous knowledge for combating local challenges and its implication for food security is extremely important. He explained this with a case study on cochineal pest in the Southern zone of Tigray region, Ethiopia. Dawit uses local indicators to identify the problem and develops ideas to fine tune to approach the problem. Further, he added that the research should be across the disciplines, including farmers. Dawit believes that communication plays great role in collecting data and dissemination of findings of the research. His communication strategy is to use personal communication and making interviews mainly with the farmers. Following this, he uses presentation of the findings to communicate with the scientific community and develops reports as part of the scientific publications to inform about his research findings to the rest of the world.

9. Ghana

- Dr Patrick Ofori, Research Scientist, CSIR- Soil Research Institute, Ghana.

Dr Patrick Ofori is specialised in soil fertility management with special focus on strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change on agriculture for small holder farmers using bio resources. According to Patrick, small scale farms operate over 60% of the agriculture land and are most susceptible to climate change. Small scale farmers cannot even save enough for own family. Sustainable soil management has potential to reduce hunger and poverty, increase food production and increase agricultural income. He is eager to share success stories, partner with other, especially farmers to increase their education, training, and skills for drought

resistance, increasing crop varieties. He is also looking to form polities that can support farmers in turbulent times.

10. Guatemala

- Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus, University of San Carlos de Guatemala, Guatemala

Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus reside in Guatemala but represent a network of Universities of the Americas and the Caribbean for Disaster Risk Reduction, so he represents the entire region. According to Prof Victor Lemus, it is important to participate in this network and is interested to investigate following research areas among other aspects of the network:

1. What degree of incorporation of the SDGs have universities made in their curricula?
2. What aspects of the SDGs do universities research?
3. How universities incorporate the SDGs in their daily activities to achieve sustainability?

11. India

- Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan, National Agro Foundation, India

Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan is working as a Director at National Agro Foundation since 2001. The responsibilities include heading all the projects of the organisation, building partnership and liaising with public and other sectors.

12. Kenya

- Dr Peter Waweru Wangai, Kenyatta University, Kenya

Dr Peter Waweru Wangai is interested in building urban resilience for sustainable cities and communities, a case of Nairobi in Kenya. The research topic will gather data on urbanization policy, physical and digital infrastructure, production and consumption patterns, demographic changes and related demand on social and economic services, waste, and pollution trends. The data will provide information on the gaps that can be addressed by green/ circular economy, human behaviour change, information technology, and adaptation. The information will aim at packaging new and relevant knowledge for building resilience for an urban society that is ecologically sound, socially acceptable, and economically viable. Since human population in cities is becoming popular compared to rural population, the triple bottom line is key in ensuring that cities continue to be solutions of problems to push rural population to cities. The major challenges of carbon emissions, waste, rapid population growth and massive extraction of resources to meet the ever-increasing demands can be addressed by the study. In his research work, Peter refers to communication as the vehicle for building trust, transparency, accountability, consensus, teams and networks. The main communication tools in his work are project kick-off and closure meetings with stakeholders, one-on-one interviews with policy/ decision makers, emails, professional online networks, digital and hand copy reports, blogs and any other tool that may be dictated by the nature of research and audience. For example, braille summary reports are availed to blind and deaf stakeholders. Due to COVID-19, Peter is adopting communication tools that minimise physical contacts and where physical contact is inevitable, ensure strict observation of the set protocols by the WHO and the host country. The oral interviews have been a strong tool that not only derive answers to set questions but also record the corresponding facial and body language.

13. Malaysia

- Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan, Research Officer, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM), Malaysia

Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan work mainly on different soil disciplines and have also interests in sustainability and environmental related projects. So, just lately earlier this year she heard about hemp and is quite interested in how it can be a future crop with many different functions. She is looking at how this crop can complement or planted with timber species. What are the soil and environment requirements? Any uses in circular economy or CO2 emissions. Very little research is done in Malaysia, she would love to learn more about it from different perspective. She envisages the potential for collaborative partnerships or grant applications.

14. Mali

- Dr Ibrahima Zan Doumbia, Plant Breeder, Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER), Mali

Dr Ibrahim Zan Dombia is interested in the development of new crop varieties adapted to climate variability. In Mali, most of the productions of agriculture sector are from cereals and legumes which constitute the staple food of large part of the population. The productivity of cereals may decrease in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) due to rainfall scarcity and low soil fertility risking food insecurity with an increasing of rainfall reduction up to 20% in West Africa due to climate variability. Using natural crops such as cassava and sweet potato growing under drought with minimal use of fertilizers. These root and tuber are growing in most regions of Mali. Youth are more involved in cassava and sweet potato production in Mali since they have been selling these crops for family's expenditure such as house construction, children school fees and buying agriculture materials. Final production of root and tubers is for women in Mali since they buy them and sell or process them for men used. Increasing cassava and sweet potato production will seek to address poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition problems facing rural communities in West Africa, particularly Mali. The development of high yielding, biofortified and stable cultivars will increase the income generation of the farmers. Ibrahim adds that communication helps him to reach the farmers with new varieties and help them developed techniques for increasing crop production in farmers' areas. Most of communication tools used are radio, demonstration trials close to the roads at farmer' areas, farmer's field visiting during plant vegetative and harvest periods and during farmers training.

