

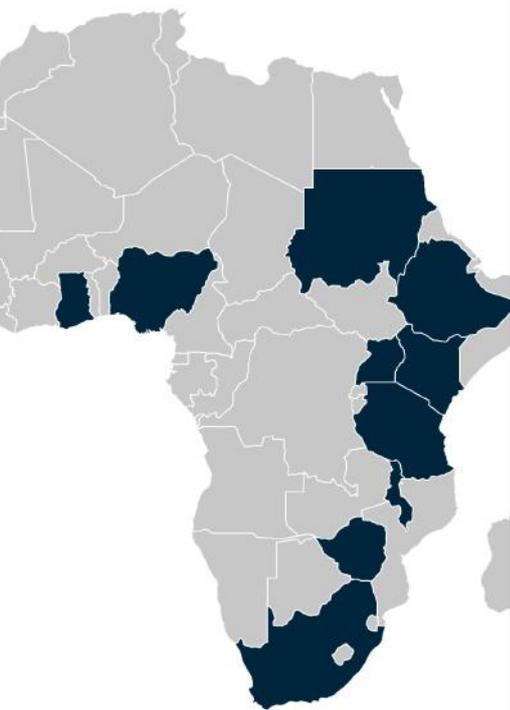
ACU  
PROGRAMMES

2018-2020

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Capacity and Leadership  
Enhancement (CIRCLE) Programme
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and Blended Learning (PEBL)
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# CLIMATE IMPACTS RESEARCH CAPACITY AND LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME



## THE PROGRAMME

The Climate Impacts Research Capacity and Leadership Enhancement (CIRCLE) Programme responds to the shortage of African researchers producing internationally peer-reviewed research into the impacts of climate change on the continent. Since 2014, the project has strengthened the impact of locally-produced climate change research in Africa through an innovative dual approach: the CIRCLE Visiting Fellowship Programme (CVF) supports individual academics to undertake research and strengthen their capacities for collaboration and stakeholder engagement, while the Institutional Strengthening Programme (ISP) works with their institutions to develop stronger frameworks for climate research and improve support for early-career academic staff.



**31 INSTITUTIONS** across **10 COUNTRIES**  
participated in the CIRCLE ISP



**97 ACADEMICS**  
have successfully completed the Fellowship Programme

## OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



**30**

ISP institutions have strengthened policies in place for the professional development of early career researchers



**71%**

of papers submitted by Fellows have been published to date



**1/3+**

of Fellows have been promoted or went on to pursue higher degrees after CIRCLE



**300+**

papers by Fellows have been published in reputable journals

**3000+**

community stakeholders were reached through CIRCLE-funded activities

**\$3M+**

USD in external research funding has been secured from 2018-2019 by research teams involving CVF Alumni



We recognise the importance of gender inclusivity in research.

**50% of CIRCLE Fellows are women.**



**3** Fellows have contributed as authors for the IPCC

**79** Fellows have been invited to speak at climate-related events and conferences



The Association of Commonwealth Universities



For more information please contact George Lakey, Senior Programme Officer at: [george.lakey@acu.ac.uk](mailto:george.lakey@acu.ac.uk)



**pebl**  
PARTNERSHIP FOR ENHANCED  
AND BLENDED LEARNING

# PARTNERSHIP FOR ENHANCED AND BLENDED LEARNING

“ The concepts of blended learning and academic development were little known to me until I was introduced to PEBL. Thanks to the pedagogical training, I can now design and run blended courses and support online learners and academic staff.”

DR KAJUMBULA,  
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

## THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership for Enhanced and Blended Learning (PEBL) aims to address the critical academic staff shortages in many east African universities through innovative and collaborative approaches. It enables universities to share scarce teaching resources through quality assured, credit-bearing degree courses delivered through blended learning. Participating universities can expand the range of courses offered to students, ease the teaching burden placed on staff and grow their educational development capacities. By enhancing regional collaboration, teaching quality, and student outcomes, PEBL helps to ensure that students graduate from east African universities with the relevant skills and knowledge needed for the workplace in a dynamic and changing economic climate.



