

GOVERNING PLASTICS NETWORK

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 1





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Welcome Message

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Governing Plastics Network!

Plastics in all its forms is a remarkable material invented in the twentieth century and increasing in use ever since. But at the same time its extraordinary features of durability and adaptability present difficult problems of pollution and waste. This wicked problem, where there are benefits and demerits to be considered in how we continue to use this material, is the focus of our Network. We seek to address these problems of the waste from plastics in developing countries and our current partnerships extend to countries in East Africa and the Caribbean linking with the UK and European Union countries. Further partnerships across Australia and Brazil are developing with new projects coming on stream under the umbrella of the Governing Plastics Network. By building the Network as a forum for the exchange of ideas and information and the building of research projects we hope to look at the way in which we can continue to reap the advantages of this twentieth century material but limit its potential to contaminate the land, the oceans and all living creatures. We need to understand better how we can manage the human use of plastics through good governance systems based on sound science and our Network will provide an opportunity to examine the messages we send out about plastics and how we can respond in terms of proportionate, fair and enforceable regulations and other instruments. We welcome all contributions to the Governing Plastics Network and look forward to keeping you informed of our work through our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Please contact us for further information on gnpn@uonbi.ac.ke

With best wishes from Nicholas Oguge (University of Nairobi) and Rosalind Malcolm (University of Surrey).

About the Network

Governing Plastics Network is a network of key actors in the academia, government, private sector, civil society and development partners. It is organised by the University of Nairobi in Kenya and the University of Surrey in the UK, and funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) through the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). It seeks to identify drivers and pressures of plastics pollution; attitudes; impacts and the mitigation of those impacts; and innovative and new governance forms, and provide requisite evidence to support policy changes in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Jamaica. It comprises two interlinked international projects funded by the United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI): (i) The Plastics Pollution Governance Framework Network Project (Global Challenges Research Fund), and (ii) The Wicked Problem of Plastics and the Discourse Surrounding its Governance funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund through the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

MEET THE TEAM



Prof Nicholas Oguge
University of Nairobi
Network Director

Professor Nicholas Oguge is a Professor of Environmental Policy at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law & Policy, University of Nairobi, Kenya and the Principal Investigator of the Plastics Pollution Governance Framework Network Project and a Co- PI of the Wicked Problem of Plastics Project and the Building collective ownership of single-use plastics waste in youth communities projects.



Prof Rosalind Malcolm
University of Surrey
Network Co-Director

Professor Rosalind Malcolm is a Professor of Law, Director of Environmental Regulatory Research Group (ERRG) at the University of Surrey. She is the Principal Investigator of the Wicked problem of Plastics; Building collective ownership of single-use plastics waste in youth communities; and the Rethinking Plastics Pollution post-Pandemic: no virus, no waste Project. She is the Co-Investigator of the Plastics Pollution Governance Framework Network Project

MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Itziar Castello-Molina
University of Surrey

Lead, Communications' Component

Itziar Castello is Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) at the Department of Digital Economy at Surrey Business School in the UK. She is a CO- PI of the founding projects: 'Plastics Pollution Governance Framework Network Project' and 'The Wicked Problem of Plastics and the Discourse Surrounding its Governance. Her role in the Network entails defining and supporting research, especially the communications and management components.



Dr. Noreen O'Meara
University of Surrey
Lead, Legal Component

Noreen O'Meara works across all Governing Plastics Network projects, with a particular focus on law and governance issues. On the founding projects, 'Plastics Pollution Governance Framework Network Project' and 'The Wicked Problem of Plastics and the Discourse Surrounding its Governance', she focuses on coordinating research on the governance aspects. She is a PI of the UGPN project "Rethinking Plastics Pollution post-Pandemic", together with teams from the Universities of Wollongong and São Paulo. On the GCRF project "Building collective ownership of single-use plastics waste in youth communities: case studies from Kenya, Jamaica and Malawi, she is a co-I leading on governance and policy.

MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Matthew Peacock
University of Surrey
Network Manager

Dr. Matthew Peacock is a research fellow at the University of Surrey. He mainly works on the Wicked Problem of Plastics Project. Additionally, he ensures that the project's outputs are of quality standards. And performs all communications functions of the network



Valentine Opanga
University of Nairobi
Network Manager (Outgoing)

Valentine Opanga is a Research Fellow at the University of Bonn. She is a former Project Manager of the Plastics Pollution Governance framework Network Project at the Center for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy.

MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Tiago de Melo Cartaxo

University of Surrey

Post-doctoral Research Assistant

Dr. Tiago de Melo Cartaxo is a post-doctoral research assistant at Surrey/UK, working on the "Rethinking Plastics Pollution Post-Pandemic: No Virus, No Waste?" and "Building Collective Ownership of Single-Use Plastics Waste in Youth Communities: Case Studies from Kenya, Jamaica and Malawi", and mainly focuses on governance and legal issues.



Dr. Francis Oremo

University of Nairobi

Network Manager

Francis Oremo is the Project Manager of the Plastics Pollution Governance framework Network at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy, University of Nairobi, Kenya. He is responsible for the overall coordination of the project, and day-to-day administrative and technical aspects.

MEET THE TEAM



Salome Ondigo
University of Nairobi
Project Assistant

Salome Ondigo holds a Degree in Environmental Science from Egerton University, Kenya. She is currently pursuing Masters' Degree in Environmental Policy at the Centre of Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy, University of Nairobi. Her research interest is in policy innovation towards green and sustainable growth. Within the Governing Plastic Network Project, she oversees governance aspects of the project.

MEET THE PARTNERS



Prof Anthony Clayton
University of West Indies
Partner, Jamaica, Caribbean

Professor Anthony Clayton is the Alcan Professor of Caribbean Sustainable Development at the University of the West Indies. He is a Visiting Professor at the Centre for Environment and Sustainability in the School of Engineering at the University of Surrey, and an Affiliated Scholar at the Jack Gordon Institute for Public Policy within the Steven Green School of International and Public Affairs at Florida International University. He is a Fellow of the Caribbean Academy of Sciences, a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), Chairman of the TWAS Membership Advisory Committee for Social and Economic Sciences and Chairman of the Energy Committee of the Inter-American Network of Academies of Science. He is also the Chairman of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica. In 2015, he was awarded Jamaica's Order of Distinction in the Rank of Commander.



Prof Belay Simane
University of Addis Ababa
Partner, Ethiopia, Africa

Prof Belay Simane holds a PhD in Environment and Agricultural Development, and has a specialized training in natural resources management, dry-land agronomy, agricultural input, agro-meteorology, and genetic resource conservation and utilization. He has more than 20 years of varied experience in agricultural related research, teaching and rural development in Ethiopia, India, Syria, Kenya, USA, the Netherlands and Mozambique mostly related to environment, agronomy, input system and watershed development.

MEET THE PARTNERS



Prof Maj Andersen
Copenhagen University
Representative, Denmark, Europe

Prof Maj Andersen is an associate professor at Copenhagen University, Department of Geoscience and Natural Resource Management. She specializes in innovation studies into the green and circular economy at the firm, interfirm, industry, value chain and eco-park level. She is currently heading a research project on circular industrial parks in Kenya called 'Gecko' and is teaching two courses on the Green and Circular Economy for medium and top managers from developing countries.



Dr. Aime Tsinda
University of Rwanda
Representative, Rwanda, Africa

Dr Aime Tsinda is a Senior Lecturer, University of Rwanda, College of Science and Technology, School of Architecture and Built Environment, Department of Geography and Urban Planning. He holds a PhD in Environment & Sustainability from the University of Surrey (UK). His research interests include Sustainable Urban and Regional Planning, improving access to sustainable WASH services, climate change, disaster management, environmental management and policy analysis and research.

MEET THE PARTNERS



Dr. Andrea Clayton
Caribbean Maritime University
Partner, Jamaica, Caribbean

Dr. Andrea Clayton is Principal Lecturer of Sustainable Development at the Caribbean Maritime University, Jamaica. She is the Director of the Earth Ambassadors Programme. She holds Degrees in economics and economic development, and a doctoral Degree from Temple University.



Dr. Carl Dalhammar
Lund University
Partner, Sweden, Europe

Carl Dalhammar is associate professor at the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) – Lund University. Carl researches product related to policy and law. He was an expert in the recent Swedish governmental inquiry proposing a Swedish producer responsibility schemes for fishing gears, in order to reduce plastics in oceans and waterways.

MEET THE PARTNERS



Dr. James Oranga
University of Nairobi
Partner, Kenya, Africa

Dr. James Oranga is a lecturer of Journalism and Communication Studies at the University of Nairobi. He Holds a Ph.D in Communication and Information Studies from the University of Nairobi. He is also a professional Journalist and a communication consultant. His areas of interest include Development Communication, Environmental Journalism and Audience Research.



Dr. Lynn Atuyambe
Makerere University
Partner, Uganda, Africa

Dr. Lynn Atuyambe is an Assistant Professor at the Makerere University School of Public Health - Department of Community Health and Behavioural Sciences. He holds Ph.D. in Public Health Sciences from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden and Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda.

