



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN

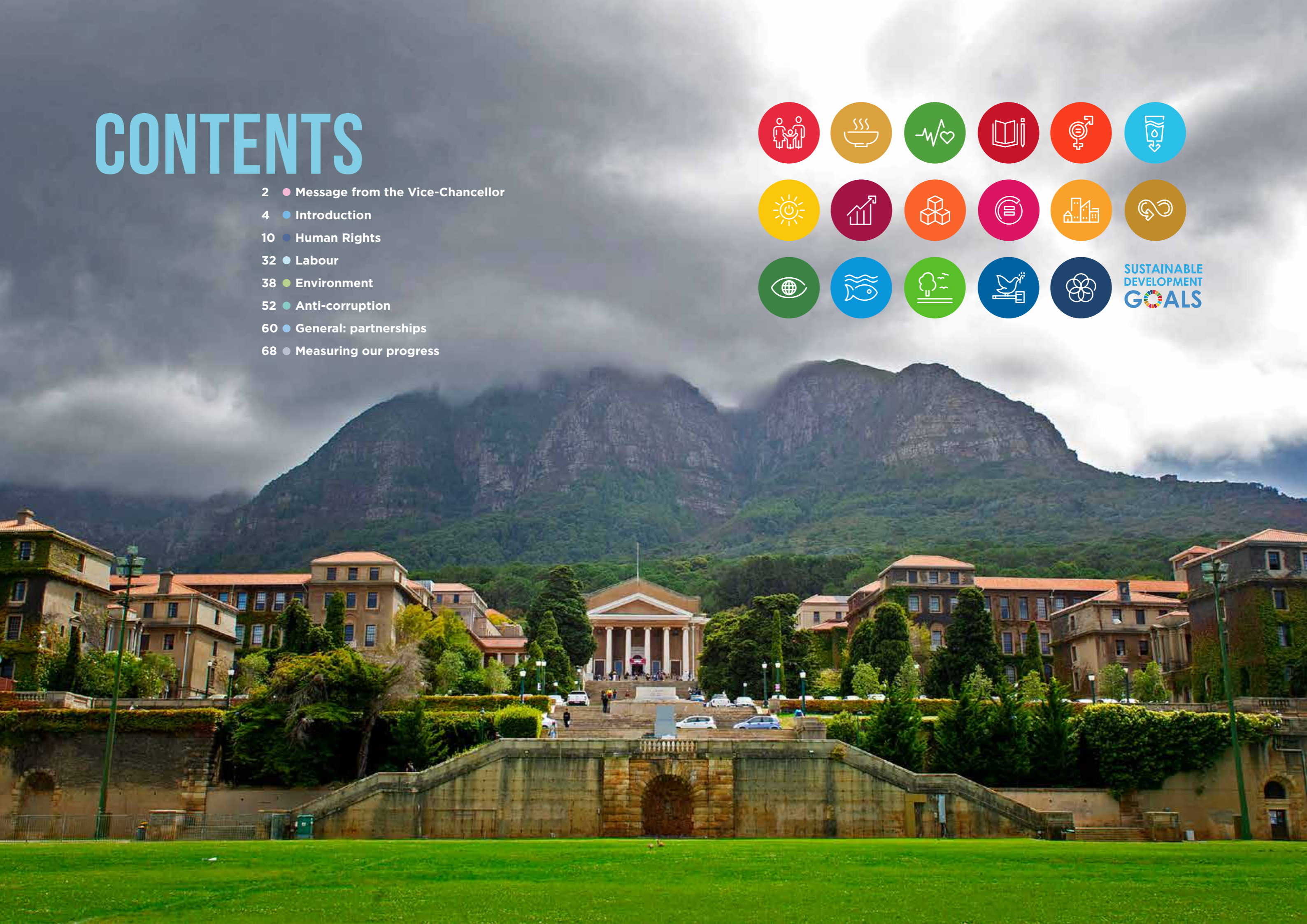
UN GLOBAL COMPACT: COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2021



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLOR

In July 2018, shortly after I was appointed Vice-Chancellor, I set out my future-oriented vision for UCT. Based on the three pillars of excellence, transformation and sustainability, and following extensive collaborative consultation, this evolved into *Vision 2030*, a strategic plan that was endorsed by the Council of the University at the end of 2020. “Unleash human potential to create a fair and just society” is the motto of *Vision 2030*. The journey we are taking at UCT to realise this ambition resonates with the principles of the UN Global Compact and the sustainable development goals (SDGs), as well as with the priority areas of our continent’s strategic framework for inclusive and sustainable development, *Agenda 2063*.¹

The ideals of quality education and reducing inequality that are contained in these documents are given meaning in our transformative commitment to overcome historical barriers to student and staff access, and to create a new sense of place that embraces our African identity, allowing the full potential of our people to flourish at our university. That commitment is evidenced by, for example, our increased financial support for students who could otherwise not afford to come to UCT, the clear commitment of our new *Employment Equity Policy and Procedure* (2021) to redress staffing inequities, and the major Advancing Womxn awards that are already creating new cohorts of black African women in fields where they are scarce.

In respect of the sustainability theme that is central to both the Global Compact and the SDGs, I have also taken decisive action, as is further detailed in our Communication on Engagement below. I have, inter alia, instituted a Directorate

of Environmental Sustainability to coordinate our firm purpose to achieve net-zero status in respect of our carbon footprint, water demand, and waste management. In addition, I have committed significant funding to accelerate measures to see UCT become a sustainable campus, issuing a call for projects aimed at establishing and/or strengthening the university’s environmental, social and financial sustainability. Finally, I have committed UCT to hosting the International Summit on the SDGs in Africa, to be held in partnership with institutions from across the continent and the rest of the world, including the [African Research Universities Alliance \(ARUA\)](#), [International Alliance of Research Universities \(IARU\)](#) and the [Worldwide Universities Network \(WUN\)](#).

In *Vision 2030* we note that themes being addressed by the University prior to the onset of COVID-19 have become even more important in the current climate: inequality, climate change, waste and the circular economy, sustainable livelihoods, urbanisation, transport and mobility, disease, public health, and the role of technology and data in society. As a university, we are committed to seeking partnerships with other progressive institutions to overcome these challenges. I have the pleasure of confirming my support for UCT’s membership of the United Nations Global Compact, and of pledging our commitment to advancing Global Compact principles through teaching, research and engaged scholarship.

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng
VICE-CHANCELLOR

¹ See <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>, and on linking Agenda 2063 and the SDGs see <https://au.int/agenda2063/sdgs>



INTRODUCTION

About the University of Cape Town's commitment to promoting the United Nations (UN) Global Compact (GC) and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We are deeply committed to the 17 SDGs and are a proud participant in the UN GCs, the 10 principles of which are aimed at ensuring the realisation of the SDGs.

Indeed, we have been involved with the SDGs from the very start, with UCT staff members playing an active role in lobbying for, and drafting them. Professor Haroon Borhat was selected to lead a team, appointed by then Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, that conducted research to underpin the premise of the 17 SDGs. Members of UCT's African Centre for Cities (ACC) participated in a global campaign to ensure that sustainable cities were explicitly included in the SDGs, and were also members of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network which helped shape the goals. And Professor Crick Lund was one of the leaders in the field of global mental health - #FundaMentalSDG - who lobbied for the inclusion of mental health in the SDGs.

The SDGs are closely aligned with the development challenges faced by South Africa and the African continent as a whole, and so also

with UCT's priorities for contributing to effective solutions to challenges including inequality, climate change, food and water insecurity, unemployment, and safe cities. Immediately after the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015, this alignment prompted UCT to begin reporting its research in terms of its contributions in this regard. The 2015-2016 *Research Report* demonstrates extensively how UCT's research advanced the SDGs.² This a tradition the university continues: for example, our most recent *Research and Innovation Highlights*³ tags each research story by indicating the SDG to which it contributes, as does our 2019 publication *Innovation through Sustainable Development*.⁴

In 2018 we joined the GC, undertaking to support and advance its 10 principles under the four broad rubrics of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. We have since taken significant steps to live up to this undertaking. These steps are outlined in detail below and, because this is our first COE, the narrative also provides the context, where relevant, of the historical promotion of sustainability at UCT.

² Available at https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/research/publications/reports/UCTRO072_Research_Office_Annual_Report_2015-2016_LOW_Res.pdf

³ Available at <https://www.paperturn-view.com/?pid=MTI124444&v=1.2>

⁴ See https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/research/publications/reports/Innovation_at_UCT_2019.pdf





About the relevance of the University of Cape Town's *Vision 2030* for the Global Compact principles as well as the SDGs

Resilient universities are the ones that are open to change and willing to adapt to the challenges of each age. UCT is South Africa's oldest university, founded in 1829. It is ranked number one in Africa in four of the five major world university rankings, and is the alma mater of five Nobel laureates as well as the site of the world's first heart transplant. But we believe that looking to the future, not the past, will ensure the continued relevance of our university. And this is exactly what UCT's new vision (*Vision 2030*)⁵ does. Based on Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng's three pillars of transformation, excellence and sustainability, it looks outward and asks the question: How can we make an impact? In *Vision 2030*, UCT has set itself the goal of "making the 21st century the African century; to create together the top global university in Africa - a university that is uncompromising in its transformative intent, deeply rooted in academic excellence and that strives for social, environmental and financial sustainability". We add that our research "will actively focus on critical areas of impact in Africa, for example, climate change, biodiversity, urbanisation, migration, diseases of the poor, natural resource governance and efficiency. We will extend our Africa-focused knowledge to a broader global reach". This indicates clearly that UCT's future ambitions are in harmony with the GC principles, the SDGs and the priority areas identified in the African Union's *Agenda 2063*.⁶ Symbolic of our intensified commitment to the goals contained in

these documents is the fact that, since we joined the GC, the top leadership of the University has rapidly transformed and we can proudly say that all four leaders of the academic enterprise at UCT - the Vice-Chancellor and the three Deputy Vice-Chancellors - are women.



⁵ See <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2020-09-08-vision-2030-unleashing-human-potential>
⁶ See <https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>, and on linking Agenda 2063 and the SDGs see <https://au.int/agenda2063/sdgs> Our involvement with the SDGs and our international collaboration in this regard is also evident from, for instance, this book published by our Dean of Science: *Africa and the Sustainable Development Goals* edited by Maano Ramutsindela and David Mickler. Bience Gawanas, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the UN Secretary-General, writes in the foreword that this book "is a perfect example of collaboration between African and non-African academics coming together in the true spirit espoused in SDG 17, highlighting the role of collaborative research in realising the SDGs. It brings evidence-based research to the forefront of implementing the SDGs, covering various key topics ranging from analysis of the best development approaches, industrialization, natural resources governance and public finance to health, employment and the role of women and young people. It touches on crucial aspects such as the need for quality data to draw policymakers' attention to critical areas likely to yield positive outcomes in achieving the goals of the SDGs." p. v

REPORT ON PROGRESS ON

- THE INCORPORATION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT PRINCIPLES INTO THE INTERNAL OPERATION OF THE UNIVERSITY; AND ON
- THE PROMOTION OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT PRINCIPLES THROUGH THE ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY



01 HUMAN RIGHTS

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses

Contributing to the realisation of human rights for all has been an important part of UCT’s work since the Second World War, with this focus intensifying after the end of Apartheid and the adoption of the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of South Africa in 1996. However, even though a quarter of a century has elapsed since the adoption of the Constitution, these rights have yet to become a reality for all the people of South Africa. UCT is contributing in a variety of ways (which will be described in Section 1.2 below) to accelerating the protection of human rights in our country. However, the incomplete realisation of these rights is also true of the UCT community itself, since, as the Vice-Chancellor noted in the 2019 Transformation Report, “the University of Cape Town (UCT) is a microcosm of a country where many people believe that a great deal still needs to be done to reflect the democratic ideals enshrined in our Constitution”. Since UCT joined the GC, important advances have been made in delivering on what might be termed the “internal human rights” of UCT’s staff and students. The transformation project has generated a

number of innovations (which will be described below in Sections 1.1 and 3) to make UCT a truly transformed, inclusive and diverse institution for its staff and students.

Joining the GC has afforded UCT a renewed opportunity to measure how well it is living up to its ambition of imbricating respect for human rights in its own practices, as well as to teach, to conduct research on, and to promote human rights in society at large.

The SDGs that fall under this heading all align with specific protections afforded by the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of South Africa. The South African Constitution is a particularly progressive constitution in that it also guarantees certain socio-economic rights. As such, it enshrines the right to health care, food, water and social security (article 27), the right to education (article 29) and – vital to the realisation of this right – the right to freedom of expression), as well as the right to equality (article 9). These protections dovetail with SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reducing Inequality).



1.1 Incorporating human rights principles into the University's internal operations

Central to the incorporation of these principles into UCT's internal operations is the intensified transformation project, which focuses on six broad aspects of institutional culture change. We briefly outline these below, citing some important examples of what has been achieved. We list the achievements in the knowledge that we are on a journey, with much work still needing to be done.

Student access, support and success⁷

Considering the depth of inequality that existed under Apartheid, the task of broadening access to universities, and transforming them into nurturing spaces where students have the necessary support to be successful, is a formidable task. Some of the important recent advances at UCT include:

(a) Recognising the fundamental importance of adequate funding to open access to students who cannot afford to pay fees, UCT supplements

the assistance provided by government through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) for undergraduate students and the National Research Foundation (NRF) with its own resources. It also supports students who do not qualify for NSFAS support, but nevertheless need financial assistance (the so-called "missing middle"). The University has increased this support substantially during the period of reporting, also extending it to postgraduate students. In its General Operating Budget for 2018 and 2019, UCT committed more than R1.2 billion and about R1.4 billion respectively to financial assistance for undergraduate and postgraduate students. This approach, together with the generous support of our donors (who include alumni, foundations and the University's own staff) has enabled us up to now to say that any student who is academically eligible need not turn down an offer of a place at UCT for financial reasons. Even though these are financially challenging times for South African universities, we will continue to do our utmost to be able to stand by this commitment.

