

## Editorial: What a year it has been!!

Welcome to our last edition of 2017. What a year it has been for us in the Regional Office for Southern Africa. We recorded significant milestones, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

Importantly, we developed and launched our Regional Support Strategy for the period 2017-2021. I presented this document to our then Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova on the side-lines of the 39<sup>th</sup> session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris, France. The Support Strategy clearly identifies our key priorities until 2021; and these are aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable, African Union Agenda 2063 as well as SADC development agendas.

I am proud that our region got significant representation on the UNESCO Executive Board following the election of Zambia, Zimbabwe and Madagascar during the General Conference. South Africa will also continue on the Board until 2019. Our region also won several awards with South Africa winning the UNESCO Literacy Prize while Zimbabwe scooped the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) award.

Some major highlights during this period include the installation of a UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation in Arid Environments at the Namibia University of Science and Technology. We also joined hands with SADC to build regional capacities for the protection of cultural heritage during armed conflicts. A successful regional conference on bioethics was held in Botswana while Zimbabwe hosted a regional experts meeting on “Media4SDGs”.

Substantial resources were mobilised in 2017 to expand our regional and national programmes. During our Annual Staff Retreat held in October, we committed to further intensify our resource mobilisation efforts. This will ensure that we continue delivering on our mandates in the coming years.

For comments and suggestions, please contact: [c.mapfumo@unesco.org](mailto:c.mapfumo@unesco.org). We wish you renewed strength to pursue sustainable development in 2018 and beyond.



**Prof. Hubert Gijzen**  
**Director and Representative**





# ROSA Regional Support Strategy launched

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) Regional Support Strategy was launched in Paris, France on the side-lines of the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference. UNESCO ROSA Regional Director and Representative, Professor Hubert Gijzen presented the first copy of the Support Strategy to the Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova.

The Regional Support Strategy is the blueprint for UNESCO ROSA's operations in Southern Africa from 2017 to 2021 and aims to maximise programme delivery in the region in terms of effectiveness, impact and visibility. It spells out how the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa will contribute to the building of peace and sustainable development in the region and outlines the priority focus areas of the Office's five Sectors. The larger part of the document focuses on the Programme Support Strategy which is the backbone of the overall strategy. This is further supported by a Partnerships Strategy, Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Communication and Visibility Strategy. These four Pillars ensure that the UNESCO ROSA Regional Support Strategy is fully integrated and geared towards ensuring effective programme delivery, impact and visibility.

The Support Strategy also serves as a basis for consultations with Governments, civil society organizations, academics, development partners and United Nations (UN) agencies in order to harmonize programmes and activities. It has been developed at an opportune time as the world has started the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals. It thus gives clear indications of how the Office will contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly in the nine countries it covers. It also highlights how the Office will contribute to regional development agendas at the African Union (AU) level as well as the Southern African Development Community (SADC) level.

Access the Regional Support Strategy [here](#).



**Former UNESCO Director General, Ms. Irina Bokova receiving the Regional Support Strategy from Prof. Gijzen**

## ROSA goes green

ROSA staff took time to plant trees at their premises on 15th December 2017 as part of their end of year celebrations and commitment to go green. The Office is finalizing the development of its strategy on environmental management.

Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO Secretary General, Ms. Margaret Chirapa joined the staff and their families in the exercise.

ROSA Director and Representative, Prof. Hubert Gijzen said the planting of trees was important "in saving our environment and contributing to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals" (SDGs).



**ROSA Regional Director, Prof. Gijzen joined by the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO Secretary General, Ms. Margaret Chirapa and some kids to plant trees at the ROSA premises.**



# ROSA staff commit to intensify resource mobilisation efforts

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) staff held their annual staff retreat on 20th October 2017 in Harare, Zimbabwe and committed to intensifying their resource mobilisation efforts.

The retreat which was held under the theme, “Mobilising resources as part of our Regional Support Strategy”, focussed on ways in which human, capital and other resources can be mobilised and managed.

In his introductory remarks, ROSA Regional Director, Prof. Hubert Gijzen said resource mobilisation should not be about money only but partnerships and networks as well. He challenged staff to think about their individual and collective roles in resource mobilisation.

The retreat provided a platform for ROSA staff to share ideas and concepts on possible joint resource mobilisation opportunities; reflect on communication and visibility of the

Office and its programmes; as well as explore ways in which staff could participate actively in enhancing the Office’s vision and strategy.

The Director of UNESCO Liaison Office in Brussels (Belgium), Mr. Paulo Fontani shared with ROSA staff via video conferencing strategies for accessing European Union (EU) funding. He said it is important for one to understand the priorities of the EU, the countries it operates in and create good relationships (with the EU) before submitting proposals for possible funding.

