Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate

Information Sheet

The sheet is intended to provide background information on the project and your participation in the research. If you would like any further information, contact details are provided at the end.

**Background to the Project**

Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate is a research project investigating the role that higher education can play in addressing the challenges of climate change. The project is a partnership between researchers in five countries – Brazil, Fiji, Kenya, Mozambique and the United Kingdom (UK) – and is funded by the UK’s Economic and Social Research Council (a public body committed to improving quality of life through social science research and innovation), as part of the Global Challenges Research Fund. It is led by University College London in the UK, and the lead institution in Kenya is Kenyatta University.

**A brief summary of aims and purpose of the qualitative research**

The purpose of the qualitative case study is to allow researchers at the Kenya Methodist University, KeMU to study and understand the leadership role of the Njuri Ncheke council of elders in Meru community on natural resource conservation and management. This will mainly explore on their organization and contribution to community land, forests, and water utilization and management in order to benefit the community. The study participants will be selected across the Meru sub-tribes in both Meru and Tharaka Nithi Counties. It is expected that this study will offer a glimpse of the role of indigenous knowledge on the subject of climate change and also whether changing demographics and resource utilization has affected any aspects touching on this phenomenon.

We aim to speak to 12-15 members of Njuri Ncheke through individual interviews/focused group discussions to validate and share the initial findings.

**Criteria and participation**

Your participation in this research is entirely voluntary and your views and contributions will be respected. If you do decide to take part, we’re very grateful for your time, it will be a huge help to our research. This will be for about 30-45 minutes. The Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate project has passed through ethical approval at University College London.

Any data generated through the research process is completely confidential, and will not be attributed to you personally. None of the names of the participants will appear when we report on the research. We will retain your contact details during the course of the research – so we can contact you again if any part of the data collected needs clarifying – but will destroy these on completion of the project. All of the data will be kept secure on password protected computers throughout the course of the project and only shared with other researchers in the project.

It is completely your decision whether or not you take part in the research. We hope it will be interesting to you, but if you decide not to, that’s fine, just let the researchers know even during the interview/focused group discussion and we will stop. Also, you can change your mind and decide not to take part in the research at any point up until the end of this study on 31st October 2022, and your information will be deleted.

**What will happen to the research?**

The results of this research will be used in different ways. We will be producing reports for the universities that have participated in the research, and will work with them to develop their current provision. We will also disseminate the results through conferences and seminars with other universities in the country that haven’t participated in the research. We will also publish the findings in reports, academic journals and blogs 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.

Any interview, focus group or other qualitative research data will only be used for research purposes.  It will not be used in a manner which would allow identification of your individual responses.  At the end of the project, anonymised research data will be archived at the UK Data Archive in order to make them available to other researchers in line with current data sharing practices.

**Contact details**

The lead researcher for the project on the Role of Njuri Ncheke on resource utilization and management is Dr. John Muchiri, Kenya Methodist University, who seats in the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies. He can be contacted by phone at 0705269086 or email at john.muchiri@kemu.ac.ke, and the research assistant is Peter Murori, telephone 0722949741, email petermuroris@gmail.com.

The Principal Investigator for the Transforming Universities for a Changing Climate study, based at University College London (UCL), is Professor Tristan McCowan ([t.mccowan@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:t.mccowan@ucl.ac.uk)).

Please contact us if you have any further questions on this research.

**Data Protection Privacy Notice**

The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk)

This ‘local’ privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our ‘general’ privacy notice:

For participants in research studies, click [here](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/legal-services/privacy/ucl-general-research-participant-privacy-notice)

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the ‘local’ and ‘general’ privacy notices.

The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data are: ‘Public task’ for personal data. Your personal data will be processed as long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at [data-protection@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:data-protection@ucl.ac.uk).