

SRI 2021

Sustainability Research + Innovation



SRI2021 Future Africa Satellite Event: Innovation for Sustainable Development: Perspectives from the Global South

The Future Africa Institute at the University of Pretoria in collaboration with the Future Earth Regional Office for Southern Africa (FEROSA) hosts the Sustainability Research & Innovation Congress 2021 (SRI2021).

This online event will be hosted at the Future Africa Campus, and the host of the satellite event for the [Africa Panel SRI2021](#). The event, under the banner: Innovation for Sustainable Development: Perspectives from the Global South forms part of the Future Africa Science-Policy Dialogues, which promotes new sustainability science and transformative knowledge that offers scalable solutions, policy interventions, regulatory and governance frameworks and sustainable financial systems.

The Future Africa Satellite Event aims to intensify existing efforts and conversations in sustainability, create a space for the sustainability community, and cultivate a space for dissemination of sustainability solutions, and innovation. Ultimately, the event aims to contribute to the establishment of a solid community on sustainability to guide growth in sustainability-forward communities while encouraging best practices in stakeholder engagement, legacy activities and accessibility of outcomes. The satellite event is scheduled for two days on 14 and 15 June from 14:00 – 17:00 SAST on each day.

For more information SRI2021 Agenda: <http://bit.ly/SRI2021Agenda>



PROGRAM

Day 1: 14 June 2021 Program 14:00 – 17:00 SAST

@14:00 – 14:10 SAST _ Opening & Welcome - Live connection to the Future Africa Studio

Professor Cheikh Mbow: Director, Future Africa Institute: Prior to joining Future Africa, he was the Executive Director of START-International in Washington DC. He says that the African continent is undergoing many positive trends in terms of high education, acceleration of the use of modern technologies, new visions for capacity building and connecting research to policy and business. These trends will not be consolidated and sustained if there is no space for collaboration. Sharing knowledge becomes the main drive for development as it opens opportunities for the youth and vulnerable groups.

@14:00 – 14:20 SAST – Future Africa's Role in SRI2021

Professor Stephanie Burton: Professor in Biochemistry and Professor at Future Africa at the University of Pretoria (UP). Professor Burton is also the President and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSA), Vice-President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a Research Fellow for Universities South Africa (USAf), and the Chairperson of the Future Earth Regional Office for Southern Africa (FEROSA).

@14:20 – 15:20 SAST – Sustainability Research to Accelerate Innovation in Africa

The session aims to develop recommendations on African priorities.

Themes:

Sustainable Solutions from the Global South, Knowledge-to-Action

Moderator:

Professor Stephanie Burton

Panel Speakers:

Ms Cecilia Kinuthia-Njenga: Head of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Office in South Africa and Regional Program Coordinator Southern Africa.

Enock Chikava: Deputy Director of the Country Systems Transformation (CST), The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Professor Lindiwe Sibanda: Director & Chair: ARUA Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS).

Professor Belinda Reyers: Research Chair in Sustainability Science at Future Africa at the University of Pretoria, Senior Advisor on Resilience and Development at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden, and an Extraordinary Professor at the University of Stellenbosch.

Take home messages:

Professor Cheikh Mbow: Director, Future Africa Institute.



@15:20 – 16:00 SAST - Intermission

@16:00 – 17:00 SAST- The Regional Dimension of Future Earth and its Role for a Sustainable World

A key objective of the session will be to discuss the suitability of strategies developed at the global scale for their applicability on the regional to local scale and to adjust existing strategies to serve this aim. A key outcome of the session will be to conceptualise a draft inter-regional collaborative framework that considers multiple stakeholder views from academia, policy, and civil society. This session will also seek to add new layers of knowledge to the Future Earth initiative by exploring existing and new science-to-policy strategies that will take into account the inter-linkages and inter-dependencies between science practitioners, users and policy makers. The implications of Future Earth's transition agenda and processes will also be considered.

Themes:

Sustainable Solutions from the Global South, Knowledge-to-Action.

Facilitator:

Professor Manfred Lange: Director: Future Earth MENA Regional Center.

Panel Speakers:

Professor Stephanie Burton: Professor in Biochemistry and Professor at Future Africa at the University of Pretoria (UP). Professor Burton is also the President and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSA), Vice-President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a Research Fellow for Universities South Africa (USAf), and the Chairperson of the Future Earth Regional Office for Southern Africa (FEROSA).

Mr Thabo Dikgale: Secretariat: FEROSA.

Dr Victor Squires: Distinguished Guest Professor in the Institute of Desertification Studies, Beijing.

Professor S Facknath PhD (UK), PhD (Mtius): Faculty of Agriculture, University of Mauritius, Reduit Mauritius.

End of Day 1



Day 2: 15 June 2021 Program 14:00 – 17:00 SAST

@14:00 – 14:15 SAST - Recap of Day 1

Highlights, main speaking points and Africa's position.

Moderator:

Professor Stephanie Burton

@14:15 – 15:15 SAST - Socialising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Enhanced Awareness and Effective Implementation: Opportunities and Constraints

The SDGs in the final decade of action: Key considerations and pathways to sustainability in a Covid-19 era. This session contributes to the debate towards accelerating implementation of the SDGs in a fully integrated approach. This comes with implications for the related 'Leave No One Behind Agenda'. As 2030 draws closer, this session highlights cross-cutting, high-return priorities that have robust potential to unlock progress across multiple SDGs.

Themes:

Sustainable Solutions from the Global South, Integrated Action for the SDGs.

Session Coordinator:

Felix Kwabena Donkor: Environmental Manager, University of South Africa (UNISA).

Panel:

Professor Jonathan Crush: Balsillie School of International Affairs University Research Professor Wilfrid Laurier University.

Professor Stephanie Burton: Professor in Biochemistry and Professor at Future Africa at the University of Pretoria (UP). Professor Burton is also the President and a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa (RSSA), Vice-President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), a Research Fellow for Universities South Africa (USAf), and the Chairperson of the Future Earth Regional Office for Southern Africa (FEROSA).

Dr Million Belay: General Coordinator Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) www.afsafrica.org

Tiegan Hobbs: Research Scientist, Geological Survey of Canada.

Dr Jana Sillmann: Research Director Center for International Climate Research Oslo (CICERO).

Professor Elliot Alhassan: Associate Professor, University for Development Studies.

Neringa Tumėnaitė: PhD Researcher on Development Justice & Director Humanity Consulting C.I.C & SOAS, University of London.



@15:15 – 15:30 SAST - Intermission

@15:30 – 16:30 SAST - Building climate resilience: legacy of the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA)

The session will also discuss lessons from managing large-scale collaborative research, as well as priorities for climate adaptation and resilience research in the 2020s.

Themes:

Sustainable Solutions from the Global South.

Session Coordinator:

Bruce Currie-Alder: Program Leader, Climate Resilience, Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC).

Panel:

Mamadou Diop: Chercheur Associé, IED Afrique.

Mary Thompson-Hall: Senior Program Specialist, START International.

Professor Craig Hutton: University of Southampton.

Christian Siderius: Founder, Uncharted Waters.

@16:30 – 16:50 SAST - Discussion and Africa's position

Mr Thabo Dikgale

Felix Kwabena Donkor

Professor Stephanie Burton

Bruce Currie-Alder

@16:50 – 17:00 SAST - Closing Remarks

Professor Cheikh Mbow: Director, Future Africa Institute.