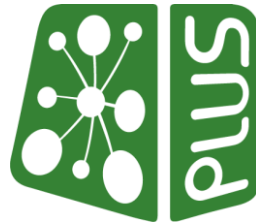




# PLUS Summer School Concept Note



## SUSTAINABILITY DIALOGUE

### Land Management Practices and Climate Change Resilience Efforts

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Date: Wednesday, 02 - 04 October 2024

Time: 09:00 - 17:00

Venue: High-Tech Transfer Plaza (HTTPS), Windhoek, Namibia

Accommodation: NUST Hotel School, Windhoek, Namibia

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NAMIBIA  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SCIENCE  
AND TECHNOLOGY



University of Fort Hare  
*Together in Excellence*



# 1. Background

The Namibia University of Science and Technology ([NUST](#)) and the Justus Liebig University ([JLU](#)) of Giessen have been in a long-term partnership in research, teaching and networking. Due to the long-standing and fruitful cooperation, the JLU and NUST cooperate in various educational activities. Since 2021, NUST, JLU and universities have collaborated in the Planetary Utilization of Sustainability Strategies ([PLUS](#)) project.

PLUS is committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and advancing sustainable development initiatives across Southern Africa, Latin America, and Germany. It serves as a platform for cultivating a network of universities, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners dedicated to promoting sustainability across diverse disciplines, geographies and contexts. Partners in the PLUS network include the NUST, JLU, Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar ([UASB](#)), Universidad de Antioquia ([UA](#)), Universidad de Los Andes ([ULA](#)), Universidade Pedagogica de Maputo ([UP Maputo](#)), University of Botswana ([UB](#)), University of Fort Hare ([UFH](#)), and North-West University ([NWU](#)).

One of the key focus areas of PLUS is the integration of sustainable land management practices and climate change resilience efforts. As the impacts of climate change continue to manifest worldwide, from extreme weather events to shifts in ecosystems, there is a growing recognition of the critical role that sustainable land management plays in enhancing resilience and mitigating these impacts. However, effective coordination and communication with and between stakeholders involved in land management and climate resilience efforts are essential to maximize their collective impact.

Despite the shared goals of sustainable land management and climate change resilience, there are often challenges in communication and dialogue between these sectors. Fragmentation, siloed approaches, and a lack of coordination can hinder progress towards integrated solutions. Recognizing the importance of addressing these barriers, PLUS is committed to facilitating improved communication and dialogue between stakeholders involved in sustainable land management practices and climate change resilience efforts.

In this transdisciplinary summer school, diverse stakeholders (practitioners) and potential collaborative partners will dialogue and converse to identify existing successful Land Management Practices and Climate Change Resilience Efforts to build a network consensus on the best way going forward.

## 2. The Need for a Summer School

### 2.1. Purpose

Sustainable land management plays a crucial role in enhancing resilience to climate impacts, yet there remains a disconnect between stakeholders involved in land management and climate resilience efforts. A summer school focused on improving communication and dialogue on sustainable land management practices and climate change resilience efforts is essential for devising solution-based strategies.

This gap in communication and dialogue poses significant obstacles to effective collaboration and the implementation of holistic solutions. Without a shared understanding and coordinated approach, efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable land management may be fragmented and

less impactful. Therefore, there is a critical need to bridge this gap and facilitate meaningful engagement among diverse stakeholders. The purpose of the summer school is to provide a platform for stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to come together, exchange ideas, and develop strategies for improving communication and dialogue between sustainable land management practices and climate change resilience efforts.

## 2.2. Summer School Objectives

The objective of the summer school is to empower participants to become catalysts for positive change in their communities and beyond, driving forward the transition towards a more resilient and sustainable future for all. By fostering collaboration and sharing knowledge, the summer school aims to:

- Be a learning platform for building land management and climate change related knowledge.
- Communicate the interconnectedness between sustainable land management practices and climate change resilience efforts.
- Provide opportunities for networking and collaboration among diverse stakeholders, within the academic sphere.
- Equip participants with the necessary practical knowledge to effectively communicate and engage stakeholders in integrated approaches to land management and climate resilience.
- Encourage participants to act in their respective fields, contributing to the collective effort to address climate change and promote sustainable land management practices.

## 3. Location and Dates of the Summer School

The summer school will be a hybrid session, held online via Zoom or Microsoft Teams and a face-to-face session at the High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTSPS) situated within the premises of NUST in Windhoek, Namibia.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> It is possible for venue to change depending on future realities.

### 3.1. Dates and times

- The summer school will take place from Wednesday 02 to Friday 04 October 2024
- Time: 09:00 -17:00 (Southern African Time).
- Venue: High-Tech Transfer Plaza (HTTPS), Windhoek, Namibia
- Accommodation: [NUST Hotel School](#), Windhoek, Namibia.

### 3.2. Who will attend?

Representatives from NUST, JLU, NWU, UFH, UP Maputo, UA, ULA, UASB, UB and other sustainability focused organisations. Maximum 45 participants.

## 4. Tentative Program of the Summer School

During the summer school, participants will engage in group activities aimed at fostering interaction and collaboration. Through these group works, participants will have the opportunity to exchange insights, share experiences, and co-create innovative thinking. The summer school will provide an open platform for participants to share creative ideas on designing and applying practical approaches to the implementation of collective efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable land management practices. Sessions will be conducted in English to maximize participation from all attendees.

Programme to be added after necessary consultations.

## 5. Conclusive Note

This is a tentative concept note developed to initiate discussions to formulate a detailed summer school program. Once a more detailed concept note is finalized, the individuals responsible for the final program will be determined. To finalise the concept and turn it into an operational PLUS document for the summer school, it is relevant to agree on some concrete outcomes.

### 5.1. Potential Concrete Outcome of the Summer School

The objectives of the summer school aside, there could be other concrete outcome from the summer school going forward. However, this would depend on how it has been organised. Potential concrete outcomes for the summer school could include:

- **Extra networking outcome:** The event could be organised to enable participants meet and engage with the members of NELGA ([Network of Excellence on Land Governance in Africa](#)). The [NELGA Southern African](#) activity could be organised the same time to provide direct networking outcomes to PLUS and vice versa. It could also allow for engaging with members of FRAME ([Fostering Research and Intra-African knowledge transfer through Mobility and Education](#)). The [FRAME](#) is an intra-Africa academic mobility scheme set up to promote sustainable development

and contribute to poverty reduction by increasing the availability of trained and qualified high-level professional manpower in Africa.

- **Capacity development and building outcomes:** The event could include not only research presentations but also direct dialogues and capacity development/building activities that have local development and sustainability focus.
- **Research output:** The event could lead to the curation of a Special Issue publication in the [Journal Land Use Policy](#) (Elsevier) on a theme such as “Sustainability Dialogues: Land Management Practices and Climate Change Resilience Efforts.”

## 5.2. Logistical Information

- Maximum of forty-five (45) participants, including representatives from NUST, JLU, NWU, UFH, UP Maputo, UA, ULA, UASB, UB and other sustainability focused organisations.
- The final number of participants is subject to funding availability and may vary accordingly.
- **No Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) will be provided.**
- Participants will receive full reimbursements for travel and visa expenses. Participants are requested to retain receipts as proof of expenses.
- Accommodation and meals will be provided on an all-inclusive basis for the duration of the summer school.

## 5.3. Overall Enquiries

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## 6. Stakeholders (Institutions) Invitation List

Apart from the partner representatives of the PLUS network. Selected stakeholders within and outside Southern Africa would be invited.

**Stakeholder list to be added after necessary consultation.**