15. Mexico

- Zoe Natalia Almazan Guerrero, Lecturer in Building Surveying, Kingston University & Consulate of Mexico in London

Zoe is an active Member of ICOMOS-UNESCO International Council on Monuments and Sites and the Vice President of a Construction Company for Sustainable Technologies in Mexico. Zoe Almazan holds a research degree in Earthquake Simulations and Building Pathology, and is interested Building sustainability, bringing experience of both Global South ad Global North and is enthusiastic of bring the experience of Mexico to this partnership.

16. Morocco

- Prof Lahcen El Youssef, Khenifra Higher School of Technology, Sultan Moulay Slimane University, Morocco.

Prof Lahcen El Youssef want to develop networks and communities of practice that address the inter-linkages, synergies, and trade-offs among three or more of the sustainable development goals. Therefore, believes that the adoption of the nexus approach can be a strategic choice to study the different aspects of the chosen SDGs. The network and the communities of practices can be developed for strategic global/regional case studies with a focus on understanding the existing relationships between socio-demographic, industrial, and environmental variables, and the Water-Energy-Waste/Food/Biodiversity nexus. These are key to water, energy, and food security and biodiversity and natural resources preservation of a country/a region. Therefore, their understanding would allow designing connections with the mean linked to Sustainable Development indicators and ecosystems' quality. Prof Youssef adds that communication is the key to success in science and development. Thus, any action and project should include a communication strategy. His strategy of communication is to target individuals, groups internally and externally. His strategy in general and in research tries to define the Why (objectives), what (information, content), the Who (target), the how (tools). Depending of the situation (why, what and who), the important tools used in the research are: active and direct communication (emails, phone,...), digital and printed material production (posters, videos, facet sheets, translation..), surveys, social media tools, meetings (face to face, field visits, focus groups, brainstorming sessions, workshops, round tables...) and media (press)...The success of the communication tools is evaluated and followed up for future improvement. Prof Youssef is affiliated to many institutions including Global Young Academy GYA and the African Academy of Sciences, and in many countries: Morocco, South Africa, Mozambique, South Africa and so on.

17. Mozambique

- Dr Aires Afonso Mbanze, Lecture and Research assistant, Lúrio University - Faculty of Agricultural Science, Niassa Province, Northern Mozambique, Mozambique.

Dr Aires Afonso Mbanze wants to reduce inequalities and increase sustainable cities and communities. His particular interests are in Dambos Wetlands and the local people's livelihood. Over-exploitation of the wetlands have implications on biodiversity conservation and local people's livelihoods. The communities are the Dambos guardians since they mainly depend on Dambos for their daily livelihoods. Thus, it is important to understand from them how Dambos are going under exploration and the implication for the local people livelihood especially in the context of climate change. Aires uses communications tool such as local language, survey, and focus groups.

18. Namibia

- Elina David-Teodol, Junior Lecturer, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia.

Elina is interested in making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. Elina is investigating communal land acquisition and regulations. She is set out to address the serious concerns raised by the elderly people about the impact of land acquisitions on the security and livelihoods of the local people. This people who have no land to move elsewhere. She asks questions such as how we make sure that everyone gets involved in plant vegetation? Why we no not capture storm water and have no water management. With these questions, she is concern about town planning where community is not involved and project risks are not addressed.

19. Niger

- Dr Hannatou Moussa Oumarou, Niger National Agricultural Research Institute (INRAN), Niger.

Dr Hannatou Moussa Oumarou's research topic is "Integrated soil fertility management using organic inputs in pearl millet-based farming system: Women Field Maradi, Niger". Through this research, Hannatou is working to increase the soil fertility of the Sahel sandy soils that are used to grow the main staple crop, pearl millet. According to Hannatou, several strategies have been developed as agroecological options for improving soil fertility but are mostly applied in isolation. The main objective of the proposed project is to integrate low-cost organic nutrient management practices in pearl millet-based farming system focused on Maradi region in central southern Niger. The target population are the women members of farmer federation FUMA-Gaskiya. According to Hannaou, the project will also support the other objective of this federation too, which is to develop a Farmers Research Network. The communication tools used in this project include: Meetings (Beginning, middle and end year), WhatsApp to connect with large number of persons at a time and mostly use by local animators which are in charge to pass information to their members, Radio (rural radio): The number reached is larger and facilitates debate with farmers, FRN App: This is application use by local animators to collect and visualise data and transfer to server, and video, posters, and publications.

