SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS REPORT 2025-2027



UNIVERSITY of LAGOS


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UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS AT A GLANCE

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) is a leading public tertiary institution in the heart of the city of Lagos, Nigeria. UNILAG is future ready, research focused university that is committed to academic excellence, innovation, and societal impact. As a premier institution of higher learning, UNILAG is dedicated to advancing knowledge through teaching, research, and community service while fostering an environment of creativity and global engagement.

The University offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes across various disciplines, catering to over 52,000 full time and part-time students from diverse backgrounds. With a strong emphasis on both theoretical and practical learning, UNILAG provides education that meets international standards, ensuring graduates are well-equipped for success in today's dynamic workforce.

UNILAG is renowned for its cutting-edge research and commitment to national and global development. Its faculty members are highly respected scholars who contribute significantly to knowledge creation, technological innovation, and policy development. The university maintains strong collaborations with industries, government agencies and international institutions, bridging the gap between academia and real-world applications.

Situated in Akoka, Lagos, UNILAG boasts a vibrant campus with modern facilities, including state-of-the-art lecture halls, research centres, libraries, and student support services. The university's strategic location in the commercial capital of Nigeria provides students with unique opportunities for internships, networking, and career development in various industries.

The institution's excellence has been recognized through numerous national and international rankings. UNILAG consistently ranks among the top universities in Africa, affirming its role as a hub for quality education and ground-breaking research.

With a commitment to innovation, entrepreneurship, and global relevance, UNILAG continues to shape the future of education and remains a beacon of knowledge and leadership in Nigeria and the Sub-Saharan African region.

FOREWORD

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global call to action for creating a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future. As a leading institution of higher learning, the University of Lagos (UNILAG) recognizes the pivotal role universities play in advancing these goals through research, education, innovation, and community engagement.

This report highlights UNILAG's commitment to sustainable development and showcases the university's strides in aligning its policies, initiatives, and academic programs with the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

At UNILAG, we believe that sustainable development is not just a goal but a responsibility. Through interdisciplinary research, strategic partnerships, and impactful outreach programs, we continue to develop solutions that addresses pressing global challenges while equipping our students with the knowledge and skills to become agents of change.

This report serves as a testament to the dedication of our faculty, students, and stakeholders in advancing sustainable practices and fostering a future where prosperity and environmental responsibility go hand in hand. We remain committed to driving progress, inspiring innovation, and leading by example as we work towards a more sustainable world.

Finally, this Sustainability Report reaffirms our University's unwavering commitment to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals through education, research, innovation, and community engagement. It reflects not only our progress but also our collective responsibility to create a more just, resilient, and sustainable future. As we continue to align our strategies with global priorities, we remain dedicated to empowering our students, staff, and partners to be catalysts for positive change—demonstrating that through collaboration and purposeful action, academia can lead the way toward achieving a sustainable world for all.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is a holistic approach to growth that seeks to balance economic advancement, social well-being, and environmental protection. It is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. First introduced in the 1987 Brundtland Report, the concept has since become a guiding principle for global development efforts.

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, which outlines **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** designed to address the world's most pressing challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, and peace and justice. These goals call for collective action by governments, institutions, and individuals to create inclusive, resilient, and sustainable societies.

Within this framework, **universities play a pivotal role** as drivers of knowledge, innovation, and leadership. By integrating sustainability into teaching, research, operations, and community engagement, higher education institutions can shape informed citizens and generate solutions that contribute directly to achieving the SDGs. Sustainable development, therefore, represents not only a global agenda but also a shared responsibility to ensure a balanced and thriving future for all.

SDGs AT A GLANCE

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.
8. Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
9. resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Next Steps Toward Achieving the SDGs

To accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), University of Lagos must adopt a coordinated, inclusive, and measurable approach that aligns academic, research, operational, and community activities with the 2030 Agenda. The following steps outline how the institution can move forward effectively:

Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement

Active involvement of all stakeholders, students, faculty, administrative staff, alumni, local communities, industry partners, and policymakers is critical.

- **Students** can lead peer education, innovation challenges, and community outreach initiatives that promote sustainability awareness.
- **Faculty and researchers** should integrate SDG-focused themes into teaching, research projects, and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- **University leadership** must champion sustainability policies and provide enabling frameworks for implementation.
- **External partners**, including NGOs, government agencies, and private sector organizations, can offer funding, data, and real-world platforms for applied research and pilot programs.

Regular stakeholder consultations, workshops, and feedback channels should be established to ensure shared ownership and continuous improvement.

Implementation Strategies

To incorporate the SDGs across all aspects of university life:

- **Curriculum Integration:** Incorporate SDG-related topics into existing programs, develop new sustainability-oriented courses, and promote experiential learning.
- **Research and Innovation:** Prioritize research that addresses local and global sustainability challenges, encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, and translates knowledge into action.
- **Campus Operations:** Implement sustainable practices in energy use, waste management, water conservation, and green infrastructure to model SDG principles in practice.
- **Community Engagement:** Extend university expertise to support local development initiatives, community-based projects, and policy advocacy linked to the SDGs.

Achieving Our Vision

The ultimate goal is to position the university as a leading model of sustainability-driven education, research, and social impact. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and accountability, the institution can translate global SDG commitments into local action and measurable outcomes. Through collective effort, the university community will not only

advance the 2030 Agenda but also inspire future generations to create a more just, inclusive, and sustainable world.

1. No Poverty

Ending poverty for good, leaving no one behind

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Enhance Student Support Systems: Expand scholarships, bursaries, and hardship grants targeted at students from low-income backgrounds.
2. Promote Entrepreneurship and Skills Development: Establish business incubation centres, vocational training hubs and mentorship programs under the Entrepreneurship and Skills Development Centre.
***3. Create Research and Innovation Networks*:** Encourage interdisciplinary research on poverty reduction, income inequality and inclusive development, with findings disseminated for policy advocacy.
4. Strengthen Community Outreach: Collaborate with local communities to implement empowerment projects, cooperative scheme and social enterprise initiatives.
5. Foster Partnerships: Work with government agencies, NGOs, and private sector partners to fund and scale poverty-reduction interventions.
6. Integrate Poverty-Awareness Education: Embed modules on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and social responsibility into general studies and co-curricular activities.

RESEARCH

The Centre for Economic Policy Analysis and Research (CEPAR) at UNILAG conducts research on economic and business policy issues. CEPAR's goal is to share its findings with decision-makers and other stakeholders.

OPERATIONS

Financial aid: With over 30,000 full time students, the university is committed to providing access to education to low-income students through the provision of financial aid in the form of scholarships. This assistance enables students to afford essential expenses like meal plans, textbooks, and daily necessities, allowing them to concentrate on their studies without financial stress.

Revitalisation of Work-Study Programme: The student work-study programme has been revitalised to accommodate increased remuneration.

Partnership with Lagos Bus Rapid Transport System:

To facilitate ease on transportation, the Management has acquired approval from Lagos State for additional BRT dedicated route for persons who come from Berger Bus Stop axis of Lagos State.

Partnership with NGOs: students have been beneficiary of financial aids sponsored by foundations interested in the welfare of students.

STUDENT LEARNING

CMU-Africa Innovation Summit

The Director of the Entrepreneurship and Skills Development Centre (ESDC) at the University of Lagos, in January 2024, Professor Sunday Adebisi, led a delegation of six student-entrepreneurs (Studentpreneurs) to the CMU-Africa Innovation Summit 2024 in Kigali, Rwanda. This summit, organized by Carnegie Mellon University-Africa's Center for Inclusive Digital Transformation in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, serves as a key platform to promote entrepreneurship and innovation among African students.



COMMUNITY ACTION

The Department of Social Work, Faculty of Social Science marked the 2023 International Social Work Day on March 21, 2023. The theme: *Respecting Diversity through Joint Social Action*. A seminar was held in collaboration with Star Children Development Initiative. Dr. Samuel Adejoh of the Social Work Department served as Moderator of the Seminar which provided an avenue for the enlightenment of participants including students and social workers, on ways of bringing about structural changes in the society.