MEET THE PARTNERS



Prof Thoko Kaime
Bayreuth University, Germany
Partner, Malawi, Africa

Prof. Dr. Thoko Kaime is chairholder of African Legal Studies at the University of Bayreuth. Furthermore, he is the project leader for the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL) and Trustee of the Essex Wildlife Trust. Prof. Dr. Kaime is a public international lawyer and maintains research and teaching interests in human rights and international environmental law. His work is an ongoing socio-legal critique of international legal arrangements which he expresses through a consideration of a number of critical issues in children's rights and sustainability governance.



Dr. Kisingo Alex
College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka
Partner, Tanzania, Africa

Dr. Alex Kisingo is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Research and Consultancy Department, Mweka where he is also a Deputy Rector for Academic Research and Consultancy. His research interests falls under ecology, conservation Management, governance, conservation planning, CBNRM, anthropology, human livelihoods and development.

MEET THE PARTNERS



Miriam Bomett

**Kenya Association of Manufacturers
Representative, Kenya, Africa**

Ms. Miriam Bomett is the Policy Research & Advocacy Deputy Head at Kenya Association of Manufacturers based in Nairobi, Kenya.



Dr. Leonidas Miliotis
Lund University
Representative, Sweden, Europe

Leonidas Miliotis (PhD) is senior researcher at the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) – Lund University. Leonidas' expertise lies within environmental policy and governance, focusing on plastic waste and circular economy. In the 'Governing Plastics Network,' Leonidas provides assistance in plastic policy issues, bringing knowledge and relevant experiences from Europe.

MEET THE RESEARCHERS



Abduljelil Ahmedin Rida

Communication's Expert, Ethiopia

Mr. Abduljelil Ahmedin Rida is a Ph.D. Candidate at Centre for Environment and Development Studies, College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University. His research interests are in areas of environment and development. He is working on the Communications component of the research on plastics Pollution Governance.



Yohannes Geleta Sida

Legal Expert, Ethiopia

Mr. Yohannes Geleta Sida is a Ph.D. Candidate at Center for Environment and Development Studies, College of Development Studies, Addis Ababa University. He is working on the policy and legal component of the research on plastics Pollution Governance.

MEET THE RESEARCHERS



Dr. Emmanuel Kwame

Legal and Communications Expert, Jamaica

Kwame is trained in Environmental Management and is currently attached to the Centre for Environmental Management, The University of the West Indies (UWI), Jamaica, as an Associate Lecturer in water resource management. His research interests are in agro-environmental management, food security and rural waste management in developing countries. He is working on both the legal and communications components of the research on plastic pollution governance



Irene Maithya

Legal Expert, Kenya

Ms Irene Maithya is a Lecturer in law at Moi University. She holds a Master of Laws Degree from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a member of the Law Society of Kenya. Her main research interests focus on environmental law, children's rights, international human rights law and constitutional law. She is working on the policy and legal component of the research on plastics Pollution Governance.

MEET THE RESEARCHERS



Hellen Adhiambo Omondi

Communications Expert, Kenya

Ms Hellen Omondi is a Customer Success Manager at Esri Eastern Africa and a Part-time Lecturer at the University of Nairobi. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in communication studies (Public Relations Specialization) and Master of Business Administration Degree in strategic management from the University of Nairobi. She is working on the Communications component of the research on plastics Pollution Governance.



Dr. Marie Rose Turamwishimye

Communications and legal expert, Rwanda

Dr. Marie Rose Turamwishimye is the Acting Director of the Centre for Legal Aid and Mediation (CLAM) and Lecturer in the School of Law, College of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Rwanda. Her research interests are in Environmental Law, International Environmental Law and Natural Resources Law. She is working on both the legal and communications components of the research on plastic pollution governance.

MEET THE RESEARCHERS



Isabelle Zundel

Communications and Legal Expert, Malawi

Ms. Isabel Isabelle Zundel is a doctoral Candidate at the University of Bayreuth. She is a research assistant at the Chair of African Legal Studies, University of Bayreuth. Furthermore, she manages the Tanzanian-German Centre for Eastern African Legal Studies (TGCL). Her research interests are in the African human rights system.



Harriet Adong

Communications Expert, Uganda

Ms Harriet Adong is the Director of Communications and Knowledge Management at Makerere University School of Public Health-Resilient Africa Network (RAN). She holds a Post-Graduate Degree in Sociology and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. She is working on the Communications component of the research on plastics Pollution Governance.

