

RECIRCULATE Update

May Newsletter

Welcome to the May update from RECIRCULATE.

Each year the 25th May, Africa Day marks the anniversary of the formation of the Organisation of African unity in 1963, which would later lead to the African Union. This year we asked members of the RECIRCULATE family across the continent to reflect on the importance of international networks like RECIRCULATE. As the project approaches the end of its initial funding period we are keen to ensure its legacy and sustain the RECIRCULATE network that has now grown to over 500 people across 14 countries. Let us know your thoughts on how to keep the RECIRCULATE network alive and flourishing in 2022.

If you'd like to be put in touch with any RECIRCULATE researcher please contact recirculate@lancaster.ac.uk and we'll pass on your message.

So, please, enjoy reading the newsletter and if you have any feedback, contact our Project Officer [Dian Velkov](#).

Celebrating Africa Day

To mark Africa Day 2021, we asked the RECIRCULATE community across 7 countries in Africa to tell us the benefits of being part of our pan-Africa network. Here is what they said...

[Read more](#)



Research Highlights



International Entrepreneurship Symposium

On 20th May we conducted our final [symposium](#) to launch the [Stimulating Entrepreneurial Thinking in Scientists \(SETS\) Online Programme](#) funded by the [British Council](#) and co-designed and co-developed by Lancaster University and its African partners; University of Benin and Igbinedion University Nigeria; CSIR Ghana, Lancaster University Ghana and Kenyatta University Kenya.

[Watch the full webinar](#)



What do people really think about energy from waste?

The University of Benin RECIRCULATE team have published a paper examining the sociocultural acceptability of biogas from faecal waste as an alternative energy source in selected areas of Benin City. They examined the perception of stakeholders within the biogas value chain across areas within the Benin City metropolis with some encouraging results.

[Read the paper](#)

Capacity Building

Is converting waste to wealth feasible in Africa?

On 6th May our [Waste to Wealth Webinar](#) posed the question **"Is converting waste to wealth feasible in Africa?"** highlighting the progress of the [ACTUATE Projects](#) in Nigeria and Ghana and exploring strategic partnerships for sustainability. Moderated by Dr Akan Odon and the RECIRCULATE team, the webinar featured specialists from Ghana, Nigeria and the UK. Each guest speaker shared an overview of the project followed by questions and interaction with the attendees.



[Watch the full webinar](#)

Viva La Difference

In her highly commended entry to the [FLOW](#) "Write a Blog" competition, Winifred Prempeh, a Marketing Officer and Training Coordinator at the CSIR-Building and Road Research Institute (CSIR-BRRI) Ghana, shares lessons from her experience of the research business interface.

[Read more](#)

Spotlight interview with Emmanuel Addae

In our latest spotlight interview, Emmanuel Addae, co-founder & CEO of [AfricaSkillsHub](#), shares his experience & expertise in facilitating capacity-building in Africa through the matchmaking platform [TalentsinAfrica](#).

[Read more](#)

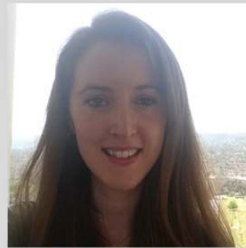
Meet the researchers

Ella Foggitt is a PhD researcher within RECIRCULATE "Water for Health & Sanitation" workpackage team based at Lancaster University. Prior to her PhD, she worked for an international humanitarian charity and had completed an MSc in Water, Sanitation and Health Engineering from the University of Leeds. As part of her master's research, she studied toilet use behaviours in Kumasi, Ghana. She also holds a BA (Hons) in International Development and International Relations from the University of Leeds, a period of which she studied at the University of Ghana.

Her work contributes to the achievement of UN SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation. There is a specific target within SDG 6 (6.B) that is aiming to "support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management". Her research is contributing directly towards target 6.B through increasing understanding of the barriers to effective community participation in sanitation.

"Being part of a large interdisciplinary network has given me a breadth of opportunities that I wouldn't otherwise have had. Undertaking a PhD linked to RECIRCULATE has enabled me to reflect on the bigger picture and to view my contribution as a piece of a puzzle that other RECIRCULATE colleagues are also working on. The value that working with partners in Ghana has given to my research has been immeasurable. Colleagues at CSIR Ghana have provided me with vital practical support throughout my fieldwork.

One of the things I have found most enjoyable about RECIRCULATE is witnessing the evolution of the project and seeing what can be achieved through excellent teamwork. I've found it really interesting seeing the process of a research project at this scale, particularly what can be achieved when people from different disciplines put their heads together."





Valerie Ifeyinwa Edosa is a PhD researcher within the "Water for Energy Production" workpackage team based at the University of Benin, Nigeria. Before RECIRCULATE, she worked as a lecturer and researcher in soil science and land management, Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Benin.

Her work contributes to the achievement of UN SDG 2 - Zero hunger. Her research involves using the digestates (cattle rumen content derived digestates, food waste-derived digestates, digestates derived from co-digestion of cattle rumen contents and food wastes) from the household canister design digesters at the University of Benin as a soil amendment/organic fertilizer to grow tomatoes on ultisols (soil type) which are low in nutrient elements and low pH.

Valerie's experiments demonstrate that this has been successful so far, with results comparable to tomatoes grown on ultisols amended with poultry manure which is presently being used as a soil amendment/organic fertilizer in Nigeria.

"It has been an interesting experience that has helped me to be an active member of broader research culture, develop new skills, enhance previous skills while working with researchers from different career stages, disciplines, institutions and backgrounds working on diverse objectives to achieve common goals.

I enjoyed getting to meet and interact with senior researchers from different parts of Africa and the UK who are 'scientific dons' in their various fields. It is rewarding to know that I am part of research where the findings/results will translate into real actions to build capacity and solve issues concerning Africa. I feel fulfilled knowing that I have improved my critical thinking and analytical skills, expanded my knowledge and enjoyed shared scientific experiences with researchers outside my core research area."

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Month June - upcoming events

- Thursday 10th 16:00 - 17:00 - A Facebook Live Session to discuss the SDGs and challenges & opportunities for Africa, join us on the [RECIRCULATE GCRF Facebook page](#).
- Thursday 24th 10:00 - 12:00 - International SDGs Webinar on topic "How have RECIRCULATE and ACTUATE aligned with and fulfilled the SDGs?", to register free [click HERE](#).

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Useful resources

"How can international journals support science from the Global South?"

In the final LEC Seminar of the academic year, [Dr Nathalie Pettorelli](#) (Zoological Society of London) and [Professor Jos Barlow](#) (Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University), Senior Editors of Journal of Applied Ecology, led a discussion around what decolonisation means for science and crucially what international journals can do to support the process.

[Watch the full seminar](#)

The last drop...

Did you know that Africa is the second driest continent in the world, after Australia? About 73% of the total population of Sub-Saharan Africa did not use safely managed drinking water services in 2017. An estimated 14% of Africa's population (about 160 million people) currently live under conditions of water scarcity, due in part to the uneven distribution of water resources as well as inequalities in the access to clean and potable water services. The *United Nations world water development report 2021: valuing water* collects experiences from different global regions to address knowledge, research and capacity needs.

[Read the report](#)



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