



R&I



VIRTUAL
EVENT



14 June 2022



14:00-15:30 CET

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DEBATE ON SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE

Topic

The world has embarked on a decisive decade for the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aimed at making progress on human development within planetary boundaries. The window to secure a livable future for all is narrowing, and despite the urgency of the SDGs, the world is off-track to meet them.

Science can play a crucial role in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs, by providing evidence for decision-making, creating actionable knowledge, filling in data gaps and finding innovative solutions to interconnected and

complex global challenges (climate change, pandemics, biodiversity loss, etc.).

But this requires a radical change in the way science is done, harnessed, assessed, and funded.

How to optimise the
impact of science
towards achieving
the SDGs ?

Programme

- Opening of the virtual waiting room
- Introduction of the topic and speakers (moderator)
- Interviews with speakers and Q&A (benefits of sustainability science and main challenges, concrete solutions to optimise its impact in achieving SDGs, best practices, etc.)
- Wrapping up of the debate

Organised by the OACPS Research and Innovation Programme



Implemented by the OACPS Secretariat



Financed by the European Union

Speakers



Connie Nshemereirwe, an independent science and policy facilitator from Uganda, is currently the Director of the Africa Science Leadership Programme at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. She is also part of the Technical Advisory Group supporting the Global Commission on Science Missions for Sustainability set up by the International Science Council to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs and deliver results in the critical areas of food, energy and climate, health and wellbeing, water, and urban areas. She contributed to another ISC project on Rethinking Human Development (full publication [here](#)). She is a Past Co-Chair of the Global Young Academy and current Secretary-General of the Uganda National Young Academy.



Thandi Mgwebi is Deputy Vice-Chancellor responsible for Research, Innovation and Internationalization at Nelson Mandela University (NMU) in South Africa. NMU, with its Sustainability Research Unit, wants to position itself as a sustainability research key role player and focuses on international collaborations to foster sustainability science. She is recognised both in South Africa and internationally, featuring in many international forums for research management and practice in higher education and serving as an advisor on capacity-building initiatives. She is notably a council member of the African Institute of Mathematical Sciences, a pan-African network of Centres of Excellence.



Chibunna Ogbonna is a social entrepreneur committed to powering Africa's sustainable energy future through innovation. He is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer at Kiru Energy Limited, a Nigerian-based renewable energy startup. With his team, he develops social impact projects such as the Lighting Up Nigeria Initiative (LUNI), a mobile application where customers can buy electricity from their solar photovoltaic mini-grid systems, using a pay-as-you-go business model. He recently completed a fellowship with the International Sustainability Academy. He is also a Social Innovator at LEAP Africa and Sahara Impact Fund fellow at Sahara Foundation.

Publications and useful links

- [Unleashing Science- Delivering Missions for Sustainability](#) -International Science Council (2021)
- [The future is now- Science for achieving sustainable development](#) (2019)
- [Sustainability Science: Toward a Synthesis](#) Clark and Harley (2020)
- [Sustainability science: a review, an analysis and some empirical lessons](#) Spangenberg (2021)
- [From planetary to societal boundaries](#) Brand et al. (2021)
- [Transforming Sustainability Science to Generate Positive Social and Environmental Change Globally](#) P. Shrivastava et al.(2020)
- [Science-Based Pathways for Sustainability](#)
- [Eleven success factors for transdisciplinary real-world labs](#) N. Schöpke et al. (2022)
- [Pathways to sustainability, a free online course from the STEPS Centre](#)
- [The undisciplined journey: early-career perspectives in sustainability science](#) Haider et al. (2018)