



Perivoli Africa Research Centre

Year Two

Thank you to the Perivoli Foundation for your continued commitment to establishing the University of Bristol's Perivoli Africa Research Centre (PARC). This report outlines PARC's key achievements from the last report to December 2021.

Throughout 2021, despite the persistent challenges the pandemic brought, PARC continued to pursue and make progress in its mission of championing transformation in research and partnership to advance Africa's achievement of its own development aspirations.



Image L-R: Professor Isabella Aboderin (PARC Director), Dr Susan Jim (PARC Manager), Mr Julio Mkok (Student Union Affairs Officer/ International Law Student) at the UNFPA Nairobi Summit on International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD25), Kenya, November 2019



The PARC team includes:

- Professor Isabella Aboderin** Perivoli Chair in Africa Research & Partnerships and Director of PARC

Dr Susan Jim Manager of PARC & the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Development Manager & Chair of WUN Coordinators Group

Dr Robert Crowe International Research Partnerships Officer for PARC & the WUN
- Ms Hilda Owii** PhD Fellow

Dr Eyob Balcha Gebremariam Research Associate

Dr Francis Zana Naab Research Associate

Mr Elliot James Communication & Administration Intern for PARC

Ms Winnie Tsuma PhD Intern

[See Advisory Boards here](#)

Who we are

Established in January 2020 by a generous donation from the Perivoli Foundation, PARC represents the University of Bristol's cross-disciplinary commitment to championing transformation in research and partnership to advance Africa's achievement of its own aspirations.

Our Mission

Our point of departure is a recognition of the historically-rooted inequalities in the international research ecosystem and enduring power imbalances in much global North – Africa academic collaboration and partnerships.

These inequities have imposed limitations not only on African research institutions and actors but also, as importantly, on the relevance and use of generated knowledge for innovation and positive social and economic change. In short, the imbalances have harmed Africa's pursuit of its own development objectives.

The need for a systemic shift through which African institutions, constituencies, interests and terms take their rightful place in knowledge production globally, and in and for the continent is PARC's core concern.

Our mission is to help envision, model and champion a different mode of doing research with Africa that advances such a transformation. Our quest reflects the University of Bristol's wider culture of social responsibility, alternative thinking and activism and draws on its vibrant work on tackling the challenge of decolonisation. The success of our work will be derived from how well we are able to frame a transformed approach to Africa research and partnership, and promote its wide adoption and application in practice.

What we do

In pursuit of its mission PARC seeks to act as: A **connector** of people and constituencies within the University, the continent and globally who are invested in the generation and use of knowledge to accomplish Africa's priority agendas.

A **catalyst** and **forum** for interdisciplinary inquiry, practice and learning predicated on mutual respect and inclusion.

- Our work spans four focus areas:
1. Inquiry and thought-leadership on transforming research cooperation
 2. Capstone programmes of research and policy engagement
 3. Mutual knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening
 4. Community of interest

External Launch Event

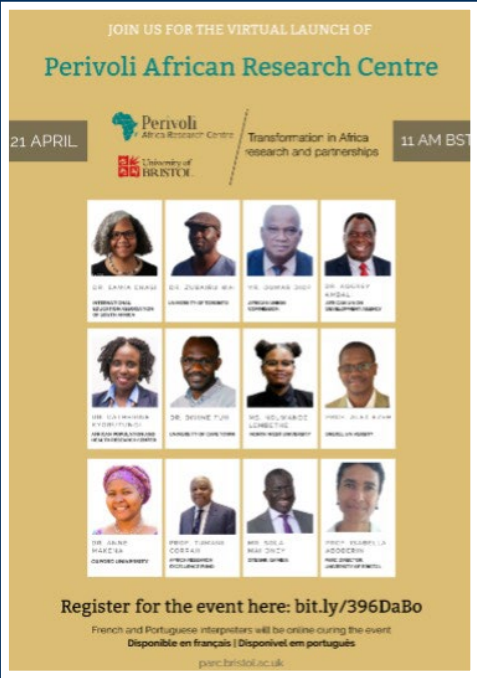
The external launch event on 21 April 2021 was a key milestone in highlighting, publicising and discussing the important work that PARC is facilitating. The discussions in the two-hour event were richer than we'd dared to imagine and provided us with critical ideas, perspectives and challenges that will continue to inform PARC's work.

