



Submission No 122

**Review of Australia's Relationship with the
Countries of Africa**

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Organisation: Office of the Vice-Chancellor
Australian National University

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Senator Michael Forshaw
Chair, *Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Defence and Trade*
House of Representatives,
PO Box 6021,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

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Dear Senator

Review of Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa

The Australian National University (ANU) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the *Inquiry into Australia's Relationship with the Countries of Africa*. The submission specifically addresses the following Terms of Reference:

- cultural, scientific and educational relations and exchanges;
- development assistance co-operation and capacity building;

ANU strongly supports the Australian Government's increased assistance to Africa to help facilitate progress toward the Millennium Development Goals, and we are mindful of the contribution that our activities can make toward reaching these goals.

While ANU does not have a specific focus on research education and community engagement in areas related to the African continent, nonetheless some of our scholars make important contributions to research, education and public discussion on African-related matters. Historically, we have always supported African studies and, historically, have had several distinguished Africanists, including Emeritus Professor John Caldwell and former vice Chancellor, Professor Anthony Low.

An example of one such contribution has been the establishment at ANU of the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance. Large parts of Africa and Australia share a great many similarities in terms of being sparsely populated regions that rely extensively on natural resources in lands that are often semi-arid or arid, and at great risk from climate induced changes. Compared to Europe or North America, these similarities mean that Australia has much to offer African nations in terms of knowledge and experience of management of natural resources like water. Further many innovations in Africa have much to offer Australia, for example, South Africa's regulatory regime for managing water use by forestry plantations.

To seize the opportunities that arise due to these common interests between Australia and Africa, the UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance has been established from 2010 under the aegis of the ANU Water Initiative and based at the University's Crawford School of Economics and Governance. Professor Quentin Grafton is the chair holder, and with two additional staff, a four year program is underway to strengthen collaboration in water education and research between Africa and Australia. Initially the work is focused in South Africa, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in conjunction with a number of academic and non-government partners. Expansion to other countries is possible. In particular, the UNESCO Chair collaborates with the Southern African Development Community's WaterNet program.

The program hopes to provide additional technical support to Australia's expanding aid program in southern and eastern Africa. An initial initiative is focused on developing masters-level training in water economics.

A further example of ANU engagement with Africa arises from work being carried out in the Centre for the Public Awareness of Science (CPAS). Professors Mike Gore and Sue Stockmayer recently visited South Africa to run a professional development workshop for 60 communicators at the Sci Bono Discovery Centre in Johannesburg. This was the first step in an AusAid funded project in which eight of the best communicators from South Africa and Lesotho were able to come to Australia to undertake a Graduate Certificate in the Theory and Practice of Science Centres at CPAS. As part of this course they were able to gain some practical experience by spending two weeks at the Questacon science and technology centre working alongside the exhibition designers and planners there. The students were keen to see how organisations like Questacon approach science education in Australia and how the process might be tailored to suit their own specific audience needs at home.

In relation to teaching, the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies teaches a number of graduate and undergraduate courses which have significant content on the Muslim countries of North Africa. These include:

- Special Topic in Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies: Political, Economic and Social Change in the Arab World
- Oil, Religion, Politics and Conflict in the Middle East
- Islam, the West and International Terrorism
- Islamic Radicalism
- Issues of Development in the Middle East
- Politics in the Middle East
- Political Economy of the Middle East
- Introduction to the Modern Middle East

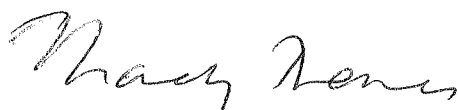
The College of Arts and Social Sciences also delivers a Master of Applied Anthropology & Participatory Development (MAAPD) program which is designed to develop the skills of students to enable them to perform aid agency work in developing countries. This training equips our graduates well to undertake work in Africa.

ANU currently hosts more than 60 students whose home residence is in one of 20 African countries. Twenty three of these students are supported by an AusAid (Australian Development) scholarship. The ANU Students' Association incorporates an African Students' Association which provides support for African students in their settlement at ANU and, more broadly, in Canberra. The association organises and runs culturally rich activities and facilitates networking with the Australian and African communities in Canberra.