**INNOVATION**



**CAPACITY BUILDING**



**COLLABORATION**



**QUALITY ASSURANCE**

**24 INSTITUTIONS**

are collaborating, strengthening networks and sharing expertise

**150+ ACADEMICS**

have been trained on various aspects of blended learning

**9,000+ STUDENTS**

are using PEBL modules to build their skills and expand their knowledge base

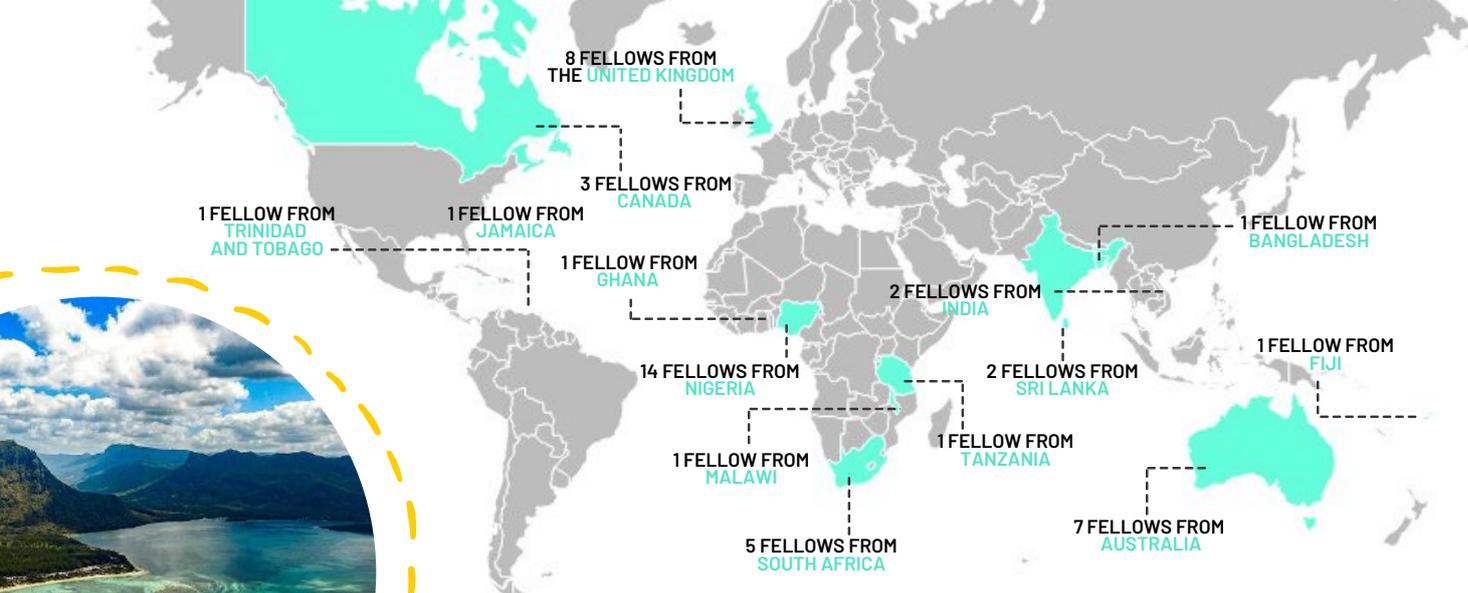


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SPHEIR  
Strategic Partnerships  
for Higher Education  
Innovation and Reform

For more information please contact Fiona Khandoker, PEBL Programme Manager at: [fiona.khandoker@acu.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.khandoker@acu.ac.uk)



# ACU BLUE CHARTER FELLOWSHIPS



**2018-19**  
BEIS Cohort 1  
38 FELLOWS

**2019-21**  
Waitrose Cohort 2  
10 FELLOWS

**14** LIFE BELOW WATER

The Commonwealth Blue Charter is an agreement by all 54 Commonwealth countries to collectively tackle ocean-related challenges. It affirms our collective commitment to sustainable ocean development and to nurture, preserve and protect marine ecosystems. To deliver on its own commitment to the Commonwealth Blue Charter, the ACU established the Blue Charter Programme with funding from UK BEIS and Waitrose & Partners. Since 2018, the Programme has enabled 48 outstanding research Fellows from 13 Commonwealth countries to undertake diverse, collaborative research projects aligned with the priorities of the Commonwealth Marine Plastics Research and Innovation Framework (MPRIF).