In her remarks, the Head, Department of Social Work, Professor Chinwe Nwanna expressed delight that the department was able to organize the seminar, as its contribution to efforts to raise the visibility of social work services.

The Guest Speaker, Mrs. Grace Alexander, who is the CEO and Founder, Star Children Development Initiative and Every Woman Matters UK Summit, highlighted the primary mission of the social work profession.

According to her, "the Social Work profession is to enhance human wellbeing and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty".

Mrs Alexander explained that the profession's Code of Ethics covers statement of values and ethical principles relating to human rights, social justice and professional integrity, followed by practice principles that indicate how the ethical principles should be applied to practice.

Her words "the following core values underscore social work's unique purpose and perspective:

- Service
- Social Justice
- Dignity and worth of the person
- Importance of human relationships
- Integrity
- Competence

In a nutshell, Social Workers have ethical responsibilities to colleagues, clients, other professionals in the Social Work practice among others"

2. No Hunger

Together, let's create lasting solutions to hunger

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

***1. Establish a Campus Food Security Programme*:** Create affordable and nutritious meal plans in collaboration with canteen operators and student unions, ensuring equitable access for all students.

***2. Promote Sustainable Agriculture*:** Develop on-campus demonstration farms, rooftop or urban gardens, and aquaponic systems managed by relevant departments and student groups.

3. Strengthen Research and Training: Encourage faculties such as Agriculture, Science, and Environmental Sciences to conduct research on food technology, agricultural innovation, and nutrition science.

***4. Implement Food Recovery and Waste Reduction Initiatives*:** Partner with food vendors to recover surplus food for redistribution to students in need and to implement waste composting projects.

5. Enhance Nutrition Education: Organize seminars, workshops, and awareness campaigns on balanced diets, local food utilization and sustainable consumption patterns.

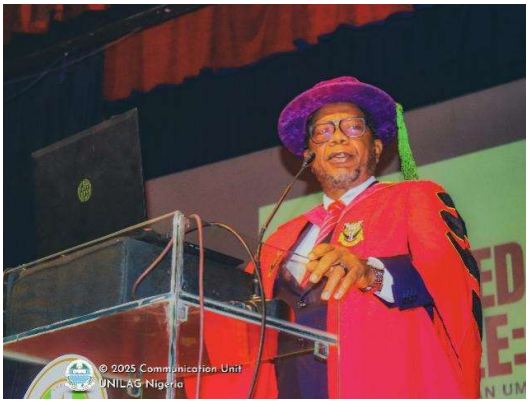
6. Community Partnership: Collaborate with government agencies, NGOs, and local farmers to extend agricultural support and nutrition education to surrounding communities.

RESEARCH

A Professor of Aquaculture Nutrition at the University of Lagos, Professor Ademola Zaid Aderolu, expressed his concerns during the 24th inaugural lecture in the 2023/2024 Academic Session of UNILAG. He emphasised how the rapid population growth in Nigeria creates lasting implications on obtainable dietary habits and farming practices.

He said no fewer than 821 million people currently face hunger and therefore called for urgent measures to address malnutrition and food insecurity. He made a case for fish

feeds to be made of balanced diets for their growth, health, and productivity, just as he spoke in favour of a circular system of nutrition since it offers the most resilient, efficient, and environmentally friendly approach, guaranteeing nutritious food for all while conserving resources and protecting the environment.



OPERATIONS

Partnership with GAIN:

Food security goes beyond the availability of food. It eats deeper into the quality of food available for consumption. Poised to ensure food made available to Nigerian communities and other parts of the world are duly fortified with necessary nutrients and vitamins, a team of passionate scientists and professionals at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), have partnered with the NITDA (National Information Technology Development Agency) IT Hub (NitHub) at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) to set a standard for global nutrition security.

UNILAG Institute of Food:

The Vice-Chancellor Prof. Folashade Ogunsola has created a platform where food experts will work together with a unity of purpose in alleviating the increasing threat of hunger.

COMMUNITY ACTION

UNILAG Farm in collaboration with the Fabulous Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), Oworo Reality Women Group.

The UNILAG Farm was established in 2019 as a research farm by the Geography department and inaugurated in 2020. Its participation in practical agricultural knowledge is in line with the directive by the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (FMAFS) that all agricultural colleges should prioritise owning farms. The aim is to equip trainees with the skills necessary to set up farms in their own homes and meet their vegetable requirements amidst economic hardship.



3. Good Health and Well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Upgrade Health Facilities: Expand and modernize the UNILAG Medical Centre, ensuring quality and quick access to emergency and routine care.

2. Mental Health and Wellness Support: Establish a Centre for Mental Health and Wellness offering confidential counselling, psychological first aid and stress management programs for students and staff.

3. Anti-Smoking and Substance Abuse Campaigns: Enforce UNILAG's "Smoke-Free Campus" and Students' Drug Policy through awareness, signage, and penalties. Partner with NDLEA and Lagos State Ministry of Health to conduct periodic sensitization on drug and alcohol abuse.

4. Preventive Health Education: Conduct semesterly campaigns on hygiene, nutrition, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS prevention, and vaccination drives.

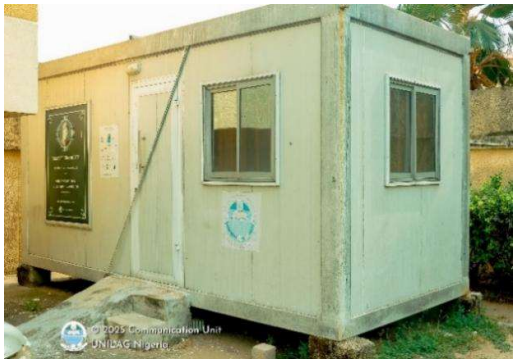
5. Campus Safety and Sanitation*:* Strengthen environmental health practices through regular fumigation, waste segregation, and sanitation monitoring. Ensure safe drinking water and functional sanitation facilities across all faculties and halls of residence

RESEARCH

D. K. Olukoya Central Research and Reference Laboratories, University of Lagos

This is a premier facility dedicated to advancing high-quality, innovative research. The laboratories host the Centre for Genomics of Non-Communicable Diseases and Personalized Healthcare (CGNPH). This centre focuses on genomics research related to non-communicable diseases, aiming to revolutionize personalized healthcare in Nigeria and across West Africa. CGNPH offers advanced training programs and fosters multidisciplinary research collaborations to translate genomic discoveries into practical solutions.





OPERATIONS

University of Lagos Medical centre

The University of Lagos is committed to the health and wellbeing of its students, staff, and the surrounding community. It is a model primary care centre that delivers high-quality services emphasizing a comprehensive, holistic, and evidence-based approach to primary care. In addition to providing essential healthcare services, the centre engages in research in public health.

Telemedicine services/UNILAG Mobile Clinic

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) Medical Centre has introduced telemedicine booths to provide full-time students with virtual access to primary healthcare. These booths enable consultations via voice or video calls, allowing doctors to offer medical advice, issue prescriptions, and provide specialist referrals.

Each booth is equipped with essential medical devices (blood pressure monitors, thermometers, weighing scales) and basic medications (paracetamol, antibiotics, multivitamins) to support immediate healthcare needs. Students can easily connect with a doctor using Wi-Fi or Mi-Fi, ensuring timely medical intervention. The system enhances accessibility, reduces wait times, and improves overall student health outcomes.