20. Nigeria

- Dr NseAbasi NsikakAbasi Etim, Akwa Ibom State University, Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria
- Dr Ayodeji Ogunleye, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
- Professor Kemiki Olurotimi, Department of Estate Management and Valuation, Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria
- Dr Bamiji Adeleye, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Federal University of Technology, Minna
- Dr Thomas Idemudia Aneni, Research Fellow, Nigerian Institute for Oil palm Research (NIFOR), Nigeria.
- Dr Fanen Terdoo, Lecturer, Federal University Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State, Nigeria

Dr NseAbasi NsikakAbasi Etim is interested in Impact of Climate Change on Livestock Production. According to NseAbasi, Climate Change is a critical matter. Lots of farmers, lives of farmers are affected, and sustainable pathways globally and locally should be developed involving sustainable livelihood of farmers. For her, communication has been a very vital medium for her to convey her research findings to both science and non-science audiences. Through communication, she has been able to inform, create awareness, sensitize and impart knowledge about her research and subsequent findings. NseAbasi believes that with appropriate communication tools, she has been able to explain her research and findings in clear and understandable way to different types of audience. With effective research communication, she has been guided to make ethical

decisions about her findings. The communication tools that she has used include Journals, by publishing her findings in Journals, use of extension agents, use of various social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and also YouTube videos.

Dr Ayodeji Ogunleye is interested in Economics of Adoption and Impact of Bio-fortified Food Crops among Farming Households in Nigeria. According to Ayodeji, access to the right information at the right time helps to not only to make the right decision but also eliminate wastage of resources such as time, and others that could result from inappropriate decision. As a researcher, Ayodeji have been able to take advantage of the electronic communication platforms to advance his findings. Some of these platforms include the Online journal outlets, social media platforms, among others.

Dr Bamiji Adeleye is interested in facilitating access to energy to everyone. Availability of power and unequal distribution of power are deep problems and there is a lot of potential for clean energy. He is especially concerned with the access of energy to girls and women in his country.

Dr Thomas Aneni research is focused on the topic: 'Rethinking Waste in African Urban Cities: Innovative Initiatives in Waste Management'. Research questions include: 1. Best economic model for policy makers to choose the efficient mix of policy to regulate solid waste and recycling activities. 2. How landfill gas emissions contribute to climate change using IPCC scenario guidelines. 3. Using Geographic Information System (GIS) to identify optimized scenarios of solid waste collection and transport. 4. Prospects of community-based schemes to effective solid waste collection and management. 5. Impact of solid waste management on urban pest control. 6. Potential of recycling organic waste in urban agriculture. 7. Understanding gender integration associated with urban waste collection and management. 8. How multi-stakeholder governance practice impacts urban waste management. 9. How employment effects can be integrated into policy instruments of urban waste management. 10. How behaviour and attitude impact on urban waste management. According to Thomas, communication plays a major role in his research work through the process of interpreting and exchange of information and ideas, facts, opinions, and findings from research output to a specific or general audience. Strategic communication tools I use include: Publication of findings in scholarly journals; Presentations at national and international conferences; Publication of policy briefs; poster presentations at local and international conferences; Verbal information briefings to stakeholder meetings; Dissertations; Presentations at continuing educational services. Other tools include phone calls, video calls and use of social media.

Dr Fanen Terdoo is interested in investigating the role of social networks and capital in crop (rice or maize) value chains development and/or upgrading in the face of multiple combined climate change and variability and economic pressures (e.g., flooding, markets) in Nigeria or West Africa. Accordingly, Fanen Terdoo, this project does not have potentials of lifting millions of African rice or maize farmers out of poverty but building the resilience of agri-food systems to such pressures and stressors. Fanen uses communication outlets such as policy briefs, publications of peer reviews articles, jingles, video clips, among others that play the role of dissemination of the research output. This in turn facilitate the uptake of innovations, new ideas, etc., to better the lot of the people (research audience) who need it to achieve or secure a sustainable future and development.

21. Rwanda

- Alexis Nzeyimana, Meteorological Instrument Specialist, Rwanda Meteorology Agency, Rwanda.

Alexis Nzeyimana is interested in the research related to climate economic and SDG achievement in Rwanda by using trans-disciplinary approach which will involve all stakeholders (multi-sciences and local communities). Being able to communicate the relevance and impact of his research objective to public and findings to scientific community, his preferred communication tool are email, Mobile phone, computers, video and web conferencing tools, social networking, as well as online collaboration and face-to-face platforms.

22. Senegal

- Dr Adama Faye, Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research, Senegal

According to Dr Adama Faye, African agriculture is vulnerable, and several causes hamper its development and the processing of agricultural products. Among these barriers are the lack of political will of the leaders, the adverse effects of climate change affecting Africa, floods, droughts, the development of new diseases, the appearance of the army worm which destroys all crops in passing, conflicts which are the cause of migration, displacement of people etc. In the face of some of these problems, scientific research, particularly oriented towards the adaptation of current agriculture to the effects of climate change, could be a solution to ensure the food security of the population. Adama further adds that in the framework of the research that their institution conducts, communication through the vulgarisation of the scientific research results is indispensable. These results are mainly shared with farmers' organisations, private producers, but also published in scientific journals. This communication is also done through the researchers' networks at the regional and international level.