MEET THE RESEARCHERS



Felix Walyawula
Legal Expert, Uganda

Mr. Felix Waliyawula is undertaking a Masters' Degree in Public Health – Monitoring and Evaluation at Makerere University. He currently works as a Co-Principal Investigator and Data Manager at the Eastern African GEOHealth Hub, Makerere University School of Public Health. He is working on the policy and legal component of the research on plastics Pollution Governance



Sia Jeremia Temu
Legal Expert, Tanzania

Ms. Sia Jeremia Temu holds Masters' Degree in Project Management and Evaluation and Bachelor's Degree in rural development from Sokoine University of Agriculture. She has vast research experience and has published multiple papers on wildlife management, gender issues and community livelihood. She is working on the communication component of the research on plastics Pollution Governance.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

University of Nairobi

The University of Nairobi is a centre of Academic and Research excellence recognized in the African continent and beyond. The Centre for Advanced Studies in Environmental Law and Policy (CASELAP) offers post-graduate programmes in environmental law and policy. CASELAP is multidisciplinary both in its Faculty and programmes

University of Surrey

The Surrey Centre for International and Environmental Law (SCIEL) serves as a base for interdisciplinary research on international and environmental law and policy. It aims to seek preventative and precautionary solutions, as well as bringing our legal skills to bear on impactful research for the efficient operation of justice. SCIEL aims to rise to these challenges; to be adaptable and swift-thinking; and to act with speed, applying the analytical and practical skills of lawyers to emerging legal problems and their prevention.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) – Lund University

Lund University was founded in 1666 and is ranked among the world's top 100 universities. The University has 40 000 students and 8160 staff based in Lund, Helsingborg and Malmö. The IIIEE is a leading environmental policy research institute in Sweden that produces actionable knowledge for sound decision making at all levels, from the local to the global, and educates future leaders and change agents.

University of Rwanda

The University of Rwanda is Rwanda's largest higher education institution. It was formed in 2013 through the merger of previously six independent public institutions of higher education. The university is composed of six independent, self-governing colleges, including the College of Science and Technology. It aims to support the development of Rwanda by discovering and advancing knowledge, committed to the highest standards of academic excellence, where students are prepared for lives of service, leadership and solutions.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Caribbean Maritime University

The Caribbean Maritime University was established in 1980 by the Government of Jamaica in collaboration with the Government of the Kingdom of Norway. It specializes in maritime education and training and its graduates pursue careers as professional seafarers and personnel in the shipping, logistics and supply chain management sectors. It is a host to the Centre for the Blue Economy and Innovation which promotes development through the sustainable use of the ocean and coastal resources. It focuses on healthy sustainable oceans and well-managed coastlines while keeping the balance between growing the economy, protecting the environment, and advancing social well-being.

University of the West Indies

The University of the West Indies which today boasts of being one of only two regional higher education institutions in the world began with one campus (Mona, Jamaica) was established by the Royal Charter in 1948. It has three other Campuses at St. Augustine (1963), the Cave Hill Campus, the Open Campus (2008) and in Five Islands – Antigua and Barbuda (2019)

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Kenya Association of Manufacturers

Established in 1959, Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) is a representative of manufacturing and value-add industries in Kenya. The Association has grown into a dynamic, vibrant, credible Association that unites industrialists and offers a common voice for businesses. It seeks to create wealth at both corporate and individual levels by advocating for a competitive environment for businesses to operate, thereby creating better industries, growing the economy, creating jobs and hence resulting in better standards of living for Kenyans.

Addis Ababa University

Addis Ababa University (AAU), which was established in 1950 as the University College of Addis Ababa (UCAA), is the oldest and the largest higher learning and research institution in Ethiopia. Since its inception, the University has been the leading centre in teaching-learning, research and community services. Established in 2012, the College of Development Studies has been reorganized having six centers under its umbrella. With its relatively well-organized and qualified faculty having varied academic backgrounds and work experiences, CDS has been running postgraduate training and carrying out research.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

University of Bayreuth

The University of Bayreuth is a medium-sized campus university which is committed to the highest academic standards and which has made a conscious effort to set itself apart from larger universities. In line with its vision, its top priorities are individual supervision, maintaining high academic standards, and creating programmes of study that take current research into account. Its interdisciplinary focus and the innovative collaboration between many of our disciplines are key features of Bayreuth's research culture.