Other topics tackled at the retreat include modalities and strategies of fundraising and communicating with donors; communication and visibility; and creating a friendly working environment.

Apart from ROSA staff stationed in Harare, the retreat was also attended by the Heads of Maputo and Windhoek Offices and selected staff from the two Offices.



*ROSA team at the Annual Retreat*



# ROSA Director delivers public lecture on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of education, science, technology and innovation in Mozambique



*Part of the students who attended the public lecture*

UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) Director, Professor Hubert Gijzen delivered a public lecture on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of education, science, technology and innovation at the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI) in Maputo, Mozambique on 24th August 2017.

In his presentation, Prof. Gijzen analyzed the necessary global transition for a world where people live in harmony with each other and with nature. He described the main challenges to be addressed by the Sustainable Development Goals and stressed the need for significant investments in quality education, science, technology and innovation.

Speaking at the same event, UNESCO Representative in Mozambique, Mr. Moussa-Elkadhun Djaffar, highlighted the relevance of joint actions and the responsibility of all citizens in order to change attitudes towards sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

Prof. Gijzen, who was recently designated as the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Africa focal point for Mozambique also held several meetings with important cooperation partners such as the Embassies of Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Italy, as well as with the Ministry of Education and Human Development and the Ministry of Science and Technology in the country.

Read more [here](#)

## ROSA briefs Zimbabwe's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on UNESCO programmes

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) held a briefing session with representatives from Zimbabwe's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Harare on 21st September 2017.

The Ministry was represented by the Director for Multilateral Affairs, Mr. David Hamadziripi, his Deputy and the Desk Officer in charge of cooperation with UNESCO.

Briefing the delegation, UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa, Prof. Hubert Gijzen gave an overview of UNESCO, its mission and vision and ROSA's strategy for improved effectiveness, impact and visibility.

Responding to the presentation, Ambassador Hamadziripi who is Zimbabwe's former Permanent Delegate to UNESCO said his Ministry appreciates the briefing and would like to work more closely with UNESCO.

Read more [here](#).



*Ambassador Hamadziripi (left) and Prof. Gijzen at the briefing session*

# UNESCO/Swedish funded “Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future” project launched

The UNESCO/Swedish funded project, “Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future” was officially launched in Paris, France on 3rd November 2017 at an event that also commemorated UNESCO and Sweden’s partnership in supporting positive health, gender and education outcomes for adolescents and young people in sub-Saharan Africa.

The launch, which took place during the 39th session of UNESCO’s General Conference featured interventions by the then UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, the Minister for Education of Sweden, Gustav Fridolin, and Zambia’s Ambassador to UNESCO, Humphrey Chilumbe, representing General Education Minister for Zambia, Dennis Wanchinga. Ms. Bokova, said the partnership between UNESCO and Sweden was empowering the youth of Africa to make informed and healthy decisions about their future.

Through “Our Rights, Our Lives, Our Future”, UNESCO and Sweden will support UNESCO Member States to provide adolescents and young people with comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) that promotes gender equality and human rights and addresses gender norms and stereotypes. The growing body of evidence confirms that well-implemented sexuality education programmes result in young people delaying age of first sex, reduced frequency of sex, reduced number of sex partners, and increased rates of condom use.

Read more [here](#).



## African Senior TVET Officials trained on Transformational Leadership

The UNESCO-UNEVOC International Centre for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa successfully hosted the first ever UNESCO-UNEVOC TVET Leadership Programme for Southern and Eastern Africa, from the 23rd to the 27th of October 2017, in Harare, Zimbabwe. The five-day training sought to empower TVET leaders in the region with the requisite skills to transform the TVET sector in light of Africa’s industrialization agenda.

The Regional TVET Leadership Programme focused on three areas as the core of a leader’s ability to drive change efficiently and successfully: strategic knowledge (vision for change), thematic knowledge (knowledge for change), and leadership and management skills (skills for change). The programme was tailor-made to suit TVET in the regional context as it comprised of modules on: Sustainable Development Goals and

UNESCO’s action for TVET; Transition to green economies and digital societies; Work based learning; Equity and gender equality; and Leadership and management. Read more [here](#)





# SADC Teacher Standards Framework to provide a point of reference for quality education in the SADC region

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Regional Teacher Task Team meeting on the development of the Regional Teacher Standards Framework was successfully held from 21st to 22nd November 2017, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Thirty-six participants from ten countries in the SADC region attended.

Participants concurred that the SADC Teacher Standards Framework will provide a point of reference for quality education in the region. For a region that has high in-region student and teacher mobility, quality teachers across the different countries are of paramount importance.

Read more [here](#).