23. South Africa

- Dr Blessing Masamha, Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), South Africa

Dr Blessing Masamha is interested in "Land use change dynamics and impact on food systems: Implications of the land reform programme in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. According to Blessing, in Southern Africa, particularly Zimbabwe, there has been a radical fast track land reform programme with serious implications on the food systems dynamics. South Africa and Namibia also embarked on land reform programme and there has been some implications on food systems that have not yet been explored. Most studies have restricted their attention to the impact of reform on agriculture productivity, income, and food security without considering the food systems approach. Previous approaches have relied extensively on fragmented approach in which other important sectors and stakeholders in the food systems are left. These include the use of the value chain concept. Communication is important in research especially when working with partners or a consortium. It is important for each partner to be kept abreast of all project activities and milestones. Communication enables researchers to track project activities and inform the funding agency about the achievements and challenges. It also helps to keep in touch with the primary beneficiaries to provide feedback to the primary stakeholders of the project. Some of the strategic communication tools to use include social media such as twitter and Facebook. It will be ideal to have a twitter handle and Facebook page that is regularly updated with information on the activities being done. Print media, such as pamphlets and magazines can be distributed to the public. With farmers in mind, it will be ideal to have a field day or during agriculture shows and disseminate information about the project.

24. Sweden

- Dr Maria Jose Zapata Campos, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Dr Helene Ahlborg, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden

Dr Maria Jose Zapata Campos have developed her research interests and projects across Sustainable Development Goals 11, 13 and 17.

Dr Helene Ahlborg has developed her research interests and projects across Sustainable Development Goals 7, 12 and 16.

25. Turkey

- Dr Hasan Haroglu, Kingston University London, UK

Dr Hasan Haroglu research interests span a number of areas, including improving interdisciplinary collaboration in the construction process; the changing nature of the building environmental assessment tools; quality management and application of digital technology across construction industry. And in the area of digital technology, he is currently focusing in particular on developing an improved understanding of the application of digital technologies for managing and improving construction quality.

26. Uganda

- Dr Akusa Patrice Mawa, Senior Research Officer, Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI), Uganda

- Okello Robine, Programs Manager, Community Resilience Network (CORN), Uganda.

Dr Akusa Patrice Mawa is interested in the “Development of novel networks and communities of practice that address the inter-linkages, synergies, and trade-offs among three or more of the sustainable development goals”. According to Akusa, up to 50 million preschool-age children (PSAC, ≤5 years old), in Africa, are infected by *Schistosoma mansoni*. Morbidities that mainly affect children constitute a big burden of disease due to schistosomiasis that impair their normal growth and development. These include anaemia, undernutrition, cognitive impairment, and linear growth stunting. Existing information about control of schistosomiasis using PZQ demonstrates that treatment alone cannot eliminate the disease. To achieve the SDG 3 aim of promoting good health and wellbeing for all at all ages, improved interventions against schistosomiasis are needed. Recent modelling of the impact of MDA with or without vaccination showed that PZQ in combination with vaccination might help to eliminate schistosomiasis. Interventions against schistosomiasis can reduce poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2) and improve educational performance (SDG 4). Further, Akusa adds that the communication helps in transmitting message clearly and concisely so that it is understood by the stakeholders. Science is increasingly interdisciplinary and the ability to communicate more effectively across disciplines fosters collaboration and innovation. Effective communication builds support for science, promotes understanding of its wider relevance to society, and encourages more informed decision-making at all levels, from government to communities to individuals. The communication tools that are used by Akusa include brochures and fliers during community meetings, poster and oral presentations at national and international meetings, voice, and video conferencing tools. He has also published in high-impact peer-reviewed open-access journals. He uses institutional websites and social media platforms such as twitter and LinkedIn to popularize his study.

Okello Robine is working for a civil society organization working on human rights, governance, and accountability.

27. United Kingdom

Founder:

Dr Renuka Thakore

Dr Renuka Thakore is a Systems-thinking, Transdisciplinarity and Sustainability expert. She is the Founder of Global Sustainable Futures: Progress through Partnership Network with 50 members from 30 countries around the world. She is continuing to provide a collaborative platform for innovative and transdisciplinary partnerships and capacity development for early career researchers from Global South and Global North, and within, between and beyond low-, middle- and high- income countries to achieve Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 targets.