⁷ Click here: [access, support and success](#)

(b) The sad reality of an unequal society, such as South Africa still is, means that even with the support that the government and UCT itself provides to needy students, food insecurity remains a concern. The *UCT Food Security Programme* (introduced in 2018 as a collaborative programme run by several different departments and student and staff volunteers from across the university) is aimed at addressing the issue of student hunger, while promoting the dignity and agency of students, all underpinned by a spirit of volunteerism.⁸

(c) Mental health is as important a prerequisite for the delivery of quality education as financial security. In this regard, the Student Wellness Service plays a critical role. It provides a professional health and counselling service to students at a primary health care level, dedicated to assisting them to make healthy lifestyle choices and with the prevention, early detection and treatment of all health and psychological conditions. The service also promotes a balanced and healthy lifestyle among students.⁹ In August 2018, the Council of the University approved a comprehensive *Student Mental Health Policy*,¹⁰ thereby giving effect to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD; 2007), and to article 24 of the South African Constitution which also guarantees the right to education without discrimination to persons with disabilities. The Student Wellness Service also looks after the physical health of students through an outpatient service, and offers specialist support to students with disabilities, to survivors of sexual assault, and to those who become victims of discrimination.¹¹

(d) The provision of quality education at both undergraduate and postgraduate level is a central goal for UCT. Just over 1 000 permanent



full-time academic staff teach a total of about 30 000 students (60% undergraduate and 40% postgraduate), producing some 7 500 graduates each year. The following markers are proof of the high quality of teaching at UCT: Firstly, the protection of freedom of expression (as enshrined in article 16 of the Constitution, and which expressly includes academic freedom and freedom of scientific research) is at the heart of a strong and nurturing educational environment. UCT takes academic freedom, contested as it is, very seriously under the watchful eye of the Academic Freedom Committee (a joint committee of the Senate and Council of the University). This committee is tasked with promoting academic freedom, including University autonomy, within and outside UCT, and taking appropriate action when it is infringed. Secondly, the teaching and

⁸ See <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2019-02-01-uct-food-security-programme>

⁹ See <http://www.dsa.uct.ac.za/student-wellness/about-student-wellness>

¹⁰ See https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/about/policies/Student-Mental-Health-Policy.pdf

¹¹ See http://www.news.uct.ac.za/images/userfiles/files/publications/factsheets/UCT_FactSheet_19_HealthWellness.pdf



learning enterprise is guided by a dedicated Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who is assisted by the work of the *Centre for Higher Education Development* and the Teaching and Learning Committee. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning is charged with continuously improving the experience of students and the teaching competence of staff, reviewing the content and structure of the curriculum, and identifying the obstacles to student success. The anchor of the teaching and learning enterprise is the *Teaching and Learning Charter* (in which the mutual expectations of students and staff towards each other are articulated),¹² and the quality of teaching is encouraged through initiatives such as the annual Distinguished Teacher Awards. Efficacy is monitored through regular course evaluations and an annual report to Senate and Council. An undergraduate course success rate in excess of 85% is testament to the value of these measures. Thirdly, the quality of our postgraduate teaching and supervision rests on the foundation of our outstanding research (guided by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for research, assisted by the University Research Committee) and on the rigorous examination system monitored by the Heads of Department as well as, at PhD level (where we produce in the region of 250 PhDs per annum), by the central Doctoral Degrees Board.¹³ But there is more work to be done: the transformation project has targeted the development of inclusive classrooms that remove obstacles that may impede success, the redesign and decolonisation of courses, and a focus on training of staff. In 2018 the University adopted a strong forward-looking approach, stating that the *Teaching and Learning Report 2018* (crafted under the theme “stretching excellence” in the context

of the Vice-Chancellor’s three pillars: excellence, transformation and sustainability) provided “not only information about UCT’s performance in teaching and learning but also shows how UCT is thinking about teaching and learning in the current institutional, national and international context. The 2018 report marks the beginning of a more systematic and institutionally driven conceptualisation of teaching and learning”.¹⁴

Staff access, support and success¹⁵

The promotion of equality within the University, including gender equality, manifests in several ways in UCT’s practice. The measures outlined above to enhance access, support and success for students is mirrored in measures to enhance access, support and success for staff. The specific measures to achieve full representation in UCT’s staff body will be described under the next heading (Labour), but it is important to explain that the promotion of equality takes place within UCT’s broader framework of transformation.

The importance of “place and space” in creating an inclusive university¹⁶

The University’s transformational aim is to create an inclusive institution that not only reflects South Africa’s demographic profile, but is also a place “where everyone can work together with pride and a sense of belonging” – a goal which includes paying attention to the sense of place (the appropriateness of artworks, symbols, the use of language, and the names of buildings and facilities), as well as taking decisive action to combat all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence.¹⁷

12 See https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/teaching/Teaching_Learning_Charter_2017.pdf
 13 See https://www.news.uct.ac.za/images/userfiles/files/publications/factsheets/UCT_FactSheet_18_TeachingLearning.pdf
 14 See https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/teaching/UCT_Teaching%26LearningReport_2018.pdf (at p 6).
 15 Click here: [access, support and success](#)
 16 Click here: [‘place and space’](#)
 17 See generally <https://www.uct.ac.za/main/explore-uct/transformation>



Enhancing the institutional responses to discrimination, harassment, and violence¹⁸

The recently created *Office of Inclusivity and Change* (OIC) helps provide institutional responses to transformation, sexual and gender-based violence, disability and cultural change by assisting with the implementation of the anti-discrimination and inclusivity policies (the Student Equity Policy;¹⁹ the Disability Policy;²⁰ the Policy on Racism and Racial Harassment;²¹ the Sexual Offences Policy;²² the Sexual Harassment Policy;²³ the Inclusivity Policy for Sexual Orientation;²⁴ the

Student Mental Health Policy;²⁵ and the Policy on HIV Infection and AIDS).²⁶

Measuring progress

An important aspect of UCT’s transformation agenda is that goals must be translated into action, and performance is measured via nine transformation benchmarks²⁷ intended to indicate how well the university has integrated, responded to and taken action to effect transformation, inclusivity and diversity. (For a graph of the latest

18 Click here: [discrimination, harassment, and violence](#)
 19 Click here: [Student equity policy](#)
 20 Click here: [Disability policy](#)
 21 Click here: [Policy on racism and racial harassment](#)
 22 Click here: [Sexual offences policy](#)
 23 Click here: [Sexual harassment policy](#)
 24 Click here: [Inclusivity policy for sexual orientation](#)
 25 Click here: [Student mental health policy](#)
 26 Click here: [Policy on HIV infection and AIDS](#)
 27 These are: ■ *System-level indicators* Within the institution how well is transformation mainstreamed within basic strategic actions? ■ *Student access and support* How is the institution supporting diverse students from disparate backgrounds to be included, to fully participate and to succeed within UCT? ■ *Staff access and support* How is the institution supporting diverse staff members from disparate backgrounds to be included, to fully participate and to grow within UCT? ■ *Place and space: language, names, symbols, artworks and identity* How is the university affirming the dignity, acknowledging the contributions and experiences, and paying special attention to those who have been historically marginalised? ■ *Institutional responses to unfair discrimination, harassment and violence* How is the university practising its zero-tolerance approach to any form of unfair discrimination, harassment, sexual violence and behaviour that demeans others? ■ *Community engagement: anchoring UCT in community* How is the university supporting, building solidarity with and providing professional services to communities? ■ *Curriculum support: decolonisation, marginalisation and accessibility* To what extent is the curriculum and pedagogy employed meeting the needs of and accessible to marginalised persons? How has curriculum, pedagogy and the broader learning environment been decolonised? ■ *Owning UCT’s African identity* How is the university centring its African identity through scholarship, teaching and learning practice, or activist initiatives? ■ *Innovations, alternate approaches and best practices* What are the innovations and best practices which have been employed to further transformation, inclusivity and diversity?

survey showing how the University is performing in relation to these benchmarks, see the *2019 Transformation Report*, section 3.1 (p.23).²⁸

1.2 Promoting human rights principles through the activities of the University

Universities have three primary ways of advancing the GC Principles and the SDGs: through their research, their civic engagement and outreach, and through their teaching. The following are prominent examples of the promotion of human rights principles through UCT's activities:

(a) In respect of the promotion of human rights generally, the work of the Law Faculty plays an important role. The teaching of human rights law is built into courses across the spectrum of the law curriculum, since it is an important goal for UCT to see its law graduates empowered to build human rights perspectives into all the work that they do once they go out into the world. Equally, the research, activism and public intellectual activity of the Law Faculty has a strong human rights focus. Examples of research groupings that do research and advocacy work related to human rights include the *Land and Accountability Research Unit*; the *Centre for Law & Society*; the *Democratic Governance and Rights Unit*; and the *Refugee Rights Unit*.²⁹ The *Centre of Criminology*, led by Professor Elrena van der Spuy, is a cutting-

edge research and policy centre focused on issues of safety, crime and policing, and their impact on human lives. With analysis stretching from local to global level, the centre is one of the leading citizen-safety research institutions in the Global South.

Members of the Faculty are active in enhancing the practical implementation of human rights in society by, for instance, writing blogs (see e.g. *Constitutionally Speaking*)³⁰, and serving on NGOs like Freedom under Law (FUL), which aims to advance the understanding of and respect for the rule of law, and without which human rights cannot flourish.

(b) Engaged research around the elimination of poverty and hunger and the reduction of inequality (SDGs 1, 2 and 10) has a prominent place in UCT's research landscape. One of UCT's flagship research efforts, the *Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit* (SALDRU) which was founded in 1975 and is currently led by Professor Murray Leibbrandt, is a major contributor. The unit conducts policy-relevant research in applied empirical microeconomics, with an emphasis on labour markets, human capital, poverty, inequality and social policy. SALDRU has produced a major body of research contributing to policy to address poverty in South Africa. It is also responsible for implementing the National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS),³¹ and is home to J-Pal Africa.³² For examples of its recent work, see *Inequality*

²⁸ http://webcms.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/470/Documents/Reports/2019_UCT-Transformation-Report.pdf

²⁹ See <http://www.publiclaw.uct.ac.za/>

³⁰ See <https://constitutionallyspeaking.co.za/>

³¹ For the latest NIDS see <http://www.nids.uct.ac.za/images/documents/201901-NIDS-W5Overview-V1.0.pdf> In the foreword, the Minister in the Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation states: "The National Income Dynamics study (NIDS) is a premier South African social survey commissioned by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) as a source of vital data on transitions, dynamics and changes in the population. NIDS provides an overall analysis of the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality in South Africa." From 2009-2018, the Head of SALDRU also served as Pro Vice-Chancellor in regard to the interdisciplinary Poverty and Inequality Initiative, which co-ordinated research on poverty and made research on poverty and inequality conducted at UCT available and accessible through a curated repository of publications with a searchable database (see <http://www.povertyandinequality.uct.ac.za/publications-0>). It also played an important role in developing the national Mandela Initiative, a multi-sector platform to investigate and develop strategies to overcome poverty and inequality. See www.povertyandinequality.uct.ac.za/about-us-29#Overview

Trends in South Africa: A Multidimensional Diagnostic of Inequality (2019), produced in partnership with Stats SA and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).³³ This is the most prominent work on poverty, but there is also a large body of work on poverty being done beyond SALDRU.³⁴ It is also important to mention that the Children's Institute at UCT is doing valuable research and advocacy related specifically to child poverty.³⁵

Further important work on the reduction of poverty is being done by the *Development Policy Research Unit* (DPRU)³⁶ led by Professor Haroon Borat. The DPRU is one of Africa's premier economic policy think tanks. It aims to inform economic and social policymaking by specialising in academically rigorous research into various socio-economic challenges confronting South Africa and the wider African continent, including poverty (SDG 1);

³² The founders of J-PAL, Professors Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo of MIT, shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Economics with Professor Michael Kramer of Harvard.

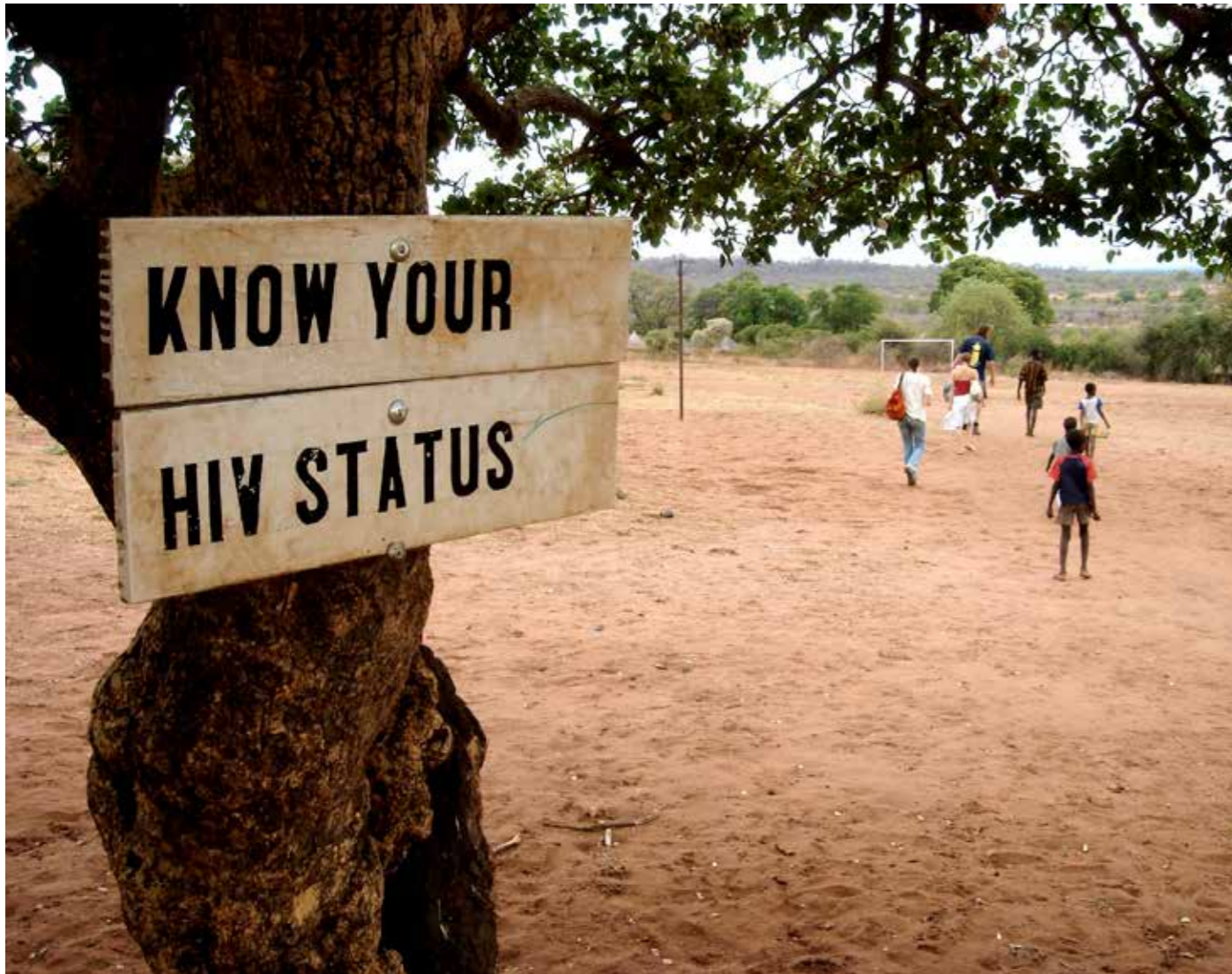
³³ See <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-10-19/Report-03-10-192017.pdf>

³⁴ For a sample of the work, see <http://www.povertyandinequality.uct.ac.za/publications-0>

³⁵ See http://www.ci.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/367/Policy_Brief_Review%20of%20research%20evidence%20on%20child%20poverty%20in%20South%20Africa.pdf and <http://childrencount.uct.ac.za/uploads/publications/Child%20Poverty%20Review%20Update%20010617.pdf>

³⁶ See <http://www.dpru.uct.ac.za/>





Wikimedia Commons

its research is also relevant to SDGs 5, 8, 9, 10 and 17. The impact of Professor Bhorat's work is underlined by the fact that he and Professor Alan Hirsch, founding director of UCT's *Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance*, were appointed to the President's Economic Advisory Council in 2019.³⁷

Also contributing meaningfully to poverty reduction is the *Environmental Economics Policy Research Unit* (EPRU),³⁸ led by Professor Martine Visser. This unit, through its work on environmental and natural resource issues, also promotes poverty reduction in southern Africa. (More will be said about this unit in Section 3.2 below.)