STUDENT LEARNING

UNILAG 12th Annual Health Week:

The Head of Psychological Services at the Federal Neuro-Psychiatric Hospital, while delivering a Public Lecture on Effective Communication and Interpersonal Relationship: Key to a Healthy & Productive Workplace at the Afe Babalola Hall, University of Lagos (UNILAG), canvassed for effective communication and interpersonal relationship in the workplace. The event provided a platform for members of the audience which included staff and students of the university to understand the concept of effective communication such as hearing vs listening and effective listening; steps involved in effective communication; key elements and barriers of communication; benefits of effective communication and strategies of effective communication.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Medical Outreach Programs:

UNILAG's Association of Medical Students (AMSUL), in collaboration with the University of Lagos Association of Dental Students (ULADS) and The Oasis Initiative, organized the "Ishaga Reach Out" in October 2022. This outreach focused on raising awareness about non-communicable diseases such as breast cancer, hypertension, and diabetes. Services provided included health education, blood pressure and glucose level checks, medical consultations, dental examinations, and distribution of free medications to community members.

AIESEC in Lagos

AIESEC in Lagos is a youth-led organization committed to developing leadership in young people through practical experiences and impactful community projects. In partnership with the Lagos State Blood Transfusion Committee, a campus-wide blood drive was organized to support emergency care and reduce maternal and child mortality. 80+ units of blood were donated and 120+ students sensitized about the importance of voluntary blood donation. Students were also taught CPR & Emergency First Aid Training by certified health professionals.





4. Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Curriculum Modernization: Review and update curricula across programmes to reflect global standards, employability skills, and sustainability principles.

2. Embed sustainability, ethics, and entrepreneurship modules: into all programmes.

3. Digital Learning and Innovation: Expand the e-learning infrastructure through the Learning Management System (LMS) and online course platforms.

4. Ensure digital inclusion: by providing free or subsidized data access points, Wi-Fi zones and ICT training for students and staff.

5. Improve learning facilities: including virtual and augmented learning tools in teaching and research.

6. Capacity Building for Academic Excellence: Organize regular workshops and certifications for lecturers on modern pedagogical methods and technology integration for continuous staff development and peer mentoring.

RESEARCH

The University of Lagos is committed to building an inclusive environment where opportunities are open to all, diversity is valued, and where everybody can reach their full potential. The ASR-BUA Biological laboratory complex is a proposed state-of-the-art facility aimed at advancing education, research, and innovation in biological and natural sciences. The complex features two wings of laboratories, offices, workstations, storage areas, and other essential facilities designed to enhance teaching, learning, and research.

The project also includes future phases for developing pens, cages, and nurseries to support biodiversity studies. According to UNILAG Vice-Chancellor Prof. Folasade Ogunsola, the complex will significantly impact research in biotechnology, genomics, and urban agriculture,

contributing to food security in Nigeria. It will also support the development of MSc and PhD graduates, patents, and commercially viable biotech products, fostering sustainable research and innovation.

The Fanimokun School of Postgraduate Studies (SPGS) Building and the new ultra-modern Learning Commons were commissioned to enhance advanced learning, research collaboration, and student engagement. The Learning Commons, an extension of the university's main library, is designed for knowledge co-creation, creative engagement, and research collaboration, providing students with access to state-of-the-art academic resources.



OPERATIONS

UNILAG's Distance Learning Institute

The Distance Learning Institute (DLI) of the University of Lagos (UNILAG) marked its 50th anniversary with notable achievements in academic excellence, technological advancements, and student accessibility. Under Professor Risikat Dauda's leadership, the institute expanded e-learning resources, increasing workstations from 500 to 780 and investing ₦20 million in eBooks and journals, ensuring students have access to academic materials regardless of location.

DLI is leveraging technology to bridge educational gaps, considering partnerships with telecom companies to provide affordable data plans for students, addressing one of the key challenges of distance learning. This initiative fosters inclusivity and equal access to education. With a vision to create a future-ready institution, DLI is committed to inclusive, technology-driven learning.



STUDENT LEARNING

Faculty of Education Empowers Students with Seminar on Health Education as a Catalyst for Career Growth and Nation Building.

The seminar, organized by the Faculty of Education in collaboration with FABTOP LLC Consulting, New York, had the theme:" Health Education: A Panacea for Nation Building and Career Development ". The event, which provided a platform for students to explore ways to leverage their academic training to make significant contributions to global health. The seminar closed off with the presentation of Certificates of Participation to the students.

The Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) was established to expand access to higher education by providing part-time and evening programs for young learners, teachers, and working professionals.
Through qualified faculty, structured monitoring, and evaluation, ICE ensures that part-time students receive the same quality education as full-time students, promoting lifelong learning and professional development. By offering flexible learning opportunities, particularly for individuals who cannot pursue full-time studies, ICE contributes directly to SDG 4 – Quality Education, fostering inclusive and equitable education for all.

COMMUNITY ACTION

Professors Without Borders (ProWIBO) collaborates with UNILAG to enhance education through workshops, mentorship, and skill-building initiatives. This partnership supports SDG 4 by equipping students with leadership, entrepreneurship, and critical thinking skills. International experts provide hands-on learning, bridging the gap between academia and real-world applications. The program fosters global exposure, networking, and career readiness, promoting inclusive and high-quality education.



Library Access

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) provides public access to its library facilities, allowing visitors to use its resources free of charge. Community members can also register for an affordable membership to borrow books. Additionally, UNILAG hosts numerous events each year, many of which are open to the public at no cost. UNILAG Library offers both in-person and online reference services, including Chat-a-Librarian, email support, and Zoom consultations. Students and researchers can access one-on-one assistance for research and reference needs. Registered users can benefit from both short-term and long-term loan services.



5. Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Gender Mainstreaming in Governance: Ensure equitable gender representation in management, committees, and decision-making bodies. Integrate gender-responsive budgeting and policy planning across all departments and programmes.

2. Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence: Enforce the UNILAG Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy and strengthen the capacity of the Sexual Harassment and Gender-Based Violence Response Unit. Conduct regular awareness campaigns, training, and sensitization for students and staff on sexual consent, respect, and gender relations. Provide confidential reporting channels and psychological support for survivors.

3. Women's Empowerment and Leadership Development: Establish leadership and mentorship programmes for female students and staff to build confidence, career readiness, and entrepreneurship skills. Support professional networks and associations for women within the University, such as the UNILAG Women in Academia Forum.

4. Equal Access to Education and Employment: Ensure gender equity in admissions, recruitment, promotions, and scholarship awards. Provide childcare and maternity support facilities to enable work-life balance for female staff and students.

5. Gender Research and Knowledge Dissemination: This can be done by promoting gender-focused research, publications, and conferences. Also, Support community-based projects addressing women's rights, health, education and economic empowerment.

RESEARCH

Researchers from the University of Lagos (UNILAG) have partnered with the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) and the Mastercard Foundation on a ground-breaking research initiative titled "Behind the Scenes: Young Women and Gender-Based Inequities in Africa's Creative Sector." This project seeks to address the persistent gender-based inequities within the African creative

industry, aiming to generate actionable insights that can inform strategies to combat gender disparities.

The research initiative, which spans from 2025 to 2027, aims to provide in-depth evidence to guide the development of effective policies and initiatives that tackle the marginalization of young female creatives in key African countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Nigeria, and Uganda.

OPERATIONS

Equal Opportunity Policy

The Equal Opportunity Policy at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) aims to create an inclusive and fair environment where all individuals, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, or socio-economic background, have equal access to opportunities.

The policy focuses on promoting gender equality, supporting marginalized groups, ensuring inclusive recruitment and admissions, and offering support systems like mentorship and counselling. It also enforces anti-discrimination measures and provides training and awareness programs to foster diversity and inclusion.