Appendix

List of Partner Countries and Coordinators

	Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Affiliation	Contact Email	SDGs
1	Austria	Sarah Gold	HOLODECK architects	sarah-gold@gmx.at	2, 4, 11, 12
		Markus Zorn	Chalmers University of Technology - STINT	markuszorn5@outlook.com	2, 4, 11, 12
2	Botswana	Dr Michael Nkuba	University of Botswana	mnkuba@gmail.com	6, 13
3	Brazil	Prof Ana Célia Castro	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro	castro.anacelia@gmail.com	2, 10, 16, 17
		Prof Dr Irene Carniatto	Western Paraná State University	irenecarniatto@gmail.com	4, 9, 13, 17
		Dr Edlaine Faria de Moura Villela	Federal University of Jataí, Goiás, Brazil	edlaineismv@gmail.com	3, 17
		Dr Atila Calvente	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro	acalvent@gmail.com	4, 13, 14, 15
		Leonardo Felipe de Oliveira Ribas	Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro	leofelipe25rj@hotmail.com	2, 16
4	Burkina Faso	Ibrahim Neya	International Institute for water and environmental engineering (2IE)	ibrahim.neyapro@gmail.com	7, 15
5	Cameroon	Mfonkwet Njiaghait Youchahou	Forest for Life	youchmfonkwet@gmail.com	2, 13, 15
		Dr Che Kingsley Chenikwi	Logistics Consultant	kingsleyche01@gmail.com	9, 11
6	Congo	Dr Jonathan Ilunga Muledi	University of Lubumbashi	jonathanmuledi@gmail.com	13, 15
7	Dubai	Tushar Khiste	Projects Construction & Planning Manager at Dubai Sports City	khiste_tushar@yahoo.co.in	11, 13
8	Ethopia	Dr Kassa Teka Belay	Mekelle University	kassateka2012@gmail.com	2
		Dr Dawit Mekonen	Ethiopia & Technical University of Munich	dawitom35@gmail.com	2, 15
9	Ghana	Dr Patrick Ofori	CSIR- Soil Research Institute	kayofori@yahoo.com	1, 2, 13
10	Guatemala	Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus	University of San Carlos de Guatemala	presidencia.redulacrrd@gmail.com	4, 13, 16, 17
		José Andrés Hernández Díaz	Universidad Mariano Gálvez	andres.hd.502@gmail.com	4, 16, 27
11	India	Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan	National Agro Foundation	svm747@gmail.com	4, 8, 10, 15
12	Kenya	Dr Peter Waweru Wangai	Kenyatta University	peterwangai@gmail.com	11, 13, 15
13	Malaysia	Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan	Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)	jeyanny@gmail.com	2, 12, 13, 17
14	Mali	Dr Ibrahima Zan Dombia	Institut d'Economie Rurale (IER)	ibadoum@yahoo.fr	2, 13
15	Mexico	Zoe Natalia Almazan Guerrero	Consulate of Mexico in London	z.almazan@kingston.ac.uk	9, 11, 13, 17
16	Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssefi	Sultan Moulay Slimane University	l.elyoussefi@usms.ma	2, 6, 7, 13-17
17	Mozambique	Dr Aires Afonso Mbanze	Lúrio University	aires.banze@gmail.com	5, 11
18	Namibia	Elina David-Teodol	Namibia University of Science and Technology	eteodol@nust.na	11
19	Niger	Dr Hannatou Moussa Oumarou	Niger National Agricultural Research Institute (INRAN)	hannemoussa@yahoo.com	1, 2
20	Nigeria	Dr NseAbasi NsikakAbasi Etim	Akwa Ibom State University	nseabasietim@gmail.com	1, 2, 12
		Dr Ayodeji Ogunleye	Obafemi Awolowo University	ogunleyedeji@oauife.edu.ng	2
		Professor Kemiki Olurotimi	Federal University of Technology	kemiki@futminna.edu.ng	11

		Dr Bamiji Adeleye	Federal University of Technology	banji.adeleye@futminna.edu.ng	7
		Dr Thomas Idemudia Aneni	Nigerian Institute for Oil palm Research (NIFOR)	tomaneni1@yahoo.com	14, 15
		Dr Fanen Terdoo	Federal University Dutsin-Ma	fanenterdoo@gmail.com	2, 13
21	Rwanda	Alexis Nzeyimana	Rwanda Meteorology Agency	a.nzeyimana@meteorwanda.gov.rw	13
22	Senegal	Dr Adama Faye	Senegalese Institute for Agricultural Research	adamafae@gmail.com	13
23	South Africa	Dr Blessing Masamha	Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)	blemasamha@gmail.com	1, 2, 10
24	Sweden	Dr Maria Jose Zapata Campos	University of Gothenburg	mj.zapata@handels.gu.se	11, 13, 17
		Dr Helene Ahlborg	Chalmers University of Technology	helene.ahlborg@chalmers.se	7, 12, 16
25	Turkey	Dr Hasan Haroglu	Kingston University London	h.haroglu@kingston.ac.uk	11, 12, 13, 17
26	Uganda	Dr Akusa Patrice Mawa	Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI)	pmawa@uvri.go.ug	3
		Okello Robine	Community Resilience Network (CORN)	okellorobine@gmail.com	1, 2, 3, 12
27	United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	University College of Estate Management	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk	1-17
		Hazel Lobo	University College of Estate Management	h.lobo@ucem.ac.uk	7, 12, 16
		Dr Graeme Whitehall	University College of Estate Management	G.Whitehall@ucem.ac.uk	