Also important to mention in the context of the alleviation of poverty is the work of Professor Graeme Meintjes, who holds the *DST/NRF Chair in Poverty-related Infections*.

(c) The University's research and socially engaged work related to health and wellbeing (SDG 3) is extensive. The burden of disease in regard to several diseases, most notably tuberculosis (TB) and HIV infection but also many others, is very high. The work done at UCT to advance health and health systems in this country and the continent takes many different forms – basic research, clinical research, translational research, innovation – including social innovation, policy-making,

³⁷ See <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2019-09-30-uct-professors-for-presidents-economic-advisory-council>

³⁸ See <http://efdinitiative.org/south-africa/>

advocacy and training. The work described directly below speaks to SDG 3, but in most cases the work also advances other SDGs.

The following are prominent examples of the University's work to promote health and wellbeing in our country and continent:

1. The Institute of Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine

The largest research grouping working towards SDG 3 is the *Institute for Infectious Diseases and Molecular Medicine* (IDM), a cross-faculty postgraduate research institute which focuses on infectious diseases, with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS and TB; non-communicable diseases, including prevalent cancers; genomic medicine; and molecular medicine, including early-stage drug discovery. The IDM's vision is to be an international centre of excellence at which world-class scientists work together to tackle diseases of major importance in Africa. Its mission is:

- “To conduct basic, clinical and public health research that is leading-edge and relevant to the needs of African people;
- to develop indigenous scientific capacity in the biomedical sciences;
- to influence health policy and practice by translating scientific discoveries and applying them in our communities; and
- to build partnerships with other research centres in South Africa and elsewhere.”

It constitutes the largest grouping of researchers at UCT, and the member groups and investigators include the following:

Three multi-investigator groups in the IDM operate principally in the TB/HIV space:

- The *South African TB Vaccine Initiative* (SATVI),³⁹ led by Professor Mark Hatherill (Director) and Professor Thomas Scriba (Deputy Director). SATVI develops new and effective vaccination strategies against TB, testing multiple new vaccine candidates in clinical trials. Projects address critical clinical, epidemiological, immunological and human genetic questions in TB vaccine development, while training postgraduate students.
- The *Wellcome Centre for Infectious Diseases Research in Africa* (CIDRI-Africa),⁴⁰ led by Robert Wilkinson. This the only Wellcome Centre outside the United Kingdom. CIDRI-Africa fosters investigator-led approaches with the scientific objective of combating infection, especially HIV-1 and TB, through clinical and laboratory research. CIDRI-Africa plans to include support for research on the interaction between communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- The *Desmond Tutu HIV Centre* (DTHC),⁴¹ led by Professor Robin Wood (Director) and Professor Linda-Gail Bekker (Deputy Director). This centre bridges rigorous academic research

³⁹ Click here: [The South African TB Vaccine Initiative](https://www.satvi.org/)

⁴⁰ See <http://www.cidri.uct.ac.za/>



with community development programmes. The foundation collaborates with those most at risk in order to identify innovative solutions in the prevention and treatment of HIV and related infections. The DTHC hosts the *UCT/Medical Research Council (MRC)* flagship project: Tuberculosis Transmission Host, Bacterium and Environment.

The following three extramural research units of the South African Medical Research Council are integrated into the IDM:

- The *Drug Discovery and Development Research Unit (H3D)*⁴², led by Professor Kelly Chibale. Founded in 2010, H3D is Africa's first integrated drug discovery and development centre, and pioneers world-class drug discovery in Africa. Its aim is to discover and develop innovative, life-saving medicines for African patients through excellent interdisciplinary, translational science.
- The *Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit (MMRU)*,⁴³ led by Professor Valerie Mizrahi. Research in the MMRU is focused on aspects of mycobacterial physiology and metabolism that are of relevance to drug discovery and drug resistance. The unit is best known for its work on mechanisms of DNA metabolism, resuscitation and culturability, respiration and cofactor biosynthesis in mycobacteria.
- The *Precision and Genomic Medicine Research Unit (PGMRU)*⁴⁴, led by Professor Raj Ramesar. This unit is interested in using the exciting developments in the field of genomic sciences to investigate human biodiversity. This quest will contribute to a more proactive and preventive approach to health. Tied closely to this aim is the expansion of research to cover genome-wide investigations pertaining to the burden of disease in southern Africa, and to assess the impact of genomic variants on the health of the indigenous populations of Africa.

⁴¹ Click here: [The Desmond Tutu HIV Centre](#)

⁴² Click here: [Drug Discovery and Development Research Unit](#)

⁴³ Click here: [Molecular Mycobacteriology Research Unit](#)

⁴⁴ Click here: [Precision and Genomic Medicine Research Unit](#)



Two SAMRC collaborating centres on TB or HIV research are also affiliated with the IDM, with collaborators based in other UCT departments or South African institutions:

- The *Clinical and Community HIV-Tuberculosis Research Collaborating Centre*⁴⁵, led by Professor Graeme Meintjes.
- The *Centre for Tuberculosis Biomarker-targeted Intervention*⁴⁶, led by Professor Mark Hatherill.
- The *Biopharming Research Unit*,⁴⁹ led by Professor Ed Rybicki.
- The *DST/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research*,⁵⁰ the UCT node of which is led by Professor Valerie Mizrahi, as Co-Director.
- *Vaccines for Africa*,⁵¹ led by Emeritus Professor Greg Hussey.
- The *Medical Biotechnology and Immunotherapy Research Unit (MB&I)*, led by Professor Stefan Barth. The MB&I has become known for the cross-disciplinary nature of its work, which encompasses sciences other than biology to supplement immunodiagnostic and therapeutic development. It has active collaboration projects in 16 countries and several disease areas, including cancer, chronic inflammatory diseases, allergy, and infectious diseases.

Other research entities working within the IDM are:

- The *AFGrice Unit*⁴⁷ Unit, tackling fungal infections (in partnership between Professor Gordon Brown, University of Aberdeen Fungal Group, and UCT, including Dr Claire Hoving and Professor Graeme Meintjes).
- The *Computational Biology Group*,⁴⁸ led by Professor Nicola Mulder.

⁴⁵ Click here: [Clinical and Community HIV-Tuberculosis Research Collaborating Centre](#)

⁴⁶ Click here: [Centre for Tuberculosis Biomarker-targeted Intervention](#)

⁴⁷ See <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/news/10252/>

⁴⁸ Click here: [Computational Biology Group](#)

⁴⁹ Click here: [Biopharming Research Unit](#)

⁵⁰ Click here: [DSI/NRF Centre of Excellence for Biomedical TB Research](#)

⁵¹ Click here: [Vaccines for Africa](#)



Six Research Chairs awarded under the National Research Foundation's South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) work within the IDM:

- Applied Proteomics and Chemical Biology (Professor Jonathan Blackburn)
- Cancer Biotechnology (Professor Stefan Barth)
- Drug Discovery (Professor Kelly Chibale)
- Immunology of Infectious Diseases in Africa (Professor Frank Brombacher)
- Poverty-related Infections (Professor Graeme Meintjes)
- Vaccinology (Professor Anna-Lise Williamson).

Further areas of research expertise within the IDM include:

- HIV pathogenesis, vaccine development and T-cells, HIV-TB co-infection, HIV/AIDS paediatrics, HIV/HPV mucosal immunology, and HIV & steroid receptors
- TB diagnostics, epidemiology and immunology

- The microbiome of respiratory and skin infections
- Parasitic and helminthic infections
- Pharmacogenomics
- The genetics of hearing loss, and genetics and public health interventions with Sickle Cell Disease in Africa
- Medical population genetics
- Protein biochemistry and angiotensin-converting enzymes
- Cancer biology
- Social and clinical neurosciences
- Cellular neurophysiology and computational neuroscience.

The IDM is the largest conglomeration of research groupings in the Faculty of Health Sciences, and indeed in the University, but there are a host of further research groupings that contribute to the massive totality of research advancing SDG 3. These include:

2. The Neuroscience Institute

The Neuroscience Institute (NI),⁵² led by Professor Graham Fieggen, is an interdisciplinary institute (where various fields of basic research into brain disease and disorders is conducted alongside clinical practice under one roof, also connecting psychology, genetics and neurosurgery). It is the first of its kind in Africa, and its vision is for an Africa where people achieve their full potential through brain health. The NI defines its mission as follows:

- "Finding ways to treat brain injury, prevent diseases which affect the brain and nervous system, and limit mental deterioration and disorders are some of modern medicine's most pressing challenges. This is particularly true in understudied low- and middle-income African countries where the prevalence of traumatic brain injury and diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis is high, and where the consequences of these conditions are dire. Based in a world-class facility at the University of Cape Town (UCT), our interdisciplinary and international network of scientists, clinicians, students and civil society stakeholders uses research and innovation, training and capacity development, and advocacy and engagement to develop the knowledge, skills and expertise needed to help understand the human brain and advance healthcare in the African context."

The following research programmes are under the auspices of the NI:

- *The Brain-Behaviour Unit (BBU)*,⁵³ led by Professor Dan Stein. This is a multi-disciplinary hub of psychiatric neuroscience research. The BBU focuses on work particularly relevant to the South African and African context, and comprises three interlinked groups: Psychiatric Neurogenetics, Psychiatric Neuro-imaging, and Translational Neuroscience and Cellular Neuroscience.

⁵² See <http://www.neuroscience.uct.ac.za/neuro/research>

⁵³ Click here: [Brain-Behaviour Unit \(BBU\)](#)

⁵⁴ Click here: [HIV Mental Health Research Unit \(HIV MHU\)](#)

- *The HIV Mental Health Research Group*,⁵⁴ led by Professor John Joska and Professor Jackie Hoare. This group responds to the growing recognition of the burden of mental disorders in people living with HIV – including depressive, anxiety, substance abuse and neurocognitive disorders – with a platform of clinical service, teaching and research, extending to numerous hospitals and clinics in greater Cape Town.
- *The Medical Research Council Unit on Risk and Resilience in Mental Disorders* is a cross-university unit at the Department of Psychiatry at Stellenbosch University (SU) and the Department of Psychiatry and Mental Health at UCT. It is led by Professor Dan Stein (UCT) and Professor Christine Lochner (SU). The unit researches anxiety and stress disorders, and is also involved in projects in related fields, including the Drakenstein Neurodevelopmental and Neuro-GAP studies.





- The *Neurology Research Group*, led by Professor Jeannine Heckmann. This group conducts research into a wide range of neurological conditions of relevance to Africa.
- *Neuropsychology* is led by Professor Mark Solms, who is responsible for the world-leading discovery of the brain mechanisms of dreaming, and who is famous for his integration of psychoanalytic theories and methods with those of modern neuroscience.
- The *Pain Team* is an interdisciplinary group of 20 clinician researchers focusing on acute and chronic pain, ranging from basic laboratory work with healthy humans to increase the understanding of the mechanisms which contribute to the development of chronic pain, to clinical trials of the effectiveness of various treatments for acute and chronic pain.
- *Paediatric Neuroscience – Neurodevelopment/ Paediatric Neurology*. The sub-specialty Divisions

of Paediatric Neurology (led by Professor Jo Wilmshurst) and Developmental Paediatrics (led by Professor Kirsty Donald) operate as discreet training units. Although they are different sub-specialties, the support and combined expertise of the consultant staff across both allows for a depth of interdisciplinary input which has resulted in a highly productive research team and research mentorship programme. Their research has sought to address fundamental questions by longitudinally mapping brain and cognitive growth across the early years of life, in association with infant nutrition, parent-child interaction, substance exposure, infections and environmental stress.

- *Magnetic Resonance Imaging Group*⁵⁵ led by Professor Ernesta Meintjes. Meintjes holds the DST/NRF Chair in Brain Imaging in the Division of Biomedical Engineering. This group's research in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) focuses on

⁵⁵ Click here: [Magnetic Resonance Imaging Group](#)

3. The UCT Lung Institute

The *University of Cape Town Lung Institute* is a wholly owned subsidiary of UCT and is registered as a public benefit organisation (PBO). The Institute comprises six clinical research units (CRUs): the *Allergy and Immunology Unit (AIU)*,⁵⁶ led by Associate Professor Jonny Peter; the *Centre for Child and Adolescent Lung Health*;⁵⁷ led by Professor Heather Zar; the *Centre for TB Research Innovation (CTBRI)*,⁵⁸ led by Associate Professor Rod Dawson; the *Lung Clinical Research Unit*,⁵⁹ led by Professor Richard Van Zyl-Smit; and the *Centre for Lung Infection and Immunity (CLII)*,⁶⁰ led by Professor Keertan Dheda. The CLII seeks to enhance the prevention, diagnosis and effective management of pulmonary infections through both academic and clinical activities to reduce mortality, and improve the health-related quality of life of people with lung infections associated with poverty (TB, HIV and pneumonia). The CLII hosts the *Medical Research Council Flagship NeXT RCT* and the *Medical Research Council Anti-Microbial Resistance Extramural United a Knowledge Translation Unit*.⁶¹

4. Further important research groupings

Further research groupings responding to SDG 3 include:

- The *Adolescent Health Research Unit (AHRU)*,⁶² led by Professor P de Vries. Its interdisciplinary research focuses on the critical developmental stage of adolescence.
- The *Alan J Flisher Research Centre for Public Mental Health (CPMH)*,⁶³ led by Professor Katherine Sorsdahl and the Co-Director,

applications of MRI to neuroscience, cardiac MRI, MRI technology development, and MRI physics.

- The *NRF Research Chair in Clinical Neuroscience*, held by Professor Anthony Figaji, Head of the Paediatric Neurosurgery Unit at Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital. He is the first and only surgeon in South Africa to be appointed to a Research Chair. His major areas of interest include mechanisms of brain injury in trauma, meningitis and stroke, increasing capacity in Africa for molecular biology study of brain tumours, understanding brain metabolism, brain perfusion, neuroinflammation neurophysiology, and the effect of treatment interventions on the brain.

⁵⁶ See <https://lunginstitute.co.za/aiu/>

⁵⁷ See <https://lunginstitute.co.za/child/>

⁵⁸ See <https://lunginstitute.co.za/ctbri/>

⁵⁹ See <https://lunginstitute.co.za/lcru/>

⁶⁰ See <https://lunginstitute.co.za/liiu-research/>

⁶¹ See <https://knowledgetranslation.co.za/>

⁶² See <http://www.ahrucapetown.ac.za/>

⁶³ See <http://www.cpmh.org.za/>

Professor Ashraf Kagee (SU). The centre is a collaborative, inter-institutional, multidisciplinary centre that conducts research on public mental health, and uses evidence for teaching, consultancy and advocacy to promote mental health in Africa.

