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UCT joins global climate change alliance

The University of Cape Town (UCT) has joined the newly established International Universities Climate Alliance ('Climate Alliance'), which aims to help communicate research insights on the most effective means to meet the unprecedented global challenge of climate change.

UCT will be one of a global network of universities united by their dedication to producing critical climate research. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) Sydney is facilitating the establishment of the Climate Alliance in its first year and has invited more than 40 of the world's leading climate research universities to join.

The alliance members will work together to identify the most effective ways to communicate research-based facts related to climate change to the public. Members will engage in work across climate change science, impact, mitigation strategies and adaptation.

These members include a number of UCT's existing collaborators in the field of climate change, notably the universities of Ghana and Nairobi which, together with UCT, form the African Research Universities Alliance Centre of Excellence on Climate and Development. "At this critical time for health and prosperity across the planet, we are learning how important it is that we work together on global knowledge," said UCT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.

"While we are all justifiably currently focused on the challenge to global health and stability posed by COVID-19, we cannot lose focus on the existential threat to the planet and our continent posed by climate change," Professor Phakeng said.

She believes that it is important that the Climate Alliance has strong representation from the global south, and Africa in particular, since it is these regions that are most vulnerable to the challenges presented by climate change, and need to have a strong voice in finding and recommending solutions. “We are honoured to be part of this important global network and believe it will enable UCT to increase the impact of the critical work we do,” she said.

The Climate Alliance benefits from a multi-disciplinary research focus around the most important research themes to enable greater engagement with policymakers, educators and business leaders looking to apply the latest research findings to accelerate climate action.

UCT’s participation in the alliance will be led by the African Climate and Development Initiative (ACDI), one of the leading institutes in climate change on the continent and internationally. The ACDI brings together work in the field of climate and development across the university, including areas such as physical climate science, renewable energy, climate modelling, urban resilience, poverty and inequality, and economics.

Notwithstanding current urgencies around the coronavirus pandemic, the members decided not to delay formation of the alliance due to the pressing and ongoing need to accelerate climate action.

[Read more about the Climate Alliance and view a list of members.](#)



UCT has joined with leading climate research universities across the globe to form the Climate Alliance.

Photo: Supplied

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