STUDENT LEARNING



"Give to Gain": UNILAG 2026 Public Law Gender Roundtable

The event, held at Ayo Ajomo Hall on the 27th of February 2026, centered on the "Give to Gain" theme, framing gender advocacy as a deliberate, integri

ty-driven movement aimed at dismantling structural barriers to women's inclusion. Mrs. Bola Adesola delivered the keynote, critiquing Nigeria's gap between global gender-rights commi tments and weak legislative enforcement while urging women to pursue excellence, credibilt y, and intentional contribution as tools for correcting inequities. Two panel sessions deepene d the conversation: the first, moderated by Prof. Iyabode Ogunniran with contributions from Mrs. Folashade Alli and Dr. Princess Olufemi-Kayode, emphasized institutional support, struct ured mentorship, and policy reform; the second, coordinated by Dr. Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi, highlighted academic leadership perspectives and celebrated women's rising achievements i n legal education. Overall, the conference underscored gender justice as a sustained, strategi c effort rooted in courage, competence, and purposeful advocacy, continuing UNILAG's long -standing tradition of using International Women's Day to promote meaningful social chang e.

COMMUNITY ACTION



The University of Lagos (UNILAG) has made significant contribution to the community through its involvement in the "Behind the Scenes" (BTS) campaign, which aligns with the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Inequity. The campaign kicked off with an engaging Instagram Live session hosted by @behindthescenesnigeria, focusing on digital violence and cyberbullying. Funded by the Mastercard Foundation, it has since expanded through vibrant social media campaigns, publicity walks and live poetry sessions, creating a platform for raw emotions and bold expressions.

This campaign is part of the larger project, Behind the Scenes: Young Women and Gender-Based Inequities in Africa's Creative Sector, led by UNILAG scholars, Dr. Michael Kunnuji and Dr. Florence Nweke, in partnership with the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW). This initiative empowered young female creatives and drove national policy advocacy for gender equity and workplace safety across Africa's creative industries, while simultaneously bridging academic training with industrial development through student-led cultural documentation.


FACULTY OF LAW
2024 GENDER CONFERENCE
GENDER EQUALITY AT CROSSROADS

6. Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Establish a comprehensive campus-wide water quality monitoring system*:* to ensure continuous access to safe and clean drinking water.

2. Install rainwater harvesting and water recycling systems*:* across university buildings to promote sustainable water management.

3. Upgrade and maintain sanitation facilities*:* to meet hygiene, accessibility, and gender-sensitive standards.

4. Launch water conservation and hygiene awareness campaigns*:* that promote responsible water use among staff and students.

5. Partner with local communities and NGOs*:* to implement borehole and water purification projects in underserved areas

RESEARCH

The African Engineering and Technology Network (AFRETEC) has awarded a significant research grant to a collaborative project aimed at strengthening water access and quality across selected African countries. The initiative, which is a joint effort between institutions from various African nations, of which UNILAG is among, is part of a wider commitment to addressing critical water-related challenges on the continent.

The project is designed to explore and implement innovative solutions that enhance water accessibility and improve water quality in the region. The three years project had a total of two hundred and eighty-six thousand, five hundred and sixty-four us dollars ($286,564).

As part of the project, participating universities will conduct comprehensive studies, implement pilot programs, and engage local communities in practical solutions that aim to deliver tangible improvements in water quality and availability. The collaboration will also focus on the use of digital technologies to drive

efficiency and enhance water management practices across the region.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

The NYSC honourees, Peace Uzoamaka Ndukwe (Political Science, Class of 2022) and Jerry Chigozie Simon (Economics, Class of 2019), were led to the Vice-Chancellor by Dr. Ayodele Shittu, who highlighted their achievements to the university leadership. They are among six UNILAG graduates recognized nationally for their exceptional community impact during their NYSC service year.

Peace Ndukwe, who served in Kano State, launched the "Whats Next Ambassadors" and Borehole Project, reaching all 44 Local Government Areas in the state. She also partnered with the Kano State Ministry of Education to introduce the "Whats Next Africa" initiative in secondary schools and provided clean water for a barracks community through a borehole installation.

In Benue State, Jerry Chigozie Simon transformed sanitation conditions at a local school in Gbagirma LGA by converting a dilapidated pit toilet into a modern water-system facility, significantly improving hygiene and health standards for students.



COMMUNITY

Water Webinar Series

The African Water for Sustainable Development Goals Initiatives, University of Lagos, Artic Infrastructure, and the Lagos/Ogun River Basin Communities, in collaboration with the African Circular Economy Network (ACEN) Nigeria Chapter and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), recently hosted the second edition of the Water Webinar Series. The event focused on the theme *Maximizing the Value of Water through Efficient Dam Management in Nigeria*.

This webinar brought together experts and stakeholders to discuss innovative strategies for optimizing water resource management, with a specific emphasis on the role of dam management in Nigeria's water infrastructure.


2ND EDITION
OF THE WATER WEBINAR SERIES
APPLYING CIRCULAR ECONOMY TO THE
WATER SECTOR IN NIGERIA
THEME:
MAXIMIZING
HE VALUE OF WATER
THROUGH EFFICIENT
DAM MANAGEMENT
IN NIGERIA

7. Affordable and Clean Energy

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Expand solar energy infrastructure: across the university to reduce dependence on non-renewable power sources.
2. Establish specialized renewable energy research laboratories*:* focused on solar, wind, and bioenergy technologies.
3. Conduct regular energy efficiency audits*:* to identify opportunities for reducing energy waste on campus.
4. Install smart metering systems: to track real-time energy consumption and promote accountability.
5. Develop sustainable transportation solutions*:* such as electric shuttle buses, e-bikes, and solar-powered vehicles.

RESEARCH

The Energhx Research Group at UNILAG focuses on energy-related research with an emphasis on sustainable solutions and innovations in the energy sector. The group is dedicated to addressing critical challenges in energy production, distribution, and consumption, aiming to contribute to sustainable development goals. Their work typically spans various aspects of energy, including renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, and the reduction of carbon footprints. By collaborating with other research institutions and industry stakeholders, the Energhx Research Group contributes to the development of practical, eco-friendly energy solutions to support both local and global sustainability efforts.

OPERATIONS

Cost/Time Saving + Green Energy +Zero Emission= UNILAG eRide!

The UNILAG Management recently commissioned a set of 20 electric vehicles for use within the campus. This initiative, which was launched on December 16, 2024, aligns with the university's commitment to sustainability and reducing its carbon footprint. The electric vehicles, which are also solar-powered, will provide an

environmentally friendly alternative to traditional campus transportation. Through the integration of electric vehicles and solar technology, UNILAG is making a substantial contribution to the promotion of cleaner, more sustainable transportation options, setting an example for other institutions and organizations in the region.





COMMUNITY

Tree Planting Initiative

Dawn Project, an environmental conservation organization, has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting sustainability through responsible and actionable steps toward a greener and healthier environment. In collaboration with The Green Belt Movement and with support from Omar Gardens, DCSL Corporate Services Limited, Red Logistics, and H. Saffidiene Transport. The organization has donated over 1,000 trees to the University of Lagos as part of a large-scale afforestation effort. The tree planting initiative is designed to raise awareness about the critical role of trees in reducing atmospheric greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of climate change.



8. Decent Work and Economic Growth

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Strengthen the university's entrepreneurship and innovation hubs: to nurture startups and business ideas among students.

2. Expand internship, apprenticeship, and work-study opportunities: to enhance practical experience and employability.

3. Promote sustainable campus enterprises: that generate income while creating decent jobs for students.

4. Develop joint skill-building programs: in collaboration with industries and professional bodies.

5. Support young entrepreneurs: through small business grants, mentorship schemes, and access to incubation facilities.

COMMUNITY

At the 11th International Conference on African Development Aid & Economic Transformation, stakeholders gathered to discuss innovative solutions to Africa's most pressing economic challenges in light of the gloomy and uncertain economic outlook. The two-day conference, held at the Faculty of Education Auditorium at the University of Lagos, focused on addressing development challenges faced by African economies in the 21st century. With the theme "Addressing Development Challenges Among African Economies in the 21st Century," the event brought together a diverse group of participants, including distinguished experts, policymakers, academics, and representatives from government and non-governmental organization.