- The *Albertina and Walter Sisulu Institute for Ageing in Africa* (IAA),⁶⁴ led by Emeritus Professor Sebastiana Kalula, facilitates the delivery of interdisciplinary, in-context training for health and allied professionals, and evidence-based clinical and social care for older persons. It also undertakes appropriate research and audits upon which policy and planning for older persons in sub-Saharan Africa may be based.
- The *Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Research* (CEOHR),⁶⁵ led by Associate Professor Shahieda Adams (Director) and Professor Hanna-Andrea Rother (Deputy Director). The CEOHR aims to be a principal centre of environmental and occupational health research, teaching and training, occupational medical clinical services, policy advisory, technical consultancy services and advocacy, and a source of supportive outreach activities in South Africa, in the southern and eastern regions of Africa, Africa more generally and internationally. The centre hosts several research programmes, including chemical exposures and toxicity; health-risk management; pesticides and neurotoxicity; health effects due to toxic metals; silicosis and health effects due to mining exposures; workplace allergens and asthma; and violence and injury prevention.
- The *Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology Research* (CIDER),⁶⁶ led by Professor Mary-Ann Davies. CIDER conducts multidisciplinary research on priority infectious diseases in southern Africa with a view to improving disease prevention and management. The centre has strong links to service providers at provincial

⁶⁴ See <http://www.instituteofageing.uct.ac.za/>

⁶⁵ See http://www.publichealth.uct.ac.za/phfm_centre-environmental-and-occupational-health-research

⁶⁶ See http://www.publichealth.uct.ac.za/phfm_centre-infectious-disease-epidemiology-and-research



and national level, and a long track record of conducting operations research around programme effectiveness and service delivery challenges. Staff include epidemiologists, biostatisticians, mathematical modellers and public health specialists.

- *Child Language Africa* (CLA)⁶⁷, led by Michelle Pascoe, Associate Professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders. This interdisciplinary research grouping seeks to generate knowledge about young children's language development and difficulties in Africa, and to use this to develop culturally appropriate tools for valid and reliable language assessment. The team comprises speech-language therapists, audiologists, linguists, paediatricians, public health specialists and psychologists.
- The *Health Economics Unit* (HEU)⁶⁸, led by Associate Professor John Ataguba. This unit works to improve the performance of health systems in sub-Saharan Africa through research in health economics, training, consultancy and capacity-building. The core objectives of the HEU are to conduct high-quality research in health economics and health systems; to train at the postgraduate level to improve technical research and health systems capacity; to develop capacity in health economics and related health systems research in Africa; and to provide technical support to facilitate the translation of health policies into practical programmes.
- *Health Through Physical Activity, Lifestyle and Sports* (H-PALS),⁶⁹ led by Professor Vicky Lambert. H-PALS leads all scientific research conducted at the Sports Science Institute of SA, seeking to optimise human performance and promote health and wellbeing, addressing the growing pandemics of obesity and inactivity, while reducing the burden of disease and injury, through physical activity and sports participation.

⁶⁷ See <https://www.childlanguageafrica.com/>

⁶⁸ See http://www.publichealth.uct.ac.za/phfm_health-economics-unit-heu

⁶⁹ See <https://www.ssisa.com/science-research/>

⁷⁰ See <http://www.kidney.uct.ac.za/>

- The *Kidney and Hypertension Research Unit* (KHRU),⁷⁰ led by Professor Ikechi Okpechi. This unit is situated in the Division of Nephrology and Hypertension, and seeks to reduce death rates and improve the quality of health of people with kidney disease and hypertension, particularly in the black population of South Africa, thus tackling South Africa's development challenges.
- The *MRC/UCT Child and Adolescent Health Unit*,⁷¹ led by Professor Heather Zar. This unit undertakes translational research (which integrates perspectives from basic, clinical and population science) focused on priority childhood diseases including TB, pneumonia and HIV, and the intersection of infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases such as asthma.
- The *Orthopaedic Research Unit* (ORU),⁷² led by Dr Michael Held. The ORU's research facilities are embedded within Groote Schuur Hospital and integrated with various research institutes. The resulting platform enables experimental musculoskeletal research, translational research, clinical trials and healthcare delivery, while the partnership is underpinned by one of the most productive academic research environments in Africa.
- The *Receptor Biology Research Unit*,⁷³ led by Professor Rob Millar, Associate Professor Arie Katz and Dr Colleen Flanagan. This unit studies the structure and function of G protein-coupled receptors, and applies the research to understanding and treating diseases that have major effects on the social and economic welfare of South Africans.
- The *Women's Health Research Unit* (WHRU),⁷⁴ led by Dr Deborah Constant. WHRU aims

71 See <http://www.health.uct.ac.za/fhs/research/groupings/child-adolescent-health>

72 See <http://www.oru.uct.ac.za/>

73 See <http://www.health.uct.ac.za/fhs/research/groupings/rbrg>

74 See http://www.publichealth.uct.ac.za/phfm_womens-health-research-unit



to improve the health of women through research that informs policy and practice. This multidisciplinary centre for women's health research focuses on high-priority women's health and gender issues. The unit also undertakes health service support, teaching, and social responsiveness and advocacy.

- The *Gender, Health and Justice Research Unit* (GHJRU)⁷⁵, based in the Health Sciences Faculty and led by Associate Professor Lillian Artz, is an interdisciplinary research unit which designs and implements innovative research and social interventions on social exclusion and violence in a range of social, political and institutional settings. Empirical research is used to develop well-informed, evidence-based advocacy positions to support legal and policy reform.⁷⁶
- The *Research Unit on the Economics of Excisable Products* (REEP), led by Professor Corne van Walbeek. REEP focuses on the economic aspects related to a variety of excisable products, specifically tobacco, alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverages, as they relate to public health. REEP's motto is "Supporting public health through rigorous and objective research".
- The *Children's Institute*, led by Professor Shanaaz Matthews. This group aims to build capacity through teaching and training, and to present evidence to guide the development of policies, laws and interventions for children, while providing information to those who are advocating on behalf of children, and engaging in its own evidence-based advocacy. In this regard, it is best known for the *Child Gauge*, which is published annually.⁷⁷

75 See <http://www.ghjru.uct.ac.za/>

76 See UCT's *Gender Health and Justice Research Unit* co-published report on violence, mental health and access to healthcare related to sexual orientation and gender identity: http://www.ghjru.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/242/PDFs/Dynamic_feature/SOGIE%20and%20wellbeing_10_ESA%20region.pdf

77 See *Child Gauge 2019 Report* by UCT Children's Institute titled: *Child and Adolescent Health - Leave no one behind (14th annual review of the situation of the country's children)*, published by the Children's Institute (CI), University of Cape Town, in partnership with UNICEF South Africa; the DSI-NRF Centre for Excellence in Human Development, University of the Witwatersrand; The Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation; and the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation. See also *Children Count*. *Children Count* is an ongoing data and advocacy project of the CI. In it, the CI analyses big datasets to provide freely available statistics that can be used by policy makers, researchers, students, the media and all those who advocate for children's rights.

Health innovation

Innovation is strongly supported at UCT, so giving effect to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure). UCT has a rich history of innovation relevant to health and wellbeing, particularly in low-resource settings. An excellent example is Professor Peter Zilla's work on cardiovascular-device development. With his team, he developed an artificial heart valve that was much more suited to conditions in the Global South (where rheumatic heart disease typically





occurs at a much younger age than in the Global North, requiring artificial heart valves to last much longer). He also developed the surgical technique and equipment to allow insertion of these without open-heart surgery, which is crucial in the developing world where rheumatic heart disease is prevalent, but sophisticated operating facilities are scarce. Zilla also co-founded Strait Access Technologies to produce these valves at a cost affordable to developing countries.

(e) Building relationships by engaging with the community and developing community partnerships⁷⁸

The fact that UCT is an integral part of the community in which it is situated inspires us to use our scholarship and professional expertise to benefit this wider community, both locally, provincially, nationally and throughout Africa. With

particular reference to the GC principles and SDGs, we seek to live up to these principles and goals by consciously making them a part of our engagement with our partners, and of the research and social engagement work that we do.

The *Schools Development Unit (SDU)*,⁷⁹ established in 2000 with the goal of improving teaching and learning in the South African school system, plays a very important role in this regard. As a department in the University's School of Education, it draws on academic teaching and research expertise to help tackle the systemic and structural challenges that mark our education landscape, manifesting in poor or inadequate teaching and learning. Through teacher development, schools-based interventions, professional consulting services and dynamic materials, the SDU works to close the achievement gap between well-resourced and disadvantaged schools.

⁷⁸ Click here: [engaging with the community and developing community partnerships](#)

⁷⁹ See http://www.sdu.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/70/Publications/SDU%202019%20Annual%20Report_Final%20%5B15-05-2020%5D.pdf

We also interact with learners in underserved communities to improve their chances of becoming UCT students. The *100UP Programme*, which seeks to tackle the severe inequality of opportunity for children of the Khayelitsha community, annually selects five learners with high academic potential from 20 high schools in the area. They are then enrolled in an holistic yet academically rigorous programme, featuring interventions that assist in building social and cultural capital, and in developing an awareness of career paths and other development opportunities. The SDU programme, which is led by Mrs Ferial Parker, has been extended to include schools in the Mitchells Plain and Philippi areas, and has also launched the *100UP+* arm, which provides ongoing counselling and support to 100UP students who are studying at UCT.⁸⁰

SHAWCO, a student volunteer organisation that

was founded more than 75 years ago, is another vehicle through which the University reaches out to our local community. SHAWCO's mission is to practice and promote responsible citizenship by enrolling student volunteers in health, education and social entrepreneurship initiatives in underserved communities in the greater Cape Town area. The programme creates a supportive space for experiential learning and teaching for our students, while helping address inequality through innovative and sustainable approaches to community engagement.⁸¹

Through the *Knowledge Co-op*, UCT creates opportunities for local groups (NGOs, local government, SMMEs) to access skills and professional expertise within the university, and for academics and students to engage with society and apply their knowledge to address the needs of communities.⁸²

⁸⁰ See <http://www.sdu.uct.ac.za/sdu/projects/current/100-up>

⁸¹ See <https://shawco.org/about-us/>

⁸² See <http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/uct-knowledge-co-op>

02 LABOUR

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining

Principle 4: The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour

Principle 5: The effective abolition of child labour

Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

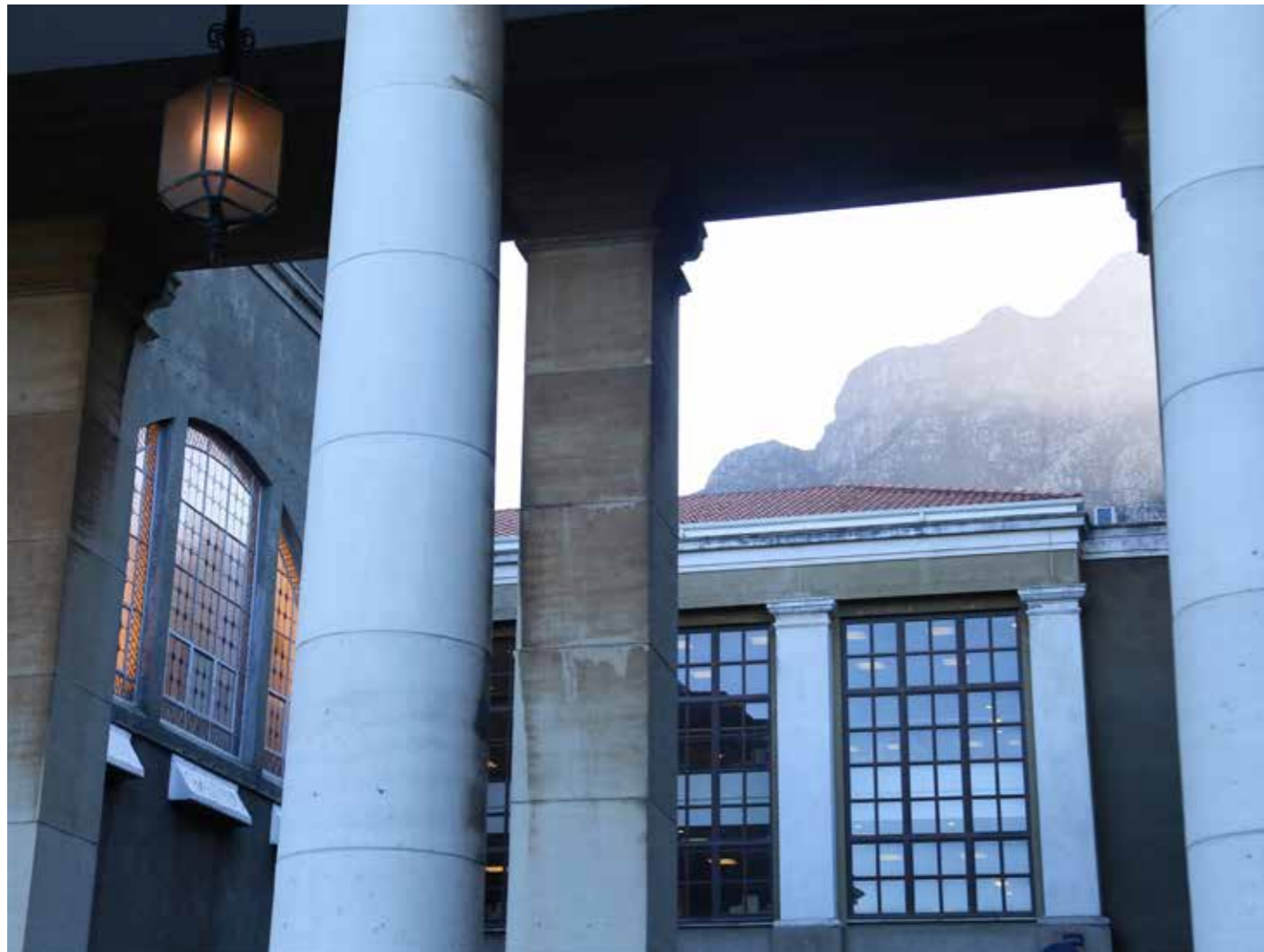
Although the formulation and implementation of fair labour practices have been, and continue to be, core activities at UCT, we are particularly proud of what we have put in place in respect of the internal University environment, in the period to which this report pertains, to make it an employer of choice. (We do of course also contribute meaningfully to national and international initiatives on labour matters, but more about that later.) It is also important to register that a university ultimately exists because of, and for its students – and so as much effort must go into ensuring that the students are able to work towards their degrees in a space in which they are protected against discrimination, and are actively supported in their physical and mental health needs. The SDGs referenced under this heading include SDG 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 and 5 (Reducing Inequality

and Gender Equality). How UCT creates a safe and nurturing environment has already been described in Section 1 above, but it is important to reemphasise that UCT regards all these SDG goals as crucial to building the desired workplace conditions.

2.1 Incorporating the GC principles and SDGs related to labour into the internal operations of the University

GC Principle 3 (freedom of association and collective bargaining) and GC Principle 6 (the elimination of discrimination) embody the issues under this heading that are most significant in a university environment. In line with GC Principle 6, UCT seeks, through its policies, to uphold uncompromisingly the right to non-discrimination, as well as the right to work under just and favourable conditions.