The event provided incisive, thought provoking, and above all, truly Africa-centred discussions. The discussions were met with broad enthusiasm by external audiences, particularly in the continent and Africa-focused constituencies in the UK Higher Education sector and internally within the University of Bristol.

This event has helped PARC to be increasingly recognised as an endeavour that is genuinely oriented to advancing Africa's interests and holds veritable promise for the continent. We understand the need for, and are dedicated to, advancing a structural change in global North-Africa relations as part of a necessary wider shift in favour of Africa in the global research and science ecosystem as a whole. The quality of the research being developed through authentic co-creation is instigating true interest of external stakeholders in collaborating with PARC. These outcomes affirm PARC's position as a positive change agent that aligns with the University's broader commitment to advancing social responsibility and justice within its culture of alternative thinking.

Drawing on the above perspectives, PARC has provided substantive input to shape the University's refreshed strategy on world-leading research and innovation with global impact. We are expecting to offer similar input to the University's strategic visions for its international partnerships and global civic role.

In addition to a strengthened foundation for evolving our work, the external launch provided **important directions** in the form of principal approaches and concrete fields for action, specifically: centring Africa, plurality and diversity of voices, continuing with incremental change, shifting values and mindsets and engaging funders and funding. These "signposts" are embedded in the range of activities we're now pursuing across PARC's four areas of focus.



The event brought together:

- **Professor Aggrey Ambali**, Head, Science, Technology and Innovation Hub, African Union Development Agency
- **Dr Samia Chasi**, Strategic Advisor, International Education Association of South Africa, South Africa
- **Professor Tumani Corrah**, Director, Africa Research Excellence Fund and Director, Africa Research Development, Medical Research Council, UK
- **Mr Oumar Diop**, Senior Policy Officer, Department of Social Affairs, African Union Commission, Ethiopia
- **Professor Alex Ezeh**, Professor of Global Health, Drexel Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University, USA
- **Professor Divine Fuh**, Director, Institute for Humanities Africa, University of Cape Town, South Africa
- **Dr Catherine Kyobutungi**, Executive Director, African Population and Health Research Centre, Kenya
- **Ms Nolwandle Lembethe**, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, North West University, South Africa
- **Dr Anne Makena**, Programme Coordinator, Africa Oxford Initiative, University of Oxford, UK
- **Dr Zubairu Wai**, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science and Centre for Critical Development Studies, University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada

Perivoli Africa Research Centre – Timeline of Activities 2021

JAN

2nd External Advisory Board meeting.

MAR

Policy input: UN Women/UNFPA high-level panel on Impact of COVID-19 on gender equality and women's empowerment in East and Southern Africa.

APR

External Launch 21 April.

MAY

PhD studentship awarded: Ms Hilda Owii – Hilda is working on the engagement programme, 'Care Work and Economy Africa: toward transformative care systems and economies to harness Africa's demographic transition'. Her research includes the dynamics of long term care provision and receipt in sub-Saharan Africa, its impact and interaction with culture.

Additional funding from the Perivoli Foundation: £25,000 for the Perivoli Charter and £25,000 for AUC research agenda setting project (please see the co-creation workshop information in the Capstone section on page 8).

PARC Manager presented at the Association of Research Managers and Administrators/ Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (ARMA/AESA) Making UK-Africa Partnerships Sustainable conference: Development of PARC's strategy.

JUN

Research Associate appointed: Dr Francis Zana Naab – Francis is engaged in research to advance the development of transformative care systems and economies in Africa. Beyond this, Francis has a key interest in resilience thinking and analysis, and exploring intergenerational systems within economies in Africa.

Statement of intent: To develop PASET (Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology) and University of Bristol partnership.