STUDENT LEARNING

AFDB VISITS UNILAG ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVOCACY ASSESSMENT

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Development Services, Prof. Ayodele Atsenuwa, who received the team spoke about the workings of the Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition Centre (ESDC). The notable achievements of the Institution in its entrepreneurship advocacy were mentioned. She, noted that for the university to achieve more, students will need more interventions to be able to set up profitable businesses along their chosen professions before graduation.

In his presentation, the acting. Director of the ESDC, Dr. Sunday Adebisi, unequivocally said the centre was dedicated to resolving the youth unemployment narrative by supporting to understand how to setup innovative enterprise and create Campus start-ups for self-reliance and decent job creation. He said the facilities on ground is a testament to the University's prowess as a torchbearer in the business of Entrepreneurship and Skill acquisition. Dr. Adebisi spoke on the many programmes that have been organised to re-design disciplines, innovate students and remodel our university towards development. Some of the programmes mentioned includes: Studentpreneurship program, Embedded Entrepreneurship experience, Trans-national Entrepreneurship program, YOBIC, Job Fair program and the BITE program. Other areas of needs were also touched during his presentation.





Business Innovation and Talent Expression (BITE) 2.0 Competition: A platform for students to showcase their innovative business ideas and entrepreneurial capabilities. This competition encourages sustainable business practices and economic growth.

MAD House at UNILAG

The MAD (Make A Difference) House, situated at the UNILAG Lagoon Front, is an innovation hub dedicated to nurturing creativity and entrepreneurship among African youths. Constructed from repurposed shipping containers, the facility serves as an incubator, accelerator, and research institute, providing a platform for creative experimentation and enterprise development. MAD House offers programs like the Lens-Based Incubation Programme (LensBIP), which equips participants with essential business skills to establish profitable ventures in the creative industry.

9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Upgrade and expand laboratory and research infrastructure: to foster innovation and advanced learning.

2. Strengthen partnerships with industries: to promote collaborative innovation and technology transfer.

3. Establish technology incubation and fabrication labs*:* that support student and faculty innovations.

4. Organize innovation challenges, hackathons, and prototype competitions*:* to inspire creativity.

5. Facilitate the registration of patents and commercialization*:* of university-based research outputs.

OPERATIONS

UNILAG Leads Nigeria's Innovation Drive with Launch of AI-Focused UNIPOD

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, marked a significant milestone for the University of Lagos (UNILAG) as Nigeria's Vice President, Alhaji Kashim Shettima, GCON, represented by the Deputy Chief of Staff to the President of Nigeria in the Office of the Vice President, Senator Ibrahim Hassan Hadejia, formally launched the University Innovation Pod (UniPod), positioning the institution at the forefront of the nation's innovation ecosystem.



UNILAG Partners with Nord Autos

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) made a historic advancement in university-industry collaboration on July 14, 2022, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Nord Motors to establish an automobile assembly facility on campus. This initiative



marks the first of its kind between a Nigerian university and an automobile company, reinforcing UNILAG's commitment to fostering innovation, skill development, and industry-driven education.

During the MOU signing at the Council Chamber, the then Vice-Chancellor Prof. Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, FAS, emphasized that this collaboration represents a Triple Helix Model, bringing together the government, industry, and academia to drive economic and educational growth. He highlighted the practical benefits of the project, stating that it will provide hands-on training for students and aspiring automobile engineers, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application.





UNILAG Advances Innovation and Sustainability with Ultramodern Restrooms

The School of Postgraduate Studies (SPGS) at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) has reinforced its commitment to welfare, innovation, and sustainability with the commissioning of ultramodern restrooms on campus. These state-of-the-art facilities are designed with touchless fixtures, advanced ventilation systems, and accessibility features, ensuring inclusivity for all users.



STUDENT LEARNING

Students at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) are actively participating in several innovation challenges and competitions that foster entrepreneurial spirit, creativity, and problem-solving skills. Innovation Challenge: Ideation Hack, organized by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), focuses on empowering students to create technological solutions for real-world challenges. Bunmi Innovation Challenge is an initiative that encourages creative thinking and problem-solving, guiding students to develop solutions addressing critical issues such as environmental sustainability, health, and education.

In a landmark move to empower Nigerian female engineers and drive technological advancement, the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) has handed over state-of-the-art innovation hub equipment to the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Lagos (UNILAG).

The equipment includes 3D printers, a laser cutting machine, a CNC machine, 3D pens, complete safety tools, hand drills, and 3D filaments, among others. The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor Samson Adeosun received the equipment on Thursday, April 3, 2025, at the Rahamon Bello Auditorium, UNILAG.

COMMUNITY

UNILAG's Innovation to Market Project:

The Innovation to Market (I2M) initiative at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) is a vital project designed to support and nurture innovative ideas and transform them into market-ready solutions. The project aims to bridge the gap between academic research and entrepreneurial ventures, helping students, researchers, and startups turn innovative ideas into tangible products and services that can drive economic growth and job creation. Through this initiative, UNILAG provides funding, mentorship, and access to industry networks for innovators. Akoka through its Innovation–to–Market Project (I2M) has trained and connected 362 novel innovators to the market in its first year.



10. Reduced Inequalities

Reduce inequality within and among countries

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Strengthen financial aid and scholarship programs: to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
2. Improve accessibility and inclusion services: for students and staff living with disabilities.
3. Ensure equal opportunities*:* for all through gender-balanced admissions, promotions, and leadership representation.
4. Conduct outreach initiatives*:* targeting marginalized and vulnerable communities to promote access to education.
5. Expand international exchange and inclusion programs*:* that promote cross-cultural understanding.

RESEARCH

UNILAG Centre for Digital Humanities

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) Centre for Digital Humanities has secured a significant 5-year grant in collaboration with the University of Verona, Italy. The grant, valued at approximately 6.5 million Euros, is part of the "Project of Excellence 2023-2027" initiative funded by the Italian Ministry of Research.

This ambitious project, titled "Inclusive Humanities, Development Perspectives in Research and Teaching," aims to promote inclusion in research, teaching, and scientific dissemination, addressing gender, economic, social, and cultural inequalities both within the academic community and beyond.



STUDENT LEARNING



The University of Lagos is consistently recognized by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) as a leading conventional university for admitting and supporting the largest number of visually impaired and special-needs undergraduate students in Nigeria. As part of its commitment to fostering inclusive education and equal opportunities, the University of Lagos (UNILAG) has taken a significant step towards enhancing support for visually impaired students. The immediate past Dean of the Student Affairs Division (DSA), Professor Musa Obalola, prior to the completion of his tenure, engaged in a strategic meeting with the Lagos Branch of the Nigeria Association of the Blind to discuss initiatives aimed at improving accessibility and welfare services for blind and partially sighted students. The primary focus was to unveil a comprehensive welfare program designed to address the unique needs of visually impaired students.

UNILAG Students Benefit from Zakat and Sadaqat Foundation's Financial Support.

In line with its commitment to inclusive and equitable education, the University of Lagos (UNILAG) has partnered with the Zakat and Sadaqat Foundation to provide financial support to deserving students across various academic disciplines.

A total of twenty-three (23) students were selected through a transparent and merit-based process, receiving financial aid to support their education. The beneficiaries were unveiled during a ceremony held on February 12, 2025, at the Biodun Shobanjo Building, Department of Mass Communication, UNILAG.



11.Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Develop and implement sustainable campus planning policies*:* that reflect eco-friendly and inclusive urban design.
2. Promote green building practices*:* by integrating renewable energy, ventilation, and efficient waste systems into campus infrastructure.
3. Strengthen waste segregation, recycling, and circular economy*:* initiatives across the university.
4. Expand green spaces and promote tree planting*:* to enhance campus biodiversity and resilience.
5. Encourage research and innovation: on sustainable urban development and climate-smart cities.