SDGs TEAMS

TEAM SDG 1 – NO POVERTY

TEAM SDG 1 – NO POVERTY		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Ghana	Dr Patrick Ofori	kayofori@yahoo.com
Guatemala	Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus	presidencia.redulacrrd@gmail.com
	José Andrés Hernández Díaz	andres.hd.502@gmail.com
India	Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan	svm747@gmail.com
Kenya	Dr Peter Waweru Wangai	peterwangai@gmail.com
Malaysia	Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan	jeyanny@gmail.com
Niger	Dr Hannatou Moussa Oumarou	hannemoussa@yahoo.com
Nigeria	Dr NseAbasi NsikakAbasi Etim	nseabasetim@gmail.com
South Africa	Dr Blessing Masamha	blemasamha@gmail.com
	Okello Robine	okellorobine@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Dr Graemne Whitehall	G.Whitehall@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER

TEAM SDG 2 – ZERO HUNGER		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Austria	Sarah Gold	sarah-gold@gmx.at
	Markus Zorn	markuszorn5@outlook.com
Brazil	Prof Ana Célia Castro	castro.anacelia@gmail.com
	Leonardo Felipe de Oliveira Ribas	leofelipe25rj@hotmail.com
Cameroon	Mfonkwet Njiaghait Yunchahou	youchmfonkwet@gmail.com

Ethopia	Dr Kassa Teka Belay	kassateka2012@gmail.com
	Dr Dawit Mekonen	dawitom35@gmail.com
Ghana	Dr Patrick Ofori	kayofori@yahoo.com
	José Andrés Hernández Díaz	andres.hd.502@gmail.com
Malaysia	Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan	jeyanny@gmail.com
Mali	Dr Ibrahima Zan Doumbia	ibadoum@yahoo.fr
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssfi	l.elyoussfi@usms.ma
Niger	Dr Hannatou Moussa Oumarou	hannemoussa@yahoo.com
Nigeria	Dr NseAbasi NsikakAbasi Etim	nseabasietim@gmail.com
	Dr Ayodeji Ogunleye	ogunleyedeji@oauife.edu.ng
	Dr Fanen Terdoo	fanenterdoo@gmail.com
South Africa	Dr Blessing Masamha	blemasamha@gmail.com
	Okello Robine	okellorobine@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING

TEAM SDG 3 – GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Brazil	Dr Edlaine Faria de Moura Villela	edlainefmv@gmail.com
Uganda	Dr Akusa Patrice Mawa	pmawa@uvri.go.ug
	Okello Robine	okellorobine@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION

TEAM SDG 4 – QUALITY EDUCATION		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Austria	Sarah Gold	sarah-gold@gmx.at
	Markus Zorn	markuszorn5@outlook.com
	Prof Dr Irene Carniatto	irenecarniatto@gmail.com
	Dr Atila Calvente	acalvent@gmail.com
Guatemala	Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus	presidencia.redulacrrd@gmail.com
	José Andrés Hernández Díaz	andres.hd.502@gmail.com
India	Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan	svm747@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Dr Graemne Whitehall	G.Whitehall@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY

TEAM SDG 5 – GENDER EQUALITY		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Mozambique	Dr Aires Afonso Mbanze	aires.banze@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

TEAM SDG 6 – CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email

Botswana	Dr Michael Nkuba	mnkuba@gmail.com
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssfi	l.elyoussfi@usms.ma
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Dr Graemne Whitehall	G.Whitehall@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 7 – GENDER EQUALITY

TEAM SDG 7 – GENDER EQUALITY		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Burkina Faso	Ibrahim Neya	ibrahim.neyapro@gmail.com
	José Andrés Hernández Díaz	andres.hd.502@gmail.com
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssfi	l.elyoussfi@usms.ma
	Dr Bamiji Adeleye	banji.adeleye@futminna.edu.ng
	Dr Helene Ahlborg	helene.ahlborg@chalmers.se
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Hazel Lobo	H.Lobo@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

TEAM SDG 8 – DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
India	Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan	svm747@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATIONS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

TEAM SDG 9 – INDUSTRY, INNOVATIONS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Brazil	Prof Dr Irene Carniatto	irenecarniatto@gmail.com
	Dr Che Kingsley Chenikwi	kingsleyche01@gmail.com
Mexico	Zoe Natalia Almazan Guerrero	z.almazan@kingston.ac.uk
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES

TEAM SDG 10 – REDUCED INEQUALITIES		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Brazil	Prof Ana Célia Castro	castro.anacelia@gmail.com
India	Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan	svm747@gmail.com
South Africa	Dr Blessing Masamha	blemasamha@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Dr Graemne Whitehall	G.Whitehall@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

TEAM SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Austria	Sarah Gold	sarah-gold@gmx.at
	Markus Zorn	markuszorn5@outlook.com
	Dr Che Kingsley Chenikwi	kingsleyche01@gmail.com