Freedom of association and collective bargaining

UCT believes that sound employee relations are based on effective mechanisms for communication and participation, a safe and effective work environment, and a committed and motivated staff body. The University subscribes fully to the principle of freedom of association, and has signed recognition agreements with six unions for the purposes of collective bargaining.⁸³ An example of the effectiveness of the relationship between the University and the unions was the historic insourcing of approximately 1 000 workers in 2016, who had been outsourced in the late 1990s.⁸⁴

The elimination of discrimination

UCT has instituted important initiatives to achieve equity in the workplace. The newly adopted Employment Equity Policy and Procedure (2021) takes its inspiration from *Vision 2030*, namely “to unleash human potential for a fair and just society”, and states that to achieve this goal “we are committed to redressing inequality and building social justice through conscious interventions to return dignity to the formerly historically disadvantaged by amplifying their voices and creating an institutional culture that makes it possible for them to reclaim their agency”.⁸⁵ The essence of the policy (in terms

⁸³ See the Employment Relations Policy at http://www.hr.uct.ac.za/hr/employee_relations/policies and the recognition agreements at http://www.hr.uct.ac.za/hr/employee_relations/staff_bodies/AU
⁸⁴ See <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=insourcing+UCT>
⁸⁵ See the Employment Equity Policy at https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/about/policies/Policy_Employment_Equity_2020.pdf

of which progressive targets are being set in the Employment Equity (EE) Plan currently being developed), is captured in this extract from the preamble to the policy:

“The policy is designed to provide decisionmakers with the guiding principles to make defensible decisions in a reasonable, fair and justifiable manner, but even more importantly, to ensure that transformation takes place in pursuit of the vision of becoming the leading African university proud of its new inclusive identity that reflects the interests and aspirations of all of its staff and students. Our EE policy is unequivocal in its stance on anti-racism, non-sexism and any other forms of unfair discrimination. Integral to this policy is not only compliance but also commitment to redress, inclusivity and diversity. At the heart of our policy is transformation, of which decolonisation is a central tenet.”

The University is supporting strategic appointments through its own EE Fund (which is also being redesigned to align more closely with the EE Plan) and by making use of government initiatives such as the *New Generation of Academics Programme* (nGAP).

Different categories of staff are also supported through specific targeted interventions.

Examples of this approach are the Vice-Chancellor’s three strategic initiatives (supported by the VC’s Strategic Fund) to accelerate UCT’s transformation progress, namely:

- The *2030 Future Research Leaders Project* (2019–2024), with an annual budget of R5 million, aimed at identifying exceptionally talented early-career researchers, selected by the Vice-Chancellor, who are recognised by their peers as future world leaders in their fields.
- The three-year *Decoloniality Project* (2017–2019), which challenged academics to develop new thinking about the problems that should be addressed most urgently by UCT as an African university seeking to continue delivering published research and innovative solutions, also in terms of the curriculum.
- The *Advancing Womxn Awards* (2019–2024), which aims to amplify the voices of women researchers, both for their own advancement and the advancement of others. The project promotes human capital development of women, and helps us to rethink our views of gender in South Africa, so offering new insights into ourselves and people in other communities.

An excellent further example of a project that combines the Vice-Chancellor’s triple objectives of excellence, transformation and sustainability is the Carnegie Corporation-funded *Developing Emerging Academic Leaders* (DEAL) programme (2021–2022). This programme is envisaged as a training hub for PhD candidates, Postdoctoral Research Fellows (PDRFs) and Junior Research Fellows (JRFs), embedded in accredited research groupings conducting research that addresses issues pertaining to Africa’s development and prosperity. The programme is designed have a participation rate of 75% African



candidates, and a majority of women. The purpose of the programme has been summed up as follows:

“In line with UCT’s Vision 2030 currently under development, the purpose is (a) to strengthen the career-pathing of a next generation of researchers who are mentored and well-networked into a community of scholars working in an interdisciplinary way; and (b) to bolster the interdisciplinary research capacity of UCT’s accredited research groupings. The aim is also for this cohort to become competitive candidates for positions in universities or research institutes in Africa, thus contributing to academia on the continent.”

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Internationalisation’s competitive call in 2020 for applications by directors of accredited research groupings for JRFs was in the same spirit, with the purpose of “increase(ing) research productivity and strengthen(ing) the career-pathing of a next generation of researchers that are nurtured and well-networked into a community of scholars working in an interdisciplinary way and, secondly, to bolster the interdisciplinary research capacity of UCT’s research groupings”.

Early- and mid-career researchers are supported in their research development through a host of programmes offered by the Research Office and made visible online on the Research Hub.⁸⁶ The Research Hub contains comprehensive information on the research process, including: funding opportunities; pre- and post-award procedures, responsibilities and documentation; research management and research integrity; research output and promotion; and the advancement of one’s research career and standing. This last category comprises programmes for early-career researchers, including the *Emerging Researcher Programme* (ERP)⁸⁷, the *Research Development Academy* (RDA)⁸⁸, and an initiative to provide



targeted support to academics without PhDs.⁸⁹ For mid-career researchers, there is accreditation and evaluation support, e.g how to achieve a National Research Foundation (NRF) rating and how to secure accreditation for a research grouping. Academic staff on the cusp of the professoriate are also assisted by UCT’s own *Next Generation Professoriate Programme* and via UCT’s participation in the national *Future Professors Programme*, funded by the Department of Higher Education and Training – both by nominating candidates for this programme and by UCT staff assisting in the roll-out of the programme.

The *Centre for Higher Education Development* (CHED) supports teaching and learning through a rich array of resources provided by its *Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning*, such as a Remote Teaching Guide and resources pertaining to online and blended teaching, teaching and learning strategies, engagement and participation, multimodal ways of teaching and learning, assessment, enabling teaching, being an online scholar, and the curriculum. CHED also

contributes to the holistic development of early career academics through the *New Academic Practitioners Programme* (NAPP).⁹⁰

There is also dedicated career-development support for Professional, Administrative and Support Staff (PASS staff), as outlined in the extensive *Staff Learning and Development Resource Guide*.⁹¹

The services mentioned above under the heading “Enhancing the institutional responses to discrimination, harassment, and violence” are available to all staff, as is the *Educare Centre*, which provides pre-primary education for the children of UCT staff (and students) and plays a major role in allowing the parents of young children to pursue their careers.

Lastly, as behoves a good employer, the University has clear and fair disciplinary procedures, a clear procedure to resolve grievances, and an Ombud. The Office of the Ombud provides a safe and objective place where people can air their concerns, receive referrals, find out about relevant policies and procedures, and discuss formal and informal options for addressing their concerns.⁹²

2.2 Promoting the GC principles and SDGs related to labour through the activities of the University

The *Institute of Development and Labour Law*,⁹³ established in 1987, not only teaches all the labour law courses at UCT, but also conducts impactful research on a range of labour law issues. Professor Emeritus Evance Kalula continues to work closely with the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. (The ILO brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member states to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work.)

The *Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit*,⁹⁴ based in the School of Economics and led by Professor Murray Leibbrandt, carries out applied empirical research and capacity building with an emphasis on labour markets, human capital and social policy. Its research is located at the intersection of unemployment, labour markets, human capital and social policy, with a focus on all vulnerable groups.

⁸⁶ See generally the Research Support Hub: <http://www.uct.ac.za/main/research/support-hub>

⁸⁷ Click here: [Emerging Researcher Programme \(ERP\)](#)

⁸⁸ Click here: [Research Development Academy \(RDA\)](#)

⁸⁹ Click here: [Targeted support for academics without PhDs](#)

⁹⁰ See: <http://www.ched.uct.ac.za/ched/napp>

⁹¹ Click here: [staff learning and development resource guide](#)

⁹² Click here: [UCT Ombud](#)

⁹³ See <http://www.idll.uct.ac.za/>

⁹⁴ See <https://www.saldru.uct.ac.za>

03 ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges

Principle 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility

Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally-friendly technologies

The SDGs that fall under this heading include SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); SDG 7 (Affordable Clean Energy); SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure); SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities); SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production); SDG 13 (Climate Action); SDG 14 (Life below Water); and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Since UCT joined the GC in 2018, it has introduced major new initiatives in support of the principles aimed at protecting the environment and encouraging environmental responsibility as enshrined in this compact, as well as in the SDGs. As mentioned above in the Vice-Chancellor's statement, sustainability is now explicitly a core value of UCT's strategic goals, as embodied in the

new strategy document *Vision 2030*. Progressive thinking on environmental sustainability has been part of UCT's thinking and actions for at least 30 years (some of the historical context will be outlined below), but the problem lay with the lack of an integrated approach to the issue. That will now change: the post-2018 initiatives are intended to be part of an holistic approach to environmental sustainability, built on, but also taking to a new level, the University's desire to be an environmentally responsible institution. As will become clear in the narrative below, UCT's approach to sustainability is embedded in the entire hierarchy of policies, of decision making, and of execution. In a nutshell, UCT is deadly serious about sustainability.



Context: Main initiatives up to 2018 demonstrating the University's commitment to environmental sustainability:

1990 UCT was one of the original signatories of the Talloires Declaration, and built environmental sustainability research through ongoing cross-faculty interactions throughout the 1990s.

2001 UCT recommitted to the Talloires Declaration and the Environmental Management Working Group (EMWG) was formed.

2007 The *Cities in Africa* Signature Theme – with a focus on sustainable and equitable cities in Africa and the Global South – was launched (subsequently renamed the *African Centre for Cities*) and an *NRF South African Research Chair in Urban Policy* was launched. This group is described in more detail below.

2007 The *Minerals to Metals* signature theme was launched in the Faculty of Engineering & the Built Environment with a specific research focus on the sustainable development of mineral resources in South Africa and more broadly in Africa. This theme hosted an *NRF South African Research Chair in Minerals Beneficiation* and underpinned the collaborative development of the MPhil in Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources with the University of Zambia. Its cross-cutting nature ensured interdisciplinary research across process engineering, the natural sciences, anthropology, law, economics and public health.

2008 The Green Campus Policy Framework⁹⁵ (aimed at responsible use and environmental sustainability) was formally adopted by Council and Senate. In the same year, the *Green*



Wikimedia Commons

Campus Initiative (GCI) was formed. The GCI, a student-led body, was modelled on the Harvard University GCI and now boasts over 2 200 members – more than any other student body at the University. The following student bodies also focus on environmental sustainability: the Student Representative Council (SRC) and Engineers without Borders.

2009 Flowing from the Green Campus Policy Framework, a Green Campus Action Plan⁹⁶ was created.

2011 Vice-Chancellor appoints Pro Vice-Chancellor for Climate Change, Professor Mark New, and the *African Climate and Development Initiative* (ACDI) was launched. Placing the initiative under the care of a Pro Vice-Chancellor was to signal

the importance that the University attached to this enterprise. The work of the ACDI is described in more detail below.

2012 UCT became a signatory to the *ISCN-GULF Sustainable Campus Charter*⁹⁷. The ISCN, or *International Sustainable Campus Network*, is a global forum dedicated to sustainability best practices.)

2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted and UCT structures its 2015/2016 *Research Report*⁹⁸ to reflect the research work.

2016 Several new University research institutes were launched with the aim of boosting interdisciplinary research on important sustainability issues: The *Future Water Institute*,⁹⁹ dedicated to increasing the knowledge and understanding of water issues, improving water management and water governance, and increasing capacity across the water sector; and The *Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa*,¹⁰⁰ dedicated to an interdisciplinary approach to reducing conservation conflicts, based on the understanding that slowing the current rate of biodiversity loss demands a shift in the way humans perceive their role in, and interdependence on natural systems.

⁹⁵ Click here: [Green Campus Policy Framework](#)

⁹⁶ Click here: [Green Campus Action Plan](#)

⁹⁷ Click here: [ISCN-GULF Sustainable Campus Charter](#)

⁹⁸ See https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/research/publications/reports/UCTRO072_Research_Office_Annual_Report_2015-2016_LOW_Res.pdf

⁹⁹ See <http://www.futurewater.uct.ac.za/>

¹⁰⁰ Click here: <http://www.icwild.uct.ac.za/>

Developments since 2018:

2018 UCT joins the UN Global Compact (GC) and undertakes to support its 10 principles.

2019 The Vice-Chancellor creates a Directorate of Environmental Sustainability and appoints Manfred Braune as the first Director of Environmental Sustainability, based in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. His task is to integrate all facets of governance and operations in environmental sustainability at UCT.

2020 UCT was set to host the *SDGs Africa Summit 2020*,¹⁰¹ together with strategic partners including the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU) and Worldwide Universities Network (WUN). It was aimed at accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in Africa (postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

2020/2021 In 2020 the Vice-Chancellor issued a call titled "UCT Sustainable Campus",¹⁰² in terms of which she committed to fund projects focused on establishing and/or strengthening the environmental, social and financial sustainability of the University (R10 million in total over five years).

2021 The University's new vision, *Vision 2030*, incorporates the progressive reduction of UCT's carbon footprint to see the institution become carbon-neutral by 2050.



¹⁰¹ See <http://www.sdgsafricasummit2020.uct.ac.za/>

¹⁰² See <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2020-02-12-funding-call-uct-sustainability-campus-projects>

3.1 Incorporating GC principles and SDGs related to the environment into UCT's internal operation

UCT's goal of an integrated approach to environmental sustainability has meant that the first task of the new Director of Environmental Sustainability (which falls under the auspices of the Chief Operating Officer, or COO, Dr Reno Morar) is to lead the development of a relevant university-wide strategy. This strategy is still in the making, but its contours are beginning to emerge. It is an ambitiously conceived plan, requiring the buy-in and cooperation of all sectors of the University, and for the Director to work closely with the University's entire senior management, the Properties and Services Department, faculties, academic departments and research groupings to put in place and execute the strategy. The planning includes the future refinement of governance structures in order to enable implementation. But it will also be a grounded strategy that recognises that the targets set must be clear but realistic, and that the timeframes for achievement of these targets must take account of the necessity to spread resource and budgetary

allocations responsibly in accordance with the University's overall finance strategy.

An important part of the strategy as it pertains to UCT's internal operation is the triple target of **(a)** achieving a net-zero carbon footprint by 2050, **(b)** becoming a net-zero water campus by the same date and, also by 2050, **(c)** achieving a net-zero waste to landfill.