JUL

Policy input: PARC provided technical input and rapporteuring to support stakeholder engagement with the refinement of the revised African Union policy framework and plan of action on ageing. This will be formally adopted by the AU in December 2021.

Policy input: African Union Commission development of a tool to track Member State progress in implementing Social Agenda 2063 (please see further details in Capstone section on page 8).

Something tangible we can do is ensure that African partners play a leadership role in every stage of research.

LEON TIKLY, PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL



AUG

Research Associate appointed: Dr Eyob Balcha Gebremariam – Eyob's areas of interest and expertise include the politics of development, decolonising development studies, Africa's political economy and young citizens' engagement in politics. His work will advance the development of regional and national policy processes and the building of a framework of equitable partnership models through the Charter.

Third instalment of £250,000 gift received with thanks.

SEP

PARC Director presented to the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA): Post Graduate Research planning to the Deputy Vice Chancellors of the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA).

Statement of intent: ARUA partnering on the Perivoli Charter project.

Launch of £200,000 PARC Partnerships Fund.

OCT

Appointment of a PhD Intern at UNFPA London Office: Ms Winnie Tsuma – Winnie supported the organisation of the COP26 side event on removing the barriers to access family planning and education for women and girls. She is providing support in reviewing concept notes and analysing reports for circulation to country offices. Her work also involves researching and mapping UK Foundations and Philanthropies that are aligned with UNFPA interest for purposes of advising on areas of engagement or partnership.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) £25,000 funding to further develop the WASH (water and sanitation hygiene) capstone research agenda.

NOV

PARC Director travelled to Ghana for Danish International Development Agency (Danida) and Perivoli Charter project (please see further details under Capstone section on page 8).

3rd External Advisory Board meeting.

5th Worldwide Universities Network Global Africa Group workshop, co-chaired by the PARC Director.

DEC

Expected Policy input: African Union Commission – specialised technical committee on social development, labour and employment.

Inquiry and thought-leadership on transforming research cooperation

We seek to bring together existing voices and strands of debate, foster inquiry and advance thought-leadership on the multi-layered imbalances in global North-Africa research, and on holistic approaches needed to redress them.

Toward a Perivoli Charter

Central to our work here is the Charter project that we embarked on in June 2021, with generous support from the Perivoli Foundation. PARC is working in conjunction with the African Research Universities Alliance, the Chief Albert Luthuli Research Chair, University of South Africa, and the African Population and Health Research Center. In this joint, 12-month initiative we will develop an Africa-centred Charter and framework for action for higher education and policy institutions. Co-owned by African constituencies, the Charter is expected to guide, recognise and foster institutional accountability for action that shifts organisational systems, policies and cultures in pursuit of a transformed mode of global North-Africa research partnerships.

Building on our partners' networks and spheres of engagement, the initiative will engage a broad spectrum of relevant institutions, stakeholder constituencies and actors from academia, civil society and policy in Africa and the UK.

It's easy to forget that the power relationships that are served by exploiting Africa are also serving the exploitation of people in the North.

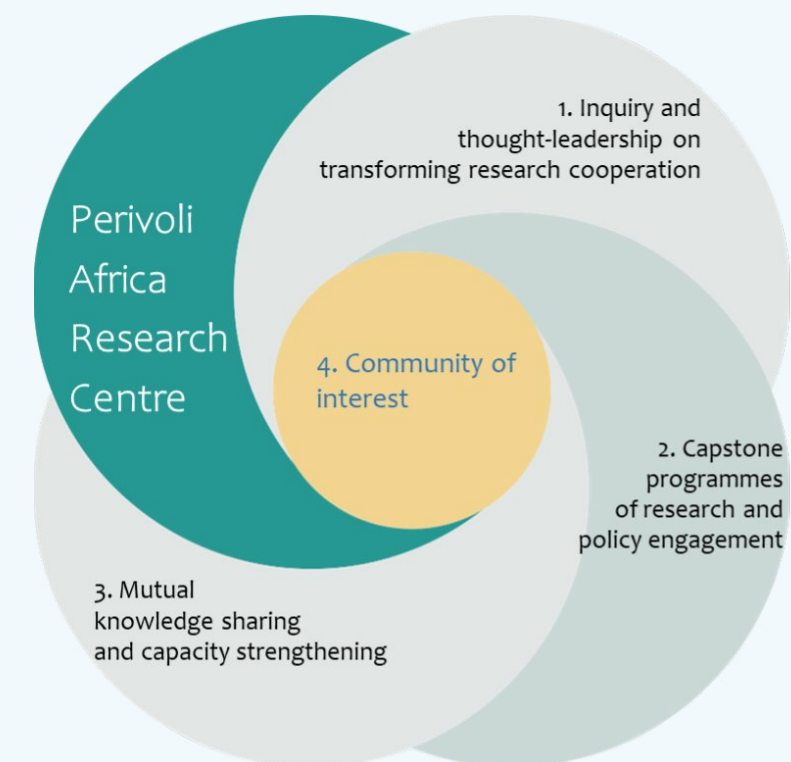
ERIC HERRING, PROFESSOR OF WORLD POLITICS, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