OPERATIONS

UNILAG Launches Circular Glass Innovation Hub

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) has initiated the Circular Glass Innovation Hub, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable urban development and eco-friendly construction. The project, located within the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, will serve as a Glass Innovation Centre, Research Hub, and Laboratory, focusing on glass recycling, green building practices, and environmental sustainability.

Developed in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre, the Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources, the International Finance Corporation, and UNILAG, the 200-square-meter facility will be the first of its kind in Nigeria. It will feature glass as the primary building material, full reliance on green energy, zero CO_2 emissions, and adaptable optimization features.

The initiative also reflects UNILAG's broader mission to encourage research and innovation in sustainability, with support from the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Centre (ESDC) to drive

student and faculty-led green solutions.

STUDENT LEARNING

300-level students from the Departments of Building, Estate Management, Quantity Surveying, and Technology Education at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) are actively participating in a hands-on building maintenance project for the Faculty of Environmental Sciences Building.

This initiative serves as the practical application of the Building Maintenance course, equipping students with essential skills in repairs, maintenance, and painting of the building's façade, classrooms, and corridors. Under the guidance of Professor Olumide Afolarin Adenuga and Dr. Olajide Julius Faremi, students are also applying their expertise in paint production and building remedial works, reinforcing the university's commitment to experiential learning and sustainable infrastructure maintenance.



UNILAG Hosts 2nd International Conference and Fair on Land and Development

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development, in collaboration with the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Urbanization and Habitable Cities, is set to host the 2nd International Conference and Fair on Land and Development. With the theme "Sustainable Land Management for Inclusive Development in African Cities," the conference provided a platform for academics, policymakers, urban planners, and industry experts to engage in discussions on innovative and practical solutions for sustainable land use and urban development across Africa. The event featured keynote addresses, panel discussions, workshops, and exhibitions, focusing on critical topics such as land tenure systems, urban resilience, affordable housing, climate change adaptation, and sustainable infrastructure.



12. Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Introduce campus circular procurement rules*:* and a banned-items list (single-use plastics).
2. Set up on-campus segregation, composting*:* for organic waste and material recovery facilities supported by technical students' projects.
3. Integrate waste minimization modules*:* in orientation and faculty curricula (pilot through Sustainable Development centres).
4. Launch student-run social enterprises*:* to collect and recycle plastics (link to city recycling actors).

UNILAG Triumphs at 2024 SDG Olympiad with Innovative Waste Management Solution

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) secured the gold prize at the 2024 SDG Olympiad in Paris, France, demonstrating its commitment to sustainability and innovative environmental solutions.

Representing UNILAG as 'Team PlastiConn', two students from the Department of Geography competed against participants from twelve universities across four continents. Their winning project focused on connecting communities with plastic collection centres, making it easier for individuals to dispose of plastic waste responsibly. This initiative directly aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production, promoting waste reduction, recycling, and environmental sustainability.

The SDG Olympiad is a global platform that challenges students to develop creative solutions to pressing environmental and health issues. UNILAG's victory highlights the institution's leadership in sustainability, innovative research, and its dedication to addressing global challenges through practical solutions.



OPERATIONS

UNILAG and UEF Advance Circular Economy Solutions in Nigeria

Circular Economy Roundtable: Advancing Sustainable Waste Management. The University of Lagos and the University of Eastern Finland hosted a roundtable promoting a shift from a linear waste model to a circular economy, where materials are reused and recycled. The event, part of the Finland-Lagos Recycling Culture Research & Development Project (F-LRCRDP), explored scalable waste management solutions inspired by Finland's success. Experts emphasized cross-sector collaboration to drive sustainable change.

COMMUNITY

"Stop thinking in straight lines and start thinking in circles so that we can have a circular economy". These were the exact words of Arese Lucia Onaghise, one of the panelists at the Circular Economy Roundtable organised by the University of Lagos in collaboration with the University of Eastern Finland.



The roundtable discussion, which held on Tuesday, August 8 and Wednesday, August 9, 2023, featured proofs of real-life practicable solutions to individual, corporate, national and global maximisation of resources through functional waste management systems.

Institutions in attendance include; University of Eastern Finland (UEF); University of Johannesburg, South Africa; the Finnish Innovation Fund, Sitra, Finland; Jätekukko, Finland; Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG); Lagos Waste Management Agency (LAWMA); Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA); Food Beverages Recycling Alliance (FABRA); Lagos State Urban Renewal Agency (LASURA); Lagos State Planning and Environmental Monitoring Agency (LASPEMA); Lagos State Ministry of Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA); Waste Pickers Association etc.

The roundtable discussions and industry tour were moderated by Dr. Beauty Iniobong John of the Department of Quantity Surveying, University of Lagos, Nigeria.



STUDENT LEARNING

Renowned Brazilian Chemical Scientist, Mr. Gerson Parreira Silva, has encouraged students of Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and allied disciplines at the University of Lagos to strategically position themselves for the next Industrial Revolution.

He gave the charge on Monday, December 18, 2023 as Guest Speaker at the Vitafoam Polyurethane Seminar, which took place at the Tayo Aderinokun Hall, University of Lagos. Mr. Silva, who is globally respected for his expertise in Polyurethane (PU) Systems, spoke on the theme, ***Polyurethane in Practice: The Science and Business.*** He emphasized the significance of Environmental Social Governance (ESG) in the upcoming industrial revolution, and urged the students to position themselves for it.

"I charge you to quickly identify where in that evolution you will focus your education and energy," he said, underlining the pivotal role they will play in shaping the future of their country. Mr. Silva, who highlighted the importance of Chemistry in technology and industrialization, challenged the students to contemplate the role of the Chemist in the extraction, utilization, and governance of their country's natural resources. He stressed the need for continuous learning, stating that "Research is the missing link between the rules of Chemistry and Natural Resources."

13. Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Commission a GHG baseline and energy efficiency audit*:* retrofit high-use buildings.
2. Install rooftop solar and microgrid pilots: while integrating training for engineering students.
3. Create community climate adaptation outreach*:* (farmer training, early warning) in partnership with local government.
4. Strengthen initiative on air quality: through partnerships and deployment of real time air monitors

COMMUNITY

Webinar on Single-Use Plastics Ban Explores Environmental and Economic Impacts

The Centre for Environmental Human Resource Development (CENHURD), University of Lagos (UNILAG) successfully hosted a webinar on the ban on single-use plastics in Nigeria, highlighting sustainable alternatives and their environmental and economic effects.

The event featured discussions on the socio-economic and policy implications of the ban. Experts from Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development (SRADev) and the Lagos State Ministry of Environment and Water Resources shared insights on climate policies and waste reduction strategies, emphasizing the need for sustainable solutions in Nigeria.

UNILAG Partners in CLARE for Climate Adaptation and Resilience.

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) is a partner in CLARE (Climate Adaptation and Resilience), a major research initiative funded primarily by UK Aid (FCDO) and co-funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada. They bridge the gap between science and action, promoting Southern leadership, and driving socially inclusive and sustainable solutions to enhance climate resilience and mitigate natural hazards.

The TETFund Centre for Excellence in Biodiversity Conservation & Ecosystem Management (TCEBCEM) at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) walked the talk by hosting a seminar and tree-planting event in commemoration of World Environment Day, Wednesday, June 5, 2024. Keynote speech by Prof. Ronke Yemisi Aderinboye of the Department of Animal Nutrition,

Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. The theme: *Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience.* She averred that every cause has an effect, on desertification, noting that one of the lasting solutions is land restoration. Then enumerated the five (5) different techniques of land restoration to desertification and drought; Reforestation and Afforestation, improving soil health, water harvesting and management, provision of cover, and building resilience to drought.



RESEARCH

International Heritage and Coastal Urbanism Research Lab Established

The Institute of Africa and Diaspora Studies (IADS), University of Lagos (UNILAG), in partnership with the University of Liverpool's School of Architecture, has launched an International Heritage and Coastal Urbanism Research Lab.