Dubai	Tushar Khiste	khiste_tushar@yahoo.co.in
Kenya	Dr Peter Waweru Wangai	peterwangai@gmail.com
Mexico	Zoe Natalia Almazan Guerrero	z.almazan@kingston.ac.uk
Mozambique	Dr Aires Afonso Mbanze	aires.banze@gmail.com
Namibia	Elina David-Teodol	eteodol@nust.na
	Professor Kemiki Olurotimi	kemiki@futminna.edu.ng
Sweden	Dr Maria Jose Zapata Campos	mj.zapata@handels.gu.se
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Dr Graemne Whitehall	G.Whitehall@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

TEAM SDG 12 – RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Austria	Sarah Gold	sarah-gold@gmx.at
	Markus Zorn	markuszorn5@outlook.com
Malaysia	Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan	jeyanny@gmail.com
Nigeria	Dr NseAbasi NsikakAbasi Etim	nseabasietim@gmail.com
	Dr Helene Ahlborg	helene.ahlborg@chalmers.se
	Okello Robine	okellorobine@gmail.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Hazel Lobo	H.Lobo@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 13 – CLIMATE CHANGE

TEAM SDG 13 – CLIMATE CHANGE		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Botswana	Dr Michael Nkuba	mnkuba@gmail.com
	Prof Dr Irene Carniatto	irenecarniatto@gmail.com
	Dr Atila Calvente	acalvent@gmail.com
Cameroon	Mfonkwet Njiaghait Youchahou	youchmfonkwet@gmail.com
Congo	Dr Jonathan Ilunga Muledi	jonathanmuledi@gmail.com
Dubai	Tushar Khiste	khiste_tushar@yahoo.co.in
Ghana	Dr Patrick Ofori	kayofori@yahoo.com
Guatemala	Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus	presidencia.redulacrrd@gmail.com
Kenya	Dr Peter Waweru Wangai	peterwangai@gmail.com
Malaysia	Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan	jeyanny@gmail.com
Mali	Dr Ibrahima Zan Doumbia	ibadoum@yahoo.fr
Mexico	Zoe Natalia Almazan Guerrero	z.almazan@kingston.ac.uk
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssefi	l.elyoussefi@usms.ma
	Dr Fanen Terdoo	fanenterdoo@gmail.com
Rwanda	Alexis Nzeyimana	a.nzeyimana@meteorwanda.gov.rw
Senegal	Dr Adama Faye	adamafae@gmail.com
Sweden	Dr Maria Jose Zapata Campos	mj.zapata@handels.gu.se
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER

TEAM SDG 14 – LIFE BELOW WATER		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Brazil	Dr Atila Calvente	acalvent@gmail.com
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssfi	l.elyoussfi@usms.ma
	Dr Thomas Idemudia Aneni	tomaneni1@yahoo.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND

TEAM SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Brazil	Dr Atila Calvente	acalvent@gmail.com
Burkina Faso	Ibrahim Neya	ibrahim.neyapro@gmail.com
Cameroon	Mfonkwet Njiaghait Youchahou	youchmfonkwet@gmail.com
Congo	Dr Jonathan Ilunga Muledi	jonathanmuledi@gmail.com
	Dr Dawit Mekonen	dawitom35@gmail.com
India	Swaminathan Veeramuthu Murugan	svm747@gmail.com
Kenya	Dr Peter Waweru Wangai	peterwangai@gmail.com
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssfi	l.elyoussfi@usms.ma
	Dr Thomas Idemudia Aneni	tomaneni1@yahoo.com
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Dr Graemne Whitehall	G.Whitehall@ucem.ac.uk

TEAM SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

TEAM SDG 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Brazil	Prof Ana Célia Castro	castro.anacelia@gmail.com
	Leonardo Felipe de Oliveira Ribas	leofelipe25rj@hotmail.com
Guatemala	Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus	presidencia.redulacrrd@gmail.com
	José Andrés Hernández Díaz	andres.hd.502@gmail.com
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssfi	l.elyoussfi@usms.ma
	Dr Helene Ahlborg	helene.ahlborg@chalmers.se
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk
	Hazel Lobo	H.Lobo@ucem.ac.uk