(a) In respect of achieving a net-zero carbon footprint, we are pleased to report that, since joining the GC in 2018, UCT has significantly stepped up the targets it has set for itself in regard to greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to reduce (working hand-in-hand with the COO, Properties and Services, and all the faculties and departments) the footprint by between 2% and 5% per annum until 2030, when a level will be reached where all emissions can be offset. The intention is to achieve this by becoming increasingly less dependent on electricity from the grid, which is very carbon intensive. To facilitate this, the sustainability plan will make provision for: extensive energy audits of building energy consumption; intensified energy metering

and monitoring; improved, automated building management systems; energy efficient lighting and heating, ventilation and airconditioning installations and retrofitted solar photovoltaic (PV) installations on rooftops and parking areas; new buildings that are highly energy efficient and certified "green"; and moving the University's shuttle service from diesel to electric buses. Feasibility studies have been initiated (e.g. in regard to where to locate the PV installations) and some of the projects have already begun (e.g. the metering and monitoring of electricity, installing energy-efficient heat pumps and retrofitting light fixtures in student residences). UCT has measured its carbon footprint since 2007, and reports the results publicly. (For the most recent report, see the *UCT Carbon Footprint Report 2018*.)¹⁰³

(b) With regard to becoming a net-zero water campus, UCT received R70 million from DHET in

2018 and itself contributed R10 million towards this project. The first step was to develop a *Sustainable Water Strategy*,¹⁰⁴ which not only supports the University's sustainability goals embodied in *Vision 2030*, but also responds to the City of Cape Town Water Strategy (2019), which commits the city to becoming a water-sensitive city by 2040. This strategy set a goal of reducing, in a water-sensitive way, its municipal water demand from the current 650 ML per annum to 360 ML per annum by 2050. (Doing this presupposes that we gain the appropriate knowledge of our water supply system. As the Director has said, "You can't manage what you don't measure" and "You can't measure it if you don't know where the pipe network runs to." This means that the consolidation of infrastructure records and the installation of additional smart water meters to obtain an improved understanding of water use across UCT

¹⁰³ See https://www.news.uct.ac.za/images/userfiles/files/publications/factsheets/UCT_FactSheet_25_Carbonfootprint.pdf

¹⁰⁴ See http://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/explore/sustainability/UCT_Water-Management-Strategy_Executive-Summary.pdf



will be crucial to the successful implementation of the strategy.) The strategy builds on UCT's longstanding research on water-sensitive urban design (WSUD), and the work of the *Future Water Institute*, which was established to drive transdisciplinary, collaborative research on water, and to facilitate the uptake and use of this research. The goals of the strategy have been formulated as follows:

- To reduce UCT's overall demand and dependence on municipal water supply and wastewater treatment.
- To maintain business/operational continuity during periods of unprecedented low rainfall and water restrictions.
- To reduce the overall spend on water (a scarce natural resource) through appropriate investments.
- To provide a diverse, resilient and sustainable combination of water resources.
- To mitigate UCT's overall impact of runoff on downstream water quality.

Importantly, UCT is committed not to keep what it learns in this regard to itself. Thus, the Water Sustainability Strategy makes the following promise:

"UCT commits to inform, empower and educate visitors, staff and students to better utilise water as a finite and vulnerable source, essential to sustain life, development and the environment. In doing so, UCT recognises the various co-benefits associated with water.¹⁰⁵ Further, the University commits to ensuring its leaders at all levels – academic, administrative, policy, maintenance – are engaged, aware of how water is being utilised, and trusted with its stewardship throughout the University. The University will draw on its wealth of

transdisciplinary skills to achieve this. A key component of this commitment will be the development of UCT as a Living Lab that will feature the latest thinking and hands-on research through 'living' real-estate projects on campus, that allow a lived student experience of water-sensitive design through the campus facilities."

(c) With regard to net-zero waste to landfill – the area in which the University has thus far been least successful – a compliance audit has been completed and planning is ongoing about how the University can improve.

In its quest to create a sustainable campus, it is not only with regard to water that UCT aims to become a living laboratory. Impactful environmental research at UCT by groupings such as the *African Climate and Development Initiative* (ACDI), the *Climate System Analysis Group* (CSAG), and the *Future Water Institute*, will be harnessed in service of this project.

Another important factor in UCT achieving sustainability is that, in 2012, the university committed to green designs for all new buildings (as independently certified by the Green Building Council South Africa). The first certified Green Building, the New Lecture Theatre on Upper Campus, was completed in 2016, and was followed by the Graduate School of Business conference centre at the V&A Waterfront, which opened in July 2019.

Key to achieving environmental sustainability goals is a commitment on the part of universities to make courses on climate and all aspects of sustainability widely available. UCT has made exactly such a commitment by signing the Presidential Declaration of the *U7+ Alliance of World Universities* at its June 2019 Paris summit¹⁰⁶.

¹⁰⁵ See for instance *Day Zero: One City's Response to a Record-breaking Drought* by Leonie Joubert and Gina Ziervogel, published the African Centre for Cities: https://www.africancentreforcities.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Day_Zero_Joubert_Ziervogel_2019.pdf

¹⁰⁶ Principle 3 of the Declaration. See https://www.u7alliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/U7_2019_FINAL_DECLARATION.pdf



3.2 Promoting the GC principles and SDGs related to the environment through the activities of the University

As is clear from the summary of UCT's efforts in respect of environmental protection at the beginning of this section, our commitment to making a difference in this area is deep and long-standing. Here, too, the University's work takes many different forms – research, policy-making, advocacy, consulting and teaching. The following are important examples of the environmental work that we do:

(a) The *African Climate and Development Institute* (ACDI),¹⁰⁷ led by Professor Mark New, is viewed as one of the continent's foremost climate change institutes. The ACDI responds to the challenge of climate change by coordinating and centralising resources to enable inter- and transdisciplinary research, teaching and learning in the areas of climate change and sustainable development

across Africa and beyond. It was established in 2011 by the then Vice-Chancellor as a strategic initiative to "facilitate and substantially extend climate change research and education at UCT, with the specific context of addressing the development challenges of Africa from an African perspective". The ACDI surpassed this initial mandate, achieving formal status as a university institute in 2018. Simultaneously, the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) awarded Centre of Excellence (CoE) status for Climate and Development to the ACDI, alongside partners at the Universities of Nairobi and Ghana. In its five-year strategic plan,¹⁰⁸ the ACDI has set out its agenda for 2018-2022, as well as what it would like to achieve under the ARUA CoE for Climate and Development (ARUA-CD) banner. The ACDI's vision is "to take UCT's work in climate change and development to new heights and into new spheres of influence to achieve enhanced impact and ensure climate compatible and resilient development pathways into the future".

¹⁰⁷ See <http://www.acdi.uct.ac.za/>

¹⁰⁸ Click here: [five-year strategic plan](#)

That UCT collaborates successfully internationally on climate change is evident from the fact that the 5th International Climate Change Adaptation Conference, *Adaptation Futures 2018*, was held at UCT, with Professor New on the steering committee.¹⁰⁹ This collaborative approach is also evident from the fact that Professor New continues to hold the *AXA Chair in African Climate Risk*, where his focus is on quantifying and understanding the risk of climate change on water and food security in southern Africa.

Furthermore, a number of courses relevant to the climate have been developed at UCT. Some examples are: Introduction to Earth and Environmental Sciences (AGE100S); Ocean & Atmosphere Science Honours (SEA4001W); Introduction to Climate Change & Sustainable Development (EGS5031F); Climate Variability and Climate Modelling (EGS4024S); Living with Environmental Change (EGS4032S); Climate Change and Predictability (EGS4038F); Natural Resource Economics (ECO5052S); Climate Change and Predictability (EGS4038F/S); and International Environmental Law (PBL4619S). It is also possible to do an honours in Environmental & Geographical Science, and a master's in Climate Change & Development.

In addition, three MOOCs (Coursera) addressing the issue of climate change have been developed. Two are led by Professor New (*Climate Adaptation in Africa* and *Research for Change: Maximising Impact*) and one by Professor Harald Winkler (*Climate Change Mitigation in Developing Countries*).¹¹⁰

(b) The *Climate System Analysis Group* (CSAG),¹¹¹ led by Professor Bruce Hewitson, is one of the leading climate research groups in Africa. It is uniquely positioned to target critical knowledge needs, and contribute to a broad spectrum of climate change activities. CSAG focuses on



the generation of robust, relevant, regional climate change information, while advancing our understanding of the dynamics and processes that drive the coupled climate system. This has enabled it to develop a range of knowledge products that are made available to broader communities. In this respect, the e-learning modules on understanding key concepts in climate science developed by CSAG should also be mentioned. These modules are aimed at providing an entry-level background to concepts used in climate science. This is aimed at assisting the ordinary user of climate data who may be unfamiliar with the scientific terminology and is confused by the lists of multiple sources of data.¹¹²

(c) The *Environmental-Economics Policy Research Unit* (EPRU),¹¹³ led by Professor Martine Visser, is a collaborative association of academic researchers specialising in environmental and natural resource issues, and seeking to enhance policymaking in these fields for sustainable development and poverty reduction in South Africa and southern Africa. The EPRU does this through rigorous applied research using a range of econometric and experimental methods. The centre also has a strong focus on capacity building and building collaborative networks across academia, government, non-government organisations and the private sector. It describes its major areas of contribution as follows:

“EPRU specialises in multiple fields of research, with intersections in the areas of sustainable development, behavioural change, and ecosystems management. Priority areas relate to energy, water, and waste; land, living resources, and community wellbeing; and climate change adaptation.”

(d) The *Future Water Institute*,¹¹⁴ currently led in an acting capacity by Dr Kirsty Carden, conducts research on water-sensitive approaches, driven by the need to enhance capacity for managing water scarcity and building resilience; to innovate so that the water supply meets demand; and to ensure technically sound, socially acceptable and sustainable water management policies and

¹⁰⁹ See <https://adaptationfutures2018.capetown>

¹¹⁰ See <http://www.acdi.uct.ac.za/online-courses>

¹¹¹ See <http://www.csag.uct.ac.za/>

¹¹² See <http://www.acdi.uct.ac.za/online-courses>

¹¹³ See <https://efdinitiative.org/south-africa/>

¹¹⁴ See <http://www.futurewater.uct.ac.za/>

practices. It draws together researchers from a number of different fields to engage with water-related issues and conduct cross-cutting research around four intersecting themes: water-sensitive design, integrated resource management, resource recovery for the circular economy, and addressing diverse relations and values around water.

(e) The *African Centre for Cities (ACC)*,¹¹⁵ led by Professor Edgar Pieterse, aims to produce



knowledge on the drivers of urban crises in mainly African cities, with an eye on systemic solutions, and the provision of tailored capacity development products/services addressing the unique dynamics of urban development in Africa and the Global South. It is linked into many local and international networks, and has an array of projects relating to Cape Town, southern Africa, Africa and the Global South.

(f) The *Centre for Transport Studies (CfTS)*, led by Professor Roger Behrens, is also aimed at achieving sustainable cities. It is a multidisciplinary centre, the goal of which is to be an internationally recognised research and teaching body that produces relevant research, develops skilled professionals, and advocates innovative practices and institutional arrangements for the management of complex transport systems in the cities of South Africa and other African countries.

(g) The *Centre for Statistics in Ecology, Environment and Conservation (SEEC)*,¹¹⁶ led by Associate Professor Reg Altwegg, is an inter-departmental group which aims to act as a hub connecting statisticians and biological/environmental scientists to ensure that the most important environmental questions are addressed with cutting-edge statistical methods. It also develops methods that link data analysis and modelling into the conservation planning and management process.

(h) The *FitzPatrick Institute for African Ornithology (Fitztitute)*,¹¹⁷ led by Professor Peter Ryan, promotes and undertakes scientific studies involving birds, and contributes to the practice affecting the maintenance of biological diversity and the sustained use of biological resources. The *Niven Library* holds a comprehensive ornithology collection.

115 See <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/>

116 See <http://www.seec.uct.ac.za/>

117 See <http://www.fitzpatrick.uct.ac.za/>



Depositphotos

(i) The *Institute for Communities and Wildlife in Africa (iCWild)*,¹¹⁸ led by Professor Justin O'Riain, is an inter- and transdisciplinary intellectual community dedicated to mitigating human-wildlife conflict, improving human wellbeing and protecting biodiversity in Africa, seeking sustainable, cooperative solutions to conflict by conducting problem-driven research, engaging with key stakeholders, and building the capacity of conservation researchers and practitioners.

(j) The *Marine Research Institute (MA-RE)*¹¹⁹, transitioning to the *Marine and Antarctic Research Centre for Innovation and Sustainability (MARIS)*, is led by Professor Marcello Vichi and strives to transform the marine field through capacity building and skills development. It also acts as a gateway between UCT and the outside world for marine research contracts. It fosters interdisciplinary marine research projects and provides administrative support for marine research, meetings, projects and activities.

118 See <http://www.icwild.uct.ac.za/>

119 See <http://www.ma-re.uct.ac.za/>

120 See <http://www.ma-re.uct.ac.za/ma-re/research/hansen-tutu>

121 See <http://www.pcu.uct.ac.za/>

(k) The *Nansen-Tutu Centre for Marine Environmental Research*,¹²⁰ led by Professor Matthieu Rouault, aims to develop and implement operational oceanography and methods of data integration into models in the South Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Southern Ocean, with a focus on ocean state, marine environmental and ecosystem modelling, research and capacity building.

(l) The *Plant Conservation Unit (PCU)*,¹²¹ led by Professor Tim Hoffman, aims to be a world-class, African-centred research and postgraduate training unit that improves the ecological understanding of Africa's biomes, the pressures facing them, and the opportunities for conservation that benefit both biodiversity and people.

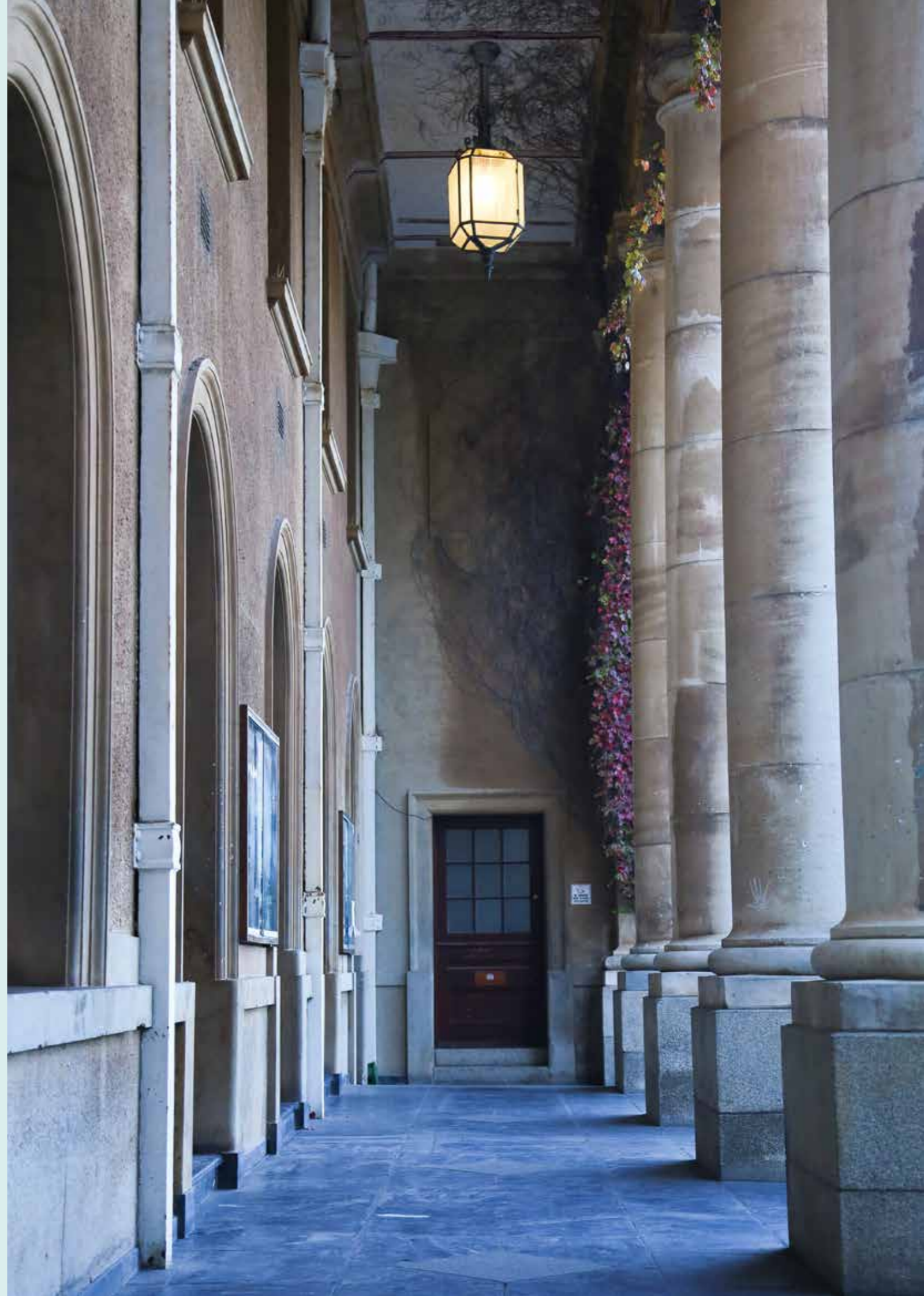
04 ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery

SDG 16 (which includes Strong Institutions) Coincides with GC Principle 10

UCT is uncompromising in its stance against any form of internal corruption, and proud of the work that it does to combat corruption in society. An example of constant reminders of UCT's firm anti-corruption approach include the Vice-Chancellor's communique "Zero tolerance of fraud". In it, she reminded the University community of each person's responsibility and accountability to account for every rand for which he or she is responsible; signalled that the Finance Department is constantly introducing new and better ways to conduct internal audits and carry out reporting procedures; and that transgressions

will be met with strict disciplinary and legal action. She summarised UCT's approach as follows: "UCT, as a publicly funded institution, supports and fosters a culture of zero tolerance towards fraud and corruption in all of our activities. In 2017 the University Council approved a Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy, which was widely communicated to all internal stakeholders. This policy supports good and responsible governance of all UCT funding in accordance with the Higher Education Act, 1997, as amended, as well as related regulations such as the Prevention and Combating of Corrupt Activities Act, 2004 (PRECCA)."





4.1 Internal University policies, procedures and actions aimed at combatting corruption and strengthening the University as an institution

Several policies and procedures serve UCT's firm commitment to good governance and financial probity.

(a) The Risk Management Policy (approved June 2020),¹²² which may be said to be the anchor policy for ensuring good governance and fighting corruption, states unambiguously that the University regards "the risk management

function as an integral part of (its) governance and accountability arrangements, performance management, planning and processes of reporting". Risk to the University's operations take a great variety of forms,¹²³ but financial risk and risk related to research integrity are important areas of concern. How UCT responds to risk is guided by the University's risk management philosophy,¹²⁴ and managed in accordance with an integrated, structured framework.

The following entities play key roles in respect of oversight, operational control and independent assurance in this framework:

¹²² See http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/431/finance/operations/policies/gen007.pdf The policy takes account of the *South African National Standards (SANS 31000:2018)*, the *King IV Report on Corporate Governance for South Africa, 2016*, the *IRMSA Guideline to Risk Management*, the *Higher Education Act no 101 of 1997*, and the *Faculty of Health Science HREC Guideline*. Benchmarking exercises were also done with both South African universities and universities in other countries.

¹²³ In assessing the areas of risk at UCT, the following spheres have been identified: relationship-related risks (with government, funders etc); financial/commercial risks, human resources risks, student-related risks, and property and resources-related risks. See the document referred to in the previous footnote.

¹²⁴ 'The philosophy of the University is to recognise that risk management is an essential component of good corporate governance and as such integral to sound business principles and practice. The University embraces risk management for the contribution it makes to achieving the University's strategies. The Key Risk Indicators (KRIs) and KPIs management (strategic and operational) are developed, maintained, monitored and updated regularly and submitted to RMEC, UARC and the Council.' (Section 9 of the Risk Management Policy.) Central to the University's thinking is also that every member of the University community, staff or student, must do his or her share to mitigate risk in their area of responsibility, however big or small it may be.

Oversight

The Council and the Audit and Risk Committee: the ultimate responsibility for the oversight of effective risk management lies with the Council of the University. It receives an Annual Report on Risk Management from the University Audit and Risk Committee (UARC), which is established by the Council and has delegated responsibility for overseeing the University's risk management processes and providing assurance to Council in respect of the efficacy of internal controls. Council requires an annual risk assessment to be undertaken and it reports to government on the management of institutional risk, as prescribed in the Regulations for Reporting by Higher Education Institutions.

Operational control

The operational framework is built on the internationally accepted "three lines of defence" approach to risk management, which distinguishes between persons and entities (a) that own and manage risks (b) that oversee risks and (c) that provide independent assurance.

The first line of defence is constituted by the following persons and entities: *The Vice-Chancellor* is accountable for ensuring that a risk management strategy and risk management plan are in place, and that policies are communicated to all staff, students, relevant stakeholders and third parties to ensure that the risk strategy is incorporated into the culture of the University. In this task, the Vice Chancellor is assisted by *the Executive and Senior Management Teams*. The Vice-Chancellor leads the development and review of the University's Strategic Risk Register, and chairs the Risk Management Executive Committee (RMEC). This committee is tasked with reviewing the risk philosophy, strategy and policies adopted by Council; and with satisfying the UARC that there is an overall effective combined assurance strategy and structure for all risk management across the University. The RMEC also assists the UARC in the discharge of its duties relating to University, and corporate accountability and the associated risk in terms of management, assurance

and reporting. *Deans, Executive Directors, and Heads of Departments* are responsible for the day-to-day risk management processes in their respective areas of responsibility.

The second line of defence is *the Risk Management Office*. The Risk Management Office, under the leadership of the Director: Risk Compliance and Relationship Management, is responsible for establishing processes, tools and advice to facilitate effective risk management across the University, and for creating an awareness of potential risks and a culture of risk awareness. This office is also responsible for facilitating the identification, assessment and reporting of the University's risk profile to the RMEC and UARC. The overall University



Operational Risk Register is a consolidated view of the operations risks faced by the University.

The third line of defence is the *Internal Audit*. The Internal Audit, which is independent of management, plays an important role in the monitoring of and reporting on the efficacy of risk management in the University, by interacting with the REMC, the UARC, and the External Audit.

External control

External Audit and other outside bodies. The external auditors of the University play an important part in ensuring efficient risk management and good governance generally. The external auditors attend and have access to the UARC to report on or raise any matter relating to risk management or auditing. The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) also plays an important role in this regard: the Council of the University submits a Governance Indicators Scorecard to the DHET

annually. This includes an assessment of the efficacy of risk management in the University.¹²⁵

Financial policies. The appropriate management of risk presupposes that there are policies and practices in place for all the individual areas in respect of which risk has to be managed. The efficient management and oversight specifically of finance is one of the most important of these areas. The *document Overview of the Financial Governance, Structures and Processes of the University*¹²⁶ provides an overview of how the University executes this task. The whole array of financial policies, practice notes and guidelines that regulate the conduct of the UCT community on a daily basis is available online,¹²⁷ but it is important to note a few policies and guidelines that are particularly relevant to the elimination of corruption: the Delegated Authority Limits [GEN002],¹²⁸ which sets out the levels and conditions of delegated Council authority to facilitate contracting on behalf of the University;

the Fraud and Corruption Prevention Policy [GEN005],¹²⁹ which formalises UCT's approach of zero tolerance to fraud and corruption, reinforcing existing systems, policies and procedures aimed at deterring, preventing, detecting, reacting to and reducing the impact of fraud and corruption at the University – and ensuring a proper process of investigation is followed for all suspicious activities reported; and the Policy on Conflict of Interest at UCT and on Disclosures of interests to be made by members of the University¹³⁰.

This policy requires every member of Council and every member of staff to make a full, annual declaration of his or her financial interests and fiduciary roles, and those of his or her immediate family members; requires withdrawal from decisions and procedures where a potential conflict of interest may arise; and prohibits staff and Council members from doing business with the University except as provided for by the Higher Education Act, and as sanctioned by

Council. Lastly, it is also important to mention the existence of a Whistleblower Hotline as a further aid to combat fraud and corruption.¹³¹

(c) Policies on research integrity. The integrity of a university's research is of the greatest importance to the validity of the work that it does, and so to its reputation. UCT addresses research integrity through an array of structures and policies. First, risks related to research are fed into and form part of the University Operational Risk Register mentioned above. Secondly, two separate Senate-level committees provide dedicated oversight, and make and implement policy regarding research ethics and related matters for research: the Senate Ethics in Research Committee (EiRC) for the ethics of research involving human subjects, and the Senate Animal Ethics Committee (SAEC) for animal ethics. The Senate, through its committees, is also responsible for policy-making in regard to: appropriate responses to allegations of scholarly

¹²⁵ For an example, see https://www.news.uct.ac.za/images/userfiles/downloads/media/Governance-Indicators-Scorecard_June-2018_Final.pdf

¹²⁶ http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/431/finance/finance_governance.pdf

¹²⁷ See <http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/staff/finance/operations/policies-guidelines>

¹²⁸ http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/431/finance/operations/policies/gen002.pdf

¹²⁹ http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/431/finance/operations/policies/gen005.pdf (reviewed June 2018)

¹³⁰ http://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/about/policies/Policy_Conflict_Disclosure_Interest_2014-12.pdf

¹³¹ <http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/staff/support/whistleblowing-hotline>





and scientific misconduct; enabling whistleblowing; regulating disclosure and management of actual and potential conflicts of interest in teaching and in research; and putting in place appropriate processes for permission to access UCT students and staff as research participants. The policies and procedures that are aimed at ensuring integrity in research include, inter alia, the following: the Policy for Responsible Conduct of Research¹³², the Research Ethics Code for Research Involving Human Participants¹³³, the Code for UCT Research Ethics Committee Members¹³⁴, the Standard Operating Procedure for Appeals to the Ethics in Research Committee¹³⁵, the Authorship Practices Policy¹³⁶, the Standard Operating Procedure to gain Ethical Clearance to engage UCT Staff or Students¹³⁷, and the Policy and Procedures for

Breach of Research Ethics Codes and Allegations of Misconduct in Research.¹³⁸

Each Faculty also has its own Research Integrity Committee that reports annually to the Senate-level committees. The whole enterprise of maintaining research integrity is supported by the Office of Research Integrity, which describes its role as follows:

“Scientific research produces substantial social benefits, but this should never come at the cost of individual rights. As a research-intensive university, UCT’s research practices must comply with the highest ethical standards in social and scientific research. The Office of Research Integrity (ORI) are advocates for responsible research conducted ethically and with integrity. Their role is to guide UCT’s research community to sustain and enhance responsible conduct of research, and ensure compliance with the highest applicable national and international ethical and legal standards.”¹³⁹

4.2 The University’s work on combatting corruption in the wider society and contributing to strong institutions

The University contributes in various ways to ensuring strong institutions generally, and to the fight against corruption.

In 2009, the *Claude Leon Foundation Chair in Constitutional Governance* was created in response to a need for an increased focus on the relationships between institutions and levels of government, and their accountability to the public through their Constitutional obligations.

The *Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa*,¹⁴⁰ currently led in an acting

capacity by Professor John Akokpari, conducts research into the factors that strengthen and sustain democracy across Africa. It is dedicated to the critical re-examination of democracy in Africa, and the development of Africa-centric theory through systematic empirical research and a critical engagement with scholarship.

The *Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance*¹⁴¹ is a flagship UCT initiative that promotes and inspires strategic public leadership in Africa. Founded by Professor Alan Hirsch, and now led by Professor Faizel Ismael, it provides professional training and forums for discussion for senior public officials across the continent,

trains top graduates to prepare them for public leadership positions and provides executive training for senior managers and elected office bearers.

Various members of staff serve on NGOs that are dedicated to keeping our institutions strong, including examples such as Freedom under Law. UCT has, over the years, also made a point of honouring those who have stood up against corruption, as evidenced by the honorary doctorate conferred on David Lewis, the Executive Director of Corruption Watch.

¹⁴⁰ See <http://www.idcppa.uct.ac.za/>

¹⁴¹ See <http://www.mandelaschool.uct.ac.za/gsdpp/about/school>



¹³² Click here: [UCT Policy for Responsible Conduct of Research](#)

¹³³ Click here: [UCT Research Ethics Code for Research Involving Human Participants](#)

¹³⁴ Click here: [Code for UCT Research Ethics Committee Members](#)

¹³⁵ Click here: [Appeal to Ethics in Research Committee: Standard Operating Procedure](#)

¹³⁶ Click here: [Authorship Practices Policy](#)

¹³⁷ Click here: [Standard Operating Procedure: Ethics Clearance and Permission to Engage UCT Staff and/or Students or Identifying Individual Data Thereof in Research](#)

¹³⁸ Click here: [UCT Policy and Procedures for Breach of Research Ethics Codes and Allegations of Misconduct in Research](#)

¹³⁹ <http://www.researchsupport.uct.ac.za/office-research-integrity>

05 GENERAL: PARTNERSHIPS

S *SDG 17. Partnerships to achieve the goals:* UCT utilises a very large number of partnerships to advance the GC principles and the SDGs. The extent and effectiveness of these partnerships can perhaps best be illustrated by, first, how UCT advances the GC goals and SDGs through its institutional partnerships and, secondly, how individual research groupings do this through their targeted partnerships and collaborations.

5.1 Institutional partnerships

African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA)
The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA), a research network, was launched in Dakar, Senegal in April 2015, with UCT as a founder member. The research areas that ARUA has identified to concentrate its work on include, among others, climate change, food security, mobility and migration, poverty and inequality, non-communicable diseases, unemployment and skills development, energy, good governance,





water conservation, post-conflict societies, and urbanisation and habitable cities.

A call for *ARUA Centres of Excellence (CoE)*¹⁴² was issued in 2017 and UCT was chosen as the host two of the 13 ARUA Centres:¹⁴³ the *African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research (ACEIR)*,¹⁴⁴ led by Professor Murray Leibbrandt, and the *ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development (ARUA-CD)*,¹⁴⁵ led by Professor Mark New, both as directors of the UCT nodes. Both the University of Ghana and the University of Nairobi host nodes of the respective CoEs. UCT researchers also participate in some of the other ARUA CoEs: the *ARUA Water CoE* hosted by Rhodes University; the *ARUA CoE in Migration and Mobility* hosted by University of the Witwatersrand; and the *ARUA CoE for Unemployment and Skills Development* hosted by the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)

UCT joined this alliance in 2016. Its participation in this network has benefitted the attainment of the GC Principles and SDG goals in the following ways:

Global education initiatives. Since 2017 its Global Short-term Academic Programme (GSAP) coordinates all IARU-Global Summer Programme (GSP) initiatives (residential, multi-week courses) and UCT has offered two courses: i) the Sustainable Water Management in Africa Programme, and ii) the Afropolitanism, Social Justice and Social Entrepreneurship Programme.