*Delegates follow the presentations*

## Achieving quality education is a collective endeavour of all stakeholders

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa Director and Representative, Prof. Hubert Gijzen said Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) has a dual dimension: that of positioning education as a full-fledged goal in its own right, and as a key enabler for the other SDGs. Prof. Gijzen said this in his keynote address at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Education Coalition of Zimbabwe (ECOZI) held in Harare on 23 November 2017.

SDG4, which is led and coordinated by UNESCO, calls for 'ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning'. ECOZI is a coalition of civil society organisations with programmes in the education sector. These organisations coordinate their programmes and meet every year so that they speak and advocate with one voice to government and stakeholders in the education sector.



*Prof. Gijzen (seated, second left) with the meeting delegates*

"Education is the most powerful way to integrate all dimensions of Agenda 2030. It is a basic human right that is essential to individual dignity. It also brings sustainability to all development – as a force for positive transformation and an engine for economic success," said Prof. Gijzen.

Read more [here](#).

# Zambian TVET teachers' college spearheads capacity building on integrating ICTs in education

Integration of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education is one of the most discussed topics in education today, and UNESCO member states in Southern Africa continue to show remarkable interest.

In an effort to facilitate ICT use in teaching, the Technical and Vocational Teachers' college (TVTC) with the support of UNESCO-China Funds in Trust (CFIT) project organized a three-day workshop at its premises in

Copperbelt province, Zambia. Attended by 65 teachers from TVTC, the workshop allowed participants to learn and apply the different tools that were showcased.

As one of the centres of excellence that will benefit from the UNESCO/CFIT project, TVTC will be supported in strengthening the capabilities of its faculty and admin staff.

Read more [here](#)

# Zimbabwe's Sihlengeni Primary School wins ESD prize for its "Permaculture" programme

Sihlengeni Primary School from the Republic of Zimbabwe was amongst this year's three recipients of the UNESCO-Japan Prizes on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

The school was rewarded for its remarkable "[Permaculture programme](#)" involving not only its 17 teachers and 738 students – mainly children of low-income subsistence farmers – but also the adjacent community. Through an inspiring, participatory whole-institution approach, Permaculture uses the principles of ESD to provide quality education as well as increased access to a clean

environment, food and water. Its permaculture programme, which has turned the arid Umzingwane Rural District of Matabeleland South Province of Zimbabwe into a rehabilitated forest of fruit trees, food garden and livestock, has become a good practice in the country for improving the local environment and income generation.

The school head teacher, Mr Sibanga Ncube and the School Development Committee Chairperson, Mr Lusaba received the prize in Paris, France.

Read more [here](#)



Prize winners pose for a photo with the then UNESCO Director General, Ms, Irina Bokova (third from left)



# South Africa wins UNESCO International Literacy Prize

South Africa's FunDza is among the five laureates that were awarded the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes on the occasion of International Literacy Day, celebrated on 8th September. This year's Literacy Prizes and celebrations focussed on literacy in a digital world.

The three awards of the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy, supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China and rewarding work that benefits rural populations and out-of-school youth, particularly girls and

women, were given to FunDza (South Africa), AdulTiCoProgram of the Secretariat of Information and Communications Technologies of the city of Armenia (Colombia) and the Citizens Foundation (Pakistan).

FunDza was awarded for its readers and writers project to develop a culture of reading and writing for pleasure through an online platform that provides reading courses and writing competitions as well as connecting readers and writers. Read more [here](#).

# Harnessing ICTs for Quality Teacher Training in Africa Project enters Phase II

The UNESCO-China Funds-in-Trust (CFIT) project on Harnessing Technology for Quality Teacher Training in Africa has entered the second phase and launched the first issue of [Phase II newsletter](#).

Eight countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Namibia, Tanzania, and Uganda) benefitted from the first phase of the project (2012-2016). Togo and Zambia have been added to the second phase (2017-2018) bringing the total number of implementing countries to 10.

During the first phase, over 100 training workshops were

organized, strengthening the capacities of approximately 10 000 educators. Over 230 teacher training modules and policy documents were revised or developed, and are being institutionalized. More than 2 400 pieces of equipment were purchased and installed, while seven online teaching and learning platforms and three digital libraries were also established, linking over 30 teacher training institutions.

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) coordinates the implementation of the CFIT project in Namibia and Zambia.

Read more [here](#)

# Updates on UNESCO-EU Malawi Skills and Technical Education Project now accessible

UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) has launched a website with the most recent information on the activities of the European Union (EU) funded Skills and Technical Education Project (STEP) being implemented in Malawi.

From 2016 – 2020, UNESCO is partnering with the Government of Malawi and other key stakeholders in the country to implement one of the components of STEP that seeks to empower Entrepreneurial, Vocational Education and Training sector .

Aside from the news on the latest activities of the project, the website makes available publications and other resources developed during the first implementation year of the project.

Read more [here](#).