Perivoli Africa Research Centre
University of BRISTOL
Transformation in Africa research and partnerships



New standards for Africa research collaboration within the Worldwide Universities Network

PARC is also engaging in a two-year initiative in conjunction with the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN) Global Africa Group (GAG). This involves workshops, discussion forums and desk based research to develop and pilot new practice standards. These standards will enable equitable research collaboration and knowledge production within the WUN between African institutions and those outside of the continent.



A novel funding model: PARC Partnerships Fund

By utilising individual donations made to the University, PARC has been able to launch a further major initiative: the PARC Partnerships Fund. This fund seeks to support and embed Africa-centred and led research collaborations with the University and our mode of engagement will be guided by African scholars and institutions' ideas about what fairer, transformed partnership arrangements should look like.

Since September 2021, the PARC Partnership Fund has been open to researchers at African institutions. Projects may focus on any topic or issue prioritised by the African applicant and relevant to local, national, subregional, continental or African Union aspirations for social progress. The call deadline is January 2022 and projects will start in Spring 2022.

The budget for this call is £200,000, and we expect to fund 3-5 projects. By embedding a learning aspect, the call is expected to generate not only relevant evidence but also accumulate a body of insights about how best to pursue a truly transformed mode of Africa research partnerships in practice. These exciting new projects can hopefully be scaled up over time to yield a further set of capstone programmes.

When you don't own the resources and you don't own an outcome of a process, it becomes very difficult for you to use those outcomes for development efforts.

JANE MARIE ONG'OLO, AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION

Perivoli Africa Research Centre
University of BRISTOL
Transformation in Africa research and partnerships



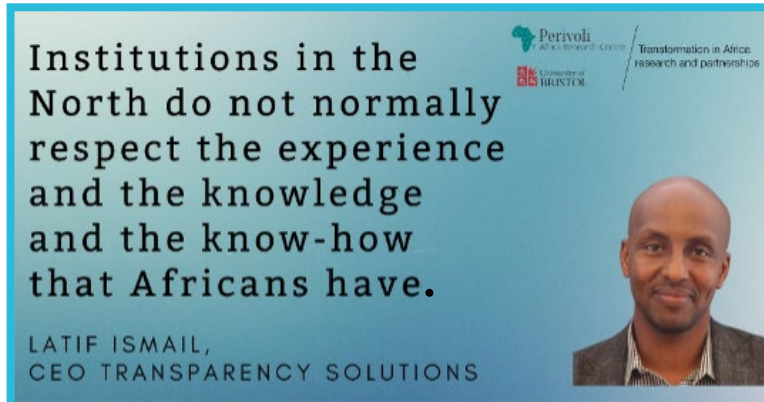
Capstone programmes of research and policy engagement

To help put a transformed mode of research collaboration into practice, we seek to help build a set of Africa-centred and led interdisciplinary capstone programmes of research and policy engagement that will be regional in scope. Initially these capstones are focused on three substantive areas:

1. Care systems and economies to harness Africa's demographic transition
2. Sexual and reproductive health and the rights of the continent's young people and women
3. Innovations in future management of water, sanitation and hygiene

We are now working to develop a new capstone area around 'Conservation' and also expect to cultivate further programmes building on the PARC Partnerships Fund (please see page 9).