This initiative aims to address the impact of rapid globalization and climate change on West African cities, focusing on cultural heritage preservation and the socio-economic resilience of vulnerable communities. The project is supported by the Leverhulme Global Professorship programme and will advance sustainable urban development through research-driven solutions.





UNILAG Green Hub

The UNILAG Green Hub serves as a pivotal centre for advancing sustainability efforts at the University of Lagos (UNILAG). By promoting eco-friendly practices and innovative green technologies, it plays a significant role in addressing climate change and supporting the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Air Quality Monitoring Research Group (AQRMG)

Dr. R. Alani, AQMRG research group in collaboration with the Lagos state environmental protection agency (LASEPA) is focused on sampling air to assess pollution levels, understand their health impacts, and develop strategies for improvement. They conduct community outreach programs to raise awareness about air quality issues. They also partner with international partners.

14. Life Below Water

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Food sourced from aquatic ecosystems*:* and served within the campuses including; cafeterias, dining halls and catering services must come from sustainably harvested sources

2. Special responsibility to safeguard the lagoon and connected waterways*:* as vital natural assets supporting biodiversity, research, and community well-being

3. Undertake sustainable campus operations: that protect water quality and aquatic life in line with National Environmental Regulations and Global Sustainability Goals.

4. Prevent pollutants*:* including plastics, oil, chemicals, and untreated wastewater from entering the lagoon or drainage systems.

5. Support cross-disciplinary research centres*:* (blue economy, marine biology) for monitoring and policy briefs.

6. Run public outreach campaigns*:* on campus-to-coast litter pathways during orientation and community fora.

Addressing IUU Fishing and Plastic Pollution in Nigeria's Coastal Ecosystems

Experts from academia, environment, agriculture, and maritime industries came together to discuss the growing challenges of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and plastic pollution in Nigeria's coastal waters. They explored how individuals and organizations can help, from raising awareness and setting up marine protected areas to using remote sensing technology for better monitoring.

The discussion also highlighted key issues like biodiversity loss, weak enforcement, outdated policies, and environmental damage. The workshop, themed "Co-creating Sustainability Challenges at the IUU Fishing-Plastic Pollution Nexus in Nigeria's Coastal and Marine Ecosystems," aimed at finding practical solutions for healthier oceans and sustainable fishing practices.



STUDENT LEARNING

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academics and Research), Prof. Bola Oboh, has challenged stakeholders in the field of Marine and Ocean Studies to conduct more research. She gave the charge at the opening ceremony of the first Costal Ocean Environment Summer School in Nigeria (COESSIN).

Representing the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Oluwatoyin Ogundipe, *FAS*, she noted that the long-term goal of the summer school, since inception in 2015, has been to increase the presence of African scientists at international science meetings. She noted, however, that very little research has been done into how coastal countries in West Africa can optimally utilize their marine resources for shared prosperity. This research deficit, she said, is due to the lack of infrastructure for on-site work, lack of capacity development, and comprehensive datasets to undertake oceanographic research.

"To address the trend, the Professor Oluwatoyin Ogundipe administration has continued to foster international partnerships with several institutions globally including, University of Michigan, in order to speed up learning and academic exchange that will impact society", she said.

Earlier, the Lead Facilitator of the School and Professor of Physical Oceanography, the University of Michigan, Prof. Brian Arbic elaborated on the importance of the summer school and its positive impact on participants. Through the school's activities, he revealed that links have been built between institutions in Ghana and other African countries over the years. According to him, research partnerships, laboratories, field trips, panels, and tutorials have all been incorporated into the school in order to make the learning experience of participants better.

With the major role that the marine industry plays in the global economy, he charged West African coastal countries to awake to the profitability of their marine endowments, just as they should get ready resources to face the challenges being encountered on the sea at the same time.

Ghana has been the host of the summer schools since 2015. However, the school went virtual in 2020 and 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The week-long summer school program, which commenced on Monday, August 1 will end on Friday, August 5, 2022. The school is an endorsed project of the United Nations (UN) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholders in the academia, environmental, agricultural and maritime industries have come together to discuss sustainability challenges related to Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and plastic pollution in Nigeria's coastal and marine ecosystems.

This conversation took place during the Nigerian West Africa Case Study Stakeholders' Participatory Workshop on Solving Sustainability Challenges at the Food-Climate-Biodiversity Nexus (Solving FCB) held at the Arthur Mbanefo Digital Research Centre (AMDRC) on Thursday, April 4, 2024.

To properly dissect the theme of the workshop, "Co-creating Sustainability Challenges at the IUU Fishing-Plastic Pollution Nexus in Nigeria' Coastal and Marine Ecosystems", participants were carefully selected from academic institutes, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and government agencies such as Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), National Institute for Oceanography & Marine Research, African Justice Movement, Nigerian Navy, Lagos State Agricultural Development Authority (LSADA), National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) to mention a few.

They identified the various fish species targeted by IUU fishing – sardinella, croaker fish etc.; perceived threats against these fishes (unregulated/illegal fishing activities, dwindling biodiversity resources, environmental degradation, destruction of fishing grounds, lack of political will, poor funding of regulatory agencies, greed of regulatory officials,, limited application of remote sensing, limited monitoring of fishing vessels, outdated fishing policies, sea robbery, etcetera) and their vulnerabilities which enhance the identified threats such as schooling behavior – fishes travelling en masse which can lead to their death en masse and anadromous nature of some fishes which causes them to move from the sea to rivers in order to spawn/breed.



15. Life On Land

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Create a campus greening plan: with native species; integrate student research projects in restoration.

2. Convert marginal lawns*:* into demonstration agroecology plots for local farmer training and food security research.

OPERATIONS

UNILAG's Commitment to Green Spaces and Biodiversity Conservation

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) is dedicated to preserving and expanding green spaces across its campus to enhance local biodiversity. By strategically planting native and drought-resistant species such as almond trees, pine trees, African rosewood, bamboo, and hibiscus, UNILAG promotes plant diversity while ensuring sustainable landscaping. These efforts not only conserve water but also create habitats for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife, strengthening the resilience of local ecosystems and contributing to a greener, more sustainable environment.

The University of Lagos (UNILAG), through its Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development under the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Urbanization and Habitable Cities, hosted the Second International



UNILAG Hosts International Conference on Sustainable Land Management

Conference and Fair on Land and Development. With the theme "Sustainable Land Management for Inclusive Development in African Cities," the event brought together stakeholders from land administration, finance, and the judiciary to explore ways to improve Nigeria's land use system. Discussions emphasized the need for collaboration between academia, policymakers, and industry players to develop actionable solutions for urban and land management challenges.



Geo-Farm at UNILAG

The Geo-Farm Centre at the University of Lagos was established in September last year by the Department of Geography to promote sustainable, non-chemical, non-synthetic, and non-genetically modified agricultural practices. It aims to improve

the quality of life, minimize the impact of climate change, and foster a harmonious ecosystem.



8th Biodiversity Conference

Professor of Wildlife Management at the Department of Ecotourism and Wildlife, Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), Babafemi George Ogunjemite has noted the need for biodiversity conservation in the country as "what we see at nothing today has the potential of being important in the future".

Prof. Ogunjemite cited an example of how a weed he had picked along the wayside in 1982, Phyllanthus amarus, a plant he dubbed "weed of wasteland", is now an important plant/herb for controlling high blood pressure and diabetes.

He stated this at the 8th Biodiversity Conference hosted by the Conservation Unit of the Department of Zoology, University of Lagos. With the theme, ***Biodiversity Conservation in Nigeria: Stakeholders Inclusion and Participation,*** the conference was organised by the Nigeria Tropical Biology Association (NTBA) and Nigerian Society for Conservation Biology (NSCB).

