

The Role of Universities and their Leaders facing the Grand Challenges of Climate Change and Sustainability

Sl. No.	Content	Particulars	
1.	Title of the Project	<i>The Role of Universities and their Leaders facing the Grand Challenges of Climate Change and Sustainability</i>	
2.	Aims and Objectives	To identify the challenges faced by the universities and their leaders while addressing the climate change and sustainability, and how can they best be overcome.	
3.	Background to the Project	<p>Climate change is understood as the phenomenon of rising global temperatures that at the present moment, has largely human causes, and that must be addressed through action at all levels, involving governments, businesses, civil society organisations and individuals, and engaging with political, economic and cultural spheres. Many universities are already facing these challenges head on. The following bring together the universities around the world to foster sustainability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Association for University Leaders for a Sustainable Future (emerging from the Talloires Declaration) • The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education • United Nations Academic Impact • The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative • The Inter-University Sustainable Development Research Programme • The Association for Promoting Sustainability in Campuses and Communities <p>This work has been given impetus by the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, and the creation of a range of frameworks and global initiatives promoting them. This research project investigates the role that higher education can play in addressing the challenges of sustainability and climate change, and particularly the importance of leadership and governance.</p>	
4.	Countries Selected	High-income countries 1. UK 2. Germany 3. Japan 4. USA	Middle-income countries 5. Brazil 6. India 7. South Africa
5.	Selected Universities from India	1. Pondicherry University, Puducherry. (http://www.pondiuni.edu.in/) 2. Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. (https://www.iitgn.ac.in/)	
6.	In association with	The Global University Leaders Council (GULC) & The Körber Foundation – UK	

Sl. No.	Content	Particulars
7.	Investigators	<p>Core Team</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Tristan McCowan (University College London, UK) - Principal Investigator 2. Prof. Walter Leal Filho (HAW Hamburg University, Germany & Manchester Metropolitan University, UK) 3. Dr. Luciana Brandli (University of Passo Fundo, Brazil) <p>Lead Expert Advisers (Country Specific)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Julie Newman (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA.) 2. Dr. M. Nandhivarnan (Pondicherry University, India.) 3. Prof. Rudi Pretorius (University of South Africa, South Africa.) 4. Prof. Jing Liu (Tohoku University, Japan.) 5. Dr. Golda A. Edwin (APSCC, India.) 6. Prof. Simon Marginson (University of Oxford, UK.)
8.	Methods	<p>The review of secondary sources will be carried out through the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rigorous searches of relevant publication databases • extensive internet searching <p>The country case studies will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysis of secondary literature (articles, reports, book chapters, etc) • policy documents, institutional strategies and websites • personal knowledge of stakeholders • interview with one of the senior university leadership
9.	What are the Benefits to Pondicherry University?	<p>The project is associated with the Global University Leaders Council (GULC) and the Körber Foundation, UK. The Pondicherry University will have the following benefits:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One among two representative universities from India 2. Global visibility 3. In-depth focus on current effective practices and the challenges facing the university 4. Interviewing one member of senior leadership in each of the case study institutions (PU), to explore their experiences of sustainability and climate change action 5. Identifying best practices, will help effective planning for the future, and will be beneficial for higher education sectors around the world 7. The final report for the Global University Leaders Council & the Körber Foundation will be presented at the annual conference in 2021 8. Disseminate the results through academic journal articles, blogs and other formats to reach people in other countries who are researching similar topics, or who are engaged in action around climate change or improving university systems around the world 9. To enhance the campus sustainability strategies, and to embed environmental education more effectively