# Right to education for Zimbabweans is not negotiable: President Mnangagwa



**President Emmerson Mnangagwa**

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa said the right to education for Zimbabweans is not negotiable and is indispensable for the achievement of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Speaking at the Global Action Week for Education (GAWÉ) commemorations held at Chipindura High School in Bindura on 20th July 2017, when he was still the Vice President of the country, Mnangagwa said the government remains committed to upholding the citizens' right to education.

"Government will continue to work towards the attainment of the sustainable development goal number 4 of the agenda 2030," said he said.

Speaking at the same event, UNESCO Regional Director for Southern Africa, Prof. Hubert Gijzen called for greater accountability and citizen participation in education policy making and monitoring of progress in the implementation of SDG 4. Read more [here](#).

## Swaziland hosts second teacher educator action learning workshop

UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) and its programme partners – the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA), Rhodes University and the Swedish International Centre of Education for Sustainable Development (SWEDESD), conducted the second teacher educator action learning workshop in Swaziland from 18-21 July 2017. The meeting followed the successful delivery of the first workshop in June 2017 in Lusaka, Zambia, attended by delegates from Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Swaziland is one of the leading countries in Africa in the area of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and a field visit to one of their good community practices on sustainable development was conducted. 45 participants from Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, South Africa, Swaziland, and the countries' ESD reference group members attended the workshop.

The two regional action learning workshops were important milestones for the "Sustainability Starts with Teachers" project, which is UNESCO's international flagship action learning programme of the Global Action Plan on ESD. Supported by the Japanese Funds in Trust, this initiative is designed to introduce curriculum innovation in 60 participating Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) from the nine countries in the region.

Read more [here](#)

## Development of the Draft Zambian National Teachers' Standards Framework in Final Stages

The Ministry of General Education of Zambia is making steady progress towards the development of the National Teachers' Standards Framework aimed at contributing to the professionalization of the teaching profession thereby raising the status of the quality of teachers. The process of developing teachers' professional standards is anchored on UNESCO's CapED programme whose overall aim is to contribute to the development and operationalisation of the teachers' standards and competences framework in Zambia.

The DFID funded Zambia Education Sector Support and Technical Assistance (ZESSTA) initiated the support for the Framework following the establishment of the National Teacher Standards Steering Committee in November 2016. UNESCO has partnered with the Zambian Government and ZESSTA to continue this process by supporting several meetings of the Technical Committee, tasked with drafting the Standards Framework. Read more [here](#)

# ROSA hosts quality assurance workshop for the ICT essentials for teachers' course

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) hosted a two day quality assurance workshop for the Zimbabwe Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Essentials for Teachers' Course in Harare from 26-27 September 2017.

The workshop received feedback from local stakeholders on the effectiveness of the first draft of the Zimbabwe ICT Essentials for Teachers course which developed by UNESCO ROSA within the framework of the UNESCO/Korean Funds-in-Trust (KFIT) project entitled, "ICT Transforming Education in Africa".

Read more [here](#)



*ROSA Senior Programme Specialist for Education, Ms. Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo (centre) contributing to the discussions.*

## Zimbabwe hosts consultative meeting on ICTs in Higher Education Policy

Zimbabwe hosted a consultative meeting to develop a policy on Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Higher Education from 7-8 November 2017 in the capital, Harare.

Officials from the Ministries of Information Communication Technology, Postal and Courier Services; Higher and Tertiary Education, Science and Technology Development; and Primary and Secondary Education attended the meeting.

Read more [here](#).



*One of the facilitators presenting at the workshop*

## Namibian universities discuss internationalization of higher education

The Department of International Relations of the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) organized the fifth International Education Day (IED) activities from 12-14 September 2017. The Day is celebrated annually in September and promotes internationalization on campus. This year's theme was, "Internationalization of Higher Education and Global Citizenship Education".

The activities included an inter-varsity debate, between NUST and the University of Namibia (UNAM) debating societies and an International Street Food Festival with internationally themed food stalls.

On September 13, a public lecture on 'Internationalization of Higher Education and Global Citizenship Education' was held, with UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa Senior Education Programme Specialist, Ms. Carolyn Medel-Anonuevo as keynote speaker.

Read more [here](#).



# ROSA supports Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

The Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) hosted its 35th annual conference from 18-21 September 2017 in Maun, Botswana. The conference brought together members and partners involved in the environmental and sustainability education processes. The theme for the 2017 conference, 'Enhancing Quality Education through Environment and Sustainability in Southern Africa' highlighted the importance of aligning with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 on education.

The conference was in line with the EEASA's commitment to the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on Education

for Sustainable Development (ESD). UNESCO coordinates the implementation of the Global Action Programme and closely works with key partners to generate and scale-up ESD actions.