He further highlighted ways stakeholders can participate in biological resource management. These include: land use planning and management of land resources for conservation, combating deforestation, managing fragile systems, promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development, protection of oceans, coastal areas and the rational use and development of the blue economy, protection of freshwater resources and

environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, solid wastes & sewage-related issues.

Prof. Ogunjemite urged indigenous conservation practitioners to protect Nigeria's biodiversity through a strong biological conservation strategy. According to him, the strategy must address socioeconomic issues such as population dynamics and sustainability, the need for international cooperation and understanding, domestic policy restructuring, among others. He also called on everyone in the populace to get involved in biodiversity conservation.

Sustainable food on campus

A 200-level student from the Department of Marine Sciences, recently completed a two-month internship at Kansas State University, USA, focusing on permaculture and sustainable food systems. The opportunity was made possible through the 2023 U.S. Consulate Public Diplomacy Grant, which aims to equip Nigerians with practical knowledge in sustainable agriculture and food security.

16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Launch an open-data portal: for institutional budgets, procurement and performance metrics.

2. Establish a legal aid and campus mediation units: for student/staff disputes.

3. International Relations Partnerships & Prospects and Legal unit: use a framework to engage and maintain partnerships with external stakeholders including NGOs, human-rights bodies etc.

4. Conduct openness: in academic, administrative and financial activities

5. Enforce zero tolerance: for bribery, fraud, or collusion with criminal organizations, while infractions will attract disciplinary action

6. Freedom in pursuit: of research, teaching, and publication without interference, censorship by faculty, researchers, and students

RESEARCH

University of Lagos' Commitment to Policy-Focused Research for Sustainable Development

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) actively conducts policy-driven research through its various research centres and affiliated institutions, addressing key socio-economic, security, and technological challenges. The Centre for Economic Policy Analysis and Research (CEPAR) engages in economic policy analysis to inform financial stability and sustainable development strategies.

The African Research Security Consortium (ARSC) focuses on security studies, enhancing governance and conflict resolution across Africa. Additionally, the Centre for Housing and Sustainable Development contributes to urban planning,

land management, and sustainable infrastructure development.

OPERATIONS

UNILAG Hosts Forensic Science Conference to Strengthen Justice and Societal Development

The University of Lagos (UNILAG), in collaboration with the Society for Forensic and Analytical Scientists (SFSAN), hosted the 6th Annual Forensic Conference, emphasizing the critical role of academia and professionals in advancing forensic science in developing nations. At the conference, stakeholders underscored the transformative impact of forensic science beyond crime-solving, highlighting its importance in justice, accountability, and societal development. Discussions focused on capacity building, knowledge exchange, and strengthening forensic infrastructure to

address challenges in emerging economies.

UNILAG Commemorates Black History Month with Event on Economic and Social Justice

The Institute of African and Diaspora Studies (IADS), University of Lagos (UNILAG) hosted an event to mark Black History Month, focusing on the role of vocational training, entrepreneurship, and organized labour in addressing economic and social injustice in Nigeria.

The event featured insights from Professor Sunday Adebisi, Director of the Entrepreneurship and Skills Development Centre (ESDC), UNILAG, who emphasized the transformative power of entrepreneurial education and workforce development in fostering economic empowerment, reducing inequality, and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Discussions explored strategies to enhance vocational training, strengthen labour unions, and create inclusive economic policies to bridge socio-economic gaps in Nigeria. around local governance and civic management.





STUDENT LEARNING

Student Leadership Empowerment at UNILAG: Promoting Inclusive Participation

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) has reaffirmed its commitment to student leadership and inclusive governance by swearing in a new cohort of Faculty Presidents and Departmental Student Executives for the 2024/2025 academic session. This initiative aligns with the university's dedication to fostering youth engagement, decision-making, and leadership development. By empowering students through structured governance councils at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, UNILAG ensures that students have a voice in institutional decision-making. This approach encourages innovation, problem-solving, and responsible leadership, equipping young leaders with the skills needed to drive social change and contribute to national development.

MAN O' WAR UNILAG

This is a citizenship and leadership training Centre committed to fostering an inclusive, peaceful, and resilient society through leadership, discipline, and service. The organization has promoted peace, justice, strong institutions, and gender equity in different forms. They successfully launched MOWEMPOWERMENT scheme which hosted workshops on public speaking, survival skills training, Digital skills (graphic design, game development), Vocational Skills Training and grooming for personal and professional development.



COMMUNITY

MAN O' WAR UNILAG

The club has conducted more than three outreach programs to engage and support local communities. Recently, the club conducted an Outreach Programme to Modupe Cole Memorial Child Care and Treatment where various items were donated to the school. As a result, the club was given a certificate of Recognition by the University Quality Assurance Service for her support to other Students in 2023/2024 and exceptional service delivery to the University community.



17. Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

1. Create a central Partnerships & Grants Office*:* to identify partners, manage MoUs, and broker industry-academic placements.
2. Launch themed partnership calls: on plastic pollution, blue economy, climate resilience) and small grants to seed student-led pilots.

NETHERLANDS-UNILAG Partnership for Research Development

Partnership is vital to the success of health research. The University of Lagos and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have sought ways to address pressing challenges and the need for stronger health systems. The Dutch Global Health Hub is an initiative employed by the Netherlands to foster positive change in the health system

ICCON-UNILAG Partnership for Research Development

The Institute of Chartered Chemists of Nigeria (ICCON) has expressed its commitment to collaborating with the University of Lagos (UNILAG) in advancing research, curriculum development, and professional best practices in Chemistry. The ICCON Vice President emphasized that this partnership will be an ongoing initiative, fostering innovative research and knowledge-sharing to improve Chemistry education and its practical applications.

UNILAG Signs Partnership Cooperative Agreement with U.S.A.

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) took a significant step toward fostering international collaboration by signing an Educational Partnership Cooperative Agreement with the United States through

the Presidential Advisory Committee – African Diaspora Engagement (PAC-ADE) on Monday, July 15, 2024. This agreement, part of a broader initiative titled Developing Partnerships between U.S. and Nigerian Institutions of Higher Education, aims to strengthen academic and research ties between institutions in both countries. The signing ceremony, held at the J.F. Ade. Ajayi Auditorium of UNILAG, saw the participation of key academic leaders, including Prof. Folasade Ogunsola, OON, FAS, for UNILAG; Dr. Helene Gayle for Spelman College, Atlanta, U.S.A.; Prof. Adenike Boyo for Lagos State University (LASU); and Prof. Sola Oni for Pan-Atlantic University.

The University of Lagos (UNILAG), on Thursday, August 7, 2025, played host to a high-powered delegation led by the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Moruf Tunji Alausa, CON. The delegation which included senior officials from the Ministry of Education, National Universities Commission (NUC), and Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) converged at the Arthur Mbanefo Digital Research Centre (AMDRC), UNILAG, for a strategic engagement with a visiting team from the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.

The engagement centered on forging stronger partnerships in research, internationalisation, academic excellence, and capacity building, with the ultimate goal of revitalising Nigeria's tertiary education system. The delegation discussed a broad range of thematic areas for partnership, including:

- Strengthening research and innovation infrastructure.
- Enhancing faculty and staff training.
- Boosting STEMM education.
- Expanding student exchange and dual degree programmes.
- Supporting entrepreneurship and employability initiatives

Representatives from the University of Birmingham, Mrs. Cathy Gilbert and Mr. Charles Luke Wales, expressed enthusiasm about deepening ties with UNILAG and contributing to Nigeria's education sector. They spoke of successful partnerships and academic hubs already established in other parts of the world, including recent expansions in Dubai, and noted that Nigeria offers a promising landscape for



impactful collaboration.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all parties to fast-track modalities for implementation, with TETFund and NUC pledging institutional support to ensure the sustainability of the collaboration. This landmark engagement signifies a renewed chapter in Nigeria's efforts to elevate the quality of tertiary education through strategic global alliances and responsive policymaking.