It is noteworthy that the recent Excellence in Research for Australia exercise revealed that more than 150 ANU publications were co-authored with academics from African countries over the five year period from 2003 to 2008. The table at **Attachment A** highlights a range of the research which is currently being undertaken throughout the University in relation to, or in partnership with, countries of Africa.

In summary, ANU is committed to the support of ongoing work relating to Africa. We would be very pleased to explore options for the University's potential contribution to any future Centre involved in the promotion of research excellence in Africa-related studies.

Yours sincerely



Professor Mandy Thomas
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Graduate Studies)

Selected Staff Research Projects

		Research Field	African Country or Region	Additional Notes
Assoc. Professor Habib Mahama	College of Business & Economics	Public finance	Ghana	
Dr Gregory Shailer	College of Business & Economics	Corporate Governance	Southern Africa	
Professor Robert Bowker	Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies	Politics	North Africa	2010 book on Egypt
Professor Peter Hiscock and Dr Alexander Mackay	School of Archaeology and Anthropology	Technology and behavioural evolution in the late Pleistocene era	Africa	ARC Discovery grant
Professor Amin Saikal	Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies	Democracy	Africa	
Dr Matthew Gray	Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies	Conspiracy theories	Africa	ARC Discovery Project
Dr Gregory Barton and Dr Brett Bennett	Research School of Social Sciences	Global Climate Change Before Global Warming	South Africa	ARC Discovery Project
S. Burgess		South-South cooperation	Brazil/ Africa	
Professors Mike Gore and Sue Stocklmayer	Centre for the Public Awareness of Science	Science communication	South Africa	AusAid funding
Mr Kim Huynh	Research School of Social Sciences	Child soldiers	Sudan	
Dr April Biccum	Research School of Social Sciences	Poverty; AusAid and Africa	Africa	
Professor Quentin Grafton	Crawford School of Economics and Government	Water management	Southern Africa	UNESCO Chair in Water Economics and Transboundary Water Governance
Dr Jamie Pittock	Crawford School of Economics and Government	Water management	Africa	
Dr Sommarat Chantarat	Crawford School of Economics and Government	Market viable climate-related and natural disaster risk management instruments for poor pastoralists	Kenya & Ethiopia	
Professor Peter Drysdale	Crawford School of Economics and Government	The emerging growth of China's investment in Africa	Africa	
Dr Katharine Young	College of Law	Human rights	Ghana	

Selected Doctoral Research (completed and ongoing)

		Research Field	African Country or Region	Additional Notes
Dr Debbie Argue	School of Archaeology & Anthropology	Genus homo floresiensis	Africa	ARC Post-doctoral Fellow
Dr Justin Leach	College of Arts & Social Sciences	Conflict resolution	Africa	Contract for publication of book in 2012
Dr Wendy Levy	College of Arts & Social Sciences	The Politics of Governance	Sudan	
Ms Dintle Molosiwa	National Centre for Epidemiology & Population Health	Health services and HIV/AIDS	Botswana	
Dr Nzilu Musyoki	College of Business & Economics	Microfinance with/out business development advice	Kenya	
Dr Abraham Sethibe	College of Business & Economics	Impediments to the Development of Stock Markets	Southern Africa	PhD awarded 2009
Professor Penelope Mathew (supervisor)	College of Arts & Social Sciences	PhD research on settlement experiences of Sudanese refugees in Western Sydney	Sudan	
Professor Penelope Mathew (supervisor)	College of Arts & Social Sciences	PhD research on standards of consent in the criminal law of sexual assault	Africa	
Ms Asmi Wood	College of Engineering & Computer Science	The use of force by non-State actors	North Africa	
Ms Ibolya Losoncz	School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy	The respectful treatment of African refugees	Sudan	
Mr Nigel Davidson	College of Law	Rresponses of the international legal system to the problem of conflict diamonds	Sub-Saharan Africa	