Through plenary and parallel sessions, the EEASA conference delved into issues such as the mainstreaming of Environmental and Sustainability Education (ESE) for quality education; art-based approaches and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) as vehicles for ESE; and young people's involvement in ESE. Read more [here](#).

## Botswana develops National Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development Goal 4

Botswana hosted a 5 day workshop to develop the National Implementation Plan for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The Botswana National Commission for UNESCO under the Ministry of Tertiary Education, Research, Science and Technology has been advocating for the inclusion of SDG4 in the work of the different government ministries to ensure it is mainstreamed in sectoral policies and programmes.

In groups, the participants examined their country's National Development Plan, National Economic Stimulus Plan and the Education and Training Sector Strategic Plan (2015-2020) and worked on aligning SDG4 targets with their own national targets, and indicators. The results of their work will be shared with other countries covered by the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa.

Read more [here](#).

## SADC Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation agrees on an Action Plan for the implementation of the Regional Qualifications Framework

The Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Technical Committee on Certification and Accreditation (TCCA), which is composed of senior officials from the region met in Johannesburg, South Africa from 19-20 September 2017 and reviewed progress in the implementation of the decisions of the previous TCCA meeting held in April 2017 and also considered resolutions by Ministers on the SADC Qualifications Framework (SADCQF).

The main output of the meeting was a road map for accelerating the implementation of the four aspects of the SADCQF namely: development and alignment of the National Qualification Frameworks to the SADCQF; quality assurance; verifications; and advocacy and communication. Read more [here](#).



# Literacy empowers learners to participate confidently in socio-economic development

Tongogara High School grounds in the Shurugwi district of Zimbabwe was a hive of celebratory activities on 22nd September 2017 as the country marked the 2017 International Literacy Day. Senior members in the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, provincial education officers, representatives from the 72 district education offices, community leaders, teachers, learners and parents from the cluster of schools around Tongogara gathered to mark the day through funfair activities.

In a key note speech on the occasion, the Director of Non Formal Education, Edwin Kudzai Mutuwira, who represented the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education, said literacy empowers and enables people to undertake basic economic activities meaningfully.

Echoing the need not to leave anyone behind, UNESCO ROSA National Professional Officer for Education, Mr. Moses Mukabeta noted that with the emerging new digital technologies, there are vast opportunities to reach the unreached.

Read more [here](#).



*Delegates tour stands at the celebrations*

## Engaging religious leaders to support CSE in Eastern and Southern Africa

A three day training workshop for religious leaders on Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE) was held in Lusaka, Zambia from 7-9 November 2017. It equipped religious leaders with knowledge, concepts and key issues surrounding CSE. It also strengthened advocacy skills of participants and reviewed the ASRHR handbook for religious leaders.

Addressing participants in her opening remarks, Zambia's Minister of National Guidance and Religious Affairs, Reverend Godfridah Sumaili highlighted the urgent need for religious leaders to advocate for CSE to try and eradicate issues being faced by young people in the region such as early and unintended pregnancies, HIV, unsafe abortions, child marriages, and gender based violence. UNESCO HIV and Health Education Advisor for Eastern and Southern Africa, Dr. Patricia Machawira said the involvement of parents and religious leaders in Comprehensive Sexuality Education work was important in ensuring adolescents and young people receive the same message as being delivered in the schools.

Read more [here](#).



*From right to left: Rev. Godfridah Sumaili, Minister of National Guidance and Religious Affairs, Dr. Patricia Machawira Regional Advisor for HIV and Health Education UNESCO, Ms Grace Kerongo, INERELA+, Tafadzwa Madondo, Save the Children*



# UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation in Arid Environments installed at the Namibia University of Science and Technology

The UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation in Arid Environments was inaugurated at the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) on 2nd August 2017 in Windhoek at a ceremony attended by senior Namibian Government officials, University staff, researchers, journalists and UNESCO representatives among others.

In her keynote address, Namibia's Minister of Higher Education, Training & Innovation Honourable Dr. Itah Kandjii-Muranghi, expressed optimism that the UNESCO Chair will provide meaningful research on how the government, institutions and communities can sustainably manage water and ensure easier access to clean water and sanitation.

Speaking at the same event, UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa, Director and Representative, Prof. Hubert

Gijzen said the Chair at NUST will promote and strengthen collaborative and multidisciplinary research and training on integrated and sustainable management of water resources in arid environments.

The Chair is expected to produce new generations of water sector engineers, scientists and researchers who will be ready to confront the numerous challenges faced by the water sector in Namibia and the region. It will also link up with the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme (IHP), which is an intergovernmental programme that promotes international scientific cooperation in water research, water resource management, education and capacity-building.

