



Towards sustainability: actions, targets and future developments

DRUSSA Leadership and Benchmarking Conference

25-27 April 2016, Réduit, Mauritius



The Association
of Commonwealth
Universities



Highlights

- 1) Staff at all universities have received training in Research Uptake
- 2) All universities have access to a range of resources on Research Uptake
- 3) All universities have built networks of likeminded peers
- 4) Most universities now have strategy/policy documents for an institutional approach to Research Uptake
- 5) Many universities have taken steps to implement these strategies/policies



Tools that have helped

- 1) Opportunities for staff capacity building
- 2) Platforms for sharing good practice
- 3) Access to expert advice
- 4) Demonstrator Research Projects
- 5) Space to learn and experiment



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And

Action Plans



Research Uptake Action Plans

- 1) Started from a common template completed by you and your peers
- 2) Reviewed periodically
- 3) Developed organically over time
- 4) Tailored to the needs and priorities of each university...

...and they now bear little resemblance to each other



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This is a good thing!



Planning for life after DRUSSA



Making the most of what is available

- 1) Institutional strategy/policy documents
- 2) DRUSSA Learning Resource
- 3) Professional linkages
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Final DRUSSA Elements:

- 5) Vice Chancellors' Summit
- 6) On-line training resource



Many of these resources have a limited shelf-life

- Drawing on resources in forward plans
- Disseminating widely within your institution (leaders, practitioners and active researchers)
- Engaging new staff with your plans and priorities

Staff turn-over is a clear and present danger to research uptake sustainability



Potential First Steps

Resources	Purposes	Outcomes
Research Uptake Strategy/Policy documents	Structuring and formalising research uptake	Institutionalised approaches, attractive to partners/funders
DRUSSA resources	Harvesting for institutional benefit	Institutionalised knowledge
Professional linkages	Sharing of good practice – a “community of knowledge”	Strengthened approaches, harmonising where appropriate
Research Uptake trained staff	Cascading and embedding research uptake	Expertise across the institution
Vice Chancellors’ Summit	Maintaining momentum, motivating senior leaders	Sustainable internal support
On-line training resource	Expanding professional development	Consensus and confidence

Forums and platforms

- Faculty roadshows (bringing staff together)
- National conferences and symposia (engaging peers and policymakers)
- Regional associations (especially the RIMAs)
- International partnerships (applying expertise through funding applications)



Onward and upward

- Leaders and Champions are among Africa's foremost experts in research uptake
- Mentoring next generation (managers, practitioners and ECRs)
- Leading the debate – institutionally, nationally and internationally



DRUSSA

Development Research Uptake
in Sub-Saharan Africa

Thank you!

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