As a first step toward building programmes 2 and 3, PARC, guided by partners in the continent, has convened a series of initial co-creation workshops. Key actors from civil society, advocacy, governments, regional economic communities, continental bodies, technical agencies and academia have jointly identified African priority evidence and knowledge needs to help advance the realisation of relevant policy agendas and commitments. In programme 1, we have continued to pursue a set of already active research projects, whilst planning an additional co-creation workshop in Spring 2022.



Across all three capstone areas, PARC in conjunction with the **African Population and Health Research Centre** (APHRC), worked to support the African Union Commission (AUC) in developing a tracking questionnaire.

This questionnaire will generate routine information demonstrating the national progress towards realising relevant social policy commitments enshrined in the AU Social Agenda 2063. To be formally adopted by the AU in December 2021, the questionnaire will be used by the Commission biennially to assess and help accelerate Member States' progress on the spectrum of collective social policy goals. Findings generated through the questionnaire will point to other key areas in need of further research. These will be considered as our capstone programmes 1 and 3 evolve.

1 Care systems and economies to harness Africa's demographic transition

Care economy Africa: Senegal and Kenya – PARC is working in partnership with the **APHRC**, **University of Toronto**, **Consortium for Research on the Generational Economy**, **Institute for Economic Justice** and **NAWI Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective**. The aim is to generate Africa centred knowledge and macroeconomic tools to expand early child care (ECC) and long-term care for older adults (LTC) provision and infrastructure. Ultimately ensuring that this knowledge is considered and embraced by key regional and national policy decision makers thus sustaining policy change in the longer term.

Activities to date include the ongoing mapping and review of existing bodies of literature, and policy and legal architectures on LTC and ECC, a mapping of relevant policy and civil society actors, and mapping of national survey data sources for secondary analysis. We have also welcomed our PhD student (Ms Hilda Owii) and Research Associate (Dr. Francis Naab) who have been fully inducted and begun to work on the project. Building on the desk-based work, we will be preparing for active data collection and stakeholder engagement to begin end of Q1 2022.

Developing Ghana's care economy – PARC is working in partnership with the **University of Ghana**, **African Population and Health Research Centre** and **Aarhus University**. The aim is to clarify the case and directions for investments to expand LTC service provision in Ghana. It is also to test potential service models as a vehicle for enhancing women's well-being, education and labour market opportunities as well as care quality and for expanding inclusive private sector growth. The partnerships will also look to pursue a strengthening of local capacity for continued LTC economy research. Current work being undertaken includes the mapping and reviewing of relevant literature and national survey data sources, as well as the conduct of secondary analysis of selected datasets. In meetings of the co-principal investigators in **Aarhus**, Denmark in August 2021, and of the full project team in **Accra** in November 2021, we finalised plans for fieldwork to begin in Spring 2022. Additionally we agreed the four **University of Ghana** embedded PhD projects to be completed over the next three years. During this period we envisage a training visit of the PhD students to the University of Bristol.

2 Sexual and reproductive health and the rights of the continent's young people and women

In partnership with the **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)** **Kenya** and **African Population and Health Research Center**, PARC has developed methodology to rapidly identify barriers to the realisation of national commitments to policy action to end gender-based violence and to identify steps to help overcome these. Rapid assessments are being carried out in three countries (Kenya, Zambia, South Africa) and reports for each country will be finalised by the end of December 2021. A co-creation workshop planned for Spring 2022 will pinpoint key evidence needs to be addressed as a priority to advance action to address gender-based violence.

In a parallel initiative, PARC, in conjunction with **APHRC**, the **African Union** and **UNFPA**, co-convened a session on 'Ensuring Quality Data and Evidence Generation for stronger Coordination, Shifting Actions and Programming' to end harmful practices (specifically FGM and child marriage) in November 2021 at the African Girls Summit in Niamey, Niger. A follow-up workshop is envisaged for Q1 2022, to further explore key evidence needs identified in the session and to co-create a priority agenda for research based on them.