Read more [here](#)



*Honourable Dr. Kandjii-Muranghi (front row, centre) together with other key delegates at the installation ceremony*

# 2017 MAB Youth Forum: Giving young people a voice to shape their territories

Over 300 young people from 95 countries gathered in the Po Delta Biosphere Reserve (Italy) from 18-24 September 2017 to take leadership in the sustainable development of their environments. 15 participants from Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe represented Southern Africa at this Man and Biosphere (MAB) Youth Forum.

These young people either live or work in a biosphere reserve, areas that are committed to developing solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. They participated in the 2017 MAB Youth Forum to get a voice in shaping the future of their territories and defining engagement in their biosphere reserves.

Biosphere reserves are home to about 240 million people, in 120 countries, and cover a surface roughly equivalent to that of China. It is a large and diverse network, one of hope, resilience and reconciliation. Read more [here](#).



*Zimbabwe and ROSA-supported delegate, Tawanda Gijima contributing to discussions at the Forum*

## AfriMAB Sub-Regional Workshop on Biosphere Reserves and Sustainable Developments Goals held

The African Network of Man and Biosphere (AfriMAB) Sub- regional workshop on biosphere reserves and sustainable development goals took place in Cape West Coast Biosphere Reserve in Cape Town, South Africa from 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017.



*Workshop delegates pose for a photo*

The three day workshop which was hosted by UNESCO ROSA in collaboration with the government of South Africa through the Department of Environmental Affairs aimed to build capacity and share good practices on the establishment and management of biosphere reserves to respond to climate change, biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, scientific research and to strengthen education for sustainable development.

The importance of aligning the Biosphere Reserves Strategy with the Lima Action Plan as well as strengthening the governance and implementation of the Biosphere Reserve Programmes was highlighted as a major step to be taken in the region.

Read more [here](#).



# Partners step up collaboration to strength Zimbabwe's Middle Zambezi Biosphere Reserve

UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) successfully hosted a one day partnership meeting with the European Union (EU), the Embassy of Spain and the Zimbabwe Man and Biosphere (MAB) Committee in July 2017 in Harare to identify areas of synergy of work and fund mobilization opportunities on issues of climate change, environmental research, natural resources and wildlife management and youth employment using the UNESCO MAB concept. The partners agreed to work together and mobilise resources to ensure the effective operations of Zimbabwe's Middle Zambezi Biosphere Reserve.

Presenting on the MAB concept at the meeting, UNESCO ROSA Senior Programme Specialist for Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr. Peggy Oti-Boateng said the Biosphere Reserve (BR) concept promotes conservation of landscape and ecosystems, territorial spatial management as well as national and regional integration.

Read more [here](#).



*Partners pose for a photo after fruitful deliberations*

## Calls for inclusion of women scientists in key decision-making positions

Delegates attending the high level workshop on gender-responsive Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policies and governance strategies for sustainable development in Windhoek, Namibia called for the inclusion of women scientists in key decision-making positions.

Women play crucial roles in Africa's development, yet they are not fully participating in science, as they remain a minority in the fields that are vital for the transition to sustainable development such as energy, engineering, transportation, information technology (IT) and computing. Gender disparities

are evident in places of work and decision making processes where women scientists are mainly employed in academic and government institutions where they occupy positions with limited leadership opportunities while their male counterparts occupy high paying leadership positions in the private sector.

Delegates bemoaned this under-representation saying it has profound implications for sustainable development of nations. With few women scientists occupying decision-making positions, women's role in addressing Africa's developmental challenges is severely hampered.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

## South Africa elected Chair of the Africa IHP Bureau

South Africa was elected the Chair of the Africa International Hydrological Programme (IHP) Bureau at the 6th Regional Meeting of Africa IHP Committees held in Port Elizabeth, South Africa from 12-13 July 2017. Another Southern African country, Swaziland, was elected second Vice President with Senegal elected the first Vice President. Kenya and Burundi were elected as rapporteurs representing the Anglophone and Francophone countries respectively. The Bureau will be in office until the next Africa IHP Committees meeting which is held after every two years.

The 6th Regional Meeting of Africa IHP Committees was organised by the UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) and UNESCO IHP in collaboration with the Government of South Africa and took stock of the implementation and governance of the IHP in Africa. Read more [here](#).

# South African named among Five Laureates for 2018 L'ORÉAL-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards

South Africa's Professor Heather Zar has been named among five outstanding women scientists who will receive the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards in life sciences on 22 March next year in Paris, France. The other four are Professor Amy T. Austin from Argentina, Professor Janet Rossant from Canada, Professor Meemann Chang from China and the United Kingdom's Professor Caroline Dean.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Awards recognizes women who are still under-represented in various fields, including science, where the glass ceiling remains a reality. For almost 20 years, the L'Oréal Foundation, in partnership with UNESCO, has celebrated five exceptional female researchers every year and has been committed to promoting equality between women and men in science.