Fellows' research projects touch upon a range of issues from consumer behavioural change to pollution flow mapping and community-based recycling strategies. Their research outputs will deepen our understanding of the social, environmental and economic dimensions of marine plastic pollution; they will enhance the evidence and knowledge base on which effective policies are formulated and generate greater momentum to tackle one of the biggest global environmental challenges of our time.

In order to support Fellows in the dissemination of their research outcomes and create impact through stakeholder engagement, a Knowledge Exchange Fund of £90,000 will be made available for all Fellows and applications are currently open. Additionally, a series of 9 online training modules on knowledge exchange, research uptake and research impact are under development, with the first Modules live and accessible by Fellows.



**Degree**  
52% POST-PHD RESEARCHERS  
48% PHD STUDENTS

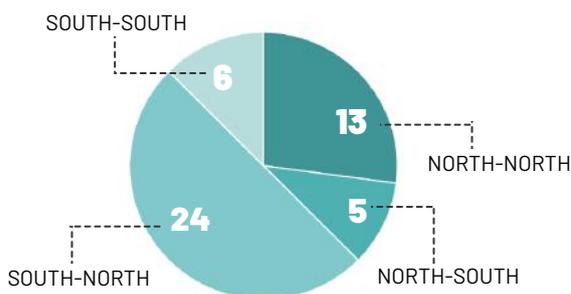


**Gender**  
50% FEMALE  
50% MALE

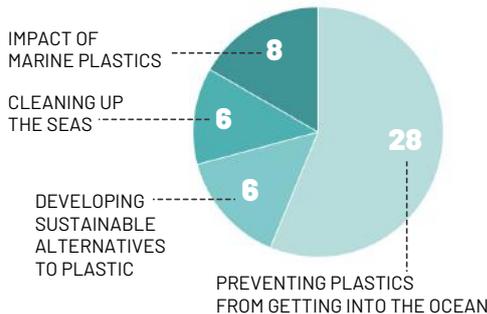


**Collaborations**  
85% NEW  
15% EXISTING

## FELLOWSHIP DIRECTION



## PRIMARY RESEARCH AREAS



## BEIS CAPACITY AUDIT 2018-19

The ACU conducted an extensive online survey aimed to identify the loci and extent of existing capacity in Commonwealth universities to support world class R&I into marine plastics.



Long-term EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture



# LEAP4FNSSA

## The Programme

LEAP4FNSSA is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) whose main objective is to provide a tool for European and African institutions to engage in a Sustainable Partnership Platform for research and innovation on Food and Nutrition Security, and Sustainable Agriculture (FNSSA). Under the aegis of the High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) and its Bureau, building upon former EU funded projects such as RINEA, CAAST-Net Plus, and ProIntensAfrica, LEAP4FNSSA aims to achieve its main objective through:



### INCREASED SYNERGIES AND COHERENCE

between actors, research and innovation projects, initiatives and programmes.



### ENHANCED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

and institutional links to improve European-African cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.



### LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP

and a well-established co-funding mechanism.

## Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

The role of ACU is as a co-leader for project monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment of LEAP4FNSSA and to contribute to the programme strategy through membership on the Steering Committee. By evaluating projects supporting the AU-EU Partnership in the area of food, nutrition security and sustainable agriculture (FNSSA) and coordinating the development of a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, the ACU works to enhance the vitality of the Partnership and ensure sustainable long-term collaboration.



### PROJECT DURATION

November 2018-  
October 2022



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union



The Association of Commonwealth Universities

For more information on LEAP4FNSSA, please contact [programmes.team@acu.ac.uk](mailto:programmes.team@acu.ac.uk)



For the lives we can lead

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