Global Leadership Training Programme for Sustainable Development in Africa
11 February – 25 March 2025

Background

The 2025 Global Leadership Training Programme for Sustainable Development in Africa (GLTP) course will be offered by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS) in collaboration with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) Africa Center and the East Africa Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO). The course will consist of nine modules focusing on three themes: (i) Innovative Leadership and Development in Africa, (ii) Economic Growth, Technology and Sustainability, (iii) and Governance and Democracy.

The GLTP course is designed for postgraduate students in international development and sustainability to deepen their understanding of the challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in Africa. Participants will learn from leading scholars and practitioners from governments, academia, the private sector and civil society about innovative leadership, governance, public policy, development and sustainability in Africa. The online course includes lectures, workshops, panel sessions and activities augmented by a variety of online teaching modalities and resources to enable participants to consider a variety of leadership approaches undertaken across different disciplines and fields. At the end of the course, participants will develop individual actions to enhance their participation and engagement in research, policy and practice to contribute to sustainable development in Africa.

Course Objectives

- Create opportunities to engage with leading African scholars and development practitioners across disciplines to learn and understand strategies to promote sustainable development, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 of the African Union

- Build a network of researchers and development practitioners (faculty, researchers, staff and graduate students) in a diverse range of organizations to support and enhance research priorities for sustainable development in Africa
- Create learning opportunities for participants to discuss good practices in leadership, sustainability and technology, and governance and democracy, and assess their relevance to a range of African contexts
- Build skills in agenda setting, strategic planning and engagement that can be applied in research, community action, policy and development practice within an ethical, relevant and context-specific development process in Africa
- Develop skills that further each participant's professional learning objectives

Schedule

The course consists of **nine online modules** with content provided through Moodle, an online learning portal. Each module will include a variety of materials (e.g. topical videos, PowerPoint presentations with audio lectures, relevant readings) that will be available online and for downloading.

Participants will also **meet online twice a week** for two-hour sessions led by instructors and featuring guest presenters from various countries and industries. The sessions will be held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** at **16:00–18:00 in Tokyo** (JST) and **10:00–12:00 in Kenya** (UCT/GMT+3).

A Zoom link will be forwarded to enrolled participants only (please do not share it with any other individuals or entities).

Programme Overview

The programme draws from the expertise of a range of professionals across the African continent and interdisciplinary development practitioners, combining insights from experiences in research and education, government policy, private sector and civil society. The sessions will inform participants about the realities facing African leaders in leading their organizations in various contexts, cultures and countries. All Zoom sessions will be highly interactive and allow participants and presenters to share experiences, challenges and successes in their respective sector and country.

The goal is for participants to learn from each other as well as from faculty and guest presenters. In addition to team building, the course will introduce concrete skills required to support initiatives that promote civil societies, engaged communities and flourishing locally sustainable economies.

Modules and dates	Course themes
Module 1 11 and 13 February	Theme 1: Innovative Leadership and Development in Africa
Modules 2–5 18, 20, 25 and 27 February	Theme 2: Economic Growth, Technology and Sustainability
Modules 6–7 4 and 6 March	
Modules 8–9 11 and 18 March	Theme 3: Governance and Democracy

Course Requirements and Grading

Participants are expected to read the assigned materials and attend and actively engage in all Zoom meetings. Participation in lecture discussions and the Moodle discussion board is also expected.

Participants will be asked to write a **five-page interdisciplinary research concept note or project proposal** based on the lectures and readings, and with input from at least two professionals in their area of work. Collaboration with other participants is highly encouraged.

Certificate of Attendance will be issued upon the successful completion of the following:

- Participation in all lectures (please let the instructors know if you cannot attend for any reason)

- Weekly video or written contributions to the discussion board (see the Weekly Activities tab in each session)

- Obtaining advice on the research concept note or project proposal from at least two leaders or scholars in your field

- Submitting a five-page concept note or project proposal with team members (due 18 March)

Weekly Themes and Topics

Theme 1: Innovative Leadership and Development in Africa

Week 1
10–14 February

- 11 February — Course Opening and Overview (welcome from UNU-IAS Director Shinobu Yume Yamaguchi, team building activities)
- 13 February — Module 1: Sustainability, Development and Leadership in Africa (panel discussion, group assignments)

This module will introduce UNU-IAS, course objectives, resources and GLTP partners, focusing on the key course concepts of sustainability, development and leadership in relation to the SDGs and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. It will provide guidance on navigating Moodle, understanding and framing key ideas, and network building to develop a strong foundation among participants.

Note: Detailed readings and materials will be listed in each module on Moodle.

Theme 2: Economic Growth, Technology and Sustainability

Week 2
17–21 February

- 18 February — Module 2: Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)
- 20 February — Module 3: Energy and Transport Systems

Week 3
24–28 February

- 25 February — Module 4: Bioeconomy, Agriculture and Food Systems
- 27 February — Module 5: Environment, Biodiversity and Climate Change

Week 4
3–7 March

- 4 March — Module 6: Sustainable Urbanization
- 6 March — Module 7: Economic Growth and Finance for Development

Theme 3: Governance and Democracy

Week 5
10–14 March

- 11 March — Module 8: Participatory Governance and Democracy

Week 6
 17–21 March

- 18 March — Module 9: Closing the Gap Between Research, Policy and Practice (group presentation)

Closing Ceremony

25 March

- Evaluation, feedback and closing
- Award of certificates