The five women scientists celebrated by the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science awards were selected by an independent jury of ten high-profile members of the international science community and will each receive €100,000 in prize money for their outstanding contributions in advancing science. Read more [here](#).



## 14 young female scientists from Africa honoured

The 2017 edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Programme honoured 14 young female scientists from across Africa at a ceremony held on 8th November 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The young female scientists were honoured for their work and impact in the scientific field. Their fields of research vary

across different disciplines and address key global issues. Since the programme began in 2010, it has supported more than 2,700 young women from 115 countries and celebrated 97 laureates, at the peak of their careers, including professors Elizabeth H. Blackburn and Ada Yonath, who went on to win a Nobel Prize. Read more [here](#)





# Creative approaches to developing intercultural competencies among young women and men

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) facilitated training sessions to sensitize and transmit intercultural competences to diverse audiences using creative approaches. The trainings were held in Hopley, one of Harare's informal settlements.

The initiative provided dialogue platforms for young

people from different backgrounds to learn from each other and explore similarities and differences as well as promote social inclusion and mutual understanding in urban areas by enhancing intercultural competence development of young women and men. Themes that were covered during the trainings include cultural identity and awareness and intercultural skills including, communication language and empathy.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#)



## Zambia/UNESCO youth delegate's short film showcased at the Auburn International Film Festival

Zambia's Mwenya Kabense participated at the International Youth Media Summit (IYMS) that was held in Falkenberg, Sweden, from 27th July to 9th August 2017. During the Summit, he was part of the team that produced "No Differences", a short film that was showcased at the Auburn International Film Festival held from 18-20 September 2017.

The short film teaches people to love rather than hate. It calls upon the vibrant network of proactive and

hardworking youths to contribute to the development of their societies. The film is a product of hard work, dedication, commitment, teamwork and sacrifice. It ends with the provocative slogan: "No Colour. No Differences. No Discrimination." This slogan calls upon the youth to question their values, beliefs and norms that people in their respective countries have created to stereotype specific groups.

UNESCO ROSA supported Kabense's participation at the IYMS. Read more [here](#).

# Zimbabwe elected member of MOST Intergovernmental Council

Zimbabwe was elected member of the Intergovernmental Council on the Management of Social Transformations (MOST) during the 39th Session of the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris, France. Zimbabwe will represent Africa together with Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Togo, and the United Republic of Tanzania for the period 2017-2021.

The MOST Intergovernmental Council is composed of 35 Member States of UNESCO, elected by UNESCO's General Conference. The Council convenes every two years and establishes the priority areas to be researched, decides on overall policy and funding questions, and handles the relations with governmental authorities. Read more [here](#).

## Regional bioethics conference hailed

Delegates who attended the Regional Conference on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), bioethics and ethics research in Gaborone, Botswana from 17-18 October 2017 described the event as an important milestone for the region.

Speaking after the successful conclusion of the conference, Director of the Institute of Ethics at Dublin City University, Professor Bert Gordjin said the regional conference was a pivotal milestone in the development of bioethics in Southern Africa.

In a series of moderated brainstorming sessions, world renowned bioethics experts got together with representatives from Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Kenya, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia to agree on an Outcome Document for the development of bioethics in Eastern and Southern Africa. The participants identified several priority action points including advocating for the teaching of bioethics and research ethics in higher learning institutions.

Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

## Two South African cities join the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

South Africa's Cape Town and Durban are among 64 cities from 44 countries that have been designated as UNESCO Creative Cities. They join a Network at the frontline of UNESCO's efforts to foster innovation and creativity as key drivers for a more sustainable and inclusive urban development. This network attracts growing interest from local authorities. Read more [here](#).





# UNESCO, SADC RPTC unite to protect cultural heritage in armed conflict

Thirty-two (32) participants gathered at the Southern African Development Community Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (SADC RPTC) in Harare for a 3-day regional workshop on “Peacekeeping operational aspects of protecting cultural property in armed conflict”.

The participants included middle to high level military personnel from seven SADC countries (Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe) as well as expert resource persons from the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations/Department of Field Support, the

UNESCO Secretary of the 1954 Convention and its two protocols and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Also represented at the meeting are the National Museums and Monuments Zimbabwe (NMMZ) and the Zimbabwe National Commission for UNESCO.

Major expected outcomes from this workshop included improved understanding of the international standard setting instruments surrounding the preservation of cultural heritage as well as the capacity building of military personnel in SADC. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).



*Some of the delegates following the presentations*

## Swaziland holds national workshop on implementation of the World Heritage Convention

The Swaziland National Trust Commission hosted a national workshop on the implementation of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage in Ezulwini from 1-3 November 2017. The workshop which was attended by 25 participants from civil society organisations, local communities, academia and government officials raised awareness on the Convention and put in place mechanisms of identifying and preparing

Swaziland's tentative list of World Heritage sites.