College of African Wildlife Management

The College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM), Mweka is the leading institution in professional and technical training in Wildlife and Tourism Management. It was established by the Tanzania Act of Parliament Number 8 of 1964. The College is registered and recognized as a Centre of Excellence by the East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC). It seeks to provide the highest standards of technical training by engaging a global community and undertaking research and consultancies in order to meet the needs of wildlife and tourism management in Africa.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Makerere University

On July 1, 1970, Makerere became an independent national university of the Republic of Uganda, offering undergraduate and postgraduate courses leading to its own awards. Makerere University offers not only day but also evening and external study programmes to a student body of about 35,000 undergraduates and 3,000 postgraduates (both Ugandan and foreign). It is also a very active centre for research. The University transitioned from the Faculty-based to the collegiate system on 1st July 2011 and officially transformed into a Collegiate University with 9 Constituent Colleges and as at 1st July 2014, 10 Constituent Colleges including the School of Law, all operating as semi-autonomous units of the University.

Copenhagen University

The University of Copenhagen was founded in 1479 by the Danish king Christian 1, and today has 37,500 students and 9,000 employees – of whom some 5,000 are researchers – and revenues of DKK 9.1 billion. Nine Nobel Prizes have been awarded to researchers at the University. The University offers researchers and students the opportunity to develop their talent and launches ambitious interdisciplinary initiatives to support its strong academic communities. Through research-based teaching – and by involving them in research – students are equipped to address society's challenges and needs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the following have been achieved:

Launch of the Global Engagement Networks

The United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI) launched 20 Global Engagement Networks. The aim of the networks was to develop practical solutions to address issues such as the prevalence of single-use plastic in Kenya, hurricane recovery in the Caribbean and water management across Africa.

<https://www.ukri.org/news/networks-launched-to-identify-solutions-to-global-challenges/>

Launch of the Governing Plastic Network

In July, 2020, the University of Nairobi and the University of Surrey launched the Governing Plastics Network. <https://uonbi.ac.ke/news/network-govern-plastics-pollution-africa>

Building Bridges Meeting

The Governing Plastics Network implemented the building bridges meeting. The aim of the meeting was to build bridges across disciplines, between industrial sectors, from the north to the south. It sought to guide the development of the project and trigger the snowballing approach to building the network.

http://surrey-ac.zoom.us/rec/share/WEqHA_uFildjrC0l9ZeZgGaEMZ7JdjaN2lBiXgnLPZN5UTG-o2LLEnXVrvWN4KPi.hkxITYMX-X2xRsdL (Password "r4QVc2+N")

ACHIEVEMENTS

Partner Country Plastic Pollution Profiles

The network developed short videos showcasing the status quo of plastic pollution and efforts at governance in partner Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/plasticsgov/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/plasticsgov?lang=en>

New Projects

The network obtained funding from the **University Global Partnership Network Research Collaboration Fund** to implement the project ' **Rethinking Plastics Pollution post-Pandemic: no virus, no plastics waste**' and from the **United Kingdom Research and Innovation** to Implement the ' **Building collective ownership of single-use plastics waste in youth communities: case studies from Kenya, Jamaica and Malawi**' projects

NEW PROJECTS

The UGPN project

This project, "Rethinking Plastics Pollution post-Pandemic" is a collaboration between the Universities of Surrey, São Paulo and Wollongong. The network is exploring the global challenge of plastics-waste post-pandemic, with particular reference to situation and strategies adopted in the UK, Brazil and Australia. The network creates a global research-group from disciplines spanning law and public policy (Surrey/Wollongong), chemistry, bio-sciences, environmental engineering (Wollongong), business, environmental sciences and environmental policy (USP) creating a platform for sharing expertise and optimising our research potential tackling plastics

The Young Plastics Project

Young Plastics' Project: 'Building collective ownership of single-use plastics waste in youth communities: case studies from Kenya, Jamaica and Malawi' is jointly implemented by the University of Surrey, University of Nairobi, University of West Indies, Caribbean Maritime University, University of Bayreuth, and Catholic University of Malawi. It focuses on developing a sense of ownership in young communities to address the impact from pollution by single-use plastic (SUP) waste, while supporting the objectives of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The main objective of this project is to design engaging intervention tools such as social media campaigns, school presentations and competitions, schools/universities collaborative projects and policy recommendations and guidelines which will have an impact on the reduction of SUP waste and will support the attainment of the SDGs.

NEXT STEPS

15th February- 31st May 2021: Plastic governance case studies focusing on the analysis of the nexus between communication processes and plastic governance frameworks in seven partner countries (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Malawi and Jamaica).

9th June 2021: Sandbox to discuss and brainstorm research results and explore opportunities for further research, and how to effectively conduct capacity building exercises for network members in partner countries.

10th June – December 2021: Round table Meetings

Details of the upcoming activities will be shared on the following platforms:

Website: <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/surrey-centre-international-and-environmental-law/governing-plastics-network>

Twitter: @plasticsgov

Facebook: Governing Plastics Network