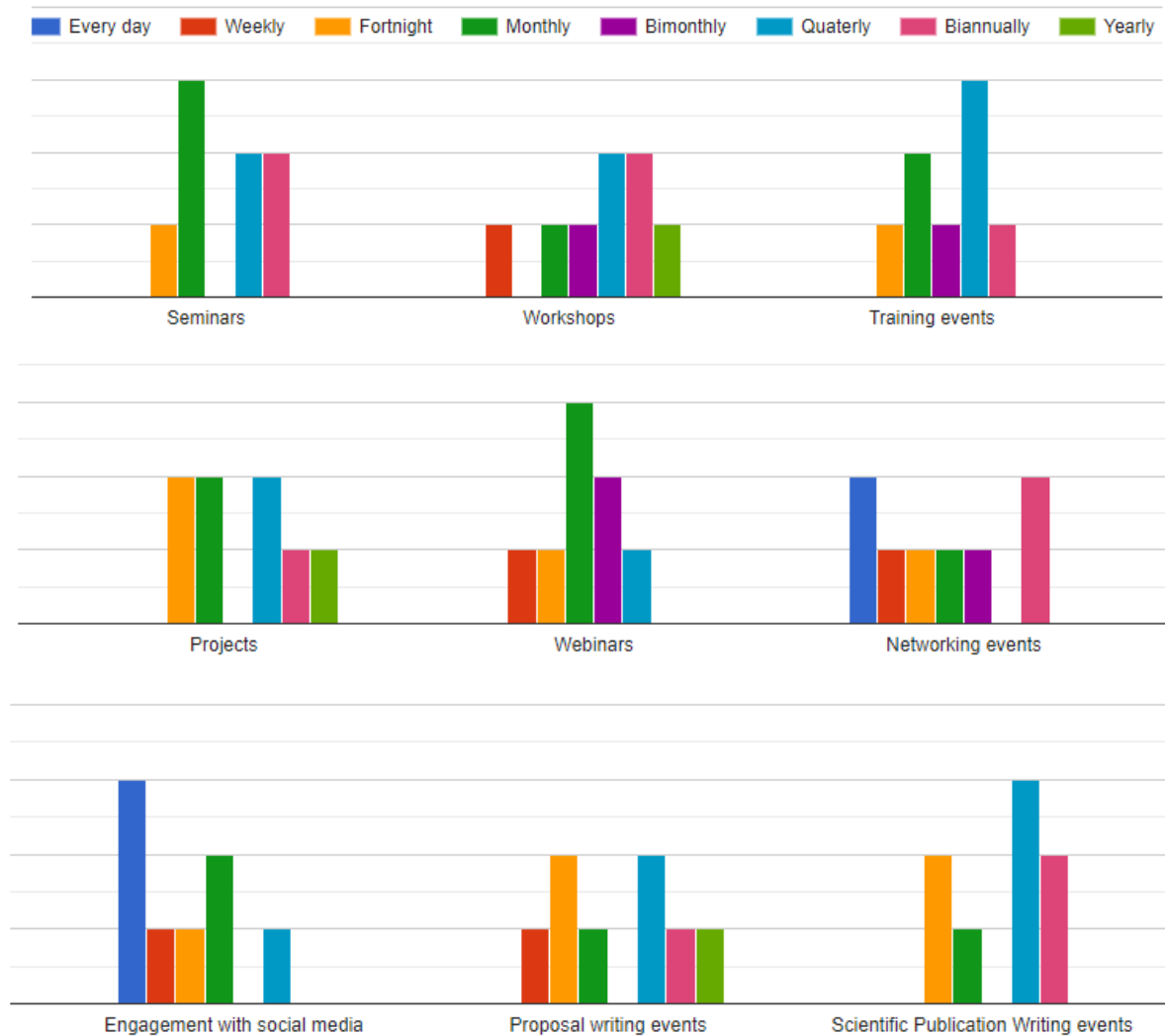
TEAM SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

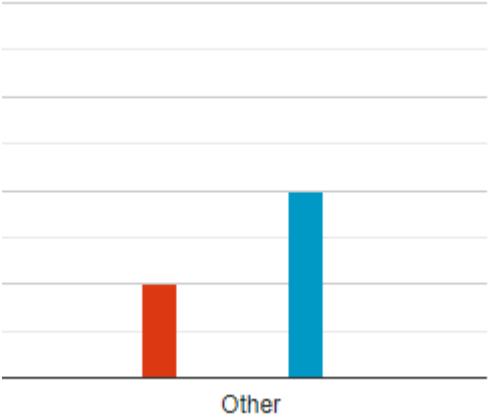
TEAM SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS		
Partner Country	Name of the Coordinator	Contact Email
Brazil	Prof Ana Célia Castro	castro.anacelia@gmail.com
	Prof Dr Irene Carniatto	irenecarniatto@gmail.com
	Dr Edlaine Faria de Moura Villela	edlainevmv@gmail.com
Guatemala	Prof Victor Manuel Garcia Lemus	presidencia.redulacrrd@gmail.com
Malaysia	Dr Jeyanny Vijayanathan	jeyanny@gmail.com
Mexico	Zoe Natalia Almazan Guerrero	z.almazan@kingston.ac.uk
Morocco	Prof Lahcen El Youssfi	l.elyoussfi@usms.ma

Sweden	Dr Maria Jose Zapata Campos	mj.zapata@handels.gu.se
United Kingdom	Dr Renuka Thakore	r.thakore@ucem.ac.uk

Suggestions for events and programmes

Please suggest regular events and programme/s that you would like the GSF - PtP Network to deliver





Other activities

Linkage to policy practitioners, and other stakeholders both regional and international arrangement.

Retreat for Early Career Researcher, Conference

Discussion and evaluation activities