Communities of practice. IARU has several working groups and communities of practice, of which the following two are of particular relevance in the context of the GC: **(a)** The *Sustainability*

¹⁴² Click here: [ARUA Centres of Excellence](#)
¹⁴³ Click here: [13 ARUA centres](#)
¹⁴⁴ Click here: [African Centre of Excellence for Inequality Research](#)
¹⁴⁵ Click here: [ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development](#)

Working Group (IARU-SCI – currently led by our Director of Environmental Sustainability Manfred Braune). IARU-SCI met in September 2019 at Yale University for its annual workshop. Key projects and activities of IARU-SCI for 2019 included: (i) the preparation and publishing of SDG case studies and website collateral from several IARU universities on the IARU website¹⁴⁶ and (ii) monthly online committee meetings, as well as working group meetings where members worked on projects together remotely. **(b)** The *Gender Working Group*. UCT hosted the IARU Gender Working Group annual meeting in September 2019. Theme 1 addressed ‘Innovative Practices on Sexual Harassment’. UCT provided input on its survivor-centred approach to prevention, safety and support to assist survivors of sexual violence. Theme 2 covered ‘Innovative Practices: Recruitment, Development and Retention (RDR) of Underrepresented Staff’. UCT presented on the *New Generation of Academics Programme*

(NGAP) aimed to develop early career, black South African academics, and on the *Next Generation Professoriate Programme*, targeting black and female current mid-career UCT academic staff. UCT Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Loretta Feris, was elected as Chair of the Working Group.

Worldwide Universities Network (WUN)

UCT has been a member of this network since 2009 and Africa has become a cross-cutting theme in WUN research projects with a steering committee driving the agenda of the *Global Africa Group (GAG)*. Over the past three years, GAG held three highly successful workshops at the three African members of the WUN respectively (UCT, University of Ghana, and the University of Nairobi). Another major achievement for GAG is the book on SDGs in Africa published by Elsevier. The book, co-edited by UCT’s Maano Ramutsindela and David Mickler (UWA), is mentioned above in Section 1 of the report (footnote 6).

¹⁴⁶ See <http://www.iaruni.org>

Australia-Africa Universities Network (AAUN)

The AAUN aims to connect researchers and academics through institutional partnerships in order to address challenges facing both continents. These are food security, public health, education, and mining and development. UCT academics participate in two projects supported by the AAUN Partnership and Research Development Fund: **(a)** Wind-Borne Soil Erosion and the Nutrient and Microbial Characteristics of Dust in Major Southern Hemisphere Source Areas; and **(b)** Opportunities for Addressing Disaster and Climate Change-Related Displacement in Africa under the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees.

Southern African-Nordic Centre (SANORD)

This network is designed to further multilateral academic cooperation between the Southern African and Nordic regions and to strengthen the capacity of all member institutions to address new local and global challenges of

innovation and development. The 12th SANORD Annual Scientific Conference was hosted by the University of Botswana in Gaborone, Botswana from 11-13 September 2019. The theme for the conference was *The Role of Higher Education in Forging Sustainable Livelihoods* particularly in its alignment to the SDGs and three UCT researchers had their SANORD projects presented at the event.

South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF)

Through its membership of SANORD, UCT was invited to join this forum, which is a strategic internationalisation project that ran from 2017-2020 with the overall aim of strengthening ties between Sweden and South Africa in research, education and innovation. In 2019, UCT had representation on the steering committees of four of the themes guiding the research agenda of SASUF, one of which was *Climate change, Natural Resources and Sustainability*.

5.2 Partnerships of individual research groupings

Throughout the report there is reference to partnerships in which specific departments and groupings within UCT are involved. It would overwhelm this report with unnecessary detail to attempt to list them all, but to stress the importance of partnerships in all of UCT's constituencies in advancing the GC Principles and the SDGs, we give here, by way of example, a fuller idea of the partnerships of two important research groupings.

The African Climate & Development Initiative (ACDI)¹⁴⁷

In outlining the activities of the ACDI in Section 3 of this report, some of the partnerships in which the ACDI is involved were mentioned and its activities in terms of the *ARUA Centre of Excellence in Climate & Development* (ARUA-CD), were set out above under the heading of 5.1 Institutional Partnerships. To illustrate the extent of its partnerships advancing the GC Principles and the SDGs, the following project collaborations – listed in UCT's *2019 Research Report to Senate and Council* – may be lifted out:

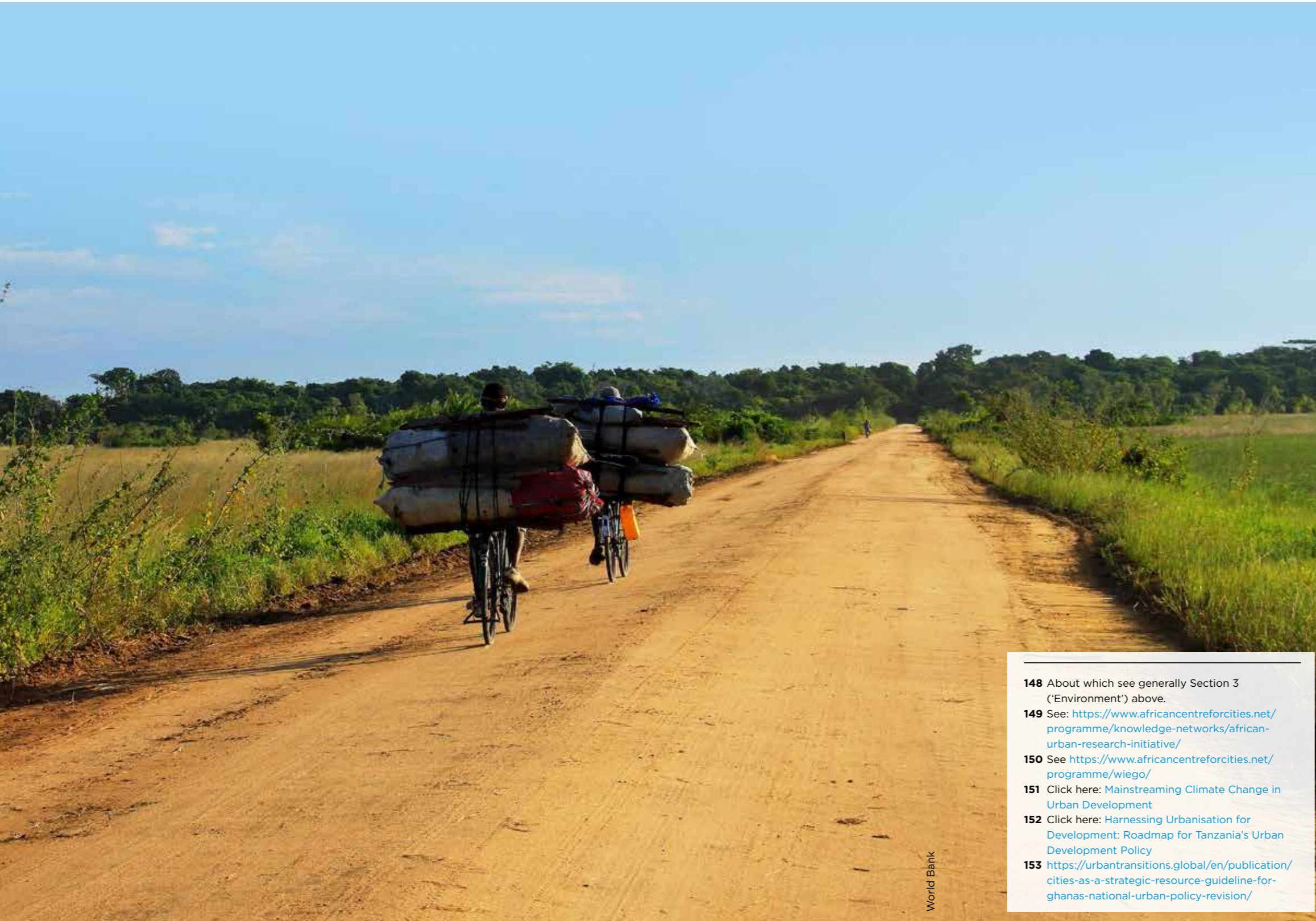
- Exploring the Evidence of Water-Energy-Food Nexus Linkages to Sustainable Local Livelihoods and Wellbeing in South Africa, in collaboration with the University of Fort Hare and University of KwaZulu-Natal and funded by the Water Research Commission (WRC).
- Socio-economic Benefits of Ecological Infrastructure (SEBEI), in partnership with the University of Copenhagen, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark through DANIDA.
- A project that develops and publishes country profiles and training materials that analyse the impact of climate change on agriculture across eight African countries, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- Impact of Solar Radiation Management on Drought and Heat Extremes in Southern Africa and Associated Influence on the Regional

Agriculture, funded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

- Climate Resilient African Landscapes, part of the ARUA-CD, funded by the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) research development fund.
- Transforming Energy Access Learning Partnership (TEA-LP), which aims to build the necessary human capital to achieve SDG 7 and increase access to affordable, clean and safe energy for all.
- Supporting Partnerships and Networking (SPaN), funded by the UK Research and Innovation Global Challenges Research Fund, which was awarded as part of ARUA-CD.
- A project with the Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (PAUWES) in the development and implementation of a new master's programme and curriculum in climate change, supported by the German organisation DAAD.
- Sustainable Management of Water Use and Water Resources: The Impact of Approaches to Restore Trust in the Government (EnTruGo), funded by the Water Research Commission.
- Support for Africa's Contribution to Working Group II, IPCC 6th Assessment Report, supported by the International Development Research Centre, Canada.
- A project on Climate Research for Development (CR4D): Predicting Synergies and Trade-offs of Water-related Ecological Infrastructure for Climate Adaptation in Peri-urban Sub-Saharan Africa, funded by the African Academy of Sciences.
- A Future Leaders – African Independent Research (FLAIR) fellowship project entitled Forecasting Climate Risks to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to Strengthen Climate Change Adaptation in Africa, funded by the African Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society.
- Remote Sensing for Urban and Rural Development and Resistance (ReSiDeR), funded by the Flemish government.

¹⁴⁷ See Section 3 above ('Environment') in regard to ACDI's activities generally.





World Bank

148 About which see generally Section 3 ('Environment') above.

149 See: <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/programme/knowledge-networks/african-urban-research-initiative/>

150 See <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/programme/wiego/>

151 Click here: [Mainstreaming Climate Change in Urban Development](#)

152 Click here: [Harnessing Urbanisation for Development: Roadmap for Tanzania's Urban Development Policy](#)

153 <https://urbantransitions.global/en/publication/cities-as-a-strategic-resource-guideline-for-ghanas-national-urban-policy-revision/>

The African Centre For Cities¹⁴⁸

The ACC formulates its approach to partnerships as follows:

'The ACC is driven by the belief that Africa's urban challenges can only be addressed once there is sufficient endogenous intellectual capital steeped in urban research. We therefore see our success dependent on the growth of durable knowledge institutions, focussed on urban issues, across the Continent.

It is involved in an array of local, regional, continental and international partnerships, of which the following serve as examples:

- The African Urban Research Initiative (AURI),¹⁴⁹ which was initiated in 2013 to support existing and future Africa-based research centres to inform and enhance the policy actors and networks responsible for sustainable urban policy and management in different African contexts.
- ACC-WIEGO¹⁵⁰, a global network focused on securing livelihoods for the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy.
- Mistra Urban Futures Programme: The ACC is the local, co-productive interaction platform of this programme, and in that capacity has run multiple CityLabs together with the City of Cape Town working on the themes of Human Settlements, Urban Violence and Safety, Urban Health, Urban Ecology, Urban Flooding as well as area-specific labs. The Labs have informed strategies and policies within the City of Cape Town and have also resulted, among others, in a book co-written by city officials and researchers, entitled *Mainstreaming Climate Change in Urban Development*.¹⁵¹
- The Coalition for Urban Transitions project: the ACC convened Urban Labs bringing together government and an inter-disciplinary community of urban practitioners and researchers in Tanzania and Ghana. The collaboration resulted in two national government-endorsed reports, namely *Harnessing Urbanisation for Development: Roadmap for Tanzania's Urban Development Policy*¹⁵² and *Cities as a Strategic Resource: Guideline for Ghana's National Urban Policy Revision*.¹⁵³

06 MEASURING OUR PROGRESS

UCT believes strongly in measuring our progress against our goals both quantitatively and qualitatively. Throughout the report, mention has been made of UCT's approach to measure progress. To emphasise this, some examples of our efforts in this regard during the period to which this report relates are reiterated here:

Employment Equity plans and policies

[Employment Equity Policy](#)
[Employment Equity Plan \(2019–2021\)](#)

Employment Equity reports

[2020](#)
[2019](#)
[2018](#)

Measuring transformation

For the most recent Transformation Report, see http://webcms.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/470/Documents/Reports/2019_UCT-Transformation-Report.pdf

Measuring gender equality

Gender attainment gaps study published on research conducted at five universities, including UCT: <http://www.iaruni.org/images/stories/Women-and-Men/IARU-Report-on-Gender-Attainment-Gaps-final-version.pdf>

Measuring our carbon footprint

For the most recent report, see the UCT Carbon Footprint Report 2018.¹⁵⁴

¹⁵⁴ See https://www.news.uct.ac.za/images/userfiles/files/publications/factsheets/UCT_FactSheet_25_Carbonfootprint.pdf and http://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/explore/sustainability/reports/UCT_Carbon_Footprint_Report_2018.pdf as well as https://www.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/image_tool/images/328/research/publications/reports/Innovation_at_UCT_2019.pdf



Measuring specifically electricity consumption

<http://www.staff.uct.ac.za/staff/sustainability/energy-consumption> (at p 23, Section 3.1)

As a university, it is also important for us to gather data relevant to the SDGs and to make that data available in order to foster international collaboration to achieve these goals. Examples include the following:

- *Afrobarometer* is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in more than 35 countries in Africa. Through its findings, ordinary citizens can have a voice in policy-making processes that affect their lives.¹⁵⁵
- *DataFirst* is a research data service dedicated to opening access to data from South Africa and other African countries. It promotes high-quality research by providing the essential Open Research Data infrastructure for discovering and accessing data, and by developing skills among prospective users, particularly in South Africa. It undertakes research on the quality and usability of national data, and encourages data usage and data sharing.¹⁵⁶
- UCT was a key contributor to the Annual G20 Climate Transparency Report. See *Climate Transparency Report: Comparing G20 Action and Responses to COVID-19 (2020)*.¹⁵⁷

We also work collaboratively with our international partners to gain better insight into what we as a university can do to advance the SDGs. For example, the role of academia in advancing the SDGs was the subject of a conference hosted by the International Association of Research Universities (IARU), of which we are a member, *Global Priorities, Educated Solutions*, held in Stockholm in June 2018.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁵ See <http://www.idcppa.uct.ac.za/afrobarometer>

¹⁵⁶ See <https://www.datafirst.uct.ac.za/>

¹⁵⁷ See: <https://www.climate-transparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Climate-Transparency-Report-2020.pdf>

¹⁵⁸ See <http://www.iaruni.org/images/stories/Sustainability/IARU-SDG-Report-final-v4.pdf>