It also identified stumbling blocks preventing Swaziland from taking the necessary steps toward the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention and encouraged dialogue among various stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention. Read more [here](#)

# Southern Africa takes stock of ICH safeguarding

Twenty-two (22) participants from seven Southern African countries (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe) gathered in Darwendale, Zimbabwe from 12-13 September 2017 to discuss issues of Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in the region.

Participants noted that Southern Africa has indeed increased its expertise in the area of ICH even though more work still needs to be done to share the acquired expertise and knowledge. It was also noted that resource mobilization for regional multinational initiatives should be promoted. Read more [here](#).



Zimbabwe's mbira ICH element

## ROSA collaborates with regional law enforcement bodies in the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property

The UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) in collaboration with the International Police Organisation (INTERPOL) Regional Bureau for Southern Africa and the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO) conducted a regional workshop on the prevention and fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property from 29-30 August 2017 in Ezulwini Valley, Swaziland.

Police, Customs and Prosecution officials from 15 Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries participated in the workshop which sought to develop their capacities to prevent and fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property as well as the restitution of stolen or illegally exported objects.

Read more [here](#).

## Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in southern Africa publication launched



A publication entitled "Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage in southern Africa" was launched on 29th November 2017 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The publication summarizes the achievements of the UNESCO/Flanders funded projects on the implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) which were implemented in seven southern African countries between 2009 and 2017.

Reverend Paul Damasane, Principal Director in charge of Arts and Culture in Zimbabwe thanked the Flanders Government for the financial support and UNESCO ROSA for the smooth implementation of the projects. He said due to the projects, awareness had been risen among government officials and local communities on ICH. Read more [here](#).



# Lesotho inventories four Intangible Cultural Heritage elements

Lesotho completed the inventorying of four Intangible Cultural Elements (ICH) elements, namely: Birth of a Mosotho child, *Ho Upella Sefako* ritual, *Sekhankula* music instrument and *lesiba* music instrument. The four were added to the country's National ICH inventory as part of the implementation of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Read more [here](#).



# Zimbabwe makes progress in intangible cultural heritage inventorying

Zimbabwe has made significant progress in intangible cultural heritage (ICH) inventorying, thanks to the UNESCO/Flanders funded projects aimed at strengthening national capacities for the implementation the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Through various capacity building activities held in the country, ICH inventorying at national and community levels has increased. Four ICH elements of the “VaRemba” community found in the Midlands Province were inventoried. A nomination file for one of the elements was prepared and submitted for possible inscription on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Two elements, Ndandariya dance and traditional basketry were inventoried in Honde Valley. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

# Media’s role in sustainable development undeniable

Delegates at the UNESCO Regional Experts Meeting on “Media 4 SDGs” held in Harare, Zimbabwe from the 11th to 12th of December, endorsed the need to involve the media in the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). Media in all its forms has a crucial role to play in the development agenda to ensure that citizens are well informed.

UNESCO ROSA is developing a regional project that will address these issues. The project concept was presented to development partners on the last day of the experts meeting. Read more [here](#).



# Zambian wins #IPDCtalksSA Competition



**Simukoko (in black jacket) at the #IPDCtalksSA event**

Zambia's Lolavye Simukoko won the first prize of the 2017 #IPDCtalksSA competition. He received a full size tablet for his efforts and also presented his infographic/poster on how online/offline media promote public access to

information and civic engagement on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at an event held in Johannesburg, South Africa on 28th September 2017.

Diana Ramonare from Lesotho won the second prize (mini tablet) while Botswana's Refilwe Mothibi won the third prize (smart phone).

Speaking on winning the first prize, Simukoko said he felt great that he had been recognized at regional level for his efforts in contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

"I am glad that I am significantly helping contribute towards the achievement of SDGs on an international scale," he said.

The 23 year-old Zambian Mass Communication student spoke at length about SDGs and the role of young people in the achievement of sustainable development. Read more [here](#).

## Access to information, a fundamental right key to achieving SDGs in Zimbabwe

Access to information for all is critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was said by various speakers at the Zimbabwe commemoration of International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) at Chogugudza Primary School in Domboshava, Zimbabwe on 26th October 2017.

The national celebrations were held under the theme, "Overcoming divides: achieving SDGs in Zimbabwe".

All the speakers concurred that access to information is a fundamental right and is therefore vital to build more inclusive, sustainable knowledge societies and to achieve SDGs in their totality. Young people and women have a crucial role to play in the achievement of the SDGs as alluded to in the UNESCO Regional Director, Prof. Hubert Gijzen's speech read by Mr. Hezekiel Dlamini (UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa Communication and Information Advisor). Read more [here](#).

