



# ARUA-CD

Centre of Excellence  
Climate and Development

## ARUA-CD WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE CHANGE CURRICULA FOR LECTURERS IN AFRICA

The field of climate change is relatively recent and changing rapidly. Developments in climate science and impacts research, new findings on the intersection of climate change with various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), changes in how we conceptualise climate change and development, and shifts in the policy landscape - all pose challenges for lecturers to keep the content of their curricula up to date. New teaching tools and approaches are emerging as lecturers grapple with these and other challenges in higher education across Africa.

The African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Climate and Development (ARUA-CD) was awarded funds through UKRI for Strengthening Projects and Networks (SPAN). Part of this award aims to build the capacity of lecturers to review their climate change Masters curricula and incorporate new developments in climate change research and curriculum innovation.

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## WORKSHOP SERIES

A three-part series of workshops with lecturers is planned to support lecturers with reviewing their curricula and keeping it up to date in terms of content and the teaching approaches. These workshops are intended to support lecturers to learn from one another's experiences of teaching climate change and provide tools to review climate change curricula. Reviewing and updating curricula can either happen continuously, or through an intensive once-off or regular review.

## OBJECTIVES

- Equip lecturers with the tools for reviewing their Masters curriculum and keeping it up to date in the rapidly changing field of climate change and the SDGs.
- Support lecturers to return to their institutions and run curriculum review processes, whether through continuous or once-off full review.
- Collate lessons learnt from curriculum review processes and produce an output (such as a guide for staying up to date in climate change curricula in Africa).

## FORMAT

**PART ONE:** An online workshop will be convened over four days from Thursday 27 May to Tuesday 1 June (i.e. 27 May, 28 May, 31 May and 1 June) with  $\pm 30$  lecturers from southern, west and east Africa. This workshop will introduce key tools and concepts for reviewing and updating climate change Masters curricula in Africa.

**PART TWO:** Participating lecturers will convene smaller workshops in their own institutions to review and update their own curricula according to their own needs. These workshops may include academics from other institutions virtually or in-person.

**PART THREE:** A final full-team workshop will reconvene the original group of lecturers to share the outcomes and reflections from their curriculum review processes (online or in person, to be confirmed).



# PART ONE

## Online Lecturer Workshop for Reviewing Climate Change Masters Curriculum

The first workshop will run at the following times on Thursday 27 May, Friday 28 May, Monday 31 May and Tuesday 1 June (please note this is a draft programme):

Session	Time zone and times		
	GMT (Ghana)	SAST (SA)	EAT (Kenya)
First session	09:00 – 11:00	11:00 – 13:00	12:00 – 14:00
Second session	12:00 – 14:00	14:00 – 16:00	15:00 – 17:00
Optional hour for discussions and networking	14:00 – 15:00	16:00 – 17:00	17:00 – 18:00

Draft programme for the first online workshop (exact programme to be confirmed):

Date	Session	Themes covered (draft – to be confirmed)
Thursday 27 May 2021	First session	<p><b>Welcome and orientation to the workshops</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of ARUA-CD and workshop programme</li> <li>Introductions</li> <li>Round of reflections: what is working well and what is not working well in our climate change Masters curricula?</li> </ul>
	Second session	<p>How do we include the latest advancements in climate change research in Africa in our curricula?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Latest research findings and concepts, e.g.:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IPCC AR6.</li> <li>- Intersection of climate change with other SDGs</li> <li>- Policy landscape and politics of climate change</li> <li>- Staying up to date, avoiding fake information</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	Optional	Discussion and structured networking.
Friday 28 May 2021	First session	<p>How do we incorporate the latest theories and ways of thinking about climate change in Africa in our curricula?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transdisciplinary (including working with policy makers and practitioners)</li> <li>Afrocentric and decolonised curriculum</li> <li>Power, ethics and social justice</li> </ul>
	Second session	<p>What are some of the new tools and approaches for teaching climate change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theoretical and practical challenges of working in cross-disciplinary teaching teams</li> <li>New ways of teaching (incl. online, blended, problem-based learning, case studies, short courses)</li> <li>Resources available and knowledge systems for climate information and climate change teaching</li> </ul>
	Optional	Discussion and structured networking

# PART ONE (continued)

## Online Lecturer Workshop for Reviewing Climate Change Masters Curriculum

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Date	Session	Themes covered (draft - TBC)
Monday 31 May 2021	First session	How do we undertake the process of reviewing and updating our curricula? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Critically reflective teaching practice</li><li>▪ Accreditation and formal review processes</li></ul>
	Second session	What tools are useful for reviewing and updating our curricula? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Curriculum alignment (LOs, TLA, ATs)</li><li>▪ Course evaluations</li></ul>
	Optional	Discussion and structured networking
Tuesday 1 June 2021	First session	How can we support one another in keeping our curricula relevant and updated? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Building a network: research partners, examiners, supervisors</li><li>▪ Sharing teaching tools (e.g. case studies from across Africa)</li></ul>
	Second session	Looking ahead : Planning Part 2 and 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Confirming team processes for curriculum review</li></ul>
	Optional	Discussion and structured networking



# INTERESTED?

Lecturers in Africa wishing to join the workshops should notify the respective contact point for their region before **16 April 2021**. The number of participants is limited for each region and regrettably we may not be able to accommodate everyone interested.

## West Africa

Prof Chris Gordon, University of Ghana: [cgordon@ug.edu.gh](mailto:cgordon@ug.edu.gh)

## East Africa

Dr George Odera Outa, University of Nairobi: [outa@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:outa@uonbi.ac.ke)

## Southern Africa

Leigh Cobban, University of Cape Town: [leigh.cobban@uct.ac.za](mailto:leigh.cobban@uct.ac.za)



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