The research agendas resulting from the above initiatives will provide a basis for African scholars, institutions and collaborators to design incisive research projects to close the knowledge gaps.

3 Innovations in future management of water, sanitation and hygiene

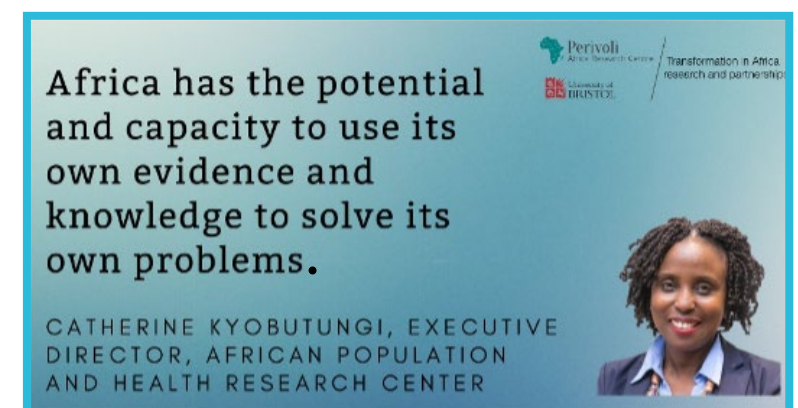
In partnership with the **AUC** and the **APHRC**, PARC co-convened a co-creation workshop in October 2021 to identify priority evidence needs and knowledge gaps for advancing policy and action on the management of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) for four of the continent's subregions: Central, East, Southern and West Africa. Supported through funding from the **Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)**, a follow-up mapping and review of relevant scientific literature and policy developments on WASH across the sub-regions will take place together with a workshop in February 2022. This will yield concrete research proposal ideas and plans to be taken forward by African scientists and collaborators.

4 Conservation

Stimulated by ideas from the **Perivoli Foundation**, we have begun to explore with the **University of Namibia (UNAM)** and the **Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)** steps toward the establishment of a programme of Africa-led and Africa-centred research initiatives that address local priorities in the areas of:

- Reversal of desertification
- Wildlife health and conservation

In consultation with research development colleagues from the two universities we have determined the approach and concrete steps for the development of plans for this programme, including the possible establishment of an **Education and Research Centre located in Namibia**. Beginning with co-creation processes, driven by **UNAM** and **NUST** and in conjunction with relevant communities and constituencies, we expect to confirm plans in a set of meetings in Namibia in Q2 2022, to yield priority research agendas.



Mutual knowledge sharing and capacity strengthening

We seek to promote mutual knowledge sharing and capacity development to embed new modes of global North-Africa research cooperation among the next generation of scholars and academic leaders.

Our work in this area has centred on three key initiatives. Firstly, together with the University's Pro Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Research, we are now actively pursuing the forging of a formal partnership between the University of Bristol (UoB) and the **Partnership for Skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET)**¹: an Africa-led research capacity strengthening initiative.

PASET was launched in 2013 by the Governments of Senegal, Ethiopia and Rwanda with facilitation by the World Bank. It aims to address systemic gaps in skills and knowledge in sub-Saharan Africa's priority ASET fields, and to build capacities in African education and training institutions to nurture high quality technicians, engineers and scientists that can support the growth of key economic sectors in the continent.

PASET's flagship programme is the **Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF)**, coordinated by **International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe)**, Kenya. The Fund offers a unique and historic opportunity for African countries to train new doctoral students in high quality PhD programmes in applied sciences, engineering and technology, at an affordable cost in competitively selected African host universities partnered with international universities².

¹ Supported by 10 African governments, the World Bank, the Government of Korea and the European Union through the ACP Innovation Fund.

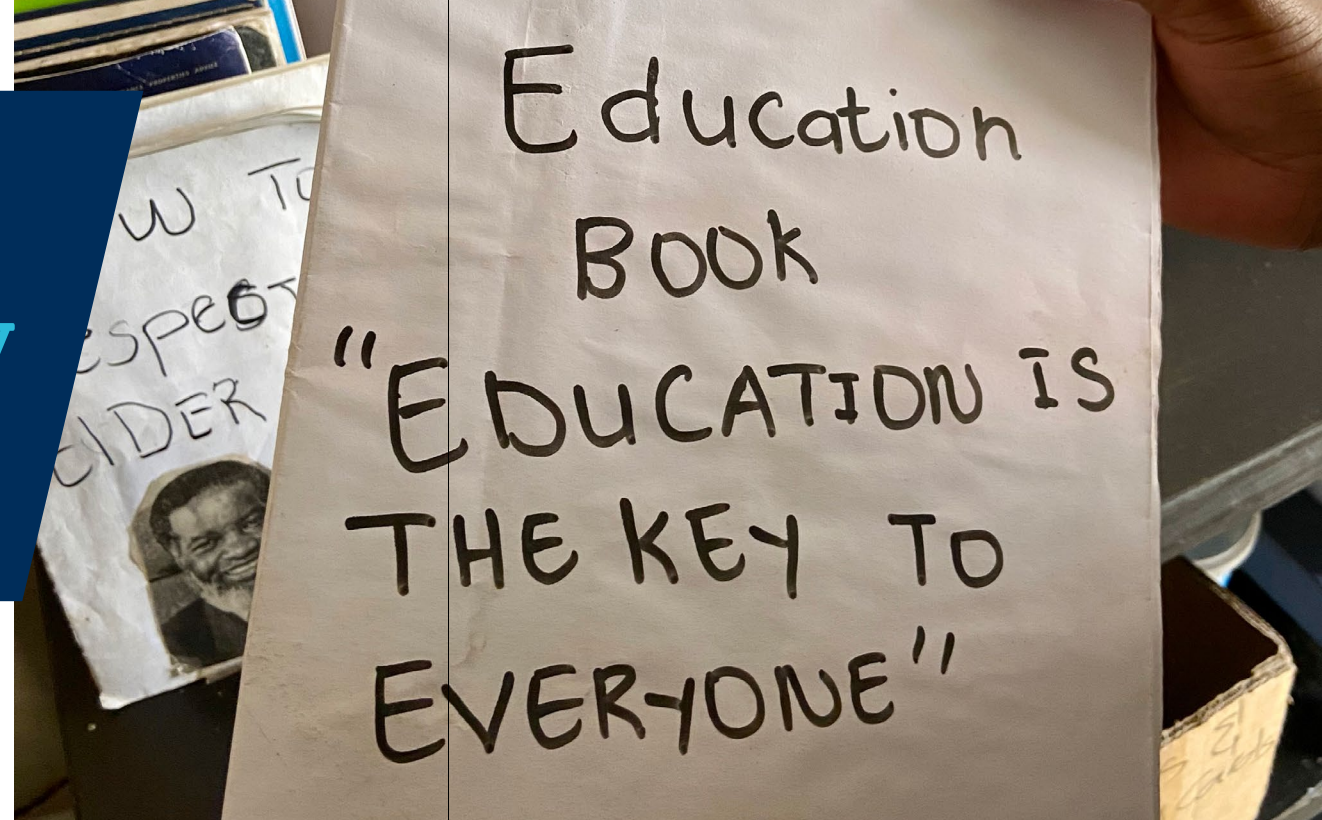
² PASET RSIF host Universities are: Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (**NM-AIST**), Tanzania; Kenyatta University (**KU**), Kenya; African University of Science and Technology (**AUST**), Nigeria; Sokoto University of Agriculture (**SUA**), Tanzania; University of Ghana, (**UG**), Ghana; University of Nairobi, Kenya; University of Port Harcourt (**UniPort**), Nigeria; Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny (**UFHB**), Côte d'Ivoire; Bayero University (**BU**), Nigeria

A proposed UoB and PASET RSIF partnership would centre, in the first instance, on the hosting of a first cohort of sandwich PhD students (between 5-10) for between 6 and 12 months in relevant faculties and departments working on one or more of RSIF's focus areas:

1. Minerals, mining, and materials engineering
2. ICTs including Big Data and AI
3. Food security and agribusiness
4. Energy, including renewables
5. Climate change

Parallel efforts would focus on the development of an active University of Bristol UoB and PASET universities research collaboration across these areas. Besides yielding opportunities for impactful joint scientific work, such collaborations could help embed future cohorts of RSIF sandwich PhD student cohorts.

Secondly, we've continued to explore a potential collaboration with the **Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA)**. This would focus on the development of materials and approaches to foster mutual learning between CARTA graduates and PhD students with relevant postgraduate students at the UoB and other CARTA Northern partners. In a similar vein, we have begun to explore the potential for a similar engagement with the training for early career researchers offered by the **Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF)**.



Above: Photo courtesy of PARC Manager, Dr Susan Jim. Taken at Etuhole Pre-primary School and Day Care, Windhoek, Namibia, 2019

Community of Interest

To inform, underpin and disseminate its work across the three other focus areas, PARC seeks to nurture a global community of interest. The community aims to engage stakeholders from the University and the city of Bristol, the continent and beyond using the PARC website as its key platform for debate and information sharing.

Reorganisation of the website has taken place to optimise its usage as a key platform for our efforts to nurture a community of interest. Through the regular convening of discussion forums, seminars and guest lectures, PARC will support and stimulate critical debate on questions regarding the continent's future and the University's engagement with it. As a first initiative, we are finalising plans for a web-based reflection and exchange platform for African and Africa-based scholars and research managers to share their experiences and perspectives on the nature, impacts and wider implications of power imbalances in global North-Africa research partnerships. A piloting of the platform is to commence before the end of the year. Coinciding with its formal launch in Spring 2022, we are putting in place arrangements for a set of two major internal and external discussion events.



Our starting point is in centering Africa's own vision for its future: the continent's Agenda 2063

Looking forward

Building on our achievements, PARC will pursue an expanded portfolio of work over the coming year to support not only the Perivoli Foundation's ambitions, but also the University of Bristol's strategic aims for its internationalisation and global partnerships, world leading research and global civic mission:

- 1 The production of the Perivoli Charter accompanied by broad engagement of key actors in the UK, Africa and beyond to foster its wide adoption, efforts to distil insights gained through its use, and the development of scholarly outputs that capture its conceptual and empirical basis.
- 2 Finalisation of new standards for Africa research collaboration within the WUN.
- 3 The progressive building of capstone research programmes across at least four substantive areas.
- 4 Learning from the implementation of the initial set of PARC Partnerships Fund (PPF)-funded projects, and expected running of a second PPF round to build on them.
- 5 The hosting in Bristol, of the first cohort of PASET PhD students and the co-development of capacity strengthening and mutual learning activities for PASET, CARTA and students and supervisors from the University of Bristol.
- 6 The provision and curating of forums for web-based and in-person exchange and debate.
- 7 Work to allow PARC to be seen internally and externally as an exemplar of "doing things differently" in alignment with key objectives in the University's Strategy.

Founding Funder

- [Perivoli Foundation](#)

Funders

- [African Population Health Research Center](#)
- [Danida](#)
- [Hewlett Foundation](#)
- [UKRI Engineering Physical Sciences Research Council](#)
- [University of South Africa](#)

Project partnerships

- [African Union Commission](#)
- [African Population Health Research Center](#)
- [African Research Universities Alliance](#)
- [Consortium for Research in the Generational Economy](#)
- [The Nawi - Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective](#)
- [Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology - Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund \(PASET-RSIF\)](#)
- [Stellenbosch University \(Centre for Collaboration in Africa; AUDA-NEPAD Centre of Excellence Science, Technology and Innovation\)](#)
- [United Nations Population Fund](#)
- [University of South Africa](#)
- [University of Cape Town](#)
- [University of Ghana](#)
- [University of Toronto](#)
- [Worldwide Universities Network](#)

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