Successful Engagement with the SDGs: What Colleges and Universities Can Do

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Duncan Ross, Times Higher Education
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WHAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES CAN DO

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Vice-Principal, External Relations
The University of Sydney
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Duncan Ross
Chief Data Officer
Times Higher Education
How could we measure progress towards the SDGs?

- **Research**
  - Research impacts the world by giving us the direction of travel, by helping us to understand how and why to make changes, and by putting this in the context of our beliefs and societies.

- **Stewardship**
  - How we use our resources, fairly and equitably, shapes our impact on the world.

- **Outreach**
  - Working directly with our communities and nations directs our impact within the wider context of society, and amplifies the work we do.

- **Teaching**
  - Teaching the next generation to adopt sustainability in their lives.
How have we gone from an SDG to a metric in 2020?

- 17 SDGs
- 169 Indicators
- 223 Unique targets
- 17 SDGs
- 105 Metrics
- 220 Measurements
Fair measurement

• Ease of participation
• Minimise SDGs in submission
• Think carefully about metrics
• Listen to input from universities, organisations, and individuals
• Publish each of the SDGs, not just overall score
Fairness in rankings...
Australian universities & SDGs

• 22 universities signed up to the SDGs*
• Growing number have a dedicated strategy/plan around sustainability
• Active participation in SDG-focused networks
• Receptive to frameworks/metrics around SDGs

*Signed through SDSN Global or SDSN Australia, NZ & Pacific, as at Nov 2019
The University of Sydney approach

Bottom-up, momentum building

• Academic-led SDG alignment
  • Global collaborations

• Research database with SDG indicator
  • Annual SDG update
  • Faculty Strategies

Research

• Localised initiatives: solar, water use
• Sporadic units of study linked to SDGs

Resilience

• Sustainability Strategy
• Central targets and monitoring systems
• Sophisticated curriculum offering

Resilience

• Student activism
• Community expectations

Responsibility

• Partnerships to tackle wicked problems
• Brand & ‘Research with impact’ campaign

Responsibility

SDG alignment increasingly formalised
**SDG3: Good Health and Well-being**

**What are we doing?**
This goal aims to ensure a healthy life and promote well-being for all at all ages. Challenges highlighted include the prevalence of non-communicable diseases, unhealthy behaviors, and the urgent need for support systems to combat such diseases. In the context of Australia, we have a focus on mental health services.

**At a glance**
- **Units of study**: 284
- **Publications**: 4,229

**Education**
- At least 284 units of study focus on health and well-being.

**Research**
- About 4,229 publications from 2018 are returned when searching for keywords selected by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for SDG3.

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**SDG5: Gender Equality**

**What are we doing?**
Gender equality is fundamental to our sustainable future. Despite many advances, gender inequality and gender-based discrimination still hold back sustainable development. In a 2016 gender gap report by the World Economic Forum, Australia ranked 46th, demonstrating there is much work to be done locally.

The University of Sydney is committed to gender equality and improving workplace culture. The University has received a SAGE Athena SWAN Bronze Award, as part of its commitment to the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) Initiative.

**At a glance**
- **Units of study**: 106
- **Publications**: 382

**Education**
- At least 106 units of study focus on gender and other units of study support the topic.

**Research**
- About 382 publications from 2018 are returned when searching for keywords selected by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for SDG5.

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AIEA

www.aieaworld.org
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus</th>
<th>Lecture Halls</th>
<th>Seats</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auckland Park Bunting Road Campus</td>
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<td>Soweto Campus</td>
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With all these faculties in play, our campuses collectively host over 50,000 students on an average day.

To stay true to the fast-paced, dynamic city that is our namesake, UJ campuses offer a happy balance of arts and culture and sporting activities over and above daily academic life.

We also cater for more personal needs with a comprehensive range of psychological and career development services and a Disability Unit that provides reasonable accommodation with regard to academic and technological support required by students with disabilities.

The UJ Library and Information Centres support the academic and research needs of students, ensuring access to books,
National strategy

Countries are required to assess the relevance of the respective indicators to their development agenda and, where appropriate, have domesticated indicators.

The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) derives its mandate from the Constitution of South Africa (1996), legislation passed by parliament and sectoral monitoring policies.
UN’s guiding principles for support on the SDGs in South Africa are the following:

1. To strengthen government and national ownership by domesticating the SDGs in the context of the National Development Plan (NDP);

2. To use existing systems and further enhance national processes as much as viable and avoid establishing parallel systems;

3. To integrate the provincial and sub-national levels in the process;

4. To work with central government as well as with local levels; and

5. To work with all development partners including civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, philanthropic organisation and others
6 Agenda 2063 was born out of this thinking within the context of the AU Vision, the AU Commission, and supported by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development Planning and Coordinating Agency, the African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa in outlining the ‘Africa that we want’. **The Plan is guided by seven aspirations:**
1. A prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development;

2. An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance;

3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law;

4. A peaceful and secure Africa;

5. Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics;

6. An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children;

7. An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair holder</th>
<th>Name of Chair</th>
<th>Faculty/College</th>
<th>Department/Centre</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prof Fiona Tregenna</td>
<td>Industrial Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Cecile Nieuwenhuizen</td>
<td>DHET/DST/NRF Chair in Entrepreneurship Education</td>
<td>College of Business and Economics</td>
<td>Business Management</td>
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<td>Prof Erika Kraemer-Mbula</td>
<td>DST/ NRF/ Newton Fund Trilateral Research Chair in Transformative Innovation, the 4th Industrial Revolution and Sustainable Development.</td>
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<td>Economics and Econometrics</td>
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<td>Prof Elizabeth (Elbie) Henning</td>
<td>Integrated studies of learning language mathematics and science in the primary school</td>
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<td>Prof Sarah Gravett (Interim Chair)</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning in PSET</td>
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<td>Prof Jace Pillay</td>
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<td>Prof Salim Vally</td>
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<td>Prof Heidi Abrahamse</td>
<td>Laser Applications in Health</td>
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<td>Prof Kate Alexander</td>
<td>Social Change</td>
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<td>Prof Chris Landsberg</td>
<td>African Diplomacy and Foreign Policy</td>
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<td>Politics and International Relations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Leila Patel</td>
<td>Welfare and Social Development</td>
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<td>Anthropology and Development Studies</td>
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<td>Prof Hennie Strydom</td>
<td>International Law</td>
<td>Faculty of Law</td>
<td>Public Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Philiswa Nomngongo</td>
<td>Nanotechnology for water</td>
<td>Faculty of Science</td>
<td>Applied Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Interim Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Ben-Erik Van Wyk</td>
<td>Indigenous Plant Use</td>
<td>Faculty of Science</td>
<td>Botany and Plant Biotechnology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prof Karel (Fanus) Viljoen</td>
<td>GeoMetallurgy</td>
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UJ-Research News

UJ Head of Mine Surveying elected president of national Inst...

Gym dodgers hacked at 2015 Discover...
Gym dodgers hacked at 2015 Discovery GradHack

Nanotechnology to purify water for rural schools

African boom creates exponential opportunity for young engin...

Homo naledi: New species of human relative discovered, contr...

UJ: Sleepless, cold, hungry: Tougher... Orlando collapse amputation assistance...

UJ PhD student develops a faster test for... UJ PhD student develops a faster test for... diarrhoea inducing...

Africa-wide affordable robotics